

PRESS RELEASE – 24th January 2017

CONSULTATION ON A NEW HOUSING STRATEGY FOR THE OUTER HEBRIDES

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar is developing a new Local Housing Strategy for the period 2017-2022 and wishes to gather as many views as possible on the priorities it should aim to address.

The Strategy covers a 5 year period and is the sole local authority strategic document for housing in the area. It details the housing outcomes, objectives and actions that the Comhairle and its local partners believe are the most appropriate to tackle the challenges currently facing the Outer Hebrides' distinctive local housing system.

The consultation will consider 4 priority areas: - **Housing Quality; Supply; Homelessness;** and **Independent Living**, which will potentially shape the direction of the new Housing Strategy.

All residents of the islands are welcome to comment on the proposals, as we want to ascertain support for these suggestions as well as to identify any other issues which we should be considering, and agree the methods we should use to provide the housing and related services that our communities want.

Additionally, we will make direct contact with the voluntary sector; community groups, the construction industry and utility companies, and consult further with the partner organisations that will help us achieve the ambitions of the Housing Strategy. These include the Scottish Government, NHS Western Isles, Tighean Innse Gall, Hebridean Housing Partnership and the Community Trust organisations.

The consultation documents are available at:

<http://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/consultations/index.asp>

These comprise a summary of each of the proposed priority areas, some suggested actions to prompt discussion, and an online survey response form. Alternatively paper copies are available at all Comhairle offices and local libraries.

The consultation period will end on **10 March 2017**.

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