

## Notice of Meeting and Agenda Communities and Housing Policy Board

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 14 January 2025	13:00	Council Chambers (Renfrewshire), Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

MARK CONAGHAN  
Head of Corporate Governance

### Membership

Councillor Marie McGurk (Convener): Councillor Robert Innes (Vice Convener):

Councillor Jacqueline Cameron: Councillor Carolann Davidson: Councillor Gillian Graham:  
Councillor John Hood: Councillor Alec Leishman: Councillor Kenny MacLaren: Councillor Mags  
MacLaren: Councillor Colin McCulloch: Councillor Janis McDonald: Councillor Cathy McEwan:  
Councillor Jamie McGuire: Councillor Iain McMillan: Councillor John McNaughtan: Councillor  
Iain Nicolson: Councillor Emma Rodden:

### Further Information

This is a meeting which is open to members of the public.

A copy of the agenda and reports for this meeting will be available for inspection prior to the meeting at the Customer Service Centre, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley and online at <http://renfrewshire.cmis.uk.com/renfrewshire/CouncilandBoards.aspx>

For further information, please email  
[democratic-services@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:democratic-services@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

### Members of the Press and Public

Members of the press and public wishing to attend the meeting should report to the customer service centre where they will be met and directed to the meeting.

### Hybrid Meeting

Please note that this meeting is scheduled to be held in the Council Chambers. However, it is a hybrid meeting and arrangements have been made for members to join the meeting remotely should they wish.

## **Webcasting of Meeting**

This meeting will be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site – at the start of the meeting the Convener will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed. To find the webcast please navigate to

<https://renfrewshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

## Items of business

### Apologies

Apologies from members.

### Declarations of Interest and Transparency Statements

Members are asked to declare an interest or make a transparency statement in any item(s) on the agenda and to provide a brief explanation of the nature of the interest or the transparency statement.

- |          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Police and Fire and Rescue Services Scrutiny Sub-committee</b><br><br>Minute of meeting of the Police and Fire and Rescue Services Scrutiny Sub-committee held on 29 October 2024.                                     | <b>1 - 4</b>   |
| <b>2</b> | <b>General Services Revenue, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Capital Budget Monitoring as at 8 November 2024</b><br><br>Joint report by the Directors of Finance & Resources and Environment, Housing & Infrastructure. | <b>5 - 16</b>  |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Service Update Report</b><br><br>Report by the Director of Environment, Housing & Infrastructure.                                                                                                                      | <b>17 - 32</b> |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Temporary Accommodation Charging Policy</b><br><br>Report by Director of Environment, Housing & Infrastructure.                                                                                                        | <b>33 - 46</b> |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Homelessness Benchmarking Report</b><br><br>Report by Director of Environment, Housing & Infrastructure.                                                                                                               | <b>47 - 54</b> |
| <b>6</b> | <b>Allocation of property to staff, elected member or committee members: Housing Rule 2.5</b><br><br>Report by Director of Environment, Housing & Infrastructure.                                                         | <b>55 - 56</b> |
| <b>7</b> | <b>CCTV Installation Policy</b><br><br>Report by Director of Environment, Housing & Infrastructure.                                                                                                                       | <b>57 - 60</b> |
| <b>8</b> | <b>Community Funding Update</b><br><br>Report by Chief Executive.                                                                                                                                                         | <b>61 - 80</b> |



## Minute of Meeting

### Police and Fire and Rescue Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 29 October 2024	15:00	Council Chambers (Renfrewshire), Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

**Present:** Councillor Robert Innes, Councillor Janis McDonald, Councillor Cathy McEwan, Councillor Iain McMillan, Councillor Iain Nicolson

#### Chair

Councillor Robert Innes, Depute Convener, presided.

#### In Attendance

G Hannah, Head of Climate, Public Protection & Roads and G Heaney, Climate and Public Protection Manager (both Environment, Housing & Infrastructure); and R Devine and E Gray, both Senior Committee Services Officers (both Finance & Resources).

#### Also In Attendance

Chief Superintendent G McCreadie and Chief Inspector A Marshall (both Police Scotland); and K Murphy, Area Commander and P Storrie, Group Manager (both Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

#### Webcasting of Meeting

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Depute Convener intimated that this meeting of the Sub-committee would be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast on the Council's internet site.

## **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

## **Transparency Statements**

Councillor McMillan indicated that he had a connection to item 1 by reason of his membership of the committee of Thorn Athletic Community Trust who were referenced in the report. However, he indicated that he had applied the objective test and did not consider he had an interest to declare.

### **1 Police Scotland - Performance Report**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Superintendent, Police Scotland, relative to service performance and activities in the Renfrewshire area for the reporting period 1 April to 31 August 2024.

The report summarised the key performance indicators and provided statistics and updates in terms of Renfrewshire's Policing Priorities 2023/26 and Police Scotland's Policing Priorities 2023/26.

**DECIDED:** That the contents of the report and verbal update provided be noted.

### **2 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service - Performance Report**

There was submitted a report by the Group Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) relative to SFRS performance and local fire and rescue service plan priorities in the Renfrewshire area during the period 1 July to 30 September 2024.

The report provided updates in relation to Local Fire and Rescue Service Plan Priorities; Renfrewshire activity; accidental dwelling fires and casualties; unintentional injury and harm; deliberate fire setting; non-domestic fire safety and unwanted fire alarm signals.

**DECIDED:** That the contents of the report and verbal update provided be noted.

### **3 Local Issues**

Councillor McMillan queried whether there had been any update on the consultation exercise undertaken in connection with the proposed closure of Mill Street Police Station, Paisley. The Chief Superintendent confirmed the Police Scotland's Estates Team was currently working through option appraisals and that this was an extremely complex process with a number of contributing factors. It was confirmed that this Sub-committee would be kept up-to-date with any progress which was made on this matter.

The Head of Climate, Public Protection & Roads advised that the Council had been asked to provide a response to two consultations, one from the Chief Inspector of the Constabulary seeking completion and submission of a questionnaire and another from Scottish Fire and Rescue seeking feedback on their three-year strategic plan. Due to the deadline for responses falling between meeting cycles it was proposed that a draft response to both consultations would be prepared and circulated to all members of the Communities and Housing Policy Board for comment prior to submission.

**DECIDED:** That the verbal updates be noted.








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**To:** Communities and Housing Policy Board

**On:** 14 January 2025

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**Report by:** Director of Finance and Resources & Director of Environment, Housing and Infrastructure

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**Heading:** General Services Revenue, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Capital Budget Monitoring as at 8 November 2024

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## 1. Summary

- 1.1 At the close of reporting Period 8 on 8 November 2024, the projected revenue outturn at 31 March 2025 for those services reporting to the Communities and Housing Policy Board, including the Housing Revenue Account, is break-even against the revised budget for the year in General Services and a break-even position in the HRA.
- 1.2 The projected capital outturn at 31 March 2025 for projects reporting to the Communities and Housing Policy Board, is a break-even position.
- 1.3 This is summarised over the relevant services in the table below and further analysis is provided in the report and appendices.

	<b>Revised Annual Budget £000</b>	<b>Projected Outturn £000</b>	<b>Budget Variance (Adv)/Fav £000</b>	<b>Budget Variance %</b>
<b>Revenue</b>				
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	0	0	0	0.0%
Housing – General Services (Non-HRA)	4,904	4,904	0	0.0%
Communities and Public Protection	5,882	5,882	0	0.0%
Criminal Justice	4,092	4,092	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,878</b>	<b>14,878</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

	<b>Revised Annual Budget £000</b>	<b>Projected Outturn £000</b>	<b>Budget Variance (Adv)/Fav £000</b>	<b>Budget Variance %</b>
<b>Capital</b>				
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	30,862	30,862	0	0.0%
Other Housing PSHG	1,186	1,186	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,048</b>	<b>32,048</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

## **2. Recommendations**

2.1 Members are requested to:

- a) Note the projected Revenue outturn break-even position.
- b) Note the projected Capital outturn break-even position.
- c) Note the drawdown from General Fund earmarked reserves totalling £0.255m as noted in section 5.1 and 5.4.
- d) Note the drawdown from HRA reserves of £0.518m as noted in section 5.9.
- e) Agree to homologate the budget adjustments detailed at section 7.2.

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## **3. Revenue Budget Projection – break-even by 31 March 2025**

- 3.1 The tables in Appendix 1 present the projected year-end position for all services reporting to this board, by both subjective analysis (what the budget is spent on) and objective analysis (which division is spending the budget). Significant variances affecting the projected position are analysed further below.
- 3.2 It should be noted that the projected outturn position reported here is based on the latest information available, which is subject to change during the financial year. The impact of any change on this projection will be updated at each board cycle until the close of reporting period 10. Budget holders are obliged to seek mitigating action to minimise significant budget variances.

## **4. Objective Analysis – Significant Variances**

### **4.1 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) - break-even by 31 March 2025**

The HRA is projected to break-even overall in 2024/25. Demand for repairs to HRA premises, including void properties, is still currently expected to be managed within the revised budget levels.

#### **4.2 Housing – General Services (Non-HRA) – break-even by 31 March 2025**

The projected outturn for Homelessness within Housing – General Services (Non-HRA), continues to be a challenge over the remainder of the financial year. Demand on services is currently being managed within existing resources, including additional staffing, being supported through migration and asylum funding streams allocated to the Council by the UK and Scottish Government. The potential increase in homeless presentations linked to the asylum population in Renfrewshire and more widely across the West of Scotland, continues to create additional, potentially long-term, financial pressures for Council services. Projections of these pressures will continue to be reviewed and reported to future Communities and Housing Policy Boards as required.

#### **4.3 Communities and Public Protection - break-even by 31 March 2025**

Employee costs are projected to underspend due to vacancies within the service, this area is under review by management. The underspend has been allocated against spend across other budget lines and overall, the service is projected to break-even at year end.

### **5. Subjective Analysis – Significant Variances**

#### **GENERAL SERVICES (excluding HRA)**

#### **5.1 Employee costs - £0.334m underspend by 31 March 2025**

This is a combination of underspends across services, for example, in Public Protection underspends are due to vacancies, which are currently under review. Underspends in Criminal Justice and Homelessness are offset by minor overspends across their service areas.

Please note that a drawdown of £0.205m from the Moving-On Fund for Ukrainian Refugees, held within General Fund earmarked reserves, is now included in the Revised Annual Budget.

#### **5.2 Transport Related – (£0.050m) overspend by 31 March 2025**

Overspends in Public Protection, Criminal Justice and Homelessness are offset by minor underspends across their service areas.

#### **5.3 Supplies and Services - (£0.118m) overspend by 31 March 2025**

This includes (£0.070m) for prior year water sampling costs within the Public Protection Service, funded by underspends in employee costs as noted above. Furniture costs within the Homelessness Service are projected to overspend, which is consistent with the overall demand on Homelessness services.

#### **5.4 Transfer Payments – (£0.113m) overspend by 31 March 2025**

Underspends in revenue costs within the Private Sector Housing Grant programme has led to a reduction in the projected drawdown from Reserves. Overspends in Public Protection and Criminal Justice are offset by underspends within employee costs, as reported above. Please note that a drawdown of £0.050m from the Environment and Place programme for Team Up To Clean Up is now included in the Revised Annual Budget.

### **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA)**

#### **5.5 Premises Related costs – (£0.026m) overspend by 31 March 2025**

The level of demand for Repairs and Maintenance of HRA Properties remains high, especially within Void properties. In-year temporary budget transfers from areas of underspend have been realigned to manage this within the overall service. Additional focus will continue on this area to understand ongoing demand levels. All premises related costs, including utilities and estate management, are subject to fluctuations, and will continue to be closely monitored throughout the year.

#### **5.6 Transfer Payments – £0.006m underspend by 31 March 2025**

The previously approved Housing Systems Replacement Project is being progressed and an estimated £0.518m is required from the HRA reserves held to deliver this project. The projected costs and reserve drawdown is reflected within the overall budget, which is for noting by the Board. The projected outturn reflects the forecasted spend in 2024/25.

### **6. Revenue Budget Virements**

- 6.1. Under the Council's financial regulations, Directors, and their nominated officers, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Resources, have certain delegated authority to transfer sums between subjective budget headings within a service division to enable budget management throughout the financial year. This is known as 'budget virement'.
- 6.2. Transfers between divisions of the same service / department in excess of £100,000, and transfers between services / departments must be authorised by the respective service Director and the Director of Finance and Resources for submission to the relevant policy board for approval.
- 6.3. No such virements are proposed this period.

## 7. Capital Budget Projection – break-even position by 31 March 2025

- 7.1 The Non-Housing Capital Investment Programme 2024/25 to 2028/29 was approved by the Council on 29 February 2024. For Communities and Housing Service the revised capital spend for 2024/25 is £32.048m.
- 7.2 The in-year Capital budget is forecast to break-even by 31 March 2025, following a budget adjustment between years that has taken place to reflect revised programming of some capital projects. Details of the adjustment, which amounts to £0.753m, are as follows:

Capital Budget Adjustments		
Project	Amount (£m)	Reason
Improvements to Existing Properties	0.781	Net acceleration from 2025/26 to reflect start time of projects related to External Improvements.
Regeneration	(1.545)	Deceleration to 2025/26 to reflect anticipated cashflows for various projects, including Broomlands and Waverley, and budget transfer to Council House New Build.
Other Assets	0.840	Acceleration from 2025/26 to reflect timing of various projects, including rot work.
Council House New Build	0.017	Budget transfer from Regeneration for Bishopton New Build.
Private Sector Housing Grant	0.660	Budget increase from revenue for disabled adaptations and care and support.
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.753</b>	

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## Implications of the Report

### 1. Financial

The projected budget outturn position for the Communities and Housing Revenue budget is break-even at 31 March 2025. Income and expenditure will continue to be monitored closely for the rest of the financial year and as far as possible, steps will be taken to mitigate any overspend.

The projected outturn position for Communities and Housing Services Capital budget is break-even, after the adjustments outlined in section 7.

### 2. HR & Organisational Development

While staffing budgets form a significant proportion of the Council's revenue budgets, there are no direct implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

### 3. Community/Council Planning

Community Plan	
Our Renfrewshire is thriving	The Council's revenue and capital spend ensures that its facilities are fit for purpose and safe for the community, to maximise accessibility.
Our Renfrewshire is well	
Our Renfrewshire is fair	
Our Renfrewshire is safe	
Council Plan	
Reshaping our place, our economy and our future	The Council's revenue and capital spend ensures that its facilities are fit for purpose and safe for the community, to maximise accessibility.
Building strong, safe and resilient communities	
Tackling inequality, ensuring opportunities for all	
Creating a sustainable Renfrewshire for all to enjoy	Ongoing revenue and capital budget monitoring is a tool to enable good financial management so that the Council has resources now and in the future for continued service delivery.
Working together to improve outcomes	

### 4. Legal

There are no direct implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

### 5. Property/Assets

The capital expenditure noted in this report will result in lifecycle maintenance improvements to existing properties and replacement of ICT assets and infrastructure.

## **6. Information Technology**

ICT assets and revenue costs are included within these reported budgets, and the costs associated with the replacement of the Housing Management system will have both an ongoing revenue and capital budget impact.

## **7. Equality & Human Rights**

While new areas of spend may impact on particular groups, any such impact would be assessed prior to the spend being incurred, therefore there are no direct implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

## **8. Health & Safety**

The capital expenditure noted in this report will result in lifecycle maintenance improvements to existing properties and replacement of ICT assets, which may in some cases rectify health and safety issues.

