

MINUTE of MEETING of the SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL held within WEBEX VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM, on 15 JUNE 2021.

Present – Councillors George Paul (Chair), Andrew McGuire, Alison Adamson, Frank Anderson, Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Peter Heggie, John McGinty

In Attendance

AnnMarie Carr, Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services
Katy McBride, West Lothian Council
John Sives, Joint Forum of Community Councils
Jessie Duncan, Tenants Panel Representative

1. WEST LOTHIAN RAPID REHOUSING TRANSITION PLAN (9RRTP) 2021/22 UPDATE

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services advising on the progress of the West Lothian Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) 2019 - 2024 and for consideration of the annual update of the RRTP 2021/22 prior to submission to the Council Executive and Scottish Government by 30 June 2021.

The paper also provided an update on the implementation date of changes to the Homeless Persons (Unsuitable Accommodation) (Scotland) Order 2014 (UAO) and the impact on the delivery of the RRTP.

The Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services advised of plans to undertake an exercise with customers in relation to accommodation affordability which would align with the RRTP. It was confirmed that future reports on the RRTP would include information relating to this exercise.

It was recommended that the panel note and agree the following recommendations which were intended to be submitted to Council Executive for approval:

1. Note that progress of the delivery of the West Lothian RRTP in 2020/21 has been significantly impacted as a result of Covid-19;
2. Note the Scottish Government allocation of £312,000 towards the delivery of the plan in 2021/22 through the Scottish Government Ending Homeless Together (EHT) fund;
3. Note the changes to the UAO and the implementation date extended until 30 September 2021, and
4. Agree the RRTP update 2021/22 to be forwarded to the Council Executive for approval for submission to the Scottish Government by 30 June 2021.

Decision

1. To note the terms of the report;
2. To request that the results of an accommodation affordability exercise are reported to a future meeting; and
3. To agree the recommendations which were intended to be submitted to a future meeting of the Council Executive for approval.

2. CONSULTATION SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE DRAFT LONG TERM VISION

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services informing members of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Consultation on their 'Draft Long-Term Vision document.' The consultation set out the changes proposed over the next 10 years. The closing date of the consultation is 18 July 2021.

It was recommended that the Panel note the report and the draft response to the SRFS Consultation set out in Appendix 1 and submit to Council Executive for the meeting of 22 June 2021 for final approval prior to submitting response by the deadline of 18 July 2021.

Decision

1. To note the terms of the report; and
2. To agree the recommendations which were intended to be submitted to a future meeting of the Council Executive for approval.