

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



## **CONCIL EXECUTIVE**

### **RENT STRATEGY CONSULTATION**

#### **REPORT BY INTERIM HEAD OF HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES**

##### **A. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To inform council executive of the proposed tenant engagement process on the current Rent Strategy by Housing, Customer and Building Services for year 2022/23, and to seek approval from Council Executive to begin the annual consultation.

##### **B. RECOMMENDATION**

That members note the service plans to commence engagement with tenants on the continued implementation of the approved rent strategy and approve the proposed consultation with tenants.

##### **C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

<b>I Council Values</b>	Focusing on our customers' needs; Being honest, open and accountable; and Making best use of our resources. Working in partnership
<b>II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)</b>	Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 (as amended) HCBS Tenant Participation Strategy
<b>III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers</b>	None.
<b>IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators</b>	None
<b>V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement</b>	We make the most efficient and effective use of resources by minimising our impact on the built and natural environment.
<b>VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)</b>	None.
<b>VII Consideration at PDSP</b>	13/02/2018 – Council Executive 11/12/2018 – Services for the Community PDSP 19/10/2021 – SftC PDSP

## **VIII Other consultations**

Tenants Panel and service staff.

### **D. TERMS OF REPORT**

- D.1** The council's Tenant Participation Strategy and best practice places an obligation on the council as a local authority landlord to consult with our tenants on rent setting. The Tenant Participation Strategy also provides that the minimum period of consultation is two months.

At the Council meeting on 13th February 2018, the Council agreed a 5-year rent strategy based on an annual rent increase of 3% for the remainder of the agreed strategy period to 2022/23.

Taking into account these requirements, and Covid related restrictions on face to face meeting activities, engagement with tenants will take place largely digitally, and will begin in October. This engagement will include presentations to Housing Networks, The Financial Scrutiny meeting of the Tenants Panel, and via social media channels and online publications.

These activities are scheduled to be undertaken between October 2021 and January 2022.

### **E. CONCLUSION**

If approved by Council Executive, the planned tenant engagement by HCBS on the final year of the 5-year rent strategy will begin in October 2021 and will run until January 2022.

This activity will allow the council to discharge its obligations as set out in the 2001 Housing (Scotland) Act, and a commitment within WLC Tenant Participation strategy in terms of ensuring appropriate consultation is undertaken with tenants on matters relating to potential changes to the level of rent that they pay.

### **F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES**

None.

Appendices/Attachments: none

Contact Person: [sarah.kelly@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.kelly@westlothian.gov.uk) Tel No: 01506 281877.

**MARJORY MACKIE**

**INTERIM HEAD OF HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES**

Date of Meeting: 26<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2021