## **9. Procurement**

While Procurement is an important consideration prior to the Council incurring any revenue or capital spend, there are no direct implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

## **10. Risk**

The potential financial risk that the Council will overspend its approved revenue budgets for the year is managed at a Council-wide level by the Chief Executive and Directors.

## **11. Privacy Impact**

There are no direct implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

## **12. Cosla Policy Position**

N/a

## **13. Children's Rights**

There are no direct implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

## **14. Climate Change**

The Council aims to reduce its carbon and other emissions to net zero by 2030, however there are no direct implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

## List of Background Papers

- Housing Revenue Account Budget & Rent Levels 2024/25 and Housing Capital Investment Plan 2024/25 to 2028/29, Council 29 February 2024.
- Non-housing Capital Investment Programme, prudential Framework and Treasury Management Strategy, and Capital Strategy 2024/25 – 2028/29, Council 29 February 2024.

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**Author:** John Kilpatrick, Finance Business Partner; Geoff Borland, Finance Manager.



**RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT 2024/25**  
**1 April 2024 to 8 November 2024**

**POLICY BOARD: COMMUNITIES AND HOUSING - All SERVICES**

Objective Summary	Annual Budget at Period 6	Budget Adjustments	Revised Annual Budget at Period 8	Projected Outturn	Budget Variance (Adverse) or Favourable		Previous Projected Outturn Variance	Movement
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%	£000	£000
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0
Housing - General Services (Non-HRA)	4,626	278	4,904	4,904	0	0.0%	0	0
Communities and Public Protection (including Regulatory Services)	5,832	50	5,882	5,882	0	0.0%	0	0
Criminal Justice	4,171	(79)	4,092	4,092	0	0.0%	0	0
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>14,629</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>14,878</b>	<b>14,878</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT 2024/25**  
**1 April 2024 to 8 November 2024**

**POLICY BOARD: COMMUNITIES AND HOUSING - GENERAL SERVICES (excluding HRA)**

Subjective Summary	Annual Budget at Period 6	Budget Adjustments	Revised Annual Budget at Period 8	Projected Outturn	Budget Variance (Adverse) or Favourable		Previous Projected Outturn Variance	Movement
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%	£000	£000
Employees	11,731	830	12,561	12,227	334	2.7%	209	125
Premises Related	2,431	(33)	2,398	2,419	(21)	(0.9%)	(14)	(7)
Transport Related	187	10	197	247	(50)	(25.2%)	(21)	(29)
Supplies and Services	5,682	411	6,093	6,211	(118)	(1.9%)	(198)	80
Third Party Payments	87	25	112	155	(43)	(38.6%)	13	(56)
Transfer Payments	2,673	126	2,799	2,912	(113)	(4.0%)	60	(172)
Support Services	54	(1)	53	51	2	3.1%	5	(3)
Depreciation and Impairment Losses	(23)	0	(23)	(11)	(12)	(52.2%)	(12)	0
<b>GROSS EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>22,822</b>	<b>1,369</b>	<b>24,191</b>	<b>24,213</b>	<b>(22)</b>	<b>(0.1%)</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>(64)</b>
Income	(8,193)	(1,120)	(9,313)	(9,335)	22	0.2%	(42)	64
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>14,629</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>14,878</b>	<b>14,878</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>0</b>

**RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT 2024/25**  
**1 April 2024 to 8 November 2024**

**POLICY BOARD: COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND PLANNING SERVICES - Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Only**

Subjective Summary	Annual Budget at Period 6	Budget Adjustments	Revised Annual Budget at Period 8	Projected Outturn	Budget Variance (Adverse) or Favourable		Previous Projected Outturn Variance	Movement
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%	£000	£000
Employees	11,561	(268)	11,293	11,284	9	0.1%	155	(146)
Premises Related	24,350	760	25,110	25,136	(26)	(0.1%)	32	(58)
Transport Related	53	0	53	63	(10)	(18.9%)	(10)	0
Supplies and Services	908	(140)	768	781	(13)	(1.7%)	43	(56)
Third Party Payments	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0
Transfer Payments	5,517	(514)	5,003	4,997	6	0.1%	(101)	107
Support Services	3,322	0	3,322	3,310	12	0.4%	8	4
Depreciation and Impairment Losses	17,909	518	18,427	18,427	0	0.0%	0	0
<b>GROSS EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>63,620</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>63,976</b>	<b>63,998</b>	<b>(22)</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>(149)</b>
Income	(63,620)	(356)	(63,976)	(63,998)	22	0.0%	(127)	149
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY**  
 1st April to 8th November 2024  
**POLICY BOARD: COMMUNITIES & HOUSING**

Project Title	Prior Years Expenditure to 31/03/2024	Current Year 2024-25					
		Approved Budget 2024-25	Budget Adjustments since previous Board report	Revised Budget 2024-25	Projected Outturn 2024-25	Budget Variance (Adverse) or Favourable	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000		
<b>HOUSING(HRA)</b>							
Improvements To Existing Properties	0	15,757	781	16,538	16,538	0	0%
Regeneration	10,743	9,227	(1,545)	7,682	7,682	0	0%
Other Assets	0	2,425	840	3,265	3,265	0	0%
Non Property Expenditure	0	900	0	900	900	0	0%
Council House New Build	42,665	610	17	627	627	0	0%
Professional Fees	0	1,850	0	1,850	1,850	0	0%
<b>Total Housing (HRA) Programme</b>	<b>53,408</b>	<b>30,769</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>30,862</b>	<b>30,862</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>HOUSING(PSHG)</b>							
Private Sector Housing Grant Programme	0	526	660	1,186	1,186	0	0%
<b>Total Housing (PSHG) Programme</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>1,186</b>	<b>1,186</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>TOTAL COMMUNITIES, HOUSING &amp; PLANNING BOARD</b>	<b>53,408</b>	<b>31,295</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>32,048</b>	<b>32,048</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>

\*Rolling programmes have a prior year year expenditure of £0 as the expenditure is not directly linked from one year to the next as a singular project.

Full Programme - All years			
Total Approved Budget to 31-Mar-29	Projected Outturn to 31-Mar-29	Budget Variance (Adverse) or Favourable	
£000	£000		
111,757	111,757	0	0%
7,587	7,587	0	0%
4,550	4,550	0	0%
10,860	10,860	0	0%
74,690	74,690	0	0%
9,700	9,700	0	0%
<b>219,144</b>	<b>219,144</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
2,926	2,926	0	0%
<b>2,926</b>	<b>2,926</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>222,070</b>	<b>222,070</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>




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**To: Communities and Housing Policy Board**

**On: 14 January 2025**

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**Report by: Director of Environment, Housing, and Infrastructure**

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**Heading: Service Update Report**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of key service activities, an operational performance update since the last Policy Board meeting on the services and key projects and updates on any other relevant changes to service areas covered within the remit of this Board.
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## **2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Communities and Housing Policy Board

- 2.1 Note the contents of this report.
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## **Updates for Communities and Housing Policy Board**

## **3. Housing Services**

### **3.1 Housing Management**

#### Income Advice

- 3.1.1 Information from advice interviews at the end of November 2024 confirms that over 4,622 income advice cases involved households from Council Tenancies this financial year. During these interviews staff assess any entitlements to assistance that are due and support people to access benefits they are eligible for, alongside giving advice on all money matters and budgeting.

- 3.1.2 There are several sources of additional assistance accessed which can include universal credit/housing benefit attendance allowance and disability payment, food vouchers and many more. In monetary terms this equates to £7.8 million between April and November this year.
- 3.1.3 Between April and November 2024 there have been 180 tenants referred for Tenant Support Fund assessment, which have the added value of full income assessment and advice provision. Of the referrals 119 have engaged with Specialist Income Advisors and 97 have qualified for assistance from the fund. Officers continue to engage with tenants to maximise access to any underlying entitlement to benefits and funds available.

#### Housing Advice

- 3.1.4 There has been continued take up of the option to apply to join the Council's housing waiting list using the online application form. The online system was introduced in November 2023. At the end of November 2024, we have 2,437 applications received via the online process.
- 3.1.5 Staff are available to assist in completing online forms and all applicants still have the opportunity for housing options advice; to assist those making a housing enquiry to gain a realistic understanding of the choices available to suit their circumstances.
- 3.1.6 The online housing application is available alongside existing ways to apply, such as telephone, video conferencing (Near Me), and in person as requested.

#### Tenancy Management

- 3.1.7 A partnership approach to piloting an online method of reporting Renfrewshire Council tenants' antisocial behaviour is progressing.
- 3.1.8 It is proposed that the App will be introduced for a pilot period of six weeks, to ensure it meets the needs of customers and the service, thereafter it will be launched across all housing teams.
- 3.1.9 The intention of the pilot is to offer the App to customers already engaged with services. The App will complement the traditional methods of reporting antisocial behaviour, existing alongside the other reporting methods, telephone, email, in writing and in person. Staff will undergo training on the App in the new year and it is anticipated that the pilot will begin before the end of January 2025.

#### Housing Systems Update

- 3.1.10 The project now has an identity/title and will be known as the Housing Innovation Project. This name was chosen from 35 entries received from staff within the Council as part of a naming competition.
- 3.1.11 The team is now taking shape, with five of the workstreams leads now selected following interviews held in November 2024.

Three induction sessions have been held with the Workstream Leads in the month of December to provide background/context and rationale to the team in areas such as Governance, Project Principles and Terms of Reference.

- 3.1.12 Recruitment is ongoing for the nine module team members with interviews anticipated to take place in January 2025.

### **3.2 Homeless & Housing Support Services**

- 3.2.1 The number of homeless applications this financial year has continued at the high level of last year, and it is anticipated that there will again be more than 1,000 homeless applications in 2024/25.
- 3.2.2 The current number of 'live' cases at the start of December was 414, which is the highest recorded figure of 'live' homeless cases in Renfrewshire since the abolition of 'priority need' twelve years ago.
- 3.2.3 We also have the highest ever recorded figure of households staying in temporary accommodation – exceeding the numbers during the COVID lockdowns – and this sustains the high degree of pressure on Homeless & Housing Support Services and partners at this time.
- 3.2.4 Updates will continue to be provided to the Policy Board, and the range of measures previously reported continue to be followed in order to provide settled tenancies for homeless applicants as quickly as possible and minimise the use of hotel accommodation (B&B).
- 3.2.5 The Housing Support Team have experienced a similar significant increase in referrals. In December 2024 there were 516 'live' cases, with 813 referrals received this financial year to date. This represents an increase of 77% in referrals received over the same period two years ago.
- 3.2.6 Our Refugee Resettlement Team are currently supporting 242 households, with a recent increase in Afghan national arrivals. Many of the Ukrainians being supported will be eligible to apply for an 18-month visa extension over the coming months. There is now a strong focus on health and wellbeing initiatives and events by the team, as well as a continuing programme of integration-based projects.
- 3.2.7 The Sheltered Housing Service will operate through the festive period and a broad range of activities; panto trips and parties have been arranged for those living in the 10 complexes owned and managed by the Council.

### **3.3 Housing Asset and Investment**

#### Mobility Scooter Pods – Maxwellton Court

- 3.3.1 Fire Risk Assessments are carried out regularly at our high-rise blocks. Risk assessments carried out at Maxwellton Court identified an increased fire risk associated with practices in place for charging mobility scooters within the building.

- 3.3.2 Due to the high number of residents with mobility scooters, the decision was taken to install charging pods external to the building.
- 3.3.3 The design works and building control process have been completed and a contractor has been appointed. The initial grounds works commenced in December 2024 and are expected to be completed by January. The manufacturer of the pods has instructed, with works expected to be fully completed within the first quarter of 2025.
- 3.3.4 There has been ongoing consultation with the residents of Maxwellton Court who will continue to be kept informed of progress.
- 3.3.5 This is a pilot project which, if successful, may be replicated at other blocks of high-rise properties should similar risks be identified.

### **3.4 Regeneration Update**

#### Housing – Led Regeneration and Renewal Programme

- 3.4.1 The Housing-Led Regeneration and Renewal Programme continues to progress well, with tenant rehousing, owner acquisitions and demolition programmes running in line with the agreed phasing for each area. Across the programme, 60 of 89 private properties approved for demolition have now been acquired, with a further 9 transactions with legal services to conclude.
- 3.4.2 Negotiations continue with all remaining owners, with a number of resident owners interested in selling to the Council and becoming Council tenants when suitable properties become available.
- 3.4.3 For the Auchentorlie area, the recent Building warrant approval will allow works to be progressed for the pilot block at 74 Seedhill Road, with further warrant approval anticipated in the new year for the improvement of blocks within Auchentorlie Quadrant.
- 3.4.4 Officers are liaising with private owners in this area to encourage participation in the external improvement programme as far as possible. Officers will then look to commence discussions with owners in the Howard Street retention blocks followed by consultation in Waverley and Howwood Road areas to encourage owner participation in the improvement works.

#### Tannahill Area of Ferguslie Park

- 3.4.5 The Demolition of Council owned blocks in the Tannahill area continues to progress well, with 41 of 52 blocks demolished as at the end of November 2024.



- 3.4.6 Council Officers continue to work in partnership with both Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Police Scotland colleagues to address wilful fire-raising incidents and identify additional measures that can be taken across the regeneration programme to deter such anti-social behaviour in our communities.

#### Paisley West End

- 3.4.7 Members will be aware of the newbuild and demolition activity currently taking place within Paisley West End as delivery of the masterplan for this area moves further into the implementation stage. The Council has to date transferred 5 blocks to Sanctuary Housing Association to allow them to proceed with the first phase of the demolition strategy in this area, making way for further newbuild housing in line with the Paisley West End masterplan.

#### Council Newbuild Projects

- 3.4.8 Formal Planning applications for Gallowhill (24/0494/PP) and the Howwood Road area (24/0495/PP) were approved at the Planning and Climate Change Policy Board on 5 November 2024. The statutory approvals process is ongoing with Building Warrant applications lodged and discussions ongoing with Scottish Water for technical approval.

### **3.5 Performance reporting – Housing Services**

- 3.5.1 Members are advised that a review of performance reporting will be carried out early in 2025 and be implemented during the year. The review will seek to identify how to incorporate reporting more frequently than annually where possible, as well as bringing performance reports more timeously to Board.
- 3.5.2 The review will consider the existing performance reporting regime, which includes reporting progress on the Scottish Social Housing Charter, benchmarking with other housing landlords and the Service Improvement Plan. At present the year end performance information is usually reported to the Policy Board in August each year, with the benchmarking performance then reported in October. This means the Policy Board are receiving performance reports sometime after the year end and reporting is not aligned to the corporate performance reporting cycle.

### **3.6 Single Voids Team Update**

- 3.6.1 Since the Policy Board of 29 October 2024, officers have been continuing to work on an improved reletting and void approach.
- 3.6.2 Between Monday 9 September 2024 and Monday 6 January 2025 we further reduced void rent loss on a year-to-date basis from 4.49% to 4.18% (against a target of 4.50%)
- 3.6.3 We have continued to reduce our average re-let time as reported to the Scottish Housing Regulator – at the end of November 2024 it was 37.73 days against a target of 50.00.

