



REPORT TO: COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE ON 28 MAY 2019

SUBJECT: RAPID REHOUSING TRANSITION PLAN

**BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE)**

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of progress on development on Moray's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III G (10) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to the implementation of the Council's strategic housing plan.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Communities Committee considers and notes the second iteration of the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan which was submitted to the Scottish Government on 29 April 2019.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG) was set up by Scottish Government in October 2017 to produce short and long-term solutions to end homelessness and rough sleeping. 4 suites of recommendations were made in December 2017 and in February, May and June 2018, which have been accepted in principle by the Scottish Government. HARSAG Recommendation 7 requires that "Each local authority area to develop and cost a 5-year 'Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan' by December 2018."
- 3.2 The Scottish Government requires that Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans (RRTP) aim to end rough sleeping, transform the use of temporary accommodation and end homelessness in Scotland in a 5 year period.
- 3.3 The RRTP is part of the suite of strategic documents which form the Local Housing Strategy (LHS) 2019-24. The Council's approach to rapid rehousing is reflected in the LHS, in the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP), and will require to be reflected in Health and Social Care Moray's Strategic Plan and Housing Contribution Statement.

- 3.4 On 20 November 2018, this Committee approved a draft RRTP which was subsequently submitted to the Scottish Government by the required deadline of 31 December 2018.
- 3.5 On 28 February 2019, the Council received a feedback report from the Scottish Government, which made suggestions for improvement which included provision of costings for the measures included in the plan and clarification of mitigation measures included in the Equality Impact Assessment. The RRTP has been amended and enhanced in the light of this feedback.

4. Development of the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP)

- 4.1 The RRTP reiterates that Moray Council will continue to implement its Housing Options approach and prevent homelessness wherever possible. Where homelessness cannot be prevented, the Council would implement its Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan where appropriate. This means that homeless households would get:
- A settled, mainstream housing outcome as quickly as possible;
 - Time in any form of temporary accommodation kept to a minimum;
 - Where temporary accommodation is required, the optimum type is mainstream, furnished and within a community.
- 4.2 The RRTP sets out priorities for the next 5 years. It is available at http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_1917.html. The priorities are:
- i. Vulnerabilities/Support/Housing First/Housing Options
 - ii. Reconfiguring temporary Accommodation
 - iii. Provision of permanent accommodation
- 4.3 Section 9 of the RRTP emphasises the need for partnerships to be developed and enhanced primarily with Health and Social Care Moray and 3rd Sector Organisations to ensure success.
- 4.4 Delivery of the modelled shortfall of 127 units of secure accommodation for homeless households will be delivered in Year 1 through a combination of:
- i. Increased Moray Council allocations quota for Homeless List applicants
 - ii. Fast track health and housing assessments
 - iii. Reducing the number of households occupying temporary accommodation
 - iv. Reducing evictions in all tenures
 - v. Provision of housing support targeted towards increased tenancy sustainment

The Committee should note that the scale of the impact of measures ii., iii. and v. will be dependent on the outcome of the Council's RRTP funding bid.

- 4.5 The RRTP Action Plan provides 5 year costings for delivery, which constitutes a funding bid submission to the Government. The details are:

Implementation Year	Financial year	Bid submission
YEAR 1	2019/20	£182,657

YEAR 2	2020/21	£597,037
YEAR 3	2021/22	£598,051
YEAR 4	2022/23	£597,037
YEAR 5	2023/24	£597,037
Total		£2,571,819

- 4.6 The Bid submission includes funding for an additional Housing Occupational Therapist; additional housing support workers; a Homelessness Policy Officer; an enhanced family mediation service; a basic furniture service and compensation for void rent loss associated with provision of a Housing First model. Much of the activity proposed in the Action Plan does not form part of the bid submission. Officers believe this funding bid to be modest and proportionate. At the time of writing, the Scottish Government's response to the second RRTP and funding bid was pending.
- 4.7 Progress on the Plan will be reported to this Committee as part of each LHS Annual Review.

5. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

(a) **Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))**

The Local Housing Strategy focuses on a set of outcomes that contribute to the achievement of the Council's wider strategic aims and priorities, in particular meeting statutory obligations to homeless households.

(b) **Policy and Legal**

From 31 December 2012 the priority need test for homeless households was abolished. As a result, from this date, all unintentionally homeless households are entitled to settled accommodation.

The Scottish Social Housing Charter sets out standards against which the Scottish Housing Regulator will assess local authorities as part of its inspection regime.

(c) **Financial implications**

The financial implications associated with the implementation of the RRTP are dependent on the outcome of the Council's bid for Scottish Government funding, which is awaited. The RRTP Action Plan will be reviewed annually. This review will include a review of the financial implications at that time.

(d) **Risk Implications**

There are no risk implications arising directly from this report.

(e) **Staffing Implications**

The staffing implications associated with the implementation of the RRTP are dependent on the outcome of the Council's bid for Scottish Government funding, which is awaited. The RRTP Action Plan will be reviewed annually. This review will include a review of the staffing implications at that time.

(f) Property

There are no property requirements/implications arising directly from this report.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

The housing needs of equalities groups are identified in the Local Housing Strategy (LHS). A RRTP Equalities Impact Assessment has been developed and published.

The increase in the Allocations Policy quota for Homeless List applicants is necessary in order to meet the urgent housing needs of statutorily homeless people. The increase is modest to achieve an appropriate balance between the Homeless List and Waiting/Transfer List applicants, which include older people, people with a disability, and children living in overcrowded households.

(h) Consultations

Consultation on this report has taken place with the Corporate Director (Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructure), the Acting Head of Housing and Property, the Head of Community Care, the Housing Needs Manager, the Housing Operations Manager, Deborah O'Shea (Principal Accountant), Legal Services Manager, Equal Opportunities Officer, Tracey Sutherland (Committee Services Officer) and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 This report advises the Committee of the submission of a revised Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan to the Scottish Government, in accordance with required timescales. The submission also included a revised, costed Action Plan which forms a Scottish Government Funding Bid.

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Background Papers: with author

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