

Making homes and lives better
wheatley-group.com

WORKING WITH OTHERS

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH NATIONAL
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT



INTRODUCTION

Wheatley Group is the Scottish Government's key partner for delivery of its vision for an improved housing market in Scotland.

Wheatley Group is crucial to the delivery of 'Homes for the 21st century – Scottish Government's strategy and action plan for housing'. Our contributions are pivotal across the two key goals:

1. HOUSING SUPPLY

The Scottish Government has made a commitment to supporting new supply of social rented housing. This distinguishes it from the UK Government. Wheatley is systemically important to this policy agenda, especially in the Glasgow region. We are one of the few organisations in Scotland fundamentally committed to building new affordable homes.

2. CHOICE AND QUALITY

We are leading the way in the development of advice and information to customers through a 'Housing Options' approach, a key government policy priority. We are also helping to increase the supply, stability and reputation of the private rented sector through Lowther Homes. Energy efficiency and fuel poverty are key national policy drivers and Glasgow Housing Association's (GHA) £1.2 billion investment programme has improved energy efficiency ratings for upgraded properties so that tenants save, on average, £330 per year.

PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Wheatley Group has a track record of integrating services which help to secure improvements in the quality of life and the social and economic well-being of the people of Scotland. Our Community Improvement Partnership (CIP) with the Fire and Police services has saved lives (there are far fewer fire deaths than prior to the partnership). An independent review of the CIP by the Improvement Service found it has improved tenant wellbeing and community safety through the cooperation of the partner organisations.

In 2011, independent research found that given the 'multiplier' impact of capital investment on the wider economy, GHA's £983 million capital expenditure at that time was likely to have generated *an additional* £923m in benefits to the UK (mainly the Scottish) economy. An estimated £682m of this multiplier benefit will have remained in the Glasgow area.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

In 2011 Alex Neil MSP, the then Housing Minister, publicly stated: "Glasgow Housing Association is the jewel in the crown of the housing sector".

Last year Nicola Sturgeon (Deputy First Minister) presented GHA with the Investors in People Gold Award, visited the upgraded Ibroxholm Oval flats and launched a new housing development in the south of Glasgow.

HOUSING AND REGENERATION

‘Transforming Communities: Glasgow’ is a significant and unique partnership with both the Scottish Government and Glasgow City Council. Wheatley, Scottish Government and Glasgow City Council provide joint strategic leadership and direction for the delivery of a programme of physical, social and economic regeneration in eight areas across Glasgow. In four of these areas significant activity is already under way which will transform these places and the lives of people.

Monthly meetings with the Scottish Government review and co-ordinate GHA’s new-build, re-provisioning and demolition programmes.

Scottish Government provides support for our ‘Housing Options’ approach which focuses on preventing homelessness and improving tenancy sustainment. It provides tailored advice and information for anyone in housing need.

Wheatley Group is working jointly with the Scottish Government on its Digital Participation Partnership which focuses on the digitally excluded.

NATIONAL POLICIES

Wheatley Group has a seat at the table in the development of new national housing policy. We are currently helping to shape the private rented sector in Scotland through membership of the Scottish Government’s working group for ‘Review of the Private Rented Sector Tenancy Regime’.

Wheatley Group’s systems approach and behaviour change programme ‘Think Yes’ is influencing future public sector design. The most senior government officials are engaging with us to understand how this approach could be translated across all public services in Scotland.

We led the way in the development of community benefit clauses, to maximise the economic impact of our investment programmes. Many other organisations have used our approach as a model of best practice.

COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

GHA has a unique position in the housing sector as a full community planning partner.

The Glasgow Community Planning Partnership (GCPP) brings key public, private, community and voluntary representatives together with the aim of delivering better, more joined-up public services in the city. The GCPP Strategic Board consists of the following organisations:

- Glasgow City Council;
- GHA;
- NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde;
- Scottish Fire & Rescue;
- Police Scotland;
- Glasgow Chamber of Commerce;
- Glasgow's Third Sector Forum.

This makes GHA unique – no other housing association is a full member of a Community Planning Partnership. GHA's role in the partnership provides the opportunity to influence strategically for the benefit of our customers and communities.

Our influence is demonstrated through the inclusion of homelessness and housing need in the new 'Single Outcome Agreement'. The Single Outcome Agreement is the agreement between the GCPP and the Scottish Government which sets out the joint priority outcomes for Glasgow and how the GCPP will work towards achieving these outcomes. The 10-year plan focuses on key priorities for partners to work together to reduce inequality in the city. GHA influenced partners to commit to working together 'to intervene early to prevent homelessness or reduce the risk of homelessness'.

TACKLING POVERTY AND DIGITAL INCLUSION

Wheatley Group is a key member of Glasgow's Poverty Leadership Panel, which has a vision of making poverty a thing of the past. The panel is made up of public, private and third sector organisations, as well as panel representatives from communities living in poverty. Wheatley is making contributions across all elements of the Poverty Leadership Panel and leads on one of the key workstreams – challenging negative attitudes to poverty.

We also play a key role in Digital Glasgow – Glasgow's programme to ensure the whole of the city has not only a world-class digital infrastructure to bring new businesses and jobs, but the capacity to ensure continued growth by using the digital skills of residents, businesses and organisations. Digital Glasgow combines the expertise of business, the public sector, colleges and universities, the third sector and grassroots community organisations to make the biggest possible impact across the city.