### **3.7 Increased Scottish Government Grant Benchmarking Rates for Affordable Housing Delivery**

- 3.7.1 In October 2024, the Scottish Government confirmed that Affordable Housing Investment Benchmark grant rates were being increased for new affordable homes delivered through the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) process as part of the Scottish Government's Affordable Housing Supply Programme.
- 3.7.2 Flexible benchmark grant rates were increased by the Scottish Government following a review of national tender price index information for a new build affordable development.
- 3.7.3 Affordable housing providers such as Councils and housing associations are expected to use these flexible benchmark grant rates to assess the viability of affordable housing projects included within Strategic Housing Investment Plans with development costs met from combination of Scottish Government grant fund and the developing organisations own resources.
- 3.7.4 As per Scottish Government guidance issued in October 2024, these new grant rates will take immediate effect with the flexible '3P' (three bedspace home) grant rate increasing from £83,584 to £87,763 for new Council homes for social rent and from £91,182 to £95,741 for new housing association homes for social rent. Different rates apply for 2 and 4 bedspace homes etc based on a ratioed difference from the 3P grant rate.
- 3.7.5 Over and above these flexible benchmark grant rates, additional grant will continue to be made available to support the inclusion of specific quality and design features in new affordable homes, including design features than enhance a home's energy efficiency or other specific qualitative elements in the homes design or layout.
- 3.7.6 All costs associated with the increased grant benchmark rates and all grant requirements from housing providers to meet additional quality standards are required to be met from the Council's existing funding allocation from the Scottish Government as part of the Affordable Housing Supply Programme.
- 3.7.7 The increase in benchmark grant rates may potentially increase delivery timescales for projects with developers collectively only able to access grant up to the funding allocation for Renfrewshire each year.

### **3.8 Expansion of the open Market Acquisition Scheme**

- 3.8.1 In September 2024, £0.168 million of Scottish Government grant funding was allocated to Renfrewshire to support the Council and housing association partners to acquire homes available to purchase on the open market.

- 3.8.2 In November 2024, a further £1 million of Scottish Government grant funding was allocated to Renfrewshire, with the combined £1.168 million to be used by both the Council and housing association partners to acquire suitable properties that will be added to the social supply.
- 3.8.3 This open market acquisition scheme known as 'ROTS' or 'Rental Off the Shelf' requires all participating social landlords to conclude sales missive and claim grant from the Scottish Government by 31 March 2025.
- 3.8.4 Renfrewshire Council, Bridgewater Housing Association, Paisley Housing Association and Williamsburgh Housing Association have expressed interest to participate in the scheme with aspirations to purchase approximately 30 properties that will be added to the social rented supply throughout Renfrewshire, with Renfrewshire Council anticipated to acquire around half of these properties.

### **3.9 Service Improvement Update**

#### **Rent Consultation for 2025 to 2028**

- 3.9.1 Members are advised of the rent consultation for 2025 to 2028. This took place on-line between Monday 9 December 2024 and Thursday 19 December 2024. Tenants were consulted on two options:
- Option 1 – increase rent by 7.5% in 2025, 7.5% in 2026 and 7.0% in 2027; and
  - Option 2 – increase rent by 8.0% in 2025, 8.0% in 2026 and 7.0% in 2027.
- 3.9.2 All tenants were advised of the survey by letter. All Tenants' and Residents' Association (TARAs) were invited to participate and there was an online meeting for TARA members to exchange their views on the proposals. Members will be advised of the outcome of the survey at the meeting of the Council in February 2025.

## **4. Public Protection**

### **4.1 Environmental Health**

- 4.1.1 Following on from their training, two senior Environmental Health Compliance Officers attended their REHIS professional exams in Dunfermline in October 2024. Both passed these and have now taken on roles as Environmental Health Officers. They were supported throughout their training by staff within the Service as well as other services throughout the Council.
- 4.1.2 The service has also successfully recruited a Food Safety Officer and Trainee Food Safety Officer and all of these posts will support capacity and resilience within the Environmental Health teams.
- 4.1.3 The Environmental Health, Business Regulation Team were recently informed of an issue with a food product sold by a Renfrewshire distribution company.

The product, a Peach, and Ginger Jam from a producer in The Kingdom of Eswatini (formerly Swaziland), was distributed throughout the UK.

- 4.1.4 The business were advised by some customers that a mould had formed on the surface of the jam. When investigated, the issue was affecting similar products stored within the warehouse at Paisley.
- 4.1.5 As the mould may make the product unsafe, a national product recall was initiated by the business under the guidance and with assistance from the Council's Environmental Health Officers, in conjunction with Food Standards Scotland (FSS).
- 4.1.6 As part of this process, FSS were provided with product, distribution, and customer details to allow a Product Recall Information Notice to be issued and to support the business in the recall process. A total of 1,816 units were identified in the suspect batch of which 482 had been distributed.
- 4.1.7 The business-initiated laboratory testing of samples from all lines manufactured by the same producer, resulting in the identification of three further products with the same issue.
- 4.1.8 This led to the business increasing the scope of the recall to include these products, taking the total number of units to 7,500; of which 3,350 had been distributed nationally and the remainder being traced to the business's warehouse.
- 4.1.9 This update was communicated to FSS, and an updated Product Recall Information Notice was issued. Laboratory testing showed no issues with ten other product lines however, the testing and root cause analysis has implicated a defective screw top lid. As all the products were packaged in the same jar/lid combination, and as a precautionary measure, the distributor has removed the remaining products from sale. This service continues to work with the business and FSS to ensure the recall process is concluded successfully.

## **4.2 Fireworks / Bonfire Night**

- 4.2.1 Trading Standards are responsible for registering and inspecting fireworks storage premises across Renfrewshire. Premises with a fireworks registration are allowed to sell fireworks by retail during certain specified periods in the year; namely Guy Fawkes (15 October to 10 November, inclusive) and the 3 days leading up to Chinese New Year, Diwali, and Hogmanay. Of the 21 registered premises, only one was determined to be breaching storage requirements, and a formal warning letter has been issued.
- 4.2.2 A further warning letter was issued to an unregistered premises, identified to be displaying live fireworks in their window. A small amount, of fireworks were acquired during a partnership intervention with Police Scotland; as well as quantity of illicit tobacco and illegal Nicotine Vapour Products (NVPs).

4.2.3 Officers from across the Community Safety Partnership were engaged in a number of support activities under the banner of Operation Moonbeam. This assisted colleagues in the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service in attending calls throughout Renfrewshire alongside Police Scotland.

4.2.4 Work to minimise illegal bonfire and flytipping in communities was coordinated through our Wardens Service, with uplifts being carried out by Neighbourhood Services staff. Guy Fawkes Night passed with no reported attacks of violence on fire crews across Renfrewshire nor any reported major injuries linked to it.

### **4.3 Community Safety**

4.3.1 A review of the Community Support Service (Warden Service) has been carried out to ensure that the Service is aligned with the current service demand.

4.3.2 As part of the review an analysis of incident data was carried out and this highlights that there has been a 48% reduction overall in reported incidents or request to the Service in the last three years, with a significant reduction in request/incidents after 5pm and over the weekends. There has also been a significant reduction in incidents/requests on public holidays. The data highlights the busiest time for the Service is between 10am – 4pm Monday – Friday.

4.3.3 To ensure that resources are aligned with service demands, a new operating model has been developed. The core hours of the service will be between 8am – 6pm, Monday – Sunday. The revised model will also include the provision of a Stand by Service until 10pm to respond to any out of hours incidents/requests for service. The Service is currently discussing the proposals with affected employees and Trade Union representatives.

4.3.4 A review of the Council's Public Space CCTV operations has been carried out. Renfrewshire Public Space CCTV network has been operational since 2015, providing surveillance and incident monitoring to enhance community safety. The system comprises of 65 cameras across Paisley, Renfrew, and Johnstone as well as 4 Household Waste Recycling Centres.

4.3.5 Operators currently monitor the system 24hrs/365 days a year. The system predominantly supports Police Scotland, with over 80% of CCTV requests originating from the Police.

4.3.6 In relation to incident pattern analysis there is a significant reduction in service requests noted between 0300hrs and 1200hrs, with the busiest days identified as Thursday to Sunday.

The current review seeks to evaluate the operational efficiency, financial sustainability and restructuring of the service to align with identified service demands.

- 4.3.7 The proposal is to ensure the operating model covers the busiest periods whilst maintaining a day shift 7 days per week to support the business economy in town centres as well as administration tasks such as retrospective footage review where incidents have occurred. This places operators on duty at the periods of highest demand.

## **5. Community Development Team**

### **5.1 Youth Engagement**

- 5.1.1 The pilot youth engagement programme, named by young people as **Good Vibes Only**, kicked off on Thursday, 7 November running for seven weeks, concluding on 19 December. 20 Young people were identified following community outreach work over the summer and autumn period.
- 5.1.2 The interactive education and awareness programme was designed based on what young people told us. Each week, the programme features contributions from partner organisations from Police Scotland, British Transport Police, and the Fire & Rescue Service.
- 5.1.3 In addition to the weekly sessions, youth work staff have been linking in with local transport providers to extend the outreach work and the engagements that have occurred to date have been positive, providing a pathway for new participants to join the Good Vibes Only programme.
- 5.1.4 Throughout the seven weeks, the young people will be consulted on the types of youth work activities they would like to see in their areas that are not already available. The feedback gathered will help shape future youth work programmes/activities that will be targeted across Renfrewshire.
- 5.1.5 In Johnstone, the Youth Team has been working closely with Police Scotland throughout their community connections. They have partnered with the Johnstone Castle Learning Centre to offer activities for local young people with Police Scotland funding fortnightly evening football sessions to engage with young people to build positive relationships and guide them towards existing youth provisions.

### **5.2 Street Stuff**

- 5.2.1 Street Stuff has continued to deliver activities across Renfrewshire in the evening and weekends. They also supported the child poverty agenda by delivering multi-sport activities with provision of a healthy meal during the October school week across Foxbar, Ferguslie, Renfrew, Johnstone, Linwood and Gallowhill.
- 5.2.2 They have continued to support a number of schools through the Street to School programme, providing outdoor learning and historical field trip activities to improve attendance at school and help close the attainment gap.

- 5.2.3 Street Stuff were recognised in the recent Care Inspectorate report for protecting children at risk of harm with the work they are doing within schools and community especially around partnership working and safeguarding young people.

### **5.3 Youth Services**

- 5.3.1 Renfrewshire Youth Voice and Youth Services held the 12<sup>th</sup> Renfrewshire Positive About Youth Awards in the Normandy Hotel where over 140 young people attended – 19 finalists were chosen under 7 categories. The awards began to combat negative stereotypes of young people and to highlight individual and group achievements and celebrate their Positive About Youth Awards 2024 Results! – Young Scot.
- 5.3.2 Youth Services and Future Paisley have been working to support 14 young people who are participating in a new arts and culture opportunity with Edinburgh-based Jupiterland: the Jupiter Orbiteers recently travelled to London to visit artists in their studios (including Tracy Emin) and met Paisley born artist Anya Gallaccio at her exhibition in the Turner Contemporary Museum in Margate.
- 5.3.3 The new creative artists will be supported to continue to learn and create in the new space in Paisley Centre as part of the project.
- 5.3.4 Duke of Edinburgh's Award Programme completed the expedition season with 57 expeditions going out from March to September. There are currently 626 active DofE participants of whom 23.4% are SIMD 1-3 and 37 active DofE leaders. The social value of volunteering is £7,631 for 1,907 hours up 23% on the previous year.
- 5.3.5 Young And Equally Safe (YES) in Renfrewshire Project has supported the continued delivery of MVP (Mentors in Violence Protection) training in 2 schools and a new cohort of teachers and youth workers. Young leaders have delivered community-based workshops, to continue to raise the profile of challenging gender stereotype and attitudes. Pilot projects have been delivered to two schools to continue this theme and to promote positive masculinity.
- 5.3.6 YES was able to take a leading role organising this years' Reclaim the Night which involved approximately 180 people including young people, families, and adults, led by young female pipers, and a choir before the laying of a wreath by the Provost in memory of victims of GBV.
- 5.3.7 The Renfrewshire Youth Assembly was held in the Paisley Town Hall in November to coincide with the 16 Days of Action and as part of the Renfrewshire Council's Youth Service's delivery of UNCRC youth voice programme. Planned and led with young people, the workshops covered Violence, Safety and Substance Use (Vaping), with a Q&A with a Panel involving Young People's Champion, Scottish Youth Parliament, Young Scot, the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, and Police Scotland.
- 5.3.8 The event ended with a vote for key concerns that the Youth Commission will take forward for further action in 2025: Reducing Violence.

A full report will be produced and an opportunity for Youth Voice to present back in early 2025.

- 5.3.9 Youth Services supported the Promise Present Drive with presents being donated for young people who are care experienced to make these young people feel a little more special. Young people and Promise Keepers, and workers from across different services volunteered to wrap and prepare the presents to ensure they were delivered before the Christmas holidays.

## **5.4 Adult and Family Learning**

- 5.4.1 Eight Community Learning and Development facilities were identified as Digi-zone venues giving people access to tablets and laptops, wi-fi and training on accessing and utilising digital devices safely, and the Digi-zone branding is in place. Digi-zones are Renfrewshire wide network of Council and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector organisation and businesses promoting digital equality by offering support to residents wanting to use digital technology and get online.
- 5.4.2 The new Digi-zones are located in West Johnstone shard campus, Moorpark Primary, Foxlea, Glenburn Community Centre, Bargarran Community Centre, and Southend learning centres plus the Youth Services base at West PS and Foxbar Youth Drop-in.
- 5.4.3 CLAD activities went live on the HSCP's Well in Renfrewshire (WiRE) resource for staff and the CLAD team have committed to being part of the working group responsible for maintaining the online information. The WiRE platform maps community groups and activities across Renfrewshire and is available on the Renfrewshire HSCP website for staff to identify relevant community activities for service users.
- 5.4.4 Southend Action Centre's Tabletop Gamers is a group of autistic adults who came together as a result of the HSCP Autism Lived Experience group and are supported by CLAD. They have started working on a project in partnership with Paisley Museum's Creative Learning team in preparation for the launch of the new museum.
- 5.4.5 The group are using their skills and knowledge of gaming to design a game that will enrich the visitor experience by sparking curiosity and encouraging active and participative learning during their visit.

## **5.5 Community Development**

### Team Up To Clean Up

- 5.5.1 The Annual Winter Warriors Campaign, under the Team Up To Clean Up banner, once again offered volunteers the opportunity to make local well used footpaths and garden paths easier to navigate across the winter.
- 5.5.2 A limited number of volunteers requesting to be part of the Campaign were provided a salt/grit spreader along with 2x2.5kg bags of salt. Volunteers further received a snow shovel and waterproof warm gloves.



A new risk assessment was created to ensure volunteers approach the task with consideration to potential hazards.

- 5.5.3 A Santa Dash Litterpick was delivered by pupils of Glenniffer High School who cleaned up the area surrounding their school, including Durrockstock Dam. Professional photographs were taken to add some festive cheer to the active Team Up to Clean Up Facebook page, and the volunteers engaged eagerly, enjoying the efforts and education of Renfrewshire's local youths.

#### Environmental Taskforce

- 5.5.4 The Environmental Taskforce continues to deliver intervention to reduce instances of flytipping. Key statistics for the most recent period are:

Action	August to October
Proactive visits to identified hotspot areas	520
Number of reports investigated	378
Tonnes of flytipping removed	49
Number of sites secured to prevent further flytipping	3
Letters to private landowners re flytipping	12
Visits to businesses to ensure Waste Disposal Arrangements in place	20
Fixed Penalty Notices Issued	22

- 5.5.5 New Taskforce tape, replacing Team Up to Clean Up tape, is now being used by the Taskforce to demonstrate incidences of flytipping already under investigation. This is more noticeable and better highlights the criminality and weight of the act of flytipping.



