

Report

Report to:	Housing and Technical Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	5 February 2020
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources)

Subject:	South Lanarkshire Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan – Funding Allocation and Staffing Resources
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide an update on the funding being provided by the Scottish Government to support the implementation of the South Lanarkshire Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP)
- ◆ request approval to temporarily increase the establishment by creating 6 FTE Housing Officer posts, utilising RRTP resources for a period of 12 months

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the content of the report, be noted; and
- (2) that the proposal to add 6 FTE Housing Officers at Grade 2, Level 1-3 to the establishment for a fixed period of 12 months, as detailed at section 5, be approved.

3. Background

3.1. In October 2017, the Scottish Government set up the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG) to develop short-term and long-term solutions to end homelessness and rough sleeping across Scotland. The main assumptions underpinning its formation were:-

- ◆ that rough sleeping is a significant problem across Scotland and is concentrated in its core cities (Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, Stirling and Aberdeen);
- ◆ that where homeless people can access temporary accommodation, they are spending too long within it, waiting on a settled home;
- ◆ that despite progressive legislation, homelessness continues to be a significant problem across Scotland.

3.2. In June 2018, HARSAG produced a final report with recommendations that included the development by local authorities of a 5 year RRTP. 'Rapid rehousing' is defined as a housing-led approach for people that experience homelessness with a focus on making sure they reach a settled home as quickly as possible, whilst limiting the amount of time that is spent in temporary accommodation.

- 3.3. In June 2018, the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning wrote to all Scottish local authorities advising of the requirements to prepare a RRTP and submit it to the Scottish Government by 31 December 2018.
- 3.4. South Lanarkshire's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2019 to 2024 was developed in conjunction with a wide range of partners and submitted to the Scottish Government in December 2018. The final plan was approved by this Committee on 23 January 2019 and reported to the Community Planning Partnership Board on 19 June 2019. The implementation of the RRTP has been directed by the Homelessness Strategy Group which has representation from all key partners.
- 3.5. In May 2019 the Scottish Government provided positive feedback on the plan, highlighting its strong partnership approach.

4. Scottish Government Funding

- 4.1. In December 2018 the Scottish Government provided the Council with £105,000 to support the initial development and implementation of the plan. This funding has primarily been used to fund the appointment of an officer, for a fixed period of 18 months, with responsibility for working with partners to coordinate the implementation of the plan.
- 4.2. In July 2019 South Lanarkshire Council were awarded a further £461,000 from the Scottish Government's Ending Homelessness Together Fund to support the implementation of actions for the first year (2019/2020) of the RRTP. This funding has been used to progress a number key priorities detailed in the plan, including:-
 - ◆ the further development of the HomeStart service which supports people moving from homelessness, or who may be at risk of homelessness, to set up and sustain their home
 - ◆ working on a partnership basis to further develop Housing First
 - ◆ converting temporary tenancies to permanent homes thereby allowing homeless households to remain within temporary accommodation in which they have settled
 - ◆ providing starter packs to households who have experienced homelessness
 - ◆ increasing the availability of intensive support services across South Lanarkshire
 - ◆ enhancing the support available to people who are homeless or at risk of becoming so and who are experiencing domestic abuse or are leaving care
 - ◆ increased prevention activity across all housing tenures
 - ◆ further developing the partnership approach to preventing homelessness for individuals leaving prison
- 4.3. In December 2019, the Scottish Government confirmed £453,000 funding would be provided to support implementation of the RRTP in 2020/2021.

5. Staffing Resources to Support the RRTP

- 5.1. To support the further development of the HomeStart service it is proposed that 4 Housing Officers are appointed on a fixed term basis, for a period of 12 months.
- 5.2. It is also proposed to appoint 2 additional Housing Officers, for a fixed period of 12 months, who would have responsibility for working to prevent homelessness and provide advice and support to specific groups. While the officers would work as part of the wider Home Start Service they would have a focus upon working with particular households who are homeless or at risk of becoming so, due to:-

- ◆ domestic abuse
- ◆ leaving care, or
- ◆ being released from prison

6. Next Steps

- 6.1. Subject to approval by the Housing and Technical Resources Committee, the recruitment process for the additional Housing Officers will commence.
- 6.2. A full review of progress made in implementing the RRTP in 2019/2020 will be presented to this Committee on 17 June 2020.

7. Employee Implications

- 7.1. It is proposed that the 6 FTE Housing Officers are added to the establishment on a temporary basis for a 12 month period.

Post Title	No of Posts (FTE)	Grade SCP	Hourly Rate	Annual Salary	Total costs/Officer (including on costs)	Total cost
Housing Officers	6.0	Grade 2, Level 1-3 SCP 34-48	£11.44 - £14.06	£20,820 - £25,589	£33,700	£201,800

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1. There are no financial implications to the Resource as a result of the proposals contained within this report. The proposed posts will be fully funded through the Rapid Rehousing Transition funding received from the Scottish Government.

9. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 9.1. There are no climate change, sustainability and environmental implications.

10. Other Implications

- 10.1. There are no additional risks associated with this report.
- 10.2. There are no sustainable development issues associated with this report.
- 10.3. The content of this report will contribute to the evidence to support the requirements of the Annual Assurance Statement

11. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 11.1. The RRTP is relevant to all people living or coming to live in South Lanarkshire, which includes protected characteristic groups as identified under the Equality Act 2010. An EQIA has been carried out which has confirmed that it is anticipated that the plan will make a positive contribution to the promotion of equalities.
- 11.2. A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Determination has been provided by the SEA Consultation Authorities, which confirms there is no requirement for a separate SEA for the RRTP.

- 11.3. The RRTP was co-produced with key partners and a wide ranging programme of engagement was undertaken with stakeholders to support its development. The RRTP includes 'partner contribution statements' which have been completed by a wide range of key partners including the South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership, registered social landlords and the third sector interface.

Paul Manning
Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Daniel Lowe
Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources)

18 December 2019

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Make communities safer, stronger and sustainable
- ◆ Improve the availability, quality and access of housing
- ◆ Protect vulnerable children , young people and adults
- ◆ Support our communities by tackling disadvantage and supporting aspiration and deprivation

Previous References

- ◆ South Lanarkshire Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2019 to 2024, Housing and Technical Resources Committee, 23 January 2019.

List of Background Papers

- ◆ South Lanarkshire Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2019 to 2024

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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