



WRITTEN QUESTION FOR SUBMISSION TO HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE ON 6 SEPTEMBER 2022

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR KEITH

Furniture Rental Scheme

What consideration has been given to introducing a Furniture Rental style scheme for tenants of socially rented accommodation in Moray similar to those scheme operating in Aberdeen and Newcastle?

RESPONSE BY HEAD OF HOUSING AND PROPERTY SERVICES

We do not currently have a furniture leasing scheme. The Council did have a scheme in 2005 which was established as a means of matching surplus furniture which had been purchased (and no longer required) following local flooding incidents in the area and those who may benefit from receiving it. This scheme was resource limited and therefore ended when the furniture ran out.

Currently at time of allocation, our Housing Support Team will guide clients through the process of applying for Community Care Grants from the Scottish Welfare Fund. This has become an established and successful way of ensuring that homeless applicants are moving into properties with furniture, where they do not have the means to independently fund it. Our current tenancy sustainment rates for homeless applicants are in the top quartile nationally, which indicates that tenants are generally being housed in appropriate accommodation with the resources and skills they require to maintain the tenancy.

This is however an area we are not complacent about and we will engage with applicants and monitor trends of households struggling to acquire furniture at the moving in stage, to inform whether operation of a Furniture Leasing Scheme may be of assistance.