



# News Release

April 2015

## COUNTY BUILDINGS HOUSING TRANSFORMATION UNDERWAY



*Cllr Judy Hamilton visits the site*

A transformation is underway at Cupar County Buildings with work progressing to convert the building's unused office space into social housing.

The development will consist of 8 one-bedroom flats, all of which will be conversions, and 10 two-bedroom flats - two of which will be conversions and eight will be within a new extension at the back of the building.

Cllr Judy Hamilton, Executive Spokesperson for Housing & Building Services recently visited the site. She said: "This development is an important project for the Council. It allows us to provide much needed modern housing whilst restoring and preserving a key listed building in the Cupar conservation area.

"I'm sure it will build on the success of our housing development at West Port which was completed in 2013 and regenerated a piece of disused land on the former Bell Baxter High School site.

The County Buildings forms a key part of St Catherine Street, which was designed in 1810 as the formal entrance to Cupar and is an excellent example of a planned Georgian development in Fife.

To complement the £3.2 million investment in the building by Fife Council and the Scottish Government, the Heritage Lottery Fund is providing £40,000 grant support to this project as part of the wider Cupar Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) and Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) programme funded jointly by Historic Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund. This additional funding will ensure a high standard of conservation repairs, including the repair and draught-proofing of the existing sash-and-case windows. Stone repairs will be carried out to the housing section of the frontage and the whole façade of County Buildings will be redecorated as part of a larger maintenance project.

Cllr Hamilton added: “Although conversions, these new homes will still have energy efficient features including new thermal insulation to the inside of the external walls and the roof space. They will also be fitted with mechanical ventilation and heat recovery units and domestic sprinklers.

“Over 900 of the Affordable Housing Programme’s 2,700 new homes are now complete. I look forward to visiting County Buildings again to welcome tenants to their lovely new homes in the heart of the town.”

Work to repair or reinstate traditional details to shop fronts at ground level along the same side of St Catherine Street will be encouraged through a Small Grants Scheme as part of the Historic Scotland and Heritage Lottery funded CARS/THI programme. This has the aim of restoring the historic character of this grand palace frontage which is a significant part of the Cupar conservation area.

### Did you know?

- This project is part of the Council’s wider affordable housing programme to increase the number of affordable homes for rent across Fife. It received £764,000 of Town Centre Housing Funding from the Scottish Government funding and is expected to be complete in early 2016.
- This development is one of a number of sites that is underway to meet the council’s target to deliver 2700 new affordable homes by 2017. The £300m programme is a collaboration between affordable housing providers in Fife including Fife Council, Housing Associations, private developers and a number of Scottish Government initiatives. For more information visit [www.fifedirect.org.uk/newbuild](http://www.fifedirect.org.uk/newbuild)
- HLF’s Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) encourages partnerships of local organisations to carry out repairs and other works to a number of historic buildings, structures or spaces. Grants range from £500,000 to £2m. To date, HLF has invested over £214m regenerating towns that have suffered serious social and economic decline.
- Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) sustains and transforms a wide range of heritage for present and future generations to take part in, learn from and enjoy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. To date it has invested over £588million in Scotland’s heritage.

