

Declaration of a Housing Emergency

Notice of Motion

Motion received in terms of Standing Order No 20 on 28 May, 2024, proposed by Councillor Davie McLachlan, seconded by Councillor Margaret Cowie, as follows:-

“The Council agrees that, further to the report to the Executive Committee on 8 May on ‘Homelessness Pressures – Impact and Mitigation’ and heightened pressures on housing and homelessness services, a housing emergency be declared in South Lanarkshire.

The Council notes that South Lanarkshire remains a top performing local authority in addressing homelessness applications but, nonetheless, is experiencing significant pressures, in common with other local authority areas, including:-

- ◆ a 28% increase in the number of people applying to the council for assistance due to homelessness.
- ◆ a 38% increase in the number of people recorded by the council as homeless.
- ◆ a 101% increase in the backlog of urgent need homeless households awaiting housing.

The Council welcomes the measures reported to the Executive Committee to mitigate the impact of the emergency homelessness situation but, in light of the level of need, urges central governments at Scottish and UK level to immediately consider the following:-

- ◆ a full or partial restoration of ‘local connection’ within Scotland to help manage out-of-area homelessness presentations.
- ◆ the reversal of cuts to the Affordable Housing Supply Programme budget to ensure South Lanarkshire Council can deliver all 1300 additional council homes set out in the Strategic Housing Investment Plan and that national housing targets can be met.
- ◆ further assistance to manage housing need arising from humanitarian and asylum programmes”.