SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

AGENDA

1st meeting, 2002 (Session 1)

Wednesday 9 January 2002

The Committee will meet at 10.00 am in Committee Room 3

1. **Items in private:** The Committee will consider whether to take items 3 and 4 in private.

2. **Housing (Scotland) Act 2001: Guidance and Orders for the implementation of the Scottish Secure Tenancy and Right to Buy:** The Committee will consider draft guidance and orders.

3. **Inquiry into the Voluntary Sector:** The Committee will consider an issues paper.

4. **Work Plan:** The Committee will consider its work plan.

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The following papers relate to the meeting:

**Agenda Item 2:**

*Paper by the Clerk on the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001: SJ/02/1/1 Guidance and Orders for the implementation of the Scottish Secure Tenancy and Right to Buy*

**Agenda Item 3:**

*Inquiry into the Voluntary Sector – Issues paper [PRIVATE] SJ/02/1/2*

**Agenda Item 4:**

*Work Plan [PRIVATE] SJ/02/1/3*
Members have received copies of two separate draft guidance notes on guidance and Orders in relation to the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 for the implementation of the Scottish Secure Tenancy (Part 2, Chapter 1) and Right to Buy (Part 2, Chapter 2).

The guidance gives a detailed explanation of the legislative provisions and how these should be implemented, including guidance, where appropriate, for transferring from the old arrangements to the new. Each set of guidance includes drafts of the Orders which will require to be laid before the Scottish Parliament before the Scottish secure tenancy and right to buy provisions can be introduced. The Scottish Executive has advised that the drafts should be seen as “work in progress” but it is considered that it would be helpful for consultees to have early sight of the drafts for comment.

Ministers have confirmed that they intend to introduce the Scottish secure tenancy and right to buy provisions of the 2001 Act from September 2002. The only exceptions to this will be for local authorities who are planning to go ahead with a whole stock transfer before this date where it makes sense for the new tenancy arrangements for the tenants affected to be introduced at the same time as the transfer takes place. Draft commencement and implementation orders have been prepared to allow for possible early implementation for those authorities currently contemplating whole stock transfers before the end of September. If, for any reason these do not go ahead before that date, the new tenancy would take effect at the end of September.

The views of the Committee have been invited on the draft guidance and Orders.

Lee Bridges
Clerk to the Committee