

ANGUS COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 24 SEPTEMBER 2019

RAPID REHOUSING TRANSITION PLAN UPDATE

ABSTRACT

This report provides an update to members on the current position of Angus' Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan, agreed by Committee on 13 November 2018 (report no 347/18).

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Drawing on baseline information and projected five year projections, Angus Council's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2019/20-2023/24 details how we will achieve our goal that people who experience homelessness reach a settled housing option as quickly as possible by:

- Increasing the focus on prevention to stop homelessness happening in the first place.
- Ensuring households get through the homeless system faster.
- Ensuring homeless households can access existing housing.
- Ensuring homeless households can access the right type of support at the right time.
- Increasing affordable housing supply to meet needs of homeless households.

1.2 All 32 local authorities submitted their draft Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans to the Scottish Government by 31 December 2018. Each plan was assessed by the Scottish Government and feedback was provided capturing areas of good practice and where suggested areas of development were required.

1.3 The final iteration was submitted to the Scottish Government for approval in May 2019.

2. SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION

2.1 The five priorities and actions identified in the draft rapid rehousing transition plan were fundamentally accepted by the Scottish Government. Areas for suggested development have been updated, these do not represent any material change to the content of the Plan and are as follows:

- Additional baseline data and contextual information added;
- Additional evidence of co-creation and existing strategic planning partnerships including stakeholder contribution statements;
- A full resource plan to accompany the action plan; and
- An Equalities Impact Assessment.

2.2 We received confirmation from the Scottish Government on 17 July 2019 that we have been awarded £172,000 to support the beginning of the implementation of our 5 year Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan. The funding is part of the £50 million Ending Homelessness Together fund announced by the First Minister to support the prevention of homelessness and the implementation of the recommendations from the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group. This leaves a shortfall of around £72,000. To enable us to deliver the priorities identified in Year 1, we are exploring options to reduce the initial costs of delivering the housing first model in order to reduce the shortfall and we will discuss any additional funding requirements with stakeholders once this has been completed. We will continue to work with our partners to maximise mainstream housing and streamline joint commissioning, while expensive forms of temporary accommodation are minimised.

2.3 The distribution of the remaining £16 million funding for 2010/21 and 2021/22 will be subject to further consideration of potential options between the Scottish Government and COSLA.

2.4 Governance for the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan sits with the Housing, Health and Social Care Planning Group who have responsibility for the development and delivery of the plan. This ensures participation and accountability of all partners and stakeholders in the transition to rapid rehousing in Angus. Work is underway to implement the priorities identified in Year 1, namely:

- Increase % allocations to homeless households.
- Ongoing implementation of the revised housing allocations policy and choice-based lettings.
- Ongoing review of the roles and processes in the community housing teams in order to ensure early intervention and streamline services (from application through to re-housing).
- Implementation of a revised protocol for Angus prisoners in line with the SHORE standards.
- Ongoing review of hospital discharge protocols and practice in line with findings from case reviews.
- Ongoing options appraisal to support the delivery of Housing First in Angus.
- Development of a rent deposit scheme pilot.
- Development of a grant funding initiative for empty home owners to increase PRS lets to homeless households.

2.5 The Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan is a working document subject to ongoing review and future updates will be provided to members as part of the annual Strategic Housing Investment Plan.

3. REPORT AUTHOR

This report has been compiled by John Morrow, Service Manager (Housing) who can be contacted by emailing COMMUNITIES@angus.gov.uk

List of Appendices:

- Appendix 1 – Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan August 2019
- Appendix 1a – RRTP Action Plan
- Appendix 2 – Stakeholder Contribution Statements
- Appendix 3 – EIA RRTP