

ITEM 14 - APPENDIX 2

Temporary Accommodation Task & Finish Group

[15 Recommendations](#)

[SG Response](#)

What it means for WDC

		Mar-23	Jul-23
	PRIORITY ONE		
1	The Scottish Government must at a minimum adequately fund the delivery of new social homes through the Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP) to meet a target of delivering 38,500 social homes by 2026	We will invest at least £60 million through the Affordable Housing Supply Programme in 2023-2024 to support a national acquisition plan.	WDC had an increase like all LAs to our budget but this was in pipeline prior to the response.
2	The Scottish Government should urgently introduce a large-scale national acquisition policy and action plan to buy private sector properties.	As above	
3	Local authorities should assess and report to the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) on whether their Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans (RRTPs) and Housing Need and Demand Assessments are directly informing and influencing their Strategic Housing Investment Plans (SHIPs)	The Scottish Housing Regulator has commented that the recommended reporting process is a substantial departure from its current functions and will require further consideration. Nonetheless, the Regulator recognises that temporary accommodation is the main issue that local authorities are grappling with and is keen to support solutions.	If confirmed to go ahead this would require reviewing both our RRTP and SHIP and self evaluate, possible added to assurance statements.
		We have agreed with the Scottish Housing Regulator that it will take more of a strategic overview when engaging with local authorities. To support this process, the content of its structured conversations with local authorities will be enhanced to obtain more intelligence about successful projects.	Depending on approach maybe required to provide more information.
4	The Scottish Government should publish data annually on how long households who are currently living in TA have been there	The team is also committed to meeting the needs of users as fully as possible through standard outputs, which are reviewed regularly. In the most recent annual publication, data tables were included to show the distribution of households (with and without children) in temporary accommodation, by length of time, for cases which had closed. This is available at both national and local authority level.	As we report this quarterly in our returns this shouldn't have any additional impact other than this being published nationally and potential more attention to this particular area. We gather the data monthly already therefore if increased monitoring requested no impact on WDC.
		The team will expand outputs to provide useful information for live homelessness cases for the next annual homelessness publication. If more granular detail is required, such as breakdowns of longer periods of time spent in temporary accommodation, the team can provide bespoke analysis.	If taken forward this would require review of our data gathering if further breakdown needs to be provided.
5	The Scottish Government and local authorities should work together to review how they could standardise and improve collection and recording of data on people experiencing homelessness with disabilities and/or support needs.	The Scottish Government homelessness statistics and analysis team has started work on an extensive review of the homelessness data collections. A number of topic groups have been arranged to discuss different data collection areas and to determine a renewed set of content. The data review will also fully explore the appropriateness and feasibility of collecting high quality information on protected characteristics. The aim is for content to be agreed and finalised by early 2025, to be followed by two years of implementation.	WDC take part in statistic user groups to provide feedback and help shape reporting going forward. The intention is to make changes/improvements therefore a review of our data gathering will be required and subsequent actions taken forward.
	PRIORITY TWO		
6	All local authorities should provide a Locality Profile outlining needs and demands aligned to their RRTP and undertake refreshed modelling on TA in their area.	Flipping - we will support social landlords to increase the frequency of this practice. By the end of this year, we will have worked with COSLA, ALACHO and the SFHA to develop national guidance to help maximise the impact of effective stock management and to support good flipping practice.	Already operate flipping in WDC and have a budget to allow for 30 per year. Welcome and further tools to help expand this option where appropriate
7	The Scottish Government and COSLA should develop national guidance on the tools available for local authorities to actively manage housing stock in their area to ensure maximal use of stock.	Empty homes - We are working with COSLA to reduce empty home ownership and have introduced financial disincentives, such as providing local authorities with additional powers to charge council tax premiums on second homes and higher premiums on long-term empty homes. Our consultation on this approach recently closed, and we will announce next steps which will be informed by responses to the consultation.	WDC already have a FTE empty homes officer. Awaiting further steps and review our processes as necessary but welcome any further additional powers where no extra cost to WDC or costs covered.
		VOID management - Building on previous communication with the UK Government, energy companies, Ofgem and Scottish Water, we will bring utility companies round the table to identify ways to improve this situation.	Await any improvements in this area and review processes as necessary
