

REPORT TO COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 20 DECEMBER 2018

Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) Update

1 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 Consider the work of the joint Member Officer working group;**
- 1.2 Agree to consider the draft RRTP at committee in February;**
- 1.3 Delegate power to the Director of Infrastructure to sign the draft RRTP following consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and Opposition Housing Spokesperson**

2. Background/Discussion

- 2.1** A report was provided to the Communities Committee on the 6th September 2018 providing an update on the work of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG). The report advised that the main action point from the group was to prepare a 5 year fully costed RRTP in draft by the 31st December 2018 with a final approved version to be in place by the 31st March 2019. It was also agreed that a member officer group be set up to oversee progress of the RRTP and make recommendations to Communities Committee.
- 2.2** The report also advised we were receiving funding from the Scottish Government to create the plan. A project manager has now been seconded to prepare and implement the plan and ensure we can bid for funding from the Scottish Government fund set aside for transforming homelessness.
- 2.3** The report also advised that Aberdeenshire Council was receiving funding of £877,000 in the current financial year from the Scottish Government and this funding was to be used to help us transform our services. Due to the timing of the funding approval it is forecast that only part of the funding will be utilised in 2018/19 and given the uncertainty in regard to future funding arrangements, the service proposes to make an application under the Council's End Year Flexibility Scheme to carry forward part or all of any underspend to 2019/20. The Financial Monitoring Report submitted to Communities Committee on 18 February 2019 will include further details on the likely outturn in relation to this funding stream.
- 2.4** The member officer group has now been set up and has met 3 times in November and December. The group has included four councillors along with key staff from Housing, Education, the Health & Social Care Partnership

(H&SCP) and Community Planning. The input has been extremely helpful in the preparation of the RRTP.

- 2.5** Two successful workshops were organised for a number of stakeholders. The first workshop in November included Housing staff and H&SCP staff and ensured they were fully aware of the recommendations but also looked to have a wider conversation about where systems could be speeded up to assist with rapid rehousing. The second workshop included Members from Communities Committee, tenants and third party organisations along with staff from the authority. Again this provided further information around what an RRTP was and how we needed to work in Partnership to achieve our goals. Information gleaned from these workshops will ensure we can take the widest possible view in the RRTP.
- 2.6** We will meet the tight deadlines for the draft RRTP to be sent in to the Scottish Government before the 31st December but due to the tight timescales it may be necessary to have delegated authority to the Director of Infrastructure to sign the draft so ongoing work can continue up to the deadline date. Taking on board any feedback a final draft will then be prepared and reported to committee in February for final approval and to ensure we meet the final deadline of the 31st March.
- 2.7** The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments are incorporated and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

3. Scheme of Governance

- 3.1** The Committee is able to consider and take decision on this item in terms of Section D. 3.3.1a of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance for a decision on any Housing policy issue and resource matter (within agreed budgets).

4 Implications and Risk

- 4.1** An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required because the recommendations are for information at this stage and does not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics. The RRTP will require an EIA and this will be included in the future report in February.
- 4.2** There are staffing and financial implications. To be able to make meaningful change to homeless services the RRTP will have a number of recommendations that will have financial implications and there will be a need to recruit staff to key homeless prevention roles. It is also likely that significant funding would need to be invested into new housing. There will be the opportunity to bid to the Scottish Government for funding. Further implications will be identified and fed back via the RRTP report once completed.

- 4.3 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level - changes in government policy, legislation and regulation. As discussed throughout the report these changes could have significant implications if they progress. The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic Level – Affordable Housing. The recommendations would mean a requirement to have additional social housing across the area.

Stephen Archer
Director Infrastructure Services

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Date 21st November 2018

