



REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE ON 14 JANUARY 2020

SUBJECT: RAPID REHOUSING TRANSITION FUNDING

BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND FINANCE)

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of progress on funding received from the Scottish Government for the implementation of Moray's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III B (2) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to the management of the Council's finances.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee:-

- (i) **considers and notes the level of funding made available by the Scottish Government to deliver the Council's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP); and**
- (ii) **agrees that officers in Housing and Property Services can now draw down the money awarded for 2019/20 (£97k) and 2020/21 (£93k) from the General Revenue Grant to develop the plan.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In August 2018, the Scottish Government asked that all local authorities produce a Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) with the aim of ending rough sleeping, transforming the use of temporary accommodation and ending homelessness in Scotland within a 5 year period.
- 3.2 On 20 November 2018, the Communities Committee approved the Council's draft RRTP for submission to the Scottish Government (paragraph 5 of the Minute refers).
- 3.3 In June 2019, the Government announced investment in support of rapid rehousing transition. Nationally the total £24m over the first three years (£8m per annum from 2019/20).

- 3.4 The funding distribution agreed by the Scottish Government and the COSLA Settlement Distribution Group (SDG) was calculated on the basis on the average amount of homeless assessments completed, by authority, based on the last years, 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19.
- 3.5 Applying this methodology, Moray was allocated £97k for 2019/20 and £93k for 2020/21. This funding is being paid through the Local Government General Revenue Grant. Funding for year 3 of the RRTP has still to be determined by the Scottish Government and the COSLA (SDG). The Scottish Government expects that local authorities will use their RRTP funding allocations for the purpose of supporting transformational change in homelessness services.
- 3.6 Officers have reviewed the RRTP taking account of the resources available to deliver plan priorities. On 17 December 2019, the Communities Committee considered and noted the funding provided by the Scottish Government for the implementation of the Council's RRTP and Action Plan.

4. 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

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

As above, Moray was allocated £97k for 2019/20 and £93k for 2020/21 and this funding is being paid through the Local Government General Revenue Grant. The revised RRTP will be delivered within the specified funds with no further cost to the authority.

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 funding provided by the Scottish Government will support staffing proposals within the Homelessness Team as set out in the RRTP Action Plan. Any appointments made will be done on an initial 2 year fixed term basis only and this will be covered by the Scottish Government grant funding received. 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

A RRTP Equalities Impact Assessment has been developed and published.

(h) Consultations

Consultation on this report has taken place with the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance), the Acting Head of Housing and Property, Head of Financial Services and Lissa Rowan, Committee Services Officer.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Scottish Government has provided funding for the implementation of the Council's RRTP and Action Plan. Officers in Housing and Property Services are seeking approval from this Committee to drawdown these funds to begin the implementation of the plan.**

Author of Report: Gordon McCluskey, Housing Needs Manager
Background Papers:
Ref: