

To: Communities, Housing & Planning Policy Board

On: 19 January 2021

Report by: Director of Communities and Housing Services

Heading: Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan – funding update

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Scottish Government issued guidance to all local authorities in July 2018 on the production of Rapid Re-housing Transition Plans (RRTP).
 - 1.2 These 5-year plans were to be developed as a means of demonstrating how each local authority and its partners will ensure that those who are homeless are provided with a settled housing option as quickly as possible and minimise the need to stay in temporary accommodation.
 - 1.3 A report providing an update on the development and implementation of an RRTP for Renfrewshire was approved by the Policy Board in August 2019, and it was agreed that progress would be reported to future meetings of the Communities, Housing & Planning Policy Board.
 - 1.4 This report outlines the progress made to date and confirms the allocation of funding from the Scottish Government to support the on-going implementation of the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan for Renfrewshire in 2021/22.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Policy Board :
 - (i) note the progress made to date with the implementation of a RRTP for Renfrewshire, and that the new allocation of £189,000 from the Scottish Government for 2021/22, which will be used for the further implementation of the plan.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Scottish Government established a Homelessness & Rough-sleeping Action Group (HARSAG) in October 2017 to produce solutions to help address the issues raised by homelessness and rough-sleeping.
- 3.2 A key recommendation from the HARSAG, which was accepted by the Scottish Government, was that all local authorities would consult on and produce a 5 year Rapid Re-housing Transition Plan covering the period 2019 – 2024.
- 3.3 These plans detailed how local authorities would move to a situation where those who are homeless:
 - are provided with accommodation more quickly
 - spend less time in temporary accommodation
 - have greater access to an up-scaled use of the Housing First model, and / or other support.
- 3.4 It was proposed that the Scottish Government's 'Ending Homelessness Together' fund may allocate resources to support and assist local authorities in the implementation of their RRTP's, once they have been fully evaluated.
- 3.5 Key partners such as local and national Housing Associations, Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership and a range of 3rd sector organisations were fully consulted on the content of a RRTP for Renfrewshire.
- 3.6 The Scottish Government reviewed submissions made by local authorities and agreed with COSLA that funding for 2019/20 – 2021/22 would be allocated using a formula based distribution model based on a 3 year average of homelessness assessments. The total available funding was £24m over 3 years, with £8m allocated in each year.
- 3.7 Renfrewshire was allocated £186,000 for the implementation of rapid rehousing related initiatives during 2019/20, and £187,000 in 2020/21. On 10 December 2020, it was announced that a further £189,000 has been allocated from the Scottish Government for 2021/22.

4 Implementation of Renfrewshire's RRTP

- 4.1 The Scottish Government's guidance on RRTP's emphasised that the focus of RRTP's is to be on an upscaling of the Housing First approach and ensuring those who are homeless are provided with settled housing options as quickly as possible.
- 4.2 The funding for 2019/20 and 2020/21 mentioned in 3.8, above, was therefore used to increase the number of homeless applicants who are supported via the 'wraparound' support which is a key element of the Housing First approach, as well as additional resettlement workers to assist those moving from temporary accommodation in order to address the problems that can arise when settled tenancies commence. These were priority areas identified during the compilation of the RRTP for Renfrewshire.

- 4.3 The impacts of the COVID 19 crisis has understandably affected the implementation of RRTP's across Scotland, however within Renfrewshire the number of people being supported via the Housing First approach has increased from 20 to 30, the RRTP funded resettlement staffing resource helped to support 170 homeless applicants to move from temporary to settled accommodation between March and December 2020, and the length of time for the Council to complete the legal duty to those who are homeless continues to be better than the national average.
- 4.4 The current RRTP for Renfrewshire which was produced in line with Scottish Government guidance will be reviewed during 2021 and submitted to the Policy Board along with a further update on progress with its implementation during the COVID recovery.
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Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – funding allocated from the Scottish Government will be used to support the transition to rapid rehousing.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – any temporary posts to support the implementation of RRTP related initiatives will be established in accordance with current HR procedures and be fully funded from Scottish Government allocation.
3. **Community/Council Planning** –
 - *Our Renfrewshire is fair - those who are homeless will be provided with settled housing options more quickly.*
 - *Building strong, safe and resilient communities – meeting the needs of those who are homeless and providing access to settled housing helps to support communities.*
 - *Tackling inequality, ensuring opportunities for all – those who are in housing need will be provided with settled housing options more quickly.*
 - *Working together to improve outcomes – RRTP's require Council's and a range of partners to work together to improve outcomes for those in housing need.*
4. **Legal** – none.
5. **Property/Assets** - none
6. **Information Technology** – none
7. **Equality & Human**
 - (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because it is for noting. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

8. **Health & Safety** – none.
 9. **Procurement** – none.
 10. **Risk** – none.
 11. **Privacy Impact** – none.
 12. **COSLA Policy Position** – not applicable.
 13. **Climate Risk** – none.
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List of Background Papers

- a) Background Paper 1 Report to CHAPS Policy Board on 20 August 2019 – RRTP for Renfrewshire – update.
- b) Background Paper 2 Report to CHAPS Policy Board on 30 Oct 2018 – RRTP for Renfrewshire.

The foregoing background papers will be retained within Communities, Housing & Planning Services for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting. The contact officer within the service is Tom Irvine, Homeless & Housing Support Services Manager, Tom.irvine@renfrewshire.gov.uk.

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