

## **Aberdeen City Council submission on the housing emergency, 10 February 2025**

On 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2024, The Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee resolved:-

- i. to acknowledge that in May 2024 the Scottish Government declared that Scotland had a national housing emergency;
- ii. to recognise the seriousness of the housing situation facing the city, which was causing far too many families to experience housing insecurity and homelessness;
- iii. to acknowledge the significant challenges being posed by the Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) emergency in the city and the additional pressure this has placed upon housing supply in Aberdeen;
- iv. to note that a roundtable meeting with both the Scottish and UK Governments has been requested to discuss the financial impact of RAAC on the Council and seek any additional funding to help meet the short-term rehoming costs and the longer-term rebuild phases;
- v. to note the ongoing work being carried out by officers, Registered Social Landlords and other sector partners within the city to deliver the homes and services which people rely on, through our existing Local Housing Strategy, Strategic Housing Investment Plan, Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan, empty homes work, and work as part of the Homewards Programme;
- vi. to recognise the impact that the housing crisis was having on communities across Aberdeen, due to the shortage of affordable homes, changing housing need and demand, and decades of under investment in our housing stock;
- vii. to note that, as outlined in report F&C/24/176, the Housing Board was established in late March 2024 to identify risks through the Housing Service, oversee improvements and establish an action plan, the first bi-annual report on progress towards this would be presented to the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee in November 2024; and

Therefore, this Committee:

1. Agrees we are in a Housing Emergency;
2. Commits to the creation and implementation of a Housing Emergency Action Plan, through the work of the Housing Board, which will be refreshed and reported bi-annually to the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee – this Action Plan will draw together ongoing work, existing strategies and Council teams, aligning these behind the shared goal of tackling the housing emergency;
3. Recommends to Council to establish a cross-party working group to monitor the progress of the Housing Emergency Action Plan, to be chaired by the Convener of the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee;
4. Will take a human rights-based approach to delivering the Action Plan, embedding participation, accountability, non-discrimination and empowerment into the process; and
5. Commits to working with communities, individuals with lived experience of the housing emergency, and internal and external partners to deliver the Action Plan and develop solutions to the housing emergency.

Further information can be found [here](#). Committee may also be interested in other items considered by Committee in September including:

- Item 13 Affordable Housing Delivery Programme
- Item 15 Annual Assurance Statement
- Item 16 Homewards update
- Item 17 Housing Capital update

Progress against our Plan is reported to Committee bi-annually. The latest update on progress is available [here \(agenda item 13\)](#). You will see that work is on-going to reduce housing voids and some progress is being made. Committee may also be interested in the Empty Homes update on the same link (agenda item 12).

I am pleased to report that we have seen a slight reduction in homeless presentations this year to date compared to last year, and that our use of temporary accommodation has also slightly reduced. From our year end position on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 we have also seen a 6% reduction in the number of children in temporary accommodation as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

As you will see from our Housing Emergency [Action Plan](#), we have identified a number of areas for improvement and are therefore tracking a number of indicators to evaluate our progress.