

**Statement of Assistance – Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 – Section 72 – Update noted - Declaration of interest.**

**3** There was submitted a report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Sustainability and Regeneration regarding an update on the current Statement (Scheme) of Assistance under Section 72 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006, advising that

- (1) the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 had introduced a new policy framework in relation to the repair, improvement and maintenance of private sector housing and in terms of Section 72 of the Act, local authorities were required to produce a Statement (Scheme) of Assistance, setting out the circumstances in which it would provide information and advice, practical support or financial assistance to homeowners and private sector tenants to help maintain, repair and adapt their homes;
- (2) the Statement (Scheme) of Assistance was last revised on 22nd June 2016, however it was required to be revised from time to time to reflect changing circumstances and work priorities and it had now been revised;
- (3) Section 1 of the revised Statement (Scheme) of Assistance set out the Council's vision and priorities in terms of assistance and the revisions for this section, as detailed in the report, were relatively minor, however included placing greater emphasis on bringing empty homes back into use and highlighting the role of the Council's Private Rented Sector Hub team;
- (4) Section 2 of the revised Statement (Scheme) of Assistance reaffirmed that local authorities had a legal obligation to provide grant assistance for certain critical adaptation works to meet the needs of a disabled person and the main revisions for this section, as detailed in the report, were the introduction of an opt out service for adaptations to give owners a choice and the current funding arrangement of the Glasgow Care and Repair service;
- (5) Section 3 of the revised Statement (Scheme) of Assistance lists the various types of assistance available to house owners to help them to maintain and repair their properties and the revisions in this section, as detailed in the report, included an update on the loan options for energy efficiency works and works covered under the Home Energy Scotland Grant and Loan Scheme; and
- (6) Section 4 of the revised Statement (Scheme) of Assistance confirmed under what circumstances the Council would consider taking enforcement action, as detailed in the report.

After consideration, the committee noted

- (a) the updates to the current Statement (Scheme) of Assistance; and

- (b) that the Statement (Scheme) of Assistance meets the Council's obligations under Section 72 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006.

In terms of Standing Order No 27, Councillor Saqib Ahmed declared an interest in this item of business and left the meeting and took no part in the discussion or decision thereon.