



## Housing and Technical Resources

### Forth East Neighbourhood News 2019/20

#### **Housing Services continues to work with the community, local groups, elected members and other partners to deliver local housing plans**

In the last edition, we provided you with an update on the housing plan for Forth East which we continue to implement and review each year.

The housing plan sets out the priorities for the year ahead and takes into consideration the supply and demand for housing in the area, the condition and management of open space and the condition of gardens.

You will see from the update below 2019/20 has been a busy year for housing services with good progress made against the actions we agreed with some of these continuing to be a focus for 2020/21.

Progress over the last year included:

- 29 council homes were let in 2019/20 compared with 24 lets in 2018/19
- Resurfacing of footpaths within the area of Skylaw Terrace
- Continued focus on the condition and maintenance of individual gardens, including 'hot spot' areas in Manse Road, Hawkwood Terrace and Skylaw Terrace
- The waste land at the bottom of Hawkwood Terrace was landscaped making a huge difference bringing some greenery and colour to the area

#### **A good news story!**

#### **Your views matter**

We want to continue to build on the housing plan and develop this further year on year for the future sustainment of Forth East

Although at present we are not able to come together in the more traditional ways we are still keen to hear your views and be involved in our future housing plans.

Options may include:

- surveys/questionnaires
- online options to engage
- virtual contact with housing staff

The original plan is available should you wish a copy, or if you would like any further information or to discuss the plan or how you can get involved please contact the Clydesdale Housing Office on 0303 123 1012 or by email at [housing.lanark@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:housing.lanark@southlanarkshire.gov.uk).

Please let us know what you think and we can agree next steps together. We look forward to hearing from you and working together for the long term benefit of Forth East community.

## Forth East Housing Plan

Priorities agreed in 2019	April 2019 to March 2020 update
<p><b>Address lack of demand for housing resulting in long term empty properties and risk to longer term sustainability of area</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing Services marketed properties available to let during 2019/20 leading to a slight increase in demand.</li> <li>• There continues to be a higher turnover of properties in Forth East than the SLC average however we continue to work hard to improve sustainability in the area.</li> <li>• We continue to promote the area through our Home Options Service.</li> <li>• Of tenancies ended during 2019/20, 8 tenancies were less than 1 year. Tenancy end reasons were reviewed and there is no consistent pattern in the reasons for leaving which is positive for the area.</li> <li>• Tenancy Sustainment referrals continue to be made in the area to assist tenants.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Remove blight of concentrated long terms empty properties in area</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuous analysis of supply and demand demonstrates low demand for housing in the area, particularly for larger properties.</li> <li>• At 31 March 2020 there were 12 long term empty properties due to no demand, slightly lower than last year.</li> <li>• 4 long term empty properties within Skylaw Terrace and Hawkwood Terrace are to be demolished during 2020/21.</li> <li>• Housing Services will consult with residents around the future use of this demolition site.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ongoing maintenance and improvement of housing stock</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home+ programme is ongoing to fully meet and maintain Scottish Housing Quality and Energy Efficiency Standards.</li> <li>• Fencing has been costed for consideration for future investment works in the area.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Improve standards of individual gardens</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A number of 'hot spot' areas have been identified and continue to be the focus of inspections.</li> <li>• Regular maintenance of council owned empty properties has continued during 2019/20.</li> <li>• During 2019/20, 586 garden inspections were carried out with 64 garden letters issued during the year.</li> <li>• This is an ongoing area of focus for Housing Services to ensure standards are consistently met across area.</li> <li>• During 2020/21, Housing Services will continue to manage the condition of individual gardens and hope the local community are supportive of this in order to improve the local area.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Improve condition of open space/refuse disposal</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investment work was agreed for the former demolition site in Hawkwood Terrace.</li> <li>• Plan agreed for bollards and flower beds to be progressed during 2020/21.</li> <li>• Four weekly area inspections continued during 2019/20.</li> <li>• Housing Services worked closely with various partners to remove a number of abandoned vehicles.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Promote community safety</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 anti-social behaviour complaints received during 2019/20 compared to 7 in the previous year.</li> <li>• Housing Services continues to work with all our Community Safety partners to tackle anti-social behaviour issues in the area.</li> </ul>

<b>Priorities agreed in 2019</b>	<b>April 2019 to March 2020 update</b>
<b>Create opportunities for community involvement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improving community involvement in the area is a key focus of the role of the housing officer.</li><li>• Consultation continued throughout last year via one to one discussions and Clydesdale local housing forum.</li></ul>

If you need this information in a different format or language, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs on 0303 123 1015 or [equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)