		Allocations LA and RSLs - To help address regional disparity in allocations to homeless households, we will develop a set of broad allocation parameters for application at a national level, with specific detail to be agreed locally. These tailored allocation policies will help meet the needs of the number of homeless households locally and ensure any barriers to achieving this are understood and addressed.	Need to await any further detail to assess the impact.
		Allocations - We will urge all local authorities to consider the case for undertaking an appropriate level of increase for a specified period of time. Housing associations need to play an active part in supporting households experiencing homelessness in their areas to access a settled home through a short-term increase in allocations to homeless households.	WDC already liaise and ask our RSL to match our allocations based on our RRTP modelling, any further support increasing may help where some have been slightly more reluctant.
8	There should be a statutory requirement for each local authority area to have a single common housing register and a single common allocation policy to remove barriers for people in applying for social housing and navigating the system.	As part of our engagement with social landlords, we will identify ways to remove local barriers to establishing a common housing register appropriate to each area. Given the different challenges across local authority areas, we intend to pursue a non-statutory means of achieving this in the first instance.	WDC restarted conversations with our local RSL's with a view to creating a CHR
	PRIORITY THREE		
9	The Scottish Government should publish a review of funding of homelessness services, including any identified funding gaps and the provision of continued funding for RRTPs and Prevention of Homelessness. This should include a review of the funding model for TA	It will be critical to agree with local government ways to ensure homelessness funding is carefully targeted to increasing positive outcomes for households in temporary accommodation. We will seek agreement on a shared approach to funding arrangements for local authorities that will support the immediate aim of reducing the use of temporary accommodation and support more effective homelessness prevention and the transition to rapid rehousing by default.	Once new ways of working agreed will require will review of our own operation and lead to any necessary changes. WDC will ensure any involvement in the review process.
10	Following the review, action should be taken to make changes to the funding of homelessness services to ensure they are funded sufficiently.		Await any actions following the review.
11	COSLA and the Scottish Government should consider a focus on how to address the recruitment and staffing crisis across the housing sector.	We want to support local authorities' efforts to avoid the risk of burnout and to retain talented people in these crucial roles. To support local efforts to recruit staff, we will work with the Chartered Institute of Housing to develop initiatives that local authorities can use to help retain staff. We recognise short-term funding awards affect staff retention and recruitment, both of which subsequently impact on service delivery. We will explore the possibility of multi-year funding within the current financial constraints.	WDC already exploring its own Housing Academy but welcome any supports put in place by Scottish Government surrounding burnout. WDC will also be able to have more long term plans if multi year funding is agreed.
12	Health and Social Care Integration Authorities should ensure that Housing Contribution Statements detail what care and support provisions are the responsibility of Health and Social Care Partnerships and what are the responsibility of local authority housing teams.	The recommendations made on health and social care also form part of our longer-term approach. While we agree that Housing Contribution Statements should be clear on where the responsibility for care and support provisions lie, this is part of a much larger and longer-term piece of work to improve community health and social care support in Scotland. By placing duties on relevant public bodies, the responsibility to prevent homelessness becomes a shared public responsibility and action to prevent homelessness starts much earlier. We will work with public bodies in advance of the introduction of the legislation to ensure they each play their part.	Awaiting further guidance when the bill is laid in Parliament, although duty to other public bodies has the potential to impact WDC homeless services with unseen increase in demands to our housing options service with potentially no further resources. Risk diluting in service we can offer.
		A co-design approach with the public has been adopted to develop Scotland's National Care Service, which will include consideration of the way in which social care and homelessness services work together. The process will provide clarity on the roles and responsibilities of those involved in supporting people at risk of or experiencing homelessness.	
13	The Scottish Government should work with local authorities to assess the current Community Care Grant process and make it faster to overcome the delays it can cause in moving people out of TA.	Scottish welfare fund - The Scottish Government has developed an action plan with local authorities and stakeholders, which sets out next steps on improvements to processing timescales and assessment prioritisation.	Welcome any changes that help speed up the process or supports prioritisation which can potentially help reduce move on time and therefore ultimately numbers in temporary accommodation
14	COSLA should undertake a benchmarking process on TA and there should be greater transparency on charges of TA by individual local authorities.	NO COMMENT OR MENTION IN RESPONSE	
15	The Scottish Government should review the guidance to local authorities on setting charges for TA by clearly defining the terms "reasonable charge" and "affordable".	NO COMMENT OR MENTION IN RESPONSE	