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Glasgow City Council Annual Assurance Statement

Glasgow City Council welcomes the opportunity to report to the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) on compliance with the Regulatory Framework, which requires Local Authorities and registered social landlords (RSLs) to submit an Annual Assurance Statement.

As previously reported Glasgow City Council faces particular challenges in relation to the provision of settled and temporary accommodation. In our last 2019/20 submission GCC reported that it did not comply with all aspects of the regulatory requirements set out in Chapter 3 of the Scottish Housing Regulator's Framework due to our failure to provide emergency accommodation to all households at the point of initial presentation. Since our last assurance statement to the SHR we have significantly improved our response regarding the provision of emergency accommodation due to an increase in our use of bed and breakfast accommodation following the social distancing measures implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, on a limited number of occasions the Council has not been able to fulfil our statutory duty in relation to the provision of emergency accommodation at the point of initial presentation. For the period 23rd March to the 9th September 2020, 6,012 offers of temporary accommodation have been made and there were 44 times were accommodation was not offered. This is 0.7% of all overs made over this period.

We continue to currently work with the SHR on a voluntary basis and have an agreed improvement plan in place. We are investing significant new resources in order to transform how we deliver services to people affected by homelessness and to reduce the length of time people stay within temporary accommodation. We have developed a Rapid Rehousing Transition Recovery Plan which is aligned to our RRTP and SHR Improvement Plan. The recovery plan sets out the actions we will undertake to continue to realise the objectives of our RRTP.

On an ongoing basis, the Integration Joint Board and Council Committees consider the performance of the Homelessness Service to ensure appropriate oversight and routine governance.