Dear Mr Doris

Consideration of Strategic Housing Investment Plans (SHIPs)

I refer to your letter to Local Authority Chief Executives dated 31 May 2017 in which you requested some specific information relating to our Strategic Housing Implementation Plan (SHIP) and its effectiveness.

Please find below the information you requested:

Context

Inverclyde Council is a stock transfer Local Authority with no housing stock of its own. We have a healthy, ambitious SHIP which is underpinned by strong partnership working with our RSLs. Our effective partnership working with RSLs and HSCP enables us to deliver on housing need for the area.

Deciding on Housing to be Delivered

- All housing projects are assessed against the criteria set out in the SHIP which is partly derived from the Local Housing Strategy (LHS).

- The Glasgow and the Clyde Valley housing need and demand assessment, as well as our LHS evidence paper on housing need also influences our decisions. Population trends (including aging etc), household formation, housing stock size/condition and special needs groups form the evidence base for this assessment.

- RSLs also carry out their own analyses of their waiting lists to help decide house type, tenure etc. The Council and Scottish Government are also involved in these decisions.

- The need for new specialist provision is recognised through several processes, including:
  - Procedures have been established to allow the HSCP to advise the RSLs of specific needs for specialist housing
  - A Data Group, consisting of representatives from HSCP, the Council and RSLs, has been established to analyse further the current and future needs for specialist housing
A Housing Partnership Group, consisting of representatives from HSCP and RSLs, has been established to agree where new specialist housing is required.

The number of housing units are detailed in the SHIP. However, the assessment process outlined above is used to agree the final unit type at the design stage.

Monitoring Delivery of the SHIP

- There are regular reviews of the delivery of the programme through regular meetings between the Council, Scottish Government and RSLs

- There are regular strategic meetings with Riverclyde Homes (the largest RSL in Inverclyde)

- A full review and reassessment of the programme is undertaken on an annual basis which looks at those projects requiring revision in light of new information and those new projects which should be taken on board

- An annual progress report on implementation of the SHIP is presented to the Council’s Education and Communities on an annual basis.

I hope the above information is helpful to you. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Aubrey Fawcett
Chief Executive