## **6. Justice Social Work**

### **6.1 National Thematic Review**

- 6.1.1 The Scottish Government tasks the Care Inspectorate (CI) with providing scrutiny and assurance of justice social work. Learning from previous national scrutiny work across justice social work, the CI has begun a national thematic review of performance management and quality assurance frameworks.
- 6.1.2 This is being undertaken in three stages with a final thematic report anticipated in May 2025.

- **Phase 1. National Self-Evaluation** (2 September to 20 November 2024).
- **Phase 2. Validation Activity** (20 January to 24 January 2025) the CI will select up to five Local Authorities and work with them directly to validate their self-evaluation. This will be more in depth and include a review of documentary evidence and focus groups with staff and people who use its services. Participation local authorities selected will receive a validation letter and feedback on their self-evaluation.
- **Phase 3. Reporting** (May 2005). A final thematic report will summarise the findings of the self-evaluation and the key messages from the validation activity. This will reflect national messages and share information about good practice. Findings will be attributed to individual local authorities.

6.1.3 Significant work was undertaken to ensure Renfrewshire's self-evaluation submission successfully met this timescale. The Board will be kept updated of any key developments in phase 2 and phase 3, where required.

## **6.2 Community Justice**

6.2.1 A third sector organisation, Braveheart, has been commissioned to deliver a pilot short-term peer support to a small number of people with justice social work involvement. This will offer some personalised, practical, and emotional support to help them navigate their support needs and consequently, reduce their risk of reoffending.

6.2.2 Part of this involves providing feedback into the broader experience of service users within the justice process. This includes interactions with other support service and organisations. This feedback will be used to inform future improvement opportunities with wider community justice partners.

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## **Implications of the Report**

1. **Financial** – Any financial elements referenced in this report will be progressed through the Council's financial & budget planning process.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None.
3. **Community/Council Planning** – The report details a range of activities which reflect local community and council planning themes.
4. **Legal** – None.
5. **Property/Assets** – None.
6. **Information Technology** – None.

7. **Equality & Human Rights** – 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. 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. **Climate Risk** – there are a range of actions and activities throughout the Service Update Report which support the Council's Plan for Net Zero.
13. **Children's Rights** – None.
14. **Cosla Policy Position** – None.

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**List of Background Papers:** None.

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**To:** Communities and Housing Policy Board

**On:** 14 January 2025

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**Report by:** Director of Environment, Housing and Infrastructure

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**Heading:** Temporary Accommodation Charging Policy

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 A revised Temporary Accommodation Charging Policy has been developed to provide an updated framework which can be used by the Council for the charging of rent and service charges to homeless households for the provision of furnished temporary accommodation.
  - 1.2 The Temporary Accommodation Charging Policy will assist the Council to meet the needs of those who have nowhere to stay whilst fully reflecting the increase in costs in recent years and will be in line with the Local Housing Strategy and Renfrewshire's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan.
  - 1.3 The overall aim of the policy is to ensure that rent and service charges for furnished temporary accommodation are set at an affordable level for all, provide financial sustainability, allows the Council to continue to provide good quality furnished accommodation for those in housing need, and meet the actual cost of providing the accommodation and related services.
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## **2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Communities and Housing Policy Board:

- 2.1 Approves the Renfrewshire Council Temporary Accommodation Charging Policy as set out in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Approves the Temporary Accommodation fees and charge set in in section 4.6 of the report.

### 3. Background

- 3.1 Local authorities have a statutory obligation to offer temporary accommodation when a household presents as homeless and they have nowhere to stay, whilst the local authority assesses their homeless application.
- 3.2 The Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 states that where this obligation exists, the applicant should pay 'a reasonable charge', as determined by the local authority in respect of the accommodation provided by the local authority, or that provided by another landlord, but which is paid for by the local authority.
- 3.3 When carrying out functions under the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 with respect to a homeless person and / or persons threatened with homelessness, local authorities are required to have regard to the Code of Guidance on Homelessness, which states in relation to charges for the provision of temporary accommodation:

*"In deciding what is reasonable, the local authority should take account of what the applicant can pay in the longer term. If an applicant is being asked to pay for accommodation provided by or paid for by the local authority, then the applicant should be informed in advance of the cost of the accommodation. They should also be assisted when applying for benefit to cover the cost of such accommodation. The local authority should take account of, and advise of, the likely level of benefit when considering charges".*

#### Temporary accommodation stock

- 3.4 The table below provides a breakdown of the stock of furnished properties currently being used as temporary accommodation for those who are statutorily homeless:

	Temporary accommodation type	Landlord	Number of properties
1	Individual properties across Renfrewshire	Renfrewshire Council	156
2	Staffed accommodation at Gallowhill and Thrushcraigs	Renfrewshire Council	33
3	Individual properties across Renfrewshire	Various RSLs	39
4	Supported accommodation projects (4 sites)	Williamsburgh HA, Paisley HA, Sanctuary HA, Renfrewshire Council	53

- 3.5 The stock of furnished accommodation listed in the table ensures that the Council does not have to use hotel accommodation (B&B) on a regular basis or at unacceptable level and avoids the excessive costs that the high use of B&B can generate.
- 3.6 The Supported Accommodation projects at No.4 in the table are provided through tendered contracts by specialist Support Providers, and as such are not covered by this Charging Strategy.

#### **4. Rent charge for those placed in temporary accommodation**

- 4.1 It is recognised that the cost of providing temporary accommodation, and the rent which is then charged, are both higher than that for mainstream council housing given the price of providing furnishings, the costs of the staffing resources required to manage / co-ordinate the use of the stock, and the higher turnover of properties each year.
- 4.2 Historically the temporary accommodation rental income had been set on the basis of the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rate at the time of implementation and an additional £45 to cover furnishing and additional support. Rent levels have been uprated occasionally in the intervening years, however, in the majority of these years no increases had been applied, although in the last 2 years the approved Renfrewshire Council rent increase has been applied to the temporary accommodation rent rates, with a 2 bed temporary accommodation property having a weekly rental charge for 2024/2025 of £171.62.
- 4.3 A review has been undertaken over the last year, which concludes the current rental income does not cover the costs incurred by the Council in providing temporary accommodation and the revised temporary accommodation charging policy seeks to address this with a model which ensures full cost recovery for the operation of the service.
- 4.4 It has been the case for many years that the vast majority of homeless applicants who are placed in temporary accommodation qualify for full housing benefit and therefore have the full cost of their temporary accommodation met. Currently 91% of those staying in furnished temporary accommodation qualify for full housing benefit.
- 4.5 This new temporary accommodation charging policy recognises that there can be an affordability gap for a small number of homeless applicants, for example those in employment, and its implementation will help to ensure that what a homeless applicant is required to pay for temporary accommodation will be reasonable and take account of their personal circumstances. The charging policy will also allow applicants to be better able to enter into employment whilst residing in temporary accommodation, should the opportunity arise to do so.
- 4.6 The proposed rent charges for 2025/2026 are set out in the table below. These charges are based on the cost of providing the temporary accommodation service.

<b>Temp Accommodation Rent Charge by Property</b>	<b>2025/26 Weekly Rental Charge</b>
<b>0 Bed Rent (Bedsit)</b>	£318.84
<b>1 Bed Rent</b>	£333.60
<b>2 Bed Rent</b>	£339.35
<b>3 Bed Rent</b>	£350.16
<b>Overall Average</b>	<b>£337.05</b>

## **5. Support for those placed in temporary accommodation**

- 5.1 The Council will continue to ensure that everyone placed in temporary accommodation is given relevant information on their entitlement to welfare benefits/income maximisation services and will be encouraged to take up these benefits. Staff will provide assistance with the completion of application forms and progressing of claims.
- 5.2 All homeless applicants will also continue to be assessed for the provision of housing support, and then provided with the support to ensure their needs are met.

## **6. Renfrewshire Council Temporary Accommodation Charging Policy (Appendix 1) - summary of key points**

- 6.1 The income generated from the charging approach for temporary accommodation will be equivalent to the full cost of operating the service. It must be sufficient to cover the costs of the provision of temporary accommodation in relation to management, overheads, service delivery, maintenance and repairs and void periods of the accommodation.
- 6.2 Rent charges will be set in accordance with average house rental costs from the provider and based on the size of property. The average council house rental figures are reviewed and updated annually. The homeless service charge is reflective of the additional costs of providing temporary accommodation to homeless households.
- 6.3 The homeless service charge will be reviewed annually in conjunction with the annual budget setting process and will endeavour to ensure that the income generated meets the full cost of service provision.
- 6.4 When setting the rent charge for temporary accommodation, the Council will charge every household the same rent depending on the size of property, regardless of income.



- 6.5 In order to ensure that temporary accommodation is an affordable option to all, and that those placed in temporary accommodation are asked to pay 'a reasonable charge' (see para 3.2), for those who are not in receipt of full housing benefit, the Council will seek to recover a charge equivalent to the rental level of the property size and type of a comparable Renfrewshire Council mainstream property.

## **7. Next Steps**

- 7.1 Should board approve the recommendations set out in section 2 of the report, the policy and associated weekly rental charges would be implemented from April 2025, and there will be a programme of engagement throughout February with everyone staying in temporary accommodation to provide advice on the new policy, and respond to anyone who requires an explanation and / or reassurance on impact of these changes.

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## **Implications of the Report**

1. **Financial** – The financial implications of these proposals will be included within the Council's General Fund forward planning assumptions and managed as part of the annual budget setting proposals in line with the relevant financial year.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None.
3. **Community/Council Planning** –
  - Our Renfrewshire is fair - those who are homeless will be provided with housing options.
  - 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.
  - Working together to improve outcomes – we will be working with partners to improve outcomes for those in housing need.
4. **Legal** – Councils have a statutory obligation to offer temporary accommodation when someone presents as homeless and they have nowhere to stay, whilst their homeless application is assessed.
5. **Property/Assets** – None.
6. **Information Technology** – None.
7. **Equality & Human Rights**

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.

The strategy also seeks to implement a fair charging policy for families who may not be entitled to housing benefit but are low income households ensuring that there will be no financial barriers that could prevent low income families accepting emergency accommodation.

8. **Health & Safety** – None.
9. **Procurement** – None.
10. **Risk** – None.
11. **Privacy Impact** – None.
12. **COSLA Policy Position** – None.
13. **Climate Risk** – None.
14. **Children's Rights** – The recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on Children's rights. No negative impacts on children's rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report.

The strategy also seeks to implement a fair charging policy for families with children who may not be entitled to housing benefit but are low income households ensuring that there will be no financial barriers that could prevent low income families with children accepting emergency accommodation.

## **Appendix 1 - Renfrewshire Council Temporary Accommodation Charging Strategy.**

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### **List of Background Papers**

None.

**Author:** Tom Irvine, Homeless & Housing Support Services Manager:  
tom.irvine@renfrewshire.gov.uk

### Renfrewshire Council Temporary Accommodation Charging Policy

#### 1. Scope of the policy

- 1.1 This policy details the framework to be used by the Council for the charging of rent and service charges to homeless households for the provision of temporary furnished accommodation.

#### 2. Strategic context

- 2.1 The Temporary Accommodation Charging Policy will assist the Council to meet the needs of those who are homeless and is in line with the aims of the Local Housing Strategy, and Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan.

#### 3. Objectives and principles of the policy

- 3.1 The overall aim of the policy is to ensure that rent and service charges for furnished temporary accommodation for homeless applicants:
- are set at an affordable level,
  - ensure the on-going provision of good quality furnished temporary accommodation,
  - provide financial sustainability, and
  - meet the costs of delivering temporary accommodation provision.
- 3.2 The specific objectives are:
- use a cost effective and fair rent and service charge setting process;
  - ensure furnished temporary accommodation is an affordable option to all and does not function as a disincentive to work;
  - ensure that sufficient income is generated to cover the cost of operating and managing temporary accommodation;
  - ensure that rent and service charges are recovered to their maximum potential; and
  - use recovery practices which consider a household's income, whilst ensuring that those with the means to pay do pay.

### 3.3 The principles of the policy are to:

- comply with legislation and guidance and promote best practice;
- ensure consistency in the provision of services and agreed practices uniformly across the service;
- deliver good quality services which are efficient, effective and meet the needs of those who are homeless; and
- provide services which adhere to the principles of equal opportunities.

## 4. Legislative and regulatory framework and guidance

### 4.1 The Council will ensure that the Policy complies with current legislation and guidance and promotes good practice.

### 4.2 Councils have a statutory obligation to offer temporary accommodation when they assess a person or household as unintentionally homeless. The Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 Section 35(2) states that where this obligation exists, the applicant should pay **a reasonable charge**, as determined by the local authority in respect of the accommodation provided by the local authority, or that provided by another landlord but which is paid for by the local authority.

### 4.3 When carrying out functions under the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 with respect to a homeless person and / or persons threatened with homelessness, local authorities are required to have regard to the Code of Guidance on Homelessness. Paragraph 8.84 of the Code states: "In deciding what is reasonable, the local authority should take account of what the applicant can pay in the longer term. If an applicant is being asked to pay for accommodation provided by or paid for by the local authority, then the applicant should be informed in advance of the cost of the accommodation. They should also be assisted when applying for benefit to cover the cost of such accommodation. The local authority should take account of, and advise of, the likely level of benefit when considering charges".

### 4.4 The Temporary Accommodation Standards Framework April 2023 sets out advisory standards in relation to temporary accommodation and it recommends that the following actions are undertaken:

- A household assessment to consider whether temporary accommodation offered is affordable by the household.
- Providing households with a rent statement of charges, including any additional costs that are associated with temporary accommodation and how they are paid.

### 4.5 The Scottish Social Housing Charter sets out standards including those which tenants and homeless people can expect from social landlords.

Outcome 14 states:” Social landlords set rents and service charges in consultation with their tenants and other customers so that:

- a balance is struck between the level of services provided, the cost of the services and how far current and prospective tenants and service users can afford them.
- tenants get clear information on how rents and other money is spent, including details of individual items of expenditure above thresholds agreed between landlords and tenants.

- 4.6 These outcomes reflect a landlord’s legal duty to consult tenants about rent setting, the importance of landlords taking account of what their current and prospective tenants and other customers are likely to be able to afford, and the importance that many tenants place on being able to find out how their money is spent. What is crucial is that discussions take place and the decisions made reflect the views of tenants and other customers.
- 4.7 The Council will seek to ensure that it complies with its duties under the Equalities Act 2010. Full consideration will be given to the Council’s Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). This requires public authorities to: eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity; and to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not.

## **5. Affordability**

- 5.1 The Council recognises that the cost of furnished temporary accommodation is higher than for mainstream council housing. This can result in a minority of cases of the cost of staying in temporary accommodation being unaffordable for some households, for example those who are in employment or are not entitled to Housing Benefit.
- 5.2 In accordance with the Code of Guidance on Homelessness, the Council will:
- conduct a household assessment to consider whether accommodation is affordable for a household;
  - consider the ability of any individual to pay charges in the longer term;
  - give advance notice to an individual of any charges;
  - assist an individual to apply for benefits to pay any charges; and
  - take account of the likely level of benefit when considering charges.

- 5.3 The Council will seek to ensure that all tenants placed in temporary accommodation are given relevant information about entitlement to welfare benefits/income maximisation services in order to encourage optimum take up from tenants. It will encourage all those tenants who may be eligible for assistance to apply for appropriate benefits, for example Housing Benefit. This will assist to offset the effects of low income on the tenant's ability to pay. Where requested, the Council will provide assistance with the completion of application forms and progress claims.

