



**South Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board  
Strategic Commissioning Plan 2025 – 2028  
Housing Contribution Statement  
March 2025**

## **Housing Contribution Statement for Strategic Commissioning Plan 2025-28 v1**

Enhancing the well-established collaboration between housing, health, and social care has been a key focus for partners during the previous Strategic Commissioning Plan (SCP) period. This commitment is evident in the current Local Housing Strategy (LHS), covering the 2022 to 2027 period, and its strong connections to the SCP, particularly in terms of shared priorities, actions, and outcomes particularly in relation to supporting independent living in local communities and tackling homelessness.

### **The SCP and LHS – Strategic Alignment**

The Local Housing Strategy Steering Group is the main partnership body responsible for overseeing the strategic direction for housing, with officers from the Health and Social Care Partnership being core members and the chair of the group representing housing at the HSCP Strategic Commissioning Group (SCG).

Key outcomes in the LHS that support the delivery of the Strategic Commissioning Plan are:

- Outcome 1: Increase overall housing supply and improve access to, and choice of housing options, that suit people's needs which they can afford and sustain
- Outcome 5: People with particular needs are better supported to live independently within the community in a suitable and sustainable home
- Outcome 6: Prevent homelessness from occurring and reduce homelessness
- Outcome 7: People who experience homelessness are provided with suitable temporary accommodation as required and are supported to move to settled accommodation that meets their needs as quickly as possible

Locally partners have a strong track record of ensuring clear alignment between the LHS and the SCP. The LHS is supported by well-established strategic framework relating to homelessness. The Homelessness Strategy Group brings partners together to take forward the priority outcomes for addressing homelessness as set out in the LHS, and the associated Homelessness Strategic Plan. The annual review process for the LHS is used to incorporate any amendments revisions which are required to maintain clear links between these two key strategic documents. The analysis conducted and the strategic priorities and actions identified in this plan will be reflected in the continuing development and review of the LHS.

### **Governance and Oversight**

Effective joint monitoring and reporting of progress for both the SCP and LHS are supported by appropriate representation within the respective partnership structures which ensure effective planning and implementation of key changes being progressed

at a national level, including legislative proposals for new duties on public bodies in Scotland to prevent homelessness. Progress in relation to the LHS is reported through an annual report to the council's Executive Committee with update reports on identified aspects of the strategy provided to the SCP.

## **A Housing Emergency – the Challenges Faced**

In 2024, a Housing Emergency was declared by South Lanarkshire Council in response to a surge in homelessness demand which saw a 28% increase in the number of people applying to the council for assistance due to homelessness, a 38% increase in the number of people recorded by the council as homeless and a 101% increase in the backlog of urgent need homeless households awaiting permanent housing.

A new Homelessness Strategic Plan has been developed which centres around addressing the severe pressure being placed upon housing and homelessness services, preventing homelessness where possible, minimising its impact, and continuing work with partners to deliver services focused on effective and sustainable resolution. This is particularly for households with multiple and complex needs, experiencing repeat homelessness and vulnerable people most at risk of homelessness, including victims of domestic abuse, young care leavers and those experiencing poor mental health and addiction.

## **Demographic Challenges**

The LHS and SCP both recognise the challenge of the projected increase in the percentage of adults aged 65+, with a 6.2% rise projected in South Lanarkshire by 2028, which has implications for the shared priorities of providing specialist housing and supporting people to live independently in local communities.

In response to this challenge, the Progressive Housing Framework reflects the council's and the University Health and Social Care Partnership's response to people's changing housing, support and care needs over the course of their lives, including consideration of those who wish to remain in their current home including the provision of equipment and adaptations. On average, 1,289 adaptations have been completed in social and private homes each year since 2017.

Through the LHS, the council and its Registered Social Housing partners are also committed to increasing the supply of affordable housing across South Lanarkshire to help meet increasing demand and specific needs. Since 2022 over 635 additional homes for social rent have been provided in line with affordable element of the Housing Supply Targets published in the strategy. These additional homes are delivered as a combination of newly built properties and existing homes acquired from the private sector.

## **Progressive Housing Framework**

The Progressive Housing approach focuses on the needs of the individual and of communities to deliver the right housing and support access to a blend of amenity, technology enabled, and extra care housing in a community setting that:

- Supports the particular needs of individuals
- Aid mobility and accessibility
- Maximise community cohesion

Through the Home and Health Assessment (HHAS) and Sheltered Housing, older people and those with particular needs are supported to live independently within the community, reducing the requirements for institutional care and risk of homelessness with suitable, sustainable and affordable homes.

A range of housing budgets continue to be utilised in order to meet shared outcomes and priorities including funding for the Housing Investment Programme, aids and equipment for council tenants and the Scheme of Assistance for private tenants and owners.

## **Current and Future Resources**

Recent years have seen homelessness services respond to a consistent increase in demand while also managing the fragile environment of a cost-of-living crisis, changes in legislation, and pressures within the asylum and refugee systems. Last year saw a reduction in overall funding for homelessness services against a backdrop increasing demand and costs for temporary accommodation.

Adequate funding in the short and long term remains a significant concern, and the Homelessness Strategic Plan takes account of the significant pressures on the homelessness service and

Funding to increase the supply of affordable homes across South Lanarkshire is provided through contributions by the council or Registered Social Landlord and the Scottish Government, as part of the national Affordable Housing Supply Programme. Resources provided through this are currently confirmed annually by the Scottish Government, with the council co-ordinating development of new homes in areas of need across South Lanarkshire, alongside the acquisition of existing properties.