



Cassiltoun

Housing Association

WIDER ACTION POLICY

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|--|----------------------|
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| Chair Person/Office Bearers Signature: | |

CASSILTOUN HOUSING ASSOCIATION LIMITED
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POLICY STATEMENT ON WIDER ACTION

1. INTRODUCTION

This policy statement outlines the broad principles used by Cassiltoun Housing Association in delivering wider action.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

Wider action can be defined as activities undertaken by registered social landlords over and above the strict remit of the functions of a landlord which help to improve the economic, social and environmental conditions of individuals and communities. Physical regeneration is core business for housing associations but increasingly socio-economic regeneration has also become an essential part of a Housing Associations activities. Essentially wider role or regeneration activities should serve to enhance the quality of life of the association's tenants and provide a lasting transformation for the better of people, places and communities

The Scottish Government describes regeneration as “the lasting transformation of places to benefit those who live and work there.” The Government goes on to identify regeneration as targeted action in the most disadvantaged areas, with power devolved locally to find sustainable solutions.

Regeneration covers a wide range and scale of activity, from major urban regeneration companies delivering long-term multi-agency strategies, to small-scale local projects. It must always be about empowering and engaging communities to address challenging local issues, particularly where there is deprivation.

3. POLICY AIMS

The aim of our wider action policy will be to ensure that Cassiltoun Housing Association plays a central role in the regeneration of our immediate tenant and resident community, our neighbourhoods, and the wider Castlemilk community and that our activities contribute to the strategic priorities of The Scottish Government and the local Community Planning Partnership. Where appropriate we will work in partnership with other agencies and associations and we will also link in with wider regeneration goals that assist with the general improvement of opportunities for residents of Glasgow and Scotland.

4. AREAS OF ACTIVITY

The wider role policy of Cassiltoun Housing Association will be to undertake activities that address the following identified priorities:

- Reducing poverty and financial exclusion;
- Building stable and inclusive communities and reducing social isolation;
- Encouraging healthier living;
- Improving skills and employability
- Promoting access to local amenities

To achieve this Cassiltoun Housing Association will:

- Ensure that wider role and regeneration is placed at the core of our service delivery
- Work in partnership with a wide range of agencies to deliver the most effective strategies and projects
- Support tenants to identify and take positive action on wider action that affect their lives and residency

5. OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK AND RISKS

- It is an expectation from the Scottish Government that any wider role activity will be in line with local priorities and objectives. Priorities identified by Cassiltoun may not 'fit' with priorities identified within local objectives or with funders' priorities.
- Involvement in wider role activities is not without risk (especially reputational); it may be necessary to establish a separate organisation to deliver projects or deliver projects through Cassiltoun Trust.
- Historically there has been funding available through the Scottish Government although this support is subject to review. There continues to be a need to work with other agencies and maximise grant funding from other funders.
- The Wider Role activity must fit with the Business Plan and operational objectives of Cassiltoun Trust.
- Independent auditors will make internal Audit Inspections on an annual basis.

6. POLICY OBJECTIVES

To achieve our aims we will seek to:

- Establish Wider Role/Regeneration Objectives each year;
- Develop One-Year Action Plans and in conjunction with Cassiltoun Trust Three-Year (rolling) Action Plans to support the attainment of these Objectives;
- Secure the necessary internal and external resources to support objective attainment;
- Use existing and develop new participative and consultative structures through which partner, committee, tenant and community involvement can be best practiced;
- Monitor and evaluate its performance against the action plans as a measure of achievement;
- Monitor the level of resources it invests in Wider Role and carry out regular '*cost benefit analysis*' to help determine the value of its resource investment.

7. POLICY REVIEW

This policy will review at least every three years. The review will take account of legislative changes, new policy guidance, changes in economic and social climate, best practice advice, and the performance of the Association in delivering wider action.

8. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

We will evaluate the success of wider action against the objectives and activities set out in the Action Plan.

Wider role proposals will be submitted to the SMT prior to grant submission and submitted to the Board for approval prior to entering into any contractual obligation.

Reports will be presented to Cassiltoun Trust Board quarterly and the Board regularly on outcomes of the Action Plans and the level of resources secured and spent on delivering wider action.

8. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

The Performance Standards for Social Landlords and Homelessness Functions make two references to the Wider Action Activity Standards, which set out the primary functional areas and activities that the Regulator will inspect. These are as follows:

AS7.1 Wider Action Involvement. Where we have decided to become involved in wider action activities, we are co-operating with other agencies and linking into higher-level strategies. We are managing any risks appropriately and protecting our housing assets.

AS7.2 Wider Action Outcomes. We are meeting our stated objectives and achieving successful outcomes.

The focus will be on

- Setting clear objectives and SMART outcome targets that meet with Scottish government and other funders priorities
- Measuring performance against these targets
- Obtaining feedback from users of the service
- Achieving good practice