## **6. Charging for temporary accommodation**

- 6.1 The income generated from the charging approach for temporary accommodation will be equivalent to the full cost of operating the service. It must be sufficient to cover the costs of the provision of temporary accommodation in relation to management, service delivery, maintenance and repairs and void periods of the accommodation.
- 6.2 The charging approach applied for temporary accommodation is the baseline rent plus a homeless service charge:

### **Rent setting mechanism**

- 6.3 Rent charges will be set in accordance with average house rental costs from the provider and based on the size of property. The average house rental figures are reviewed and updated annually.

### **Homeless service charge**

- 6.4 The homeless service charge is reflective of the cost of providing temporary furnished accommodation to homeless households.
- Housing management costs associated with the provision of temporary accommodation;
  - Maintenance costs, including the provision of furnishings, equipment, replacement of items, and utilities;
  - Void rent loss;
  - Staff costs; and
  - Repair costs.

The homelessness service charge will be reviewed annually in conjunction with the annual budget setting process and will endeavour to ensure that the income generated meets the full cost of service provision.

- 6.5 When setting the charge for temporary accommodation, the Council will charge every household the same level, regardless of income.

However, to ensure that temporary accommodation is an affordable option to all, the Council will only seek to recover those costs that it can reasonably be expected to collect.

- 6.6 Homeless applicants have an obligation under the terms and conditions of their occupancy agreement to pay the temporary accommodation charge timeously. In addition, those living in temporary accommodation have a responsibility to notify the Council of any change in their circumstances that may affect their ability to pay their temporary accommodation charge. They will be reminded of their responsibilities when they sign their occupancy agreement and during their tenancy.
- 6.7 Those being offered temporary accommodation will be provided with information about the overall all temporary accommodation charge at the start of their stay in temporary homeless accommodation including:
- the amount they must pay;
  - the importance of making regular payments and / or claiming Housing Benefit if appropriate;
  - the methods they can use to pay their temporary accommodation charge; and
  - advice on what they should do if they fall into arrears.
- 6.8 The service will ensure that:
- homeless households remain aware of their responsibility to pay the temporary accommodation charge on time and the potential consequences of non-payment;
  - it actively promotes the maximisation of tenants' income through benefits take up and money / debt advice; and
  - homeless households receive information, advice, and support on maximising their income by claiming appropriate benefits, improving personal budgeting skills, and dealing with debt.
- 6.9 The Homeless & Housing Support Services Manager will be responsible for ensuring that charges for temporary accommodation continue to reflect good practice and fairness for all.
- 6.10 As part of the review process for the temporary accommodation charge, those staying in temporary accommodation will be consulted on any proposed temporary accommodation charge increase.
- 6.11 Those living in temporary accommodation will be provided with at least 28 days' written notice in the event of any increase in the temporary accommodation charge.

## **7. Recovery of the temporary accommodation charge**

- 7.1 Whilst it is the case that the majority of homeless applicants qualify for full housing benefit, the Council recognises that some people may be unable to pay the full amount of the temporary accommodation charge due for a variety of reasons. This may include low income, or other reasons for financial exclusion, which the Council will endeavour to balance against its duty to recover the amount due.
- 7.2 It is a tenant's responsibility to pay, in full, the amount of the temporary accommodation charge that the Council seeks to recover.
- 7.3 It is the case that the majority of tenants may be eligible to get assistance to pay the temporary accommodation charge through Housing Benefit. Tenants are responsible for applying for assistance and for pursuing any claims for assistance. The Council will provide advice and support to tenants.
- 7.4 In situations, where a tenant may be eligible for assistance but chooses not to apply for assistance, or to pursue their claim, they will be expected to pay the full amount of the temporary accommodation charge that the Council seeks to recover.

### **Housing Benefit**

- 7.5 Where a tenant in temporary accommodation is eligible for the full award of Housing Benefit, the Council will seek to recover 100% of the temporary accommodation charge.
- 7.6 Where a tenant is only eligible for partial payment of Housing Benefit, the Council will seek to recover a reasonable amount (i.e. the average Council house rent for an equivalent property).
- If the amount of Housing Benefit the tenant receives is more than the reasonable amount, the Council will recover all of the Housing Benefit awarded.
  - If the amount of Housing Benefit the tenant receives is less than the reasonable amount, the tenant will have to pay the difference
- 7.7 Where a tenant in temporary accommodation is working and/or is not eligible for Housing Benefit, the Council will only seek to recover as a minimum a reasonable amount (i.e. the average Council house rent for an equivalent property.)



## **Overpayment of benefits**

- 7.8 Any overpayment of benefits to the tenant such as Housing Benefit will be recovered.

## **8. Recovery of arrears**

- 8.1 The Council will aim to minimise the level of arrears in a sensitive but effective manner, to enable an affordable solution to be agreed as quickly as possible, ensuring that there is early intervention in all cases before a debt becomes unmanageable.
- 8.2 The Council will use all appropriate methods of communication open to it when contacting homeless households in arrears. Face to face visits will be the preferred default communication method, however letters, phone calls, virtual appointments (such as Near Me), e-mail and text messages may be used if appropriate.
- 8.3 Arrears recovery will be based on a staged escalation process.
- 8.4 The process will be based on a preventative approach that seeks to maximise tenants' entitlement to benefits, secure regular payments and provide support to the applicant.
- 8.5 Once arrears have arisen, prompt action will be taken to support the individual to ensure that the arrears do not increase. The Council will endeavour to make sure that current temporary accommodation charge is paid, and then ensure that the arrears are recovered.
- 8.6 In cases where the tenant cannot clear the arrears in a single payment, the Council will agree an affordable payment to reduce the arrears in realistic and sustained instalments over a specific period of time. Any repayment agreement will be based upon a detailed assessment of the tenant's finances, circumstances and ability to pay.
- 8.7 The Council will maintain a comprehensive record of all action taken and all contact with tenants in arrears.
- 8.8 Legal action is the last stage in the arrears process. The Council will use all legal options open to us in the recovery of arrears where the homeless household is wilfully and knowingly refusing to pay their temporary accommodation charge.
- 8.9 Tenants will be kept informed of, and fully involved in, the legal process at all stages of legal action.

## **9. Review of decisions and complaints**

- 9.1 A review process exists for tenants who dispute the amount of temporary accommodation charge to be recovered, the level of arrears or any repayment plan. In the first instance, tenants can ask for an explanation from the Accommodation Co-ordinator. If the tenant is not satisfied with the explanation provided, they can ask for an appointment with the Homeless Services Manager.

The Homeless Services Manager will review the case and in the event of any dispute, will refer the case to the Homeless & Housing Support Services Manager.

- 9.2 The Council operates a Complaints Procedure that is available to any tenant who is not satisfied with the way in which their case has been dealt with. Details of the Complaints Procedure can be obtained on the Council's website and from Homeless Services.

## **10. Performance monitoring**

- 10.1 The Council will monitor performance relating to the temporary accommodation charge as follows:

- the total amount of temporary accommodation income due;
- the total amount of the temporary accommodation charge collected;
- the amount of arrears, by band showing number of accounts and total arrears due for each band.

- 10.2 The information detailed above will be reported annually to the Communities and Housing Policy Board. The reports will be public documents, but the confidentiality of individual customers' circumstances will be maintained.

- 10.3 Other statistics will be collected from time to time for management and planning purposes.

## **11. Policy review**

- 11.1 The Council will review the Temporary Accommodation Charging Policy in 2027 or earlier if required by legislative changes.




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**To: Communities and Housing Policy Board**

**On: 14 January 2025**

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**Report by: Director of Environment, Housing & Infrastructure**

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**Heading: Homelessness: Annual Benchmarking Report 2023/24**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 The Policy Board has received regular reports over the past 18 months on the nature and scale of the current homelessness situation in Renfrewshire.
- 1.2 Each year the Council submits returns to the Scottish Government on a broad range of homelessness statistics. The Scottish Government published homelessness statistics for 2023/24 in September of this year, and through membership of Scotland's Housing Network, the Council has been able to compare where it is performing well against other local authorities and identify areas for improvement.
- 1.3 This report looks at how the Council compares with other local authorities in dealing with the homelessness challenges.

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## **2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Communities and Housing Policy Board:

- 2.1 Note how the Council is performing in responding to those who are statutorily homeless in comparison to other local authorities.
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## **3. Background**

- 3.1 Renfrewshire Council is a member of 'Scotland's Housing Network' which collects data from participating landlords and produces benchmarking information.

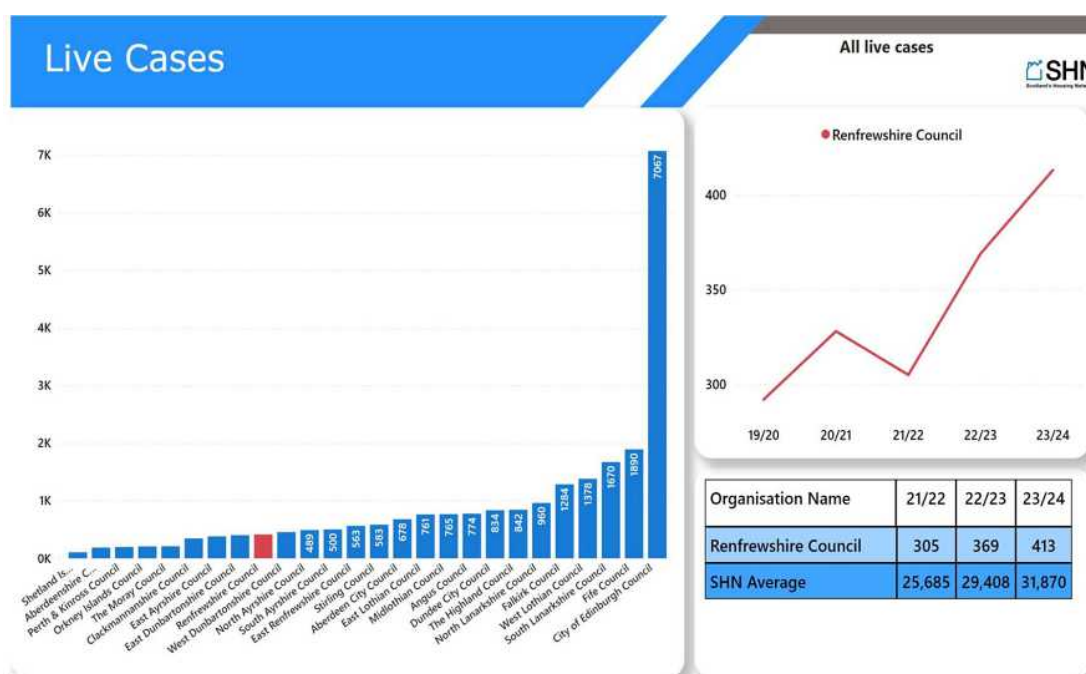
The benchmarking data from 'Scotland's Housing Network' allows the Council to then compare performance with a peer group of 26 local authorities.

- 3.2 Benchmarking is designed to assist with service improvement planning through comparison with other organisations and key benchmarking results on homelessness are summarised below. This report highlights where Renfrewshire Council performed well compared to other social landlords as well as any areas where there is scope for further improvement.

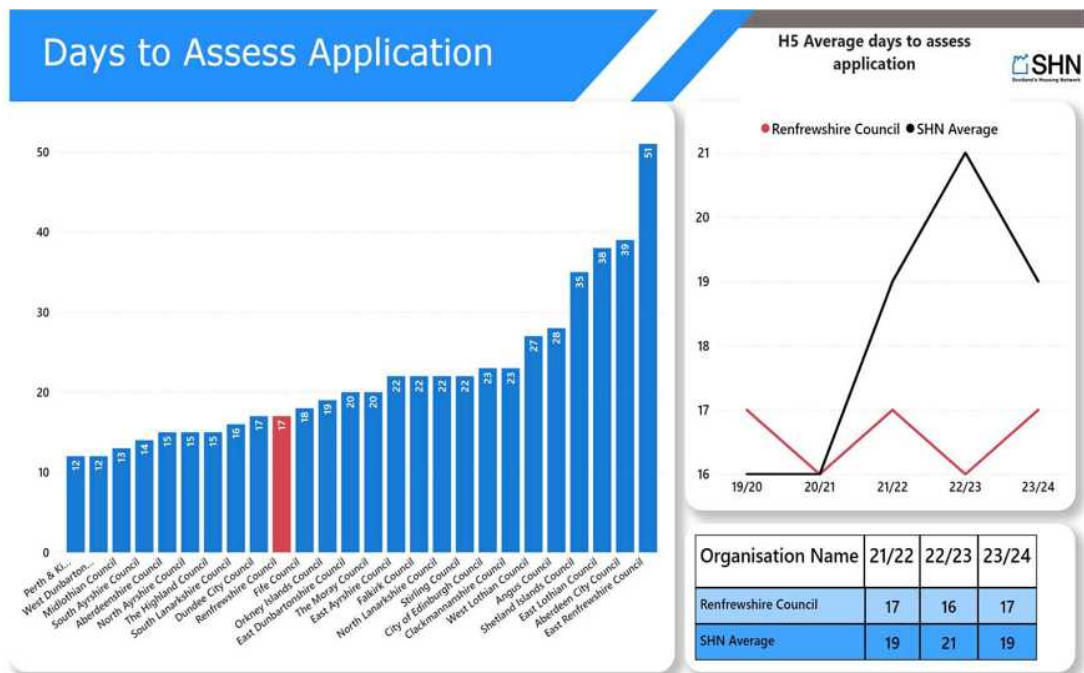
#### 4. Homelessness Benchmarking report – 2023/24

##### 4.1 Managing homeless cases

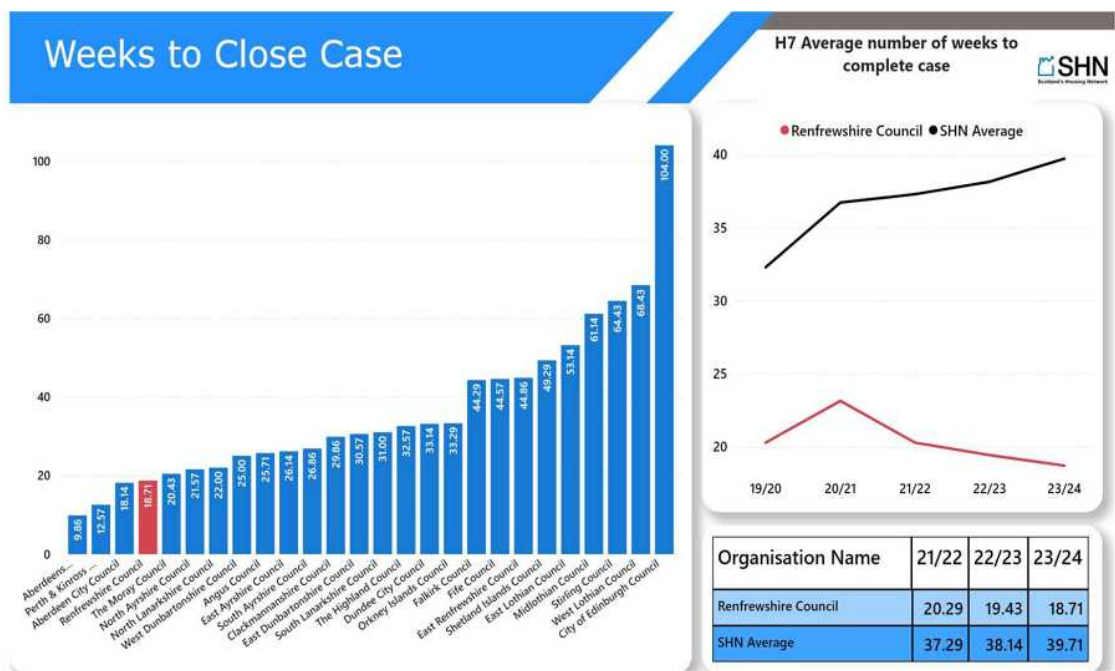
**Table 1** The number of households presenting as homeless has increased considerably since 2021/22, as shown in table 1, on the number of 'live cases' at year end.



