

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**Report by the Strategic Lead, Housing and Employability****Housing and Communities Committee: 2 September 2020**

Subject: New approaches to homelessness update report – “More than a Roof 2017-20” final report and “Home at the Heart 2019-24” Year 1 update on our Rapid Re-housing Transition Plan

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members with a final report in relation to achieving the aims and objectives of “More than a Roof” our Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation Strategy for the period 2017-20 and a Year 1 update on “Home at the Heart” our Rapid Re-housing Transition Plan (RRTP) for the period 2019-24.

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that the Housing and Communities Committee:

- (i) Note the progress and achievements made in implementing our ‘More Than A Roof’ strategy;
- (ii) Note the progress made in Year 1 of “Home at the Heart”, which informed an update report submitted to the Scottish Government at the end of June 2020;
- (iii) Note that the revised Year 1 underspend outlined at 4.17 is used to help cover the shortfall of funding to deliver Year 2 of our RRTP as detailed at 4.19 of this report;
- (iv) Approve the main objectives for Year 2, including the lets required for homeless households in order to meet the targets outlined in our RRTP and the trialling of some new pilot projects aimed at preventing homelessness;
- (v) Note the Housing Solutions Partnership to develop the local response to those Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG) recommendations that require to be delivered locally and provide a quarterly update to the Housing and Communities Committee; and
- (vi) Request the Strategic Lead, Housing and Employability to develop a response to the Scottish Government’s current Local Connection consultation inclusive of the involvement of the members of the Housing and Communities Committee.

3. Background






- 3.1** Our “More than a Roof” strategy was approved by the Housing and Communities Committee on 1 February 2017. This was the Council’s fourth strategy relating to homelessness and reflected the statutory framework at the time, including the developments in the housing sector such as the introduction of the Scottish Social Housing Charter and the development of Housing Options Hubs.
- 3.2** It detailed the actions the Council and its partners intended to take to tackle homelessness, including preventing homelessness and providing good quality temporary accommodation.
- 3.3** Since “More than a Roof” was approved, the Scottish Government established the short-term Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG), who’s recommendation then informed the “Ending Homelessness Together” approach and high level action plan.
- 3.4** A key recommendation from HARSAG and adopted by the Scottish Government was for all Local Authorities to develop and submit a RRTP for the period 2019-24.
- 3.5** “Home at the Heart” was subsequently developed in partnership with key stakeholders including the West Dunbartonshire Health and Social Care Partnership and the Housing Solutions Partnership, which includes local Registered Social Landlords. “Home at the Heart” was submitted to the Scottish Government on 31st December 2018 and approved by the Housing and Communities Committee on 6th February 2019.
- 3.6** “Home at the Heart” recognised the good progress that has been made across West Dunbartonshire in recent years, whilst also acknowledging the challenges set by the renewed commitment to tackle homelessness, to end rough sleeping and to transform temporary accommodation.






4. Main Issues

Achievements of “More than a Roof”






- 4.1** The strategic direction set by “More than a Roof” in terms of tackling homelessness were influenced by the Scottish Social Housing Charter and are consistent with the work of HARSAG. “More than a Roof” was structured around the following 5 strategic objectives:
- People at risk of losing their homes get advice on preventing homelessness;
 - Homeless people get prompt and easy access to help and advice;
 - Homeless people are provided with suitable, good quality temporary or emergency accommodation when this is needed;
 - Homeless people are offered continuing support to help them get and keep the home they are entitled to; and
 - People looking for housing get information that helps them make informed choices about the range of housing options available to them.

