

COMMUNITIES, HOMES & REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

26TH JANUARY, 2023

SUBJECT: RAPID REHOUSING TRANSITION PLAN 2022 - 2027

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to:

- Present the Draft Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan
- Present the high-level actions recommended in the Plan

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:-

Review and assess the information contained in Report and provide any recommendations and comments prior to the report's consideration by Cabinet on the following:

- R1 - the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan and its Executive Summary
- R2 - the formal submission to Welsh Government and publication on the Council Website following Welsh translation

Reasons:

- The plan to be submitted to Cabinet for approval prior to its publication

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER: -

Cllr Linda Evans- Cabinet Member for Homes and Deputy Leader

Directorate: Communities	Designations:	Email addresses:
Name of Head of Service/ Jonathan Morgan	Head of Housing and Public Protection	JMorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Report Author: Joy Williams	Rapid Rehousing Policy Lead	joywilliams@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

RAPID REHOUSING TRANSITION PLAN 2022-2027

1. **BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.**

The purpose of this report is to fulfil the Welsh Government requirement for the LA to produce a Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan for 2022 – 2027.

The Plan contains a series of High-Level Actions that will enable us to transition to a Rapid Rehousing Approach that will help us to make homelessness in Carmarthenshire rare, brief, and unrepeated.

Context

In 2019 the Welsh Government Minister for Housing tasked a panel of experts termed the Homelessness Action Group with answering 4 key questions related to the prevention and alleviation of homelessness in Wales.

Recommendations from this group helped form the Welsh Government Action Plan [Ending homelessness in Wales: a high level action plan 2021 to 2026 \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales) which requires all local authorities in Wales to develop and submit a Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) by September 2022 and deliver on this plan as part of its Housing Support Programme Strategies.

Rapid Rehousing is an internationally recognised approach designed to provide people experiencing homelessness with secure, settled, and self-contained housing as quickly as possible. Rapid rehousing includes the following characteristics:

A focus on helping people into permanent accommodation at the same time as, rather than after, addressing any other support needs.

No requirement to be assessed for 'housing readiness' in order to access accommodation. Offering a package of assistance and multi-agency support, specially tailored to individual needs where this is required.

Helping people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness with lower or no support needs, and in doing so preventing complex needs or chronic problems from occurring or escalating.

Rapid rehousing recognises that the vast majority of people who have experienced homelessness, even those who have been severely marginalised and homeless for a long time, are able to maintain their tenancies in self-contained housing, with the right level of support. Providing a home as quickly as possible will help avoid the destabilising and marginalising effects of prolonged homelessness or prolonged stays in emergency or temporary settings while remaining homeless.

If rapid rehousing can be widely adopted then the need for many forms of temporary accommodation should diminish, although the Welsh Government recognises that there will continue to be a need for temporary housing solutions at times. [Ending homelessness in Wales: a high level action plan 2021 to 2026 \(gov.wales\)](#)

The development of Rapid Rehousing clearly places an emphasis on the provision of housing as a fundamental element of recovery from homelessness, homelessness cannot be resolved with just housing alone. For Rapid Rehousing to work, we must work in partnership with key services such as health and criminal justice. We must also harness both the third sector and voluntary organisations who provide services that support and help tenants build confidence and a connection within a community.

Proposed immediate and short-term actions

The Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan has been drafted. Detailed operational delivery plans will be developed to fulfil the high-level actions proposed in the plan once the plan is approved. The Rapid Rehousing Project Board will oversee the implementation of these delivery plans.

Scrutiny Committee are requested to recommend to Cabinet that the following actions are approved to take this work forward:

R1 - the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan and its Executive Summary

R2 - the formal submission to Welsh Government and publication on the Council Website following Welsh translation

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES – Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan and Executive Summary *Draft*

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: **Jonathan Morgan Head of Housing and Public Protection**

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	NONE	YES	NONE	YES	YES	NONE

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Other than the review of the Social Housing Allocations Policy which will have its own route through the political decision-making process there are no other policy decisions included in the Plan.

As any major policy change is taken forward, we will carry out detailed Equality Impact Assessments and publish any impacts and mitigations identified.

Finance

The financial resources to deliver The Plan are dependent on a variety of different sources. Should any future grant funding not be available we may need to revisit the priorities set out in this plan.

Funding to deliver The Plan comes from a variety of different sources including:

- The Housing Support Grant
- The Council's General Fund for homelessness
- The Council's Housing Revenue Account
- Welsh Government Grants, including Social Housing Grant

Risk Management Issues

Failure to adopt and publish the Plan will leave us in contravention of the Welsh Government's directive and without a strategic direction to improve the prevention and alleviation of homelessness in the County.

Staffing Implications

ODR to create Housing Hwb structure approved 4th May 2022.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED	
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YES

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report**

THERE ARE NONE