**Table 2** In managing live cases Renfrewshire performs well in the average days to assess an application - 17 days compared to the national average of 19 days – (table 2).

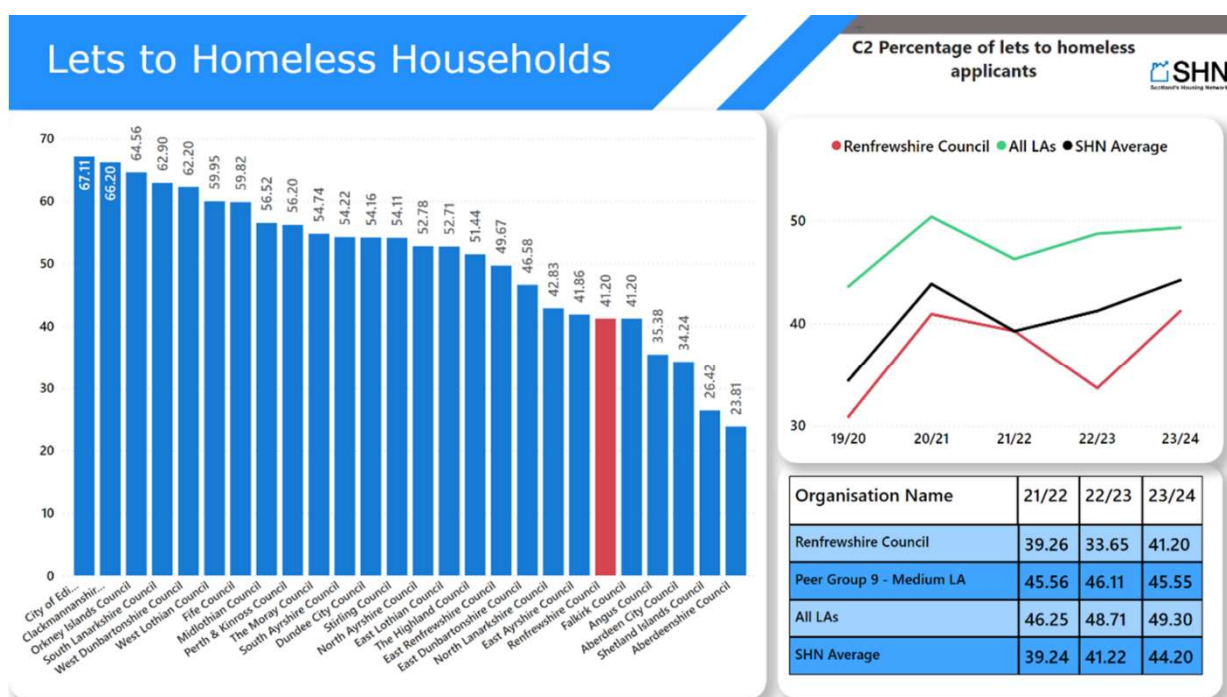


**Table 3** Similarly, Renfrewshire remains one of the stronger performers in the time taken to close a case. On average Renfrewshire takes around 18 weeks to close a homeless case compared to a national average of almost 40 weeks.



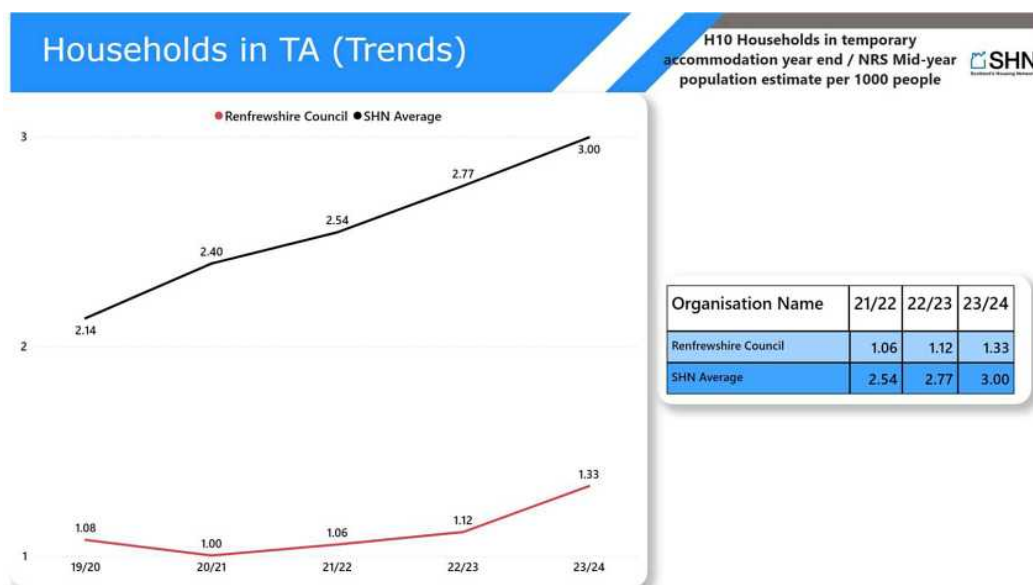
## 4.2 Lets to homeless applicants

**Table 4** The proportion of lets to homeless households in Renfrewshire has increased since 2021/22 in response to the increase in homelessness locally and nationally. Our target for 2024/25 is that 55% of all lets via the group system will go to the homeless group. Whilst the increase in lets over the past two years has helped to avoid a reliance on hotel accommodation (B&B) as a form of temporary accommodation, we are still below the average percentage of lets for the 26 local authorities who are members of SHN. The SHN measures the proportion of all lets including Regeneration voids, specialist lets, sheltered houses and so on, hence the nett figure for Renfrewshire is 41.2%.

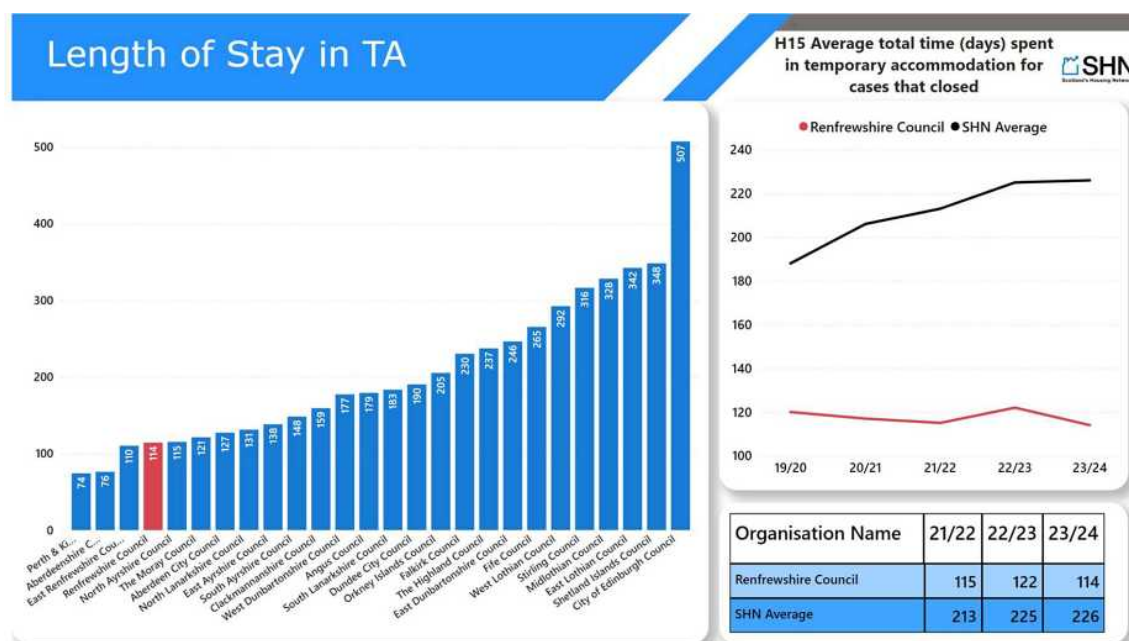


## 4.3 Temporary Accommodation

**Table 5** As would be expected, the number of people staying in temporary accommodation has increased in line with the increase in homelessness. As with other local authorities Renfrewshire has this increase (1.33 per 1000) but still remains considerably below the SHN average (3 per 1000).

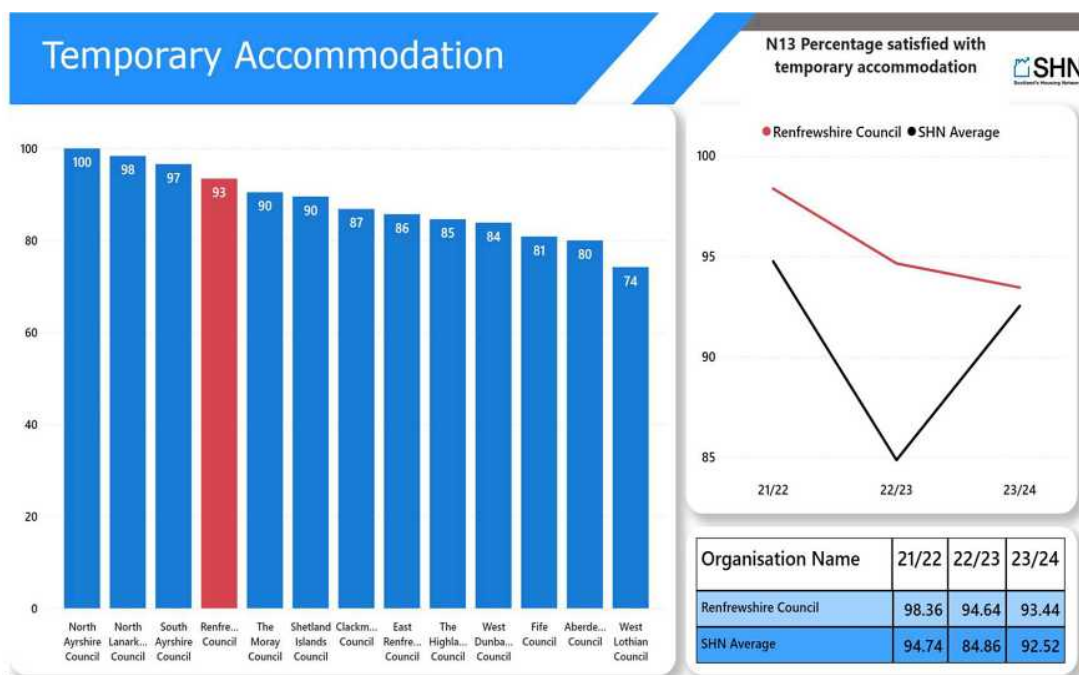


**Table 6** Despite the increase in people staying in temporary accommodation, Renfrewshire performs particularly well compared to other local authorities in relation to the length of time people stay in temporary accommodation – at an average stay of 114 days, we are significantly below the national average of 226 days.



**Table 7** Similarly, the level of satisfaction with the temporary accommodation provided remains high compared to other local authorities.





## 5. Summary

5.1 Despite the increase in homelessness, the Benchmarking Report from SHN indicates that the Council and partners have performed well in several key areas:

- Days to assess homeless applications;
- Weeks to close case; and
- Length of time households spend in temporary accommodation.

5.2 It is clear that the homelessness pressures and demand for social rented housing are having an impact on outcomes/performance and are likely to continue to do so. A number of indicators suggest that although there is healthy and positive throughput in the local homelessness system, the context is becoming more challenging.

5.3 Homeless Services and partner services and agencies will continue to have a focus on maintaining performance on outcomes which compare well with other local authority areas, as well as ensuring that we continue to develop our understanding of issues such as repeat homelessness, tenancy sustainment for those who were homeless and so on.

5.4 Regular updates on homelessness in Renfrewshire will continue to be provided to future meetings of the Policy Board.



## **Implications of the Report**

1. **Financial** – None
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None.
3. **Community/Council Planning**
  - Building strong, safe, and resilient communities – Improving and maintaining neighbourhoods and homes.
  - Working together to improve outcomes – Increasing resident satisfaction with neighbourhoods and communities.
4. **Legal** – None.
5. **Property/Assets** – None.
6. **Information Technology** – None.
7. **Equality & Human Rights** –

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 only. 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. **Risks** – None.
11. **Privacy Impact** – None.
12. **Climate Risk** – None.
13. **Children's Rights** – None.
14. **Cosla Policy Position** – None.

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## **Background Papers**

None.

The foregoing background paper will be retained within the Housing Service 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 Ray Walkinshaw, Housing Regeneration and Development Manager, telephone 0141-487 2189 or 07483 146814 and e-mail [ray.walkinshaw@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:ray.walkinshaw@renfrewshire.gov.uk).

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**Author:** Ray Walkinshaw  
[ray.walkinshaw@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:ray.walkinshaw@renfrewshire.gov.uk)




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**To: Communities and Housing Policy Board**

**On: 14 January 2025**

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**Report by: Director of Environment, Housing and Infrastructure**

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**Heading: Allocation of property to staff, elected member or committee members: Housing Rule 2.5**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to notify the Communities and Housing Policy Board of housing allocations which involve Council members or their immediate families or members of staff of the Housing Service and their immediate families.
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## **2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Communities and Housing Policy Board:

- 2.1 Note the contents of this report for information.
- 

## **3. Background**

- 3.1 In terms of the Renfrewshire Common Housing Allocation Policy Rule 2.5, the Director of Environment, Housing and Infrastructure is required to notify the relevant Policy Board of all housing allocations which involve either Council members or their immediate families or members of staff of the Housing Service or their immediate families.
- 3.2 The following two allocations have been made during the period April 2024 to October 2024.

<b>Address</b>	<b>23 Langcraigs Terrace, Paisley</b>
<b>Size</b>	2 bedroom
<b>Allocated to</b>	Son of employee of Housing Services
<b>Date Let</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> June 2024

<b>Address</b>	<b>5d Speirsfield Court, Paisley</b>
<b>Size</b>	1 bedroom
<b>Allocated to</b>	Brother of employee of Housing Services
<b>Date Let</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> July 2024

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## Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – None.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None.
3. **Community/Council Planning** – None.
4. **Legal** – None.
5. **Property/Assets** – None.
6. **Information Technology** – None.
7. **Equality & Human Rights**
  - (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 only.
8. **Health & Safety** – None.
9. **Procurement** – None.
10. **Risk** – None.
11. **Privacy Impact** – n/a.
12. **COSLA Policy Position** – n/a.
13. **Climate Risk** – n/a.
14. **Children's Rights** - n/a.

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## List of Background Papers

None.