4.2 Good progress has been made in terms of delivering on the strategic aims of 'More than a Roof'. Since the strategy was approved in February 2017 a number of performance and service improvements have been achieved. A summary is provided in the table below:

More than a roof 2017/20						Total
Progress at end of Year 3	25	0	0	0	0	25

Action Status	
	Completed
	Not Started; In Progress; Assigned
	Unassigned; Check Progress
	Overdue; Neglected
	Cancelled

4.3 A summary of performance against key indicators during the period of the 3 year strategy is outlined below:

Performance indicator	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	Target achieved
Incidences of homelessness in West Dunbartonshire	1,048	1037	1021	
Incidence of Youth Homelessness	290	280	273	
% of households requiring temporary accommodation to whom an offer was made	100%	100%	100%	
% of all homeless cases assessed within 28 days	100%	99%	98%	
% satisfied with the quality of temporary accommodation	83%	76.3%	81%	

4.4 Key achievements:

Objective 1: People at risk of losing their homes get advice on preventing homelessness

- The More Homes Better Homes approach has seen an increase in supply of housing for social rent which homeless households have been able to access;
- Actions taken to ensure that children are not adversely affected by homelessness;

- The implementation of a successful Young Persons Housing Options Service pilot programme, which has been mainstreamed into our wider service delivery model; and
- Actions taken to reduce the number of homelessness presentations from households in secure tenancies.

Objective 2: Homeless people are provided with suitable, good quality temporary or emergency accommodation when this is needed:

- Annual update of our Temporary Accommodation modelling to establish the need and demand for temporary accommodation based on area and household size;
- Reviewed and updated the Temporary Accommodation Standard that was in place; and
- 100% of homeless households requiring temporary accommodation are made an offer of accommodation.

Objective 3: Homeless people get prompt and easy access to help and advice:

- Development of a Prison Discharge Protocol compliant with the SHORE standards;
- Roll out the new Housing, Homelessness, Addiction, Partners Referral Pathway; and
- Review and update of the existing Hospital Discharge Protocol.

Objective 4: Homeless people are offered continuing support to help them get and keep the home they are entitled to:

- Actions taken to mitigate the impact of Welfare Reform;
- Actions taken to reduce and minimise incidences of repeat homelessness;
- Actions taken to increase the tenancy sustainment rates for homeless households; and
- Ensure a partnership approach is in place for those affected by domestic abuse.

Objective 5: People looking for housing get information that helps them make informed choices about the range of housing options available to them:

- 'Help to Rent' scheme developed and launched to improve access to the private rented market (a total of 20 homeless households were housed in the private sector during 2019/20);
- Service delivery model reviewed to ensure a housing options approach continues to be embedded as a key element of the Homelessness and Homelessness Prevention service area;
- The development and implementation of an award winning Leaving Care Housing Protocol; and

- A programme of conversions from temporary accommodation to settled accommodation was identified and continues to be implemented annually.

4.5 A Temporary Accommodation Modelling exercise has been carried out to review the need and demand for temporary and supported accommodation and ensure our provision is in the right location and of the appropriate size and type. This was informed by:

- the profile of current and projected demand for temporary accommodation in West Dunbartonshire, including a detailed assessment of support requirements; and
- the sufficiency and suitability of existing temporary accommodation relative to the extent and nature of needs identified.

4.6 The modelling exercise is used to inform the development of our Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan and Housing First approaches to deliver more dynamic responses to prevention, early intervention and the resolution of homelessness through the redesign of our services.

“Home at the Heart” Year 1 progress of our RRTP

4.7 Reports have been provided to the Housing and Communities Committee on 7 November 2018, 6 February 2019, 14 August 2019 and 5 February 2020 detailing and seeking approval for our RRTP “Home at the Heart” and then providing an update in terms of the Year 1 funding allocation from the Scottish Government.

4.8 The feedback received from the Scottish Government in relation to our RRTP has been largely positive and highlighted a number of areas of good practice including:

- The comprehensive temporary accommodation modelling undertaken as part of our wider “More than a Roof” approach;
- The strategic approach to tackling homelessness;
- The introduction of the supported tenancy model;
- Prioritising Housing First;
- Our award winning Leaving Care Housing Protocol; and
- The fact that we have never breached the unsuitable accommodation order.

