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# Shaping housing

the future of

## How will your home be looked after in the future?

Gateshead Council has agreed to review how its 21,000 council homes will be managed in the future.

Right now, the council's properties are looked after by The Gateshead Housing Company and the current management agreement runs until December 2013.

However, instead of simply renewing the agreement, Gateshead Council will consider all of the options available for the long term care, repair and improvement of its homes.

But one thing that is definitely not in the pipeline is transferring homes into the private sector.

Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Angela Douglas, said: "We have been impressed with the performance of The Gateshead Housing Company over the years.



"The company has delivered Gateshead Council's Decent Homes programme well and has continued to perform to a high level, which is reflected in its three star 'excellent' status.

"It is popular with its customers, too.

"However, these are challenging times – we have seen more money cut from the public sector than ever before, with more to follow, and national housing policy is also undergoing radical change.

"We need to be confident that the decision in relation to the future housing management arrangements is the right one for Gateshead."





The housing company carries out over 70,000 repairs a year for its customers.



Bill Fullen, Chief Executive of The Gateshead Housing Company, said: “Since the company was set up, we have delivered over £300m of improvements to local homes, as well as carrying out over 70,000 timely repairs a year for our customers.

“We are looking forward to working with Gateshead Council, our customers, partners and stakeholders on long-term plans for housing services that will benefit future generations.”

The review will involve tenants, leaseholders and housing company employees.

And tenants will be able to have their say before any proposals are agreed.

Keep reading Council News and future issues of the housing newspaper for more news on the review of housing and how you can get involved in giving your views.

If you are interested in getting involved in shaping the current services provided by the housing company call the Involvement Team on **0191 433 5357** or e-mail [involve@gatesheadhousing.co.uk](mailto:involve@gatesheadhousing.co.uk)