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Author: Lyndsey Green, Senior Allocation Officer  
E Mail: lyndsey.green@renfrewshire.gov.uk



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**To: Communities and Housing Policy Board**

**On: 14 January 2025**

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**Report by: Director of Environment, Housing and Infrastructure**

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**Heading: CCTV installation Policy**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 Renfrewshire Council manage the Public Space CCTV system which consists of 65 CCTV cameras covering the wider Renfrewshire area as well as a number of Household Waste Recycling Centres. This system is designed to promote Community Safety and overall community wellbeing within the community.
- 1.2 The positioning of the current CCTV infrastructure is subject to periodic review to ensure the locations utilised remain appropriate based on crime and incident pattern analysis.
- 1.3 The Council receives requests to install additional public space CCTV cameras and the purpose of this report is to provide clear guidance on the procedure which will be followed when making feasibility decisions in this regard.
- 1.4 At the current time there are no plans to install additional CCTV infrastructure across Renfrewshire with the exception of CCTV due to be installed in Dargavel as a result of the conditions installed in the Section 75 agreement with BAE.

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## **2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Communities and Housing Policy Board:

- 2.1 Note and approve the CCTV Installation Policy as attached at Appendix1.
-

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 CCTV operates with the primary purpose of enhancing community safety and public protection by acting as both a deterrent and a response tool for crime prevention. The system is designed to monitor public spaces, reduce anti-social behaviour, and support the detection and investigation of crime. CCTV contributes to safeguarding the wellbeing of the community, ensuring that public areas are safe for residents, businesses, and visitors alike.
- 3.2 In addition to promoting public safety, CCTV also plays a crucial role in protecting council property and assets from damage and theft. This provides real-time monitoring as well as retrospective monitoring. Cameras are strategically positioned in key locations where risks to public safety are most significant based on analytical data.
- 3.3 The Council periodically receives requests from residents, businesses, and community groups for the installation of additional public space CCTV cameras in areas not currently covered. These requests highlight specific concerns related to public safety and / or antisocial behaviour, however, CCTV installation is not always the most appropriate or proportionate response to issues raised.
- 3.4 Where there is no definitive requirement for public space CCTV but a short term solution is required, temporary CCTV will be considered. This option would require a secure location to site the camera together with a power source. Any incident recordings are retrospectively reviewed by removing the digital recorder. This may assist in resolving the issue or indicate that a more permanent solution is required.
- 3.5 This report provides clear guidance on the formal procedure that will be followed when such requests are received and the steps involved in evaluating the necessity and feasibility of new CCTV installations. This will ensure that the service is adopting a transparent and consistent approach when considering requests for new CCTV infrastructure.
- 3.6 The scoring matrix is weighted so that the most important safety and feasibility factors are scored higher to reflect these are the priority considerations when reviewing requests for CCTV infrastructure.
- 3.7 The existing CCTV infrastructure will be retrospectively scored against the criteria to ensure that we have a baseline when considering new requests for infrastructure.

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### **Implications of the Report**

1. **Financial** – None.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None.

3. **Community/Council Planning –**

- *Our Renfrewshire is safe – by focussing on the proportionality and necessity for CCTV based on evidential criteria we can support the safety and wellbeing of the community and businesses of Renfrewshire.*

4. **Legal - None.**

5. **Property/Assets – None.**

6. **Information Technology – None.**

7. **Equality & Human Rights -**

- (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. 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. **Climate Risk – None.**

13. **Children's Rights – None.**

14. **Cosla Policy Position – None.**

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**List of Background Papers**

None.

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### CCTV Installation Policy

1. Renfrewshire Council manage the Public Space CCTV system which consists of 65 CCTV cameras (2024) covering the wider Renfrewshire area as well as a number of Household Waste Recycling Centres.
2. The Council periodically receive requests from residents, businesses, community groups and elected members for the installation of additional public space CCTV cameras in areas not currently covered. These requests highlight specific concerns related to public safety and / or antisocial behaviour.
3. Consideration of requests for new CCTV installations will be based on key criteria, including the availability of appropriate funding and the necessity and proportionality of the installation. To evaluate these factors, the procedure and scoring matrix outlined below will be used to assess both the necessity and feasibility of proposed installations.

Criteria	Description	Score (1 Low – 5 High)	Weighting
<b>Purpose</b>	Initial evaluation of the request for CCTV to establish what the installation is looking to achieve and if this is realistic / feasible.		1
<b>Data Analysis</b>	Collect and analyse relevant data to understand the area's safety and surveillance needs. This will include Crime Statistics, Hotspots and emerging ASB trends.		2
<b>Current Infrastructure</b>	Identify any existing CCTV resources in the area for example Community Centres, Schools and public buildings. Where there is existing CCTV infrastructure this will result in a low scoring.		1
<b>Site Evaluation</b>	Assess the physical attributes of the site requested and feasibility for CCTV. Is there suitable fibre connectivity, power and lighting in the area. Would the area be obstructed by trees / landscape. Is the location a listed building.		2
<b>Cost Benefit Analysis</b>	Based on the site evaluation identify financial implications of implementing CCTV against expected benefits and any other preventative measures which could be equally effective.		1
<b>Funding Availability</b>	Available Funding Resources or longer term potential for funding re assessment.		1
<b>Legal &amp; Ethical Considerations</b>	Establish whether the proposed location complies with respect for privacy and ethical standards.		2
<b>Total Score</b>			

- 1 (Poor): Fails to meet criteria.
- 2 (Below Average): Partially meets criteria.
- 3 (Average): Adequately meets criteria.
- 4 (Above Average): Overall meets criteria.
- 5 (Excellent): Fully meets criteria.





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**To: Communities and Housing Policy Board**

**On: 14 January 2025**

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**Report by: Chief Executive**

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**Heading: Community Funding Update**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 At the last meeting of the Communities and Housing Board on 29 October 2024, Elected Members agreed to pause any new applications to both the Sustainable Communities Fund and the Villages Investment Fund, to allow for a review of the funding guidance to be undertaken by officers.
- 1.2 At that time, 10 existing applications to the Sustainable Communities Fund were being processed by officers. These applications have been assessed by the officer Panel during December 2024 and this paper outlines recommendations in relation to these applications, with further detail provided in the application summary at Appendix 1.
- 1.3 Elected members are asked to note that two applications remain deferred. For clarity and ease of assessment, this application will be reviewed against the updated guidance by the officer Panel, alongside any new applications received.
- 1.4 Prior to any of the recommendations outlined in this paper, 27 awards from the Sustainable Communities Fund have been approved by Elected Members since its launch in January 2024, totalling £928,698. Appendix 2 provides an update on projects awarded funding through the the second round for information.
- 1.5 Elected members are asked to note that following the review of the guidance for the Sustainable Communities Fund and Villages Investment Fund, updated guidance will be submitted to the Leadership Board for approval on 19 February 2025.

## **2. Recommendations**

### **2.1 It is recommended that members of the Board:**

- Approve the funding recommendations detailed in Section 4 and Appendix 1 of this report in relation to the proposed allocation of the Sustainable Communities Fund.
- Note the information provided on projects previously funded through the Sustainable Communities Fund, at Appendix 2.
- Note that the review of the Sustainable Communities Fund and Villages Investment Fund guidance is nearing completion, and that is anticipated that this will be submitted for approval by the Leadership Board in February 2025, with the funds being relaunched and reopened to applications thereafter.

## **3. Background**

- 3.1 To strengthen monitoring and oversight of funding recommendations made in relation to a number of specific Council funding streams, the Policy and Partnerships service now submits a community funding paper to each cycle of the Communities and Housing Board. This includes recommendations from officers in relation to funding awards through the Greenspaces Fund, Villages Investment Fund and the Sustainable Communities Fund. This has been supported by the establishment and development of a cross-service officer panel which provides corporate oversight of grant applications in advance of making recommendations for elected members to consider.
- 3.2 On 20th September 2023, Leadership Board approved the key objectives and criteria of the fund and agreed that recommendations in relation to funding applications would be submitted to the Communities and Housing Board for final approval, following assessment by a cross service officer panel.
- 3.3 As outlined in Section 1 of this report, both the Sustainable Communities Fund and Villages Investment Fund were recently closed to new applications, as agreed by the Communities and Housing Board on 29 October 2024. This was put into place to facilitate a review of the funding guidance.
- 3.4 10 projects were in the process of being assessed, prior to this temporary pause. These have been considered by the officer panel during December 2024, with recommendations on these applications provided in Section 4.

## **4. Sustainable Communities Fund – Recommendations**

- 4.1 The Sustainable Communities Fund utilises a tiered funding model to reflect different-sized community projects as well as the varying levels of support required at different stages of development. A tiered approach helps to ensure ease of access to a proportionate application process to enable a range of initiatives that align with community empowerment:

- **Small - awards up to £10K:** capital and revenue funding to develop local projects and initiatives which are targeted at enabling community participation and promoting community collaboration and which build resilience within our communities. This level targets groups where a small amount of money can make a significant difference to enabling community participation.
  - **Intermediate – awards of £10K to £25K:** capital and revenue funding to develop projects or organisations with a focus on improving community infrastructure and/or community wellbeing and which have the potential to be replicated in other areas; and
  - **Large – awards up to £100K:** larger capital grants with the aim of supporting communities that aspire to take ownership or develop land or buildings in local communities.
- 4.2 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), which makes up part of the Sustainable Communities Fund, comprises a clear split between capital and revenue funding with set amounts allocated over financial years 2023-24 and 2024-25.
- 4.3 UKSPF has continued to be allocated to approved projects which meet the criteria and current projections are that the £650k funding contributed to the Sustainable Communities Fund will be fully allocated. Officers have continued to adopt a flexible approach to allocations in line with SPF guidance to maximise drawdown from UK funding in the first instance.
- 4.4 A cross service officer panel met in December 2024 to assess the 10 applications submitted prior to the temporary closure of the fund, against the existing funding guidance and criteria.
- 4.5 In summary the panel recommends that:
- 4 applications be recommended for award
  - 2 applications be deferred to gather further information and to allow for further engagement to be undertaken
  - 2 applications are not recommended for funding awards as these were assessed as not meeting the criteria of this particular funding stream
  - In addition, 2 applications have been withdrawn.

### **Applications recommended for approval**

- 4.6 4 applications have been submitted which are recommended for approval, as detailed below:
- Renfrewshire Community Transport
  - RSPB
  - Sculpture House Collective
  - Get Active Coaching

## **Renfrewshire Community Transport**

- 4.7 The purpose of this project is to purchase up to 2 accessible vehicles to meet the needs of vulnerable individuals and groups across Renfrewshire by providing community based transport solutions which support access to essential services, and opportunities; and help to reduce isolation caused by barriers to accessible transport.
- 4.8 This project will enable the group to build on the findings from their feasibility study and to develop a practical pilot offering community transport services to a range of groups and individuals. The operational learning and data will then inform their future work and be shared with the wider sector, as well as allowing the organisation to test their model.
- 4.9 The group were previously awarded £25,000 from the Sustainable Communities Fund to develop their business case, and have undertaken extensive work to demonstrate demand for a community transport solution. Being able to fully operationalise with their own vehicles will enable the group to gather the data required to apply for mainstream funding as part of the full business case.
- 4.10 The group have secured over £18,000 in external funding and sponsorship towards running costs and have further applications in the pipeline.

## **RSPB**

- 4.11 The purpose of the project is to create a workshop that is accessible, sustainable and attractive for individuals with a variety of accessibility needs, within the RSPB Lochwinnoch Nature Reserve. It will include an accessible workbench, lockers for equipment and will be an insulated space that is powered by predominantly solar energy.
- 4.12 The group are seeking funding to supply and install a structure to act as the workshop shell, as well as funding for the purchase and installation of solar panels. The workshop will give both new and existing community members the chance to take part in practical conservation work, supporting local biodiversity and climate action. Improved accessibility and facilities will benefit family groups, wheelchair users, and those facing the greatest barriers to nature, empowering them to engage with and enjoy their local greenspace. The reserve is visited by many groups within the community such as Brownies, elderly day care groups, preschool, forest schools, befrienders, Rainbows, Nurseries, Walking Groups, School Groups, Scouts etc.
- 4.13 The group have secured external funding and will contribute approximately £116k towards the costs of the project.

## **Sculpture House Collective**

- 4.14 The funding will allow Sculpture House to make a number of improvements to the environmentally sustainable home for the organisation. The organisation currently work from Craigielea house, a Victorian villa in Ferguslie Park.

They currently have a 20 year lease from Renfrewshire Council, and are becoming an established and embedded creative asset for Ferguslie Park and beyond.

- 4.15 The organisation has applied for capital funding to improve the energy efficiency of the building by installing insulation and replacing sub-standard and failing windows, enhancing the quality of the spaces within and reducing the carbon footprint.
- 4.16 These works have been identified following recommendations received in the feasibility study as to the best way to improve the building fabric and reduce energy consumption.
- 4.17 The initial application included capital costs for two phases, the first focussed on the energy efficiency measures above, and the second around creating a new kiln room to create a community-accessible ceramic facility within the building. It is recommended that capital costs are awarded for the first phase of this project at this time. The organisation has identified potential external funding for the second phase of this work.

### **Get Active Coaching**

- 4.18 Get Active Coaching applied for funding to refurbish a unit for their “Get Active Hub”, a community wellbeing hub offering a range of affordable and accessible exercise opportunities within a multipurpose health, fitness and wellbeing space. The organisation currently rent space within another gym and are seeking to develop their own space in an unused industrial unit in Abercorn Industrial Estate, Paisley.
- 4.19 The key audience is people who are not currently engaged in physical activity to improve wellbeing and alleviate isolation. The panel noted the group have been successful in securing over £100k of external funding and are able to demonstrate wider community benefit through collaborations with local charitable organisations who would be able to access the space free of charge.
- 4.20 The application for £10,000 focussed on the purchase of equipment and also an infra-red heating system. The Panel are recommending a part award to support with the purchase of the heating system, and not the purchase of gym equipment.
- 4.21 The residual balance of available funding within the Sustainable Communities Fund is currently £117,194 of revenue funding, and £450,565 of capital funding. This includes the contribution from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, but does not include the recommendations detailed within this paper.
- 4.22 Subject to the approval of recommendations as set out in Appendix 1, £145,155 would be allocated to successful projects through this round of fund (£141,505 Capital, £3,650 Revenue).

## Deferred applications

4.23 Two applications were submitted where further information requires to be gathered and evaluated before officers are able to make recommendations on these applications to the Board. To allow for further work to be carried out with groups relating to their proposals, it is recommended that applications are deferred as follows:

- Houston Community Council
- Life Church

4.24 Elected members are asked to note that for clarity and ease of assessment, this application will be assessed against the updated guidance by the officer Panel, alongside any new applications received.

## Applications not recommended for award

4.25 Following assessment by the officer panel, the following applications are not recommended for a funding award, as they do not meet the criteria of the fund:

- Finding Your Feet
- Renfrew Cricket Club

4.26 Members are asked to note that where projects are not recommended for award, this does not reflect the quality and value of these projects and associated organisations at a local level, and officers will work with wider partners to signpost to other appropriate funding mechanisms.

## Withdrawn applications

4.27 Two applications were withdrawn during the cycle from:

- Houston Old School Trust
- Friends of Barshaw Park

4.28 More detailed information in relation to each application is provided in Appendix 1.

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## Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – This paper recommends the allocation of £145,155 of funding from the Sustainable Communities Fund (£141,505 capital funding, £3,650 Revenue).
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – none.
3. **Community/Council Planning** – the Fund set out in the paper supports engagement and collaboration with local communities on a range of activities which align with the new Council Plan 2022-2027; Our Renfrewshire Community Plan and/or Renfrewshire's Plan for Net Zero.