4.9 Following this review, West Dunbartonshire received a funding allocation of £265,000 to implement Year 1 of our RRTP, which equated to a shortfall of £37,500, based on the revised costs submitted. As a result of the shortfall in terms of the funding allocation for 2019/20, we reviewed and reduced our target number of conversions to be funded from the Scottish Government RRTP funding from 40 to 25.

RRTP Year 1 costings	Year 1 plan	Year 1 funding
Housing First West Dunbartonshire	£132,500	£132,500
Additional Resettlement Support Service	£35,000	£35,000
Conversion programme	£100,000	£62,500
Additional Homelessness Prevention Service	£35,000	£35,000
Total	£302,500	£265,000

4.10 The aims of “Home at the Heart” are influenced by the Scottish Social Housing Charter and Scottish Government’s “Ending Homelessness Together” approach and are structured around the following 5 strategic objectives:

- Deliver a whole systems approach to the prevention of homelessness;
- Enable service users with low or no support needs to access settled housing quickly;
- To develop interim housing options which enable independent living and housing sustainment; and
- Implement a Housing First model which enables the most excluded service users to achieve housing sustainment.

4.11 Objective 1: Deliver a whole systems approach to the prevention of homelessness:

- Carried out a service re-design to ensure key objectives could be met;
- Development and launch of “Help to Rent West Dunbartonshire” to assist homeless households and others in housing need to access the private rented sector;
- Recruited a FTE staff member to provide an enhanced proactive homeless prevention role;
- We are updating our Section 11 process with our RSL partners.

Objective 2: Enable service users with low or no support needs to access settled housing quickly:

- The key aim for Year 1 was to reduce the average length of stay in temporary accommodation for homeless households from 23 weeks to 20 weeks. This target has been surpassed, with the average length of time spend in emergency accommodation reducing to 15 weeks in 2019/20;
- Delivered a quick and efficient assessment process; and
- Reviewed and updated the lettings targets for homeless households with all social landlords across West Dunbartonshire.

Objective 3: Develop interim housing options which enable independent living and tenancy sustainment:

- We have carried out a service re-design and introduced our Supported Accommodation Service and established and implemented operational procedures to ensure that household needs are identified consistently;
- Developed and Implemented a Prison Discharge Protocol in line with the SHORE standards;
- Reviewed and updated our Leaving Care Housing Protocol;
- Implemented our “No Home for Domestic Abuse” approach, to ensure that victims are supported to pursue their most appropriate housing option;
- Reduced the number of homeless households losing contact with the service by 37% (from 191 to 120); and
- Implemented a Conversion Programme to provide settled accommodation for more homeless households.

Objective 4: Implement a Housing First model which enables the most excluded service users to achieve housing sustainment:

- We have recruited and trained a dedicated Housing First Support Team of 4 staff members and publicised the initiative widely to key partners across West Dunbartonshire;
- 14 Housing First referrals were received and of these 12 were assessed as being suitable for the Housing First approach;
- 7 new Housing First tenancies had been created;
- The average time for an offer of housing was 51 days from the referral being accepted;
- The average length of time before moving into tenancy was 81 days;
- We currently have a tenancy sustainment rate of 100%; and
- These achievements compare favourably with Scotland's Housing First Pathfinder, which comprises Aberdeen/shire, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow.

- 4.12** The key challenge faced in Year 1 was the timescales involved in terms of receiving funding from the Scottish Government and being able to recruit and train staff to ensuring that our new initiatives were fully operational during Year 1.
- 4.13** Recruitment to deliver our enhanced prevention service to deliver a proactive response to those households threatened with homelessness across West Dunbartonshire was completed during Year 1.
- 4.14** We have recruited the staff resource required to deliver the Resettlement Support Service which provides full resettlement support to new tenants across all tenures building on our existing resettlement support.

4.15 Our conversion programme of temporary accommodation to settled tenancies was not fully implemented during Year 1, with a total of 11 conversions completed, which is below the level planned.

4.16 Whilst a dedicated Housing First Support Team was recruited, the number of tenancies created was less than anticipated and this has resulted in reduced tenancy set-up costs.

