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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 continues to face particular challenges in relation to the provision of settled and temporary accommodation. Since our last assurance statement the Council has continued to make good progress in addressing the challenges faced in relation to the provision of homelessness services. During 2021/22 we have continued to meet demand for emergency accommodation, consistently discharging our duty at the point of need in relation to Section 29 of the Housing (Scotland) Act. For the period 1st April to the 14th of October 2022, 5732 offers of temporary accommodation have been made resulting in zero instances where accommodation was not offered at the point of initial presentation.

The Council also made good progress in relation to the number of settled lets secured from the City's Registered Social Landlords for homeless households. The support from the City's Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) has led to a settled let out turn figure for 2021/22 of 3311 lets. This total represents a sustained increase of settled lets on pre Covid19 levels with the service continuing to work in partnership to secure lets for homeless households. More recently, the Glasgow Health & Social Care Partnership's Assistant Chief Officer for Public Protection & Complex Needs and the Head of Housing communicated to all RSLs operating within the city requesting an allocations target of 60% of their total lets to homeless households for 2022/23.

On the 1st of October 2021 the Unsuitable Accommodation Order was extended to preclude the use of bed and breakfast type accommodation to all statutory homeless households beyond seven days. The Council faces challenges in complying with the order. The GHSCP/Council has developed a Temporary Accommodation Strategy. This strategy sets out how the GHSCP will reform the use of temporary accommodation over a five-year period with a key element of the strategy focussing on the elimination of the use of bed and breakfast type accommodation through the first three years of the strategy.

The War in Ukraine and the extension of humanitarian assistance by the Scottish Government has led to a significant mobilisation of resources across the city. This mobilisation has sought to ensure that the initial needs of people seeking asylum from Ukraine in Glasgow are met. Whilst the extent of the impact on the City's housing and homelessness systems remains unclear, it is likely that there will be increased pressures due to the need to find housing for people who wish to remain in Glasgow over the short to medium term. The City continue to work with the Scottish Government to implement the Scotland wide dispersal scheme. Although at this stage it is difficult to determine the scale of pressure, it is very likely that this will impact on progress with the delivery of city's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan.

The current pressures on household incomes and volatility in the City's housing markets is very likely to lead to an increase in requests for homelessness assistance. The GHSCP is currently working with a range of stakeholders to support vulnerable households to mitigate the impacts of the financial pressures and help people sustain their tenancies. The economic climate and impact on households may also impact on the delivery of the RRTP objectives.

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On an ongoing basis, the Integrated Joint Board and Council Committee structures will consider the performance of the Homelessness Service to ensure appropriate oversight and routine governance is maintained.

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