4. **Legal** - none.
5. **Property/Assets** – there are a number of applicants to this fund seeking to pursue community asset transfers, and where there are relevant property or asset issues these are covered as part of discussions at the officer panel.
6. **Information Technology** – none.
7. **Equality and Human Rights** – the Recommendations included within this report are considered to have a positive impact on equality and human rights. The fund continues to attract applicants seeking to make community assets more accessible for communities, for example in this round there are recommended awards to support disabled access and facilities in community venues, dedicated projects for older people, as well as a number of projects seeking to address poverty and socio-economic disadvantage faced within some local communities.
8. **Health and Safety** – none.
9. **Procurement** – none.
10. **Risk** – none.
11. **Privacy Impact** – none.
12. **Climate Risk** – the Sustainable Communities Fund aligns with the themes within Renfrewshire’s Plan for Net Zero and the delivery of relevant projects will assist the local response to the climate emergency.
13. **Childrens Rights** – while there are no specific children’s rights implications associated with the recommendations for this round Sustainable Communities Fund, there are applications in the pipeline which seek to widen opportunities for children and young people to actively participate within their communities.
14. **COSLA Policy Position** – none.

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Appendix 1: Summary of applications with Officers recommendations  
Appendix 2 – Information on previously funded projects

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**List of Background Papers:**  
Sustainable Communities Fund Guidance

**Author:** Laura McIntyre, Head of Policy and Partnerships

## Appendix 1 – Sustainable Communities Fund

APPLICATIONS RECOMMENDED FOR AWARD					
Name of organisation	Project description	Tier	Grant Application Amount	Recommended Award	Comments
Renfrewshire Community Transport	<p>The purpose of this project is to purchase up to 2 accessible vehicles to meet the needs of vulnerable individuals &amp; groups across Renfrewshire by providing community based transport solutions which support access to essential services, and opportunities; and help to reduce isolation caused by barriers to accessible transport.</p> <p>This project will enable the group to build on the findings from the feasibility study and to develop a practical pilot offering community transport services to a range of groups and individuals</p>	Large	£32,000	£32,000	
RSPB	<p>The purpose of the project is to create a workshop that is accessible, sustainable and attractive for individuals with a variety of accessibility needs. It will include an accessible workbench, lockers for equipment and will be an insulated space that is powered by predominantly solar energy.</p>	Large	£48,005	£48,005	



APPLICATIONS RECOMMENDED FOR AWARD					
Name of organisation	Project description	Tier	Grant Application Amount	Recommended Award	Comments
	<p>The workshop will give both new and existing community members the chance to take part in practical conservation work, supporting local biodiversity and climate action.</p> <p>Improved accessibility and facilities will benefit family groups, wheelchair users, and those facing the greatest barriers to nature, empowering them to engage with and enjoy their local greenspace.</p>				
Sculpture House Collective	The funding will allow Sculpture House to make a number of improvements to the environmentally sustainable home for the organisation. Upgrading the energy efficiency of the building by installing insulation and replacing sub-standard and failing windows, enhancing the quality of the spaces within and reducing the carbon footprint.	Large	£93,417.60	£61,500	
Get Active Coaching	The funding will allow the group to refurbish an unused industrial unit in Abercorn Industrial Estate, Paisley to become a community wellbeing hub and change the lives of the members and the wider community.	Small	£10,000	£3,650	

APPLICATIONS RECOMMENDED FOR AWARD					
Name of organisation	Project description	Tier	Grant Application Amount	Recommended Award	Comments
	The funding will allow the group to install a low carbon infra-red heating system so that they can set up a multipurpose health, fitness and wellbeing hub. The hub will be centred around affordable and accessible exercise opportunities.				
DEFERRED APPLICATIONS					
Name of organisation	Project description	Tier	Grant Application Amount	Recommended Award	Comments
Houston Community Council	The project will deliver a Local Place Plan for the area covered by Houston Community Council.	Intermediate	£23,500	n/a	Panel advised of proposed development to make Council funding resource available to all local bodies seeking to develop Place Plans on an equitable basis. Decision deferred to allow for development of this resource in principle.

APPLICATIONS RECOMMENDED FOR AWARD					
Name of organisation	Project description	Tier	Grant Application Amount	Recommended Award	Comments
DEFERRED APPLICATIONS					
Life Church	<p>The Lighthouse Project aims to transform the 1929-30 Henry Wilson Art Deco building at Paisley Cross, Paisley, Scotland, into a vibrant community hub featuring a café and public worship space.</p> <p>This initiative seeks to create a new home for the Church, preserving the architectural heritage of this iconic structure while addressing community needs such as socialisation, poverty alleviation, and addiction support.</p>	Large	£100,000	N/A	Recommendation to defer to allow for further engagement and clarification on the application.
Finding Your Feet (FYF)	Further to a Business Energy Scotland (BES) energy audit, funding is sought to work alongside a contractor to identify key actions to be undertaken and cost up a programme of work and engage potential contractors. The audit outlined a range of recommendation to lower running costs/reduce the carbon emissions of the FYF Charity Hub in central Paisley.	Small	£6,534.00	N/A	The Panel are not recommending an award for this application as it did not meet the criteria relating to Best Value and leverage of additional funding and / or resources.

APPLICATIONS RECOMMENDED FOR AWARD					
Name of organisation	Project description	Tier	Grant Application Amount	Recommended Award	Comments
Renfrew Cricket Club	The purpose of the project is to enhance the security and safety of the cricket club's grounds by installing 3-metre high fencing around the perimeter.	Large	£57,298.20	N/A	The Panel are not recommending an award for this application as it did not meet the criteria relating to the viability of the project.
WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS					
Name of organisation	Project description	Tier	Grant Application Amount	Recommended Award	Comments
Friends of Barshaw Park	The group have requested support from the Fund for a range of capital works as well as a project manager and contingency to maintain structural support of the wall and bring buildings back into use as workshops and venues for activities.	Large	£80,000	N/A	N/A
Houston Old School Trust	Replacement of one of the Centre's gas central heating boilers. This boiler provides the heating for four of the rooms available for let and the hot water for the Kitchen.	Small	£4,000	N/A	N/A

## **Appendix 2 - Sustainable Communities Fund – Progress Report (Round 2 awards)**

### **1. Summary**

- 1.1** This summary updates the Communities and Housing Policy Board on progress made by community groups and organisations in receipt of funding from the Sustainable Communities Fund. It provides information for the Board on projects awarded in round 2 of the fund.
- 1.2** The key objective of the Sustainable Communities Fund is to strengthen work within communities to identify opportunities for land and assets within local areas to develop local projects which benefit those who live there – connecting people through regenerated local spaces and tackling inequality through community collaboration.
- 1.3** The UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Communities and Place portion of the Sustainable Communities Fund is made up of a clear split between capital and revenue funding; and has set amounts allocated over financial years 2023-24 and 2024-25 and will be allocated within these guidelines.
- 1.4** At its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 the Communities and Housing Policy Board agreed to allocate funding to 4 community organisations, totalling £155,000. This report updates on 3 of those projects. Also included in this report is a round 1 project, which was not reported on in the previous board paper.
- 1.5** At its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 the Communities and Housing Policy Board agreed to allocate funding to 4 community organisations, totalling £155,000. This report updates on 3 of those projects. Also included in this report is a round 1 project, which was not reported on in the previous board paper.

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### **2. Progress of successful projects**

#### **2.1 7<sup>th</sup> Paisley & District J.N.I Scout Group – Small Award £10,000 (Round 2)**

- 2.1(a)** The 7<sup>th</sup> Paisley & District J.N.I Scout group were awarded £10,000 to improve the toilet facilities within the Bield activity centre, which is in Broomlands Street in the west end of Paisley. The total cost of the improvements was £11,256.00, with the group contributing the additional £1,256.00 from their own funds. The group own the building which they purchased in 1984 from the Church of Scotland.

- 2.1(b) 7th Paisley & District J.N.I Scout Group provides fun, adventure, and outdoor learning to improve the physical and mental health of young people aged 5 years to 18 years, both male and female. The Bield activity centre offers community groups access to indoor climbing and archery to a range of community groups across Renfrewshire.
- 2.1 (c) At the time of applying the toilet facilities within the centre were inadequate and unsafe forcing the club to close the gents' toilets. This meant that the only female toilet was being used by everyone who was accessing the activity centre.
- 2.1(d) Improvements to the toilet facilities within the centre have produced upgraded male and female toilet facilities, with heating and hand drying facilities which weren't available previously. The centre also now hosts a fully fitted unisex disabled toilet. The male toilet has 2 cubicles and 3 urinals with 3 wash hand basins. The ladies' toilet has 3 cubicles with 3 wash hand basins. The roof on all facilities have been lowered, which along with the new heaters' provides a cleaner, warmer environment for users.
- 2.1(e) The improvements to the facilities within the Bield centre has meant that the centre has been able to increase lets of the hall and usage has increased from 7 regular lets from organisations with a combined total of 250 members to 12 organisations with regular lets with a combined membership of over 600 members. The hall management committee have expressed a huge thank you to the council for supporting these improvements.

## **2.2 Brick Lane Music Academy CIC Ltd – Intermediate Award £20,000 (Round 2)**

- 2.2(a) Brick Lane Music Academy CIC Ltd received £20,000 in round 2 of the Sustainable Communities Fund to build an outdoor sensory music studio and sensory garden. The total cost of the garden is £22,000 with Brick Lane Music Academy contributing £2000 from their own funds.
- 2.2(b) The Garden Room was completed in October 2024. The garden works are now underway and will include a mural wall, yellow brick road, sensory garden and some musical outdoor sensory structures.

2.2(c) The Garden Room has had sensory lighting installed, a surround sound Bluetooth system, a TV, large beanbags and electric piano. The group started using the Sensory Garden Room in November 2024 with Toddler groups using it initially, some with additional support needs and they loved it! The group have also used the room for older adults and have attached ramps for wheelchair access.



- 2.2(d) Next year the organisation aim to increase the use of the garden room for additional support need community groups and an older adults Ukulele group, once the Sensory Garden is complete (anticipated completion February 2025) in time for Spring planting too!

### **2.3 Renfrewshire Community Transport (RCT) - Intermediate Award £25,000 (Round 2)**

- 2.3(a) RCT received £25,000 towards the cost of a £35,000 project for initial startup costs. The additional £10,000 was provided by SPT's community transport fund. The £25,000 investment from the Sustainable Communities Fund allowed the group to engage a development consultant for the project on a part time basis. An officer from the council has met with the development manager to discuss progress of the project.
- 2.3(b) Renfrewshire Community Transport (RCT) carried out a pilot with Glasgow Community Transport, with Ferguslie Park Housing Association and Tannahill Centre who were supporting the service with the parking space, and key access to one (non-wheelchair accessible) minibus.
- 2.3(c) Community Groups were able to hire the minibus via Glasgow Community Transport, however, due to senior staff changes and illness within Glasgow Community Transport, they have not been providing the anticipated data, for example, hire organisations, trip numbers/types, distance travelled and hire data. While this has been frustrating for the Renfrewshire Community Transport group, it has not impeded the outcome of the pilot.
- 2.3(d) The pilot has confirmed that RCT require their own minibus, booking system and to take full ownership of the hires and support Renfrewshire's local community groups, which they will hopefully be able to do in due course by securing a minibus within the project. This approach looks promising as RCT have engaged with partner Community Transport operators for shared learning and have become active members of the CTA (Community Transport Association).

### **2.4 St Catherine's Primary School Parent Council – Small Award £8,680 (Round 1)**

- 2.4(a) St Catherine's Parent Council were awarded £8,680 to develop a community garden and outdoor learning area. This idea came after consultation with the children about what they would like to see happen to the derelict space left by the demolition of the janitor's house within the school grounds.



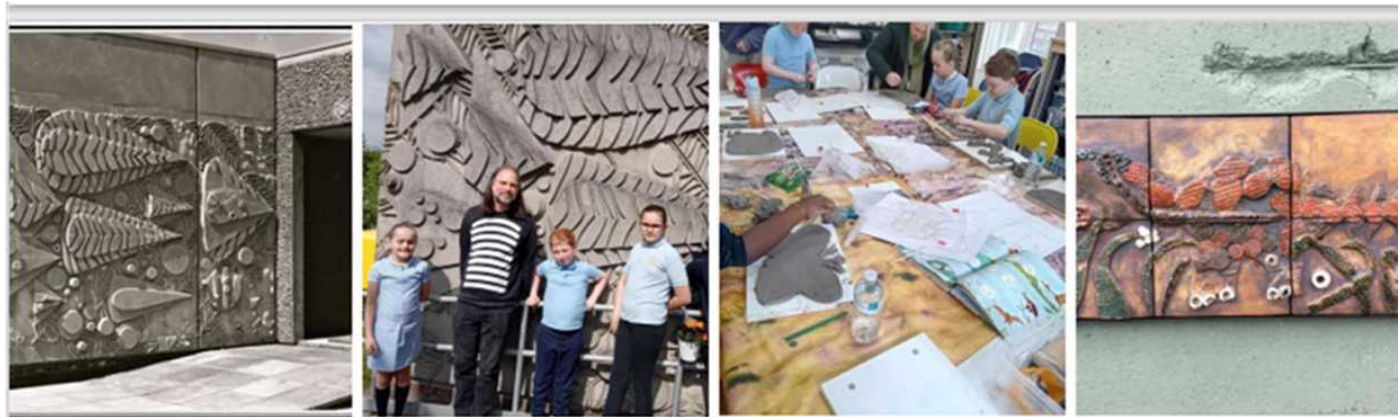


2.4(b) The garden has been used to better engage parents and carers within the school community and has been a huge success, with parents, carers, teachers, and children from all year groups participating in the development of the gardens.



2.4(c) The money provided by the Sustainable Communities Fund has allowed the school and parent partnership to purchase a range of tools and equipment to help them prepare the land for all the growing and learning that the children wanted to see happen there.

2.4(d) As part of the project the school and the parent partnership have engaged with and built partnerships with Renfrewshire Youth Services and Sculpture House Project who supported a group of P5 and P6 (ASN) children to visit Sculpture House, and using the external at the school entrance by the artist Charles Anderson the children were supported to make new designs. They then visited Sculpture House and used their designs to make casts. These were then fired and installed on the Outdoor Learning Area walls.



2.4(e) St Catherine's also worked with Trinity High School. Mr Craig and his Tech class cut wood and put it all together to create planting beds for the children. The Janitor, Mr O'Neil who previously lived in the demolished Janitors house was also invited to be part of the process and was given the honorary role of starting the whole transformation off, by applying the first coat of paint to the garden walls.



2.4(f) The garden is almost complete and now boasts:

- A literacy pergola
- Library box for everyone to access.
- Area for health & Wellbeing (outdoor Yoga, quiet space)
- Art space with art box resources.
- Seating area made with recycled tyres.
- Birdboxes, wormery's, bug hotels and different planting areas, which were all made by each of the classes in the school.



2.4(g) An officer from the council was invited to the school to see the gardens and was treated to a lovely presentation from the school's garden committee, to hear all about the work they had undertaken and find how much they have enjoyed the experience.

*'We have really loved getting outside and learning about all the different types of plants'* Lucas

*'I can't wait to get outside and read a book under the pergola'* Kunashe

*'Everyone in the school has been involved, and parents have come in to help us make our garden. I love our new garden and can't wait to see all the flowers bloom in the spring'* Jaya



2.4(h) The school and the children plan to build on this experience and are planning a consultation to find out what they can do next in the garden. Residents of Kyle Court (the neighbouring sheltered housing complex) will be invited into the garden for a range of activities. The health and wellbeing area will be developed for use by the wider community.