4.17 A combination of these factors has led to a Year 1 underspend outlined below:

RRTP Year 1 spend	Year 1 revised plan	Year 1 actual spend	Year 1 underspend
Housing First West Dunbartonshire	£132,500	£107,500	£25,000
Additional Resettlement Support Service	£35,000	£0	£35,000
Conversion programme	£62,500	£27,500	£35,000
Additional proactive Homeless Prevention Service	£35,000	£15,000	£20,000
Year 1 total	£265,000	£150,000	£115,000

4.18 In the report to Committee on 5 February 2020, an expected substantial shortfall of £219,083 to fully deliver Year 2 of our RRTP was identified. At that point it was anticipated that the Year 1 underspend would be £55,000 and work had been carried out to deliver a £126,000 funding contribution from existing resources within housing and homelessness services.

4.19 We have now refreshed the costings and assumptions within the RRTP based on Year 1 actual activity, which taken together with the Year 1 underspend of £115,000, negates the expected shortfall for Year 2:

RRTP Year 2	Year 2 Revised cost	Year 2 Funding (Year 1 underspend)	Year 2 funding (SG funding)	Year 2 funding (Housing & Homelessness)
Housing First	£237,167	£115,000	£18,000	£104,167
Resettlement Support Service	£36,000	-	£36,000	-
Conversion programme	£125,000	-	£125,000	-
proactive Homeless Prevention Service	£36,000	-	£36,000	-
Additional Housing Support Service	£36,000	-	£36,000	-
Pilot prevention initiatives	£21,833	-	-	£21,833
Year 2 total	£492,000	£115,000	£251,000	£126,000

4.20 The shortfall in funding for Year 2 has therefore reduced to £104,167. Due to the work carried out to look at ways to tackle the initial expected shortfall in funding, the £126,000 funding contribution from housing and homelessness

was already identified, following discussion and support at the Housing Solutions Partnership we are now using the remaining £21,833 to fund additional demonstration projects aimed at preventing homelessness occurring in West Dunbartonshire. A challenge fund has been identified and all organisations involved in the Housing Solutions Partnership have had an opportunity to develop potential pilot projects.

- 4.21** It should be noted that a shortfall in funding is still expected to deliver Years 3 to 5 of our plan. However The Scottish Government and COSLA are in discussions regarding future funding to deliver RRTP priorities following the revised HARSAG recommendations. Once future funding arrangements are known we will provide an update to the Housing and Communities Committee.
- 4.22** The Scottish Government requested that every local authority provide a RRTP update report by 30 June 2020 along with a summary of Year 1 spend for each activity. We successfully submitted this update report and are awaiting feedback from Scottish Government officials.

RRTP Year 2 main objectives

- 4.23** Our main aims for Year 2 are as follows:
- Deliver on the whole system approach to the delivery of housing options and homelessness prevention;
 - Roll out the reviewed Section 11 Homelessness Prevention Protocol to minimise the number of households experiencing homelessness from rented accommodation;
 - Review and update arrangements in place to help West Dunbartonshire Council tenants at risk of homelessness;
 - Explore options to resource additional pilot initiatives aimed at preventing homelessness including a Prevent Fund to utilise and help prevent homelessness with individual households;
 - Continue to reduce the time spent in temporary accommodation for those households with low/no needs by delivering settled accommodation quickly;
 - Our modelling is based on expected annual letting activity and this currently suggests that this will require 61% of WDC lets and 48% of RSL lets during 2020/21 to deliver our targets. Letting activity has been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and we will work with partners via the Housing Solutions Partnership to monitor this closely and take appropriate actions to deliver our objectives;
 - Roll out the new Resettlement Support Service to provide a cross tenure full resettlement support for all homeless households that require it;
 - Conclude the research project currently underway relating to Youth Homelessness in partnership with Action for Children and adopt relevant recommendations;

- Ensure that household needs are identified consistently and that the assessment of a Support and Accommodation Pathway is appropriate for all homeless households;
- Implement a comprehensive Conversion Programme to deliver 50 homeless households with settled accommodation;
- Continue the support of Year 1 Housing First tenants and recruit 2 additional members of staff with the aim of creating a further 22 Housing First tenancies in Year 2;
- Explore options with our partners in the West Dunbartonshire Alcohol and Drugs Partnership to look at having dedicated staff members from all services to support Housing First tenants; and
- We have committed that at least one new build home in each new Council development will be earmarked for a Housing First tenant.

