

ANGUS COUNCIL

INFORMATION REPORT – RAPID REHOUSING TRANSITION PLAN UPDATE

REPORT BY JOHN MORROW, SERVICE LEADER (HOUSING)

ABSTRACT

This report provides information to members with regard to the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan, albeit that a decision is not required in terms of the current Scheme of Delegation to Officers and the Order of Reference of Committees.

1. SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION

Drawing on baseline information and projected five year projections, Angus Council's [Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2019/20-2023/24](#) (RRTP) details how we will achieve our goal that people who experience homelessness reach a settled housing outcome 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.

The RRTP was approved by the Scottish Government in May 2019 and a Year 1 update report was submitted in June 2020 detailing progress to date and challenges experienced, along with a revised RRTP.

We received confirmation from the Scottish Government on 10 December 2020 that we have been allocated £144,000 to support Year 3 of the RRTP. This is in addition to the funding received for Years 1 and Year 2, totalling £330,000. We were also allocated an additional £100,000 winter funding for 2020/21 to help accelerate the implementation of RRTP and support the recovery from the pandemic.

Notable achievements and actions completed in year 2, include:

- Homeless demand and turnover data analysis refreshed at a locality level to assess current backlog, anticipated new demand and set targets for % of lets to homeless. This has identified particular challenges in the South (Carnoustie and Monifieth) and East (Arbroath) housing market areas where projected demand and current backlog outweighs the expected turnover of social housing. Work is ongoing to increase prevention work, proactive case management and access to alternative housing options.
- Revised allocations policy and Choice Based Lettings (CBL) implemented from October 2020 – we are continuing to monitor the impact of CBL on % lets to homeless targets.
- Housing First implemented in November 2020. Two support workers have been recruited, a multi-agency Housing First panel established and training programme and awareness raising sessions completed across stakeholders. 12 individuals are currently being supported by the Housing First programme in Angus.
- Mediation and Conflict Resolution service implemented in October 2020.

- Domestic Abuse policy approved at committee and launched alongside operational guidance and training sessions for staff in September 2020.
- Project ongoing in partnership with Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City with homeless charity Crisis to improve housing options and support in the private rented sector (PRS) – landlord and staff surveys completed and PRS market analysis completed. Landlord and staff survey responses identified a requirement for increased support for PRS landlords and tenants therefore have utilised the additional RRTP winter funding to create two new posts to build engagement with landlords in Angus, support people to access the PRS and be a first point of contact for tenants and landlords to prevent homelessness from the PRS.
- Launched Empty Homes Grant Fund – the property must be let out at or below Local Housing Allowance levels for the relevant property size for a minimum of five years. Owners are also committed to renting their property to someone working with the housing service to explore their housing options.
- Section 11 guidance developed and implemented from 1 April 2021 and is focussed on earlier intervention and partnership working to prevent homelessness from eviction or repossession action.

The restrictions as a result of Covid-19 impacted the transition towards rapid rehousing and the length of time spent in temporary accommodation increased however progress has accelerated against a number of actions during this last year. Any underspend from Year 1 has been reflected in resource planning in later years and any funding which has not been spent will continue to be carried forward into later years.

2. 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 2021 Update Report
Appendix A – Revised RRTP Action Plan
Appendix B – RRTP Funding and Activity Monitoring Template