

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 3 update report was submitted in November 2022 detailing progress to date and challenges experienced (Appendix 1).

We received confirmation from the Scottish Government on 10 December 2020 that we have been allocated £122,000 to support Year 4 of the RRTP. This is in addition to the funding received for years one, two and three totalling £477,000. 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 3, 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. Due to being behind on the delivery of RRTP as a result of the pandemic and staff shortages, we agreed to calculate this over 3 years to 2025, rather than the 2 years remaining of the RRTP. This has identified particular challenges 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.
- Review and consultation on allocations policy and Choice Based Lettings (CBL). The forthcoming changes to the Homelessness service have impacted on progression of this work. As a new team are going to become involved in supporting homeless applications, it's important to involve the new staff in the review. For that reason, final recommendations will be made when the new team is in place.
- We have 15 individuals being supported by the Housing First programme in Angus with good engagement and positive outcomes.
- The Housing service and Angus Health and Social Care Partnership agreed to a service review with a view to establishing a new team alongside the Homelessness Support Service to deliver the homelessness functions currently sitting as part of the generic Housing officer role within the three Community Housing Teams. The review is ongoing, and a development day was held in August to bring together key services

and stakeholders to help inform the future delivery of the service. Mapping of the customer journey and pathways has been completed, and two of the posts have been recruited early to assist with the anticipated increase in demand from Ukrainian households and to pick up the PRS work.

- We developed a new Private Sector Officer role and recruited two officers to build engagement with landlords in Angus, support people to access the Private Rented Sector (PRS) and act as the first point of contact for tenants and landlords to prevent homelessness from the PRS. Due to the temporary nature of the posts, we experienced significant recruitment challenges and both posts are now vacant. Due to these challenges and uncertainties relating to future funding, it has been agreed to merge the role of the Private Sector Officer with the new Homeless Case Manager role which is being developed as part of the service review.
- Tenant Hardship Fund - we were awarded £164,000 to support private and social rented tenants who have accrued rent arrears as a direct result of the Covid-19 pandemic. We developed an online application to be completed by tenants, their landlord or other services supporting the tenant. A total of 71 applications have been approved to date. The fund has since been extended through topping up with RRTP funding to allow us to support more households to sustain their tenancies and prevent homelessness. This is our new Prevention Fund and was launched at the Council's Cost of Living Roadshow in October.

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 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 2022 Update Report
Appendix A – Revised RRTP Action Plan
Appendix B – RRTP Funding and Activity Monitoring Template