4.24 A further progress report will be provided to the Council's Housing and Communities Committee in August 2021 and appropriate updates will be provided to the Health and Social Partnership Integrated Joint Board and the Housing Solutions Partnership, chaired by the Convenor of the Housing and Communities Committee when they next meet.

Impact of Covid-19 and the reconvening of HARSAG

4.25 The coronavirus pandemic has had and continues to have a profound impact on all our lives and those facing homelessness are hit uniquely hard. As an initial response to the pandemic, nationally the Scottish Government, local authorities and charities moved quickly to get people off the streets and into safe accommodation to protect people's health.

4.26 The response by the sector was impressive, locally we have avoided any incidences of rough sleeping and destitution and we have ensured that all households have been provided with suitable, safe and settled accommodation as West Dunbartonshire Council has continued to deliver its full housing options and homelessness service throughout this period.

4.27 The Council's Homelessness and Housing Options team has provided a 24/7 service ensuring all Council residents have a safe and secure home within the period of the pandemic avoiding any incidences of rough sleeping and destitution. The service has increased the provision of homeless supported accommodation by 40% to meet the increased demand and a snapshot of service contacts is provide in the table below.

Number of Homeless Presentations	399
Number of Households Provided with Temporary Accommodation	310
Number of Homeless Presentations (Domestic Abuse)	87
Number of Young People Presenting as Homeless	117
Number of Prison Leavers accommodated	10

*Figures from 23/3/2020-9/8//2020

- 4.28** There is a concern that the coronavirus could lead to more people being at risk of losing their homes. To tackle this, the Scottish Government created stronger protections for most renters during lockdown to help prevent evictions from taking place until the end of September. In addition, the Scottish Government also decided to extend the Unsuitable Accommodation Order to all homeless households much earlier, from April 2021 to May 2020 (with some exemptions due to Covid-19 created initially to October 2020). This sent out a strong signal that temporary accommodation, such as B&Bs and hotels, are not to be seen as a replacement for a safe and settled homes.
- 4.29** The pandemic fundamentally changed many aspects of our society and has created new challenges. Relationships have been placed under pressure during lockdown, incidences of domestic abuse leading to homelessness have increased, and the full impact on the economy is yet to be realised. All these factors will invariably mean more households will be at risk of homelessness and will require the support of the homelessness and housing options service.
- 4.30** Due to these risks the Scottish Government assessed that the national plan to end homelessness needed to be looked at again and in June 2020 the Housing Minister asked HARSAG to reconvene and look at what more can be done to tackle homelessness right now and into the future, including changes to the Ending Homelessness Together plan.
- 4.31** The group held three meetings during June 2020 and looked at the following four questions:
1. What needs to be in place right now for the ongoing emergency?
 2. What do we need to do so that people don't get back to sleeping on the streets or staying in homeless shelters?
 3. How can we accelerate the pace of work to prevent homelessness?
 4. What needs to change in the national Action Plan to end homelessness to recognise the changing circumstances caused by coronavirus?
- 4.32** HARSAG subsequently developed and published a detailed set of 105 recommendations. Whilst some of the key recommendations are directed towards the Scottish Government future policy, some recommendations, such as those around benefits and support for people regardless of their immigration status, are urgent requests of the UK Government. A copy of this HARSAG report is included within the background papers for this report.
- 4.33** The Scottish Government have agreed in principle to all the recommendations within the HARSAG report and plan to publish a plan including the detail of resources available in response to the new HARSAG recommendations and that the Scottish Government's Homelessness Prevention and Strategy Group will oversee the implementation of this plan. A number of the recommendations will require to be delivered by each individual local authority, it is proposed that within West Dunbartonshire the Housing Solutions Partnership will ensure the delivery of these recommendations in West Dunbartonshire and will provide quarterly updates to the Housing and Communities Committee.

