

Angus Local Housing Strategy 2023-28

Appendix 1: Priorities and Key Achievements, LHS 2017-22

There have been some significant achievements delivered by LHS 2017-22, creating a strong foundation to which this LHS can contribute, further develop and build on the momentum for positive housing outcomes.

Our 2017-22 Vision was to 'create places people are proud to call home' and was served by three strategic outcomes:

- The supply and availability of good quality, affordable housing is improved
- People can access appropriate housing options and related services to meet their needs and enable them to live independently
- The quality and energy efficiency of all housing stock is improved and we contribute towards targets to reduce CO2 emissions in Angus

Under each strategic outcome we have detailed the key achievements delivered over the period 2017 to 2022.

Outcome 1 – The supply and availability of good quality, affordable housing is improved

- 603 affordable homes delivered – surpassing our annual target of 120.
- Delivered 73 particular needs units, with 43 to wheelchair standard
- Improved our stock acquisitions and disposals – with 38 Open Market Acquisitions, 9 Buy-Backs, and 13 Disposals.
- Completed 30 rural affordable homes through the AHSP, and supported 12 units via the Scottish Rural & Islands Housing Fund.
- Targeted investment in our towns with the provision of affordable housing (a mix of new build and refurbishment programmes in Forfar, Carnoustie & Arbroath) including regeneration in West Arbroath, replacing 140 properties.
- Helped deliver 12 Mid-Market Rent homes via the AHSP.
- Helped bring 116 private empty homes back into use.
- Expanded our empty home initiatives to assist property owners (Matchmaker Scheme; Empty Home Loan & grant Funds; Information, Advice and Survey Service).
- Commissioned and developed a profile of housing need and demand for Angus (HNDA 2022)

Outcome 2 - People can access appropriate housing options and related services to meet their needs and enable them to live independently

- Increased the supply of housing to meet the needs of older and disabled people (particular needs and wheelchair standard homes)
- A new Care and Repair contract was awarded to Caledonia Housing Association.

- New contracts for minor, moderate and major adaptations have been awarded
- Developed and implemented Housing First, undertaking a strategic homelessness support needs assessment to inform future service delivery
- Developed initiatives to help people access and remain in the private rented sector (rent deposit scheme (31 successful applicants); rent arrears fund £150,000 spend to prevent homelessness); private sector officer posts (assisting 309 clients over 12 month period)
- Worked with health and social care partners to improve the data on specialist housing need groups
- Developed a new Scheme of Assistance (2022) to assist homeowners, private sector tenants and people with disabilities maintain and remain in their homes.

Outcome 3 - The quality and energy efficiency of all housing stock is improved and we contribute towards targets to reduce CO2 emissions in Angus

- Delivered a HEEPS:ABS programme, utilising £6.7m funding to assist around 1,150 private properties
- Developed an Eco 3 pilot, attracting almost £1m Eco funding to improve the energy efficiency of 293 private properties and save over 150 tonnes of CO2 emissions.
- Launched the Eco Flex 4 scheme for private sector property owners, aiming to reduce emissions and fuel bills
- Continued to fund improvements to Council stock, achieving 94.4% compliance with SHQS, and 78.9% meeting EESSH.
- Continued to provide information and advice service for Angus resident via the Angus HEAT, helping reduce fuel bills and fuel debt, and assist with energy efficiency measure installations
- Enabled £700,000 of funding to be distributed to Angus residents to help with fuel bills (fuel voucher schemes)
- Developed the Angus Below Tolerable Standard Strategy (2019 – 2024)
- Continued to signpost Angus residents to Home Energy Scotland / SCARF to improve energy efficiency (2,242 measures installed via the Warm Homes Fund; almost 21,000 engagements with Angus households over 5 years)
- Initiated work with private landlords (engagement and EPC sample collection) in advance of the minimum energy efficiency standards

There have been many positive outcomes delivered over the 5 year period, particularly given the impact of the pandemic. As we begin the lifecycle of LHS 2023-28 there are more pressures on the way we all live and the resources required to make a difference to people's lives. The achievements from LHS 2017-22 provide a solid foundation from which we can continue to grow, and consider new ideas to cater for local housing needs.