

Church property for affordable housing – the story so far...

In September 2005, the Church Property & Housing Programme was established to document and promote the development of affordable housing from church property. At that point, we knew of **46 sites where this had been done, and a further 11 where it was under consideration.**

At August 2008, the position is:

- ❖ We know of **21 sites** where affordable housing has been developed
- ❖ We know of **71 sites** where affordable housing is under consideration or actively moving towards completion
- ❖ These amount to **695 affordable homes**, housing or potentially housing **1,460 people**
- ❖ These sites are in **28** out of Scotland's 32 council areas
- ❖ These sites are contributed by **10** denominations
- ❖ These sites involve **34** housing associations
- ❖ **15%** of these sites are in rural areas; **41%** are in small towns; **44%** are urban.

We have:

- ❖ Published a good practice guide, ***Make it Happen***, which offers a clear, step-by-step guide to the housing development process
- ❖ Held a **national conference** to highlight the potential of affordable housing from church-owned property
- ❖ Secured agreement from the **United Reformed Church and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Galloway** that all property sales will be considered for their potential as affordable housing
- ❖ Obtained guidance from the **Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator (OSCR)** on the question of realising highest price from the sale of a charity asset.

We now offer a service to congregations which have decided they want to develop affordable housing. We have the skills to assess opportunity and viability, make connections with developers, ensure church interests are protected, and put together a sustainable funding package. You can have us work on your behalf, with no vested interest.

Contact our Project Manager, Catherine Killin on: catherine@churches-housing.org, telephone: 0131 477 4500.