Changes to the Local Connection provisions

- 4.34** Local Authorities currently have the power to refer homeless households who do not have a local connection with them to another local authority where they do have such a connection
- 4.35** Last year, the Scottish Government issued a consultation paper inviting views on a recommendation from the original sitting of HARSAG to commence the provision in Section 8 of the Homelessness etc. (Scotland) Act 2003, to give Scottish Ministers the power to modify, by statutory order, referrals for local connection. HARSAG also recommended that Ministers use the new power to suspend referrals between local authorities in Scotland.
- 4.36** Following the consultation, the Homelessness etc. (Scotland) Act 2003 (Commencement No. 4) Order 2019 commenced the local connection provisions, giving Scottish Ministers the power to modify the operation of referrals between local authorities within Scotland. The provisions also required that Scottish Ministers must publish a statement setting out the circumstances and general criteria by reference to which modifications will take place.
- 4.37** A further consultation on preparing the ministerial statement was planned to launch in May, however this was postponed to allow local authorities and others time and space to respond to the immediate impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic.
- 4.38** The Scottish Government has now launched this consultation for the 12 week period of 3 August 2020 to 23 October 2020. The consultation paper invites views on the commitment to address barriers for people facing homelessness by taking forward the power to modify local connection referrals, in particular the proposal to suspend local connection referrals. Normally, such a consultation response would be approved by the Housing and Communities Committee however this is impractical because of timeframes, therefore it is proposed that the development of Council's response will factor in the views of all members of the Housing and Communities Committee before it is submitted within the consultation timeframe.
- 4.39** Subject to this consultation, any changes will be introduced around May 2021 and will be reported to a future Housing and Communities Committee. The Scottish Government will monitor the impact of these changes and respond to any local authorities that report undue pressure on service provision.

Public Sector duty to prevent homelessness

- 4.40** Another proposal from HARSAG being taken forward by the Scottish Government is to look at developing legislation looking at introducing a Public Sector duty to prevent homelessness.
- 4.41** The Scotland Prevention Review Group was convened and is being led by CRISIS, alongside a wide array of experts including people with a housing and homelessness focus, as well as representatives from the health, justice and education sectors.

- 4.42** The group is working with public bodies, housing providers and other partners to develop a new duty on local authorities, wider public bodies and delivery partners for the prevention of homelessness.
- 4.43** The Group will develop recommendations for the Scottish Government for a legal duty or duties on Scottish local authorities and wider public bodies to prevent homelessness. The Group will provide advice on how to ensure the recommendations are successfully implemented in the context of wider reforms to homelessness provision in Scotland.
- 4.44** Initially the aim was to make these recommendations in summer 2020, followed by more development work and further engagement and consultation; however, due to the Covid-19 pandemic this work was delayed. The group has now reconvened and recommendations are expected by the end of 2020.

5. People Implications

- 5.1** The implementation of the RRTP, notably the introduction of the Resettlement Support Service, the Homelessness Prevention Service, requires the introduction of the new posts for an initial 2 year period. These will be reviewed based on future funding announcements.
- 5.2** In addition, if the objectives agreed within the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan to deliver the upscaling of Housing First and continue the conversion programme, and as such we have commenced recruitment for the following posts from the RRTP funding:
- Additional housing support service (1 support worker)

6. Financial and Procurement Implications

- 6.1** The June 2020 version of our RRTP identifies that £3,605,583 is required in order to facilitate a transition to rapid rehousing over next 5 year period, with £470,167 being required for Year 2.
- 6.2** Year 2 funding of £251,000 in 2020/21 represents a reduction of 5.3% from Year 1 funding and a shortfall of £219,166 for Year 2 of our RRTP. Without the alternative funding being identified highlighted in sections 4.18 and 4.19 of this report, we would be unlikely to fully deliver on our ambitious targets and make the full transition to Rapid Rehousing within the 5 year target timescale of our plan.
- 6.3** There is further financial uncertainty as at present Scottish Government funding only covers a 3 year period whilst the RRTP covers a period of 5 years. The allocation of 2021/22 and future funding is still to be determined by Scottish Government and COSLA.

7. Risk Analysis

- 7.1** There are financial and regulatory risks associated with not being able to fully deliver our Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan, including the Housing First element of the approach.

7.2 The decision to award funding in Year 2 based again on a formula which focuses on homelessness assessments (and not the content of the RRTP's), arguably benefits larger local authorities who receive a higher proportion of homeless assessments and could discourage local authorities from implementing initiatives aimed at preventing homelessness.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

8.1 Preventing and responding to homelessness has a significant positive impact on individuals and communities. Our overall strategy 'More Than a Roof' for homelessness aims to tackle current health and other inequalities. Through an initial screening within the RRTP we highlighted some key groups where homelessness and housing challenges exist. A full Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and submitted to the Scottish Government as part of this plan.

9. Consultation

9.1 The first draft of our RRTP was developed in collaboration with key partners, including the Health and Social Care Partnership, local Registered Social Landlords and third sector organisations, via a series of well attended stakeholder events held in November and December 2018.

9.2 Consultation and communication have continued since the submission of the first iteration of the RRTP through the Housing Solutions Partnership. Further engagement has also taken place with other local landlords via the Strategic Housing Providers Forum, engagement has continued with the Health and Social Care Partnership and also a dialogue with the WDTR0 regarding the implementation of the RRTP and Housing First has also taken place.

10. Strategic Assessment

10.1 Having considered the Council's strategic priorities, this report contributes significantly to all strategic priorities.

Peter Barry
Strategic Lead, Housing and Employability

Date: 18th August 2020

Person to Contact: John Kerr – Housing Development and Homelessness Manager, Housing Development and Homelessness Team, Housing and Employability, telephone: 07793717981, email: john.kerr@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Appendices: None

Background Papers: Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group: tackling homelessness following coronavirus, HARSAG 2 Report, Scottish Government; July 2020

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/homelessness-and-rough-sleeping-action-group-final-report-tackling-coronavirus/>

Consultation on a Ministerial Statement for modifying local connection referrals in Scotland, Scottish Government, August 2020 https://consult.gov.scot/housing-and-social-justice/modifying-local-connection-referrals/consult_view/

Scottish Government Year 1 RRTP Submission, West Dunbartonshire Council. June 2020

West Dunbartonshire Council's Revised Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan including Action Plan and Equalities Impact Assessment, [Home at the Heart](#)

West Dunbartonshire Homelessness Strategy More Than a Roof 2017-2021 [More than a Roof](#)

Housing and Communities Committee Report 7th November 2018 "Rapid Rehousing Transition Paper position paper"

Housing and Communities Committee Report 6th February 2019 "Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2019/20 to 2023/24"

Housing and Communities Committee Report 14th August 2019 "Rapid Rehousing Transition Paper 219-24 update report"

Housing and Communities Committee Report 5th February 2020 "Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan and new approaches to homeless update"

Joint letter from Kevin Stewart, MSP, Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning and Councillor Elena Whitham, Community and Wellbeing Spokesperson, COSLA on Distribution of Funding for Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans (RRTPs) for 2019/20

West Dunbartonshire Rapid Rehousing Transition Tool, December 2018

Ending Homelessness Together – High Level Action Plan; Scottish Government/COSLA December 2018

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govs-cot/publications/publication/2018/11/ending-homelessness-together-high-level-action-plan/documents/00543359-pdf/00543359-pdf/govscot%3Adocument>

Wards Affected:

All

