

# Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee

10am, Thursday, 3 September 2020

## Homelessness and Housing Support - Revenue Monitoring 2020/21 – month three position

Executive/routine  
Wards  
Council Commitments

### 1. Recommendations

---

- 1.1 Members of the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee are asked to:
  - 1.1.1 note an overall net residual budget pressure of £8.3m for Communities and Families at month three;
  - 1.1.2 note that this pressure includes a net residual budget pressure of £5.7m for the Homelessness and Housing Support service;
  - 1.1.3 note that the net pressure of £5.7m relates to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic;
  - 1.1.4 note that an approved saving of £0.060m in 2020/21 has been assessed as amber, and is at risk of not being delivered until 2021/22;

**Alistair Gaw**

Executive Director of Communities and Families

Contact: Brendan O'Hara, Acting Principal Accountant

E-mail: [brendan.o'hara@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:brendan.o'hara@edinburgh.gov.uk) | Tel: 0131 469 3620

# Report

## Revenue Monitoring 2020/21 – month three position

### 2. Executive Summary

---

- 2.1 The report sets out the projected month three revenue monitoring position for the Homelessness and Housing Support service, based on analysis of actual expenditure and income to the end of June 2020, and expenditure and income projections for the remainder of the financial year.
- 2.2 The projected net residual budget pressure of £5.7m is part of an overall net residual budget pressure of £8.3m for Communities and Families.
- 2.3 The Executive Director of Communities and Families is fully committed to making all efforts to identify management action to reduce the budget pressures, while addressing the impact of the pandemic.

### 3. Background

---

- 3.1 Homelessness and Housing Support is part of the Safer and Stronger Communities service area within the Communities and Families directorate.
- 3.2 The 2020/21 net budget for Homelessness and Housing Support is £30.7m.
- 3.3 This report sets out the projected overall position for the Homelessness and Housing Support revenue expenditure budget for 2020/21.

### 4. Main report

---

#### Overall Position

- 4.1 The Homelessness and Housing Support service is projecting net budget pressures of £5.7m at month three, which is related to the Covid-19 pandemic. This is part of an overall net residual budget pressure of £8.3m for Communities and Families.

## **Budget Pressures £5.7m**

- 4.2 The cost of temporary accommodation continues to grow, due to a shortage of suitable move-on accommodation and an increasing average length of stay. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, there has been a further increase in demand and the number of allocations that could be made to permanent accommodation was temporarily reduced, however, the Council and its partners are now beginning to let homes again which is having a positive impact.
- 4.3 Since the beginning of COVID -19 restrictions the Council has been required to secure additional temporary accommodation to meet public health objectives and manage a lack of throughput into all forms of settled accommodation to fulfil its statutory duties to homeless people.
- 4.4 The financial impact in 2020/21 will depend on the number of homeless presentations as restrictions are relaxed and how quickly allocations to permanent accommodation can be made. The net pressure forecast for 2020/21 is currently £5.7m which is related to the impact of Covid-19. This is based on the number of households currently in temporary accommodation, including those previously rough sleeping or using night shelters and those with no recourse to public funds (NRPF). The forecast pressure allows for an element of growth in numbers over the remainder of the financial year.

## **Savings Delivery – Approved Savings 2020/21 Budget**

- 4.5 An approved budget saving of £0.060m for Homelessness and Housing Support relates to the adoption of the Scottish Government Framework for electricity and gas. Progress in the delivery of the saving is reviewed regularly and a red, amber, green (RAG) analysis has been undertaken in consultation with senior management. Due to delays on the part of suppliers, this saving has been assessed as amber and is at risk of not being delivered until 2021/22.

## **5. Next Steps**

---

- 5.1 Work is ongoing to identify mitigating measures and to change the current mix of temporary accommodation, reducing the reliance on expensive and unsuitable accommodation.
- 5.2 The service is currently developing financial plans that seek to address the current £5.7m pressure and achieve the aims of the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan.
- 5.3 A separate report to the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee will consider the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan and if approved, this will be submitted to the Scottish Government.
- 5.4 Officers will continue to seek to identify appropriate properties for use as Home Share as instructed by members.
- 5.5 Officers will work with partners and landlords in the city to increase the amount of suitable temporary accommodation available.

## **6. Financial impact**

---

- 6.1 The report highlights 2020/21 projected net budget pressures of £5.7m for Homelessness and Housing Support services. This is included in the overall net residual budget pressure of £8.3m for Communities and Families.
- 6.2 The £5.7m net pressure is directly related to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 6.3 This position is subject to active monitoring, management of risks and identification of further mitigation.
- 6.4 The service is currently developing financial plans that seek to address the current £5.7m pressure and achieve the aims of the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan. The financial implications will be considered in the 2021/22 budget process.

## **7. Stakeholder / Community Impact**

---

- 7.1 There is no direct relevance to the report's contents. The Council undertook a budget engagement exercise when developing the 2020/21 revenue budget.
- 7.2 There is no direct relevance of the report's contents to impacts on carbon, adaptation to climate change and sustainable development. The Council's revenue budget includes expenditure impacting upon carbon, adaptation to climate change and contributing to sustainable development. In addition, all budget proposals are now subject to an upfront assessment across these areas.

## **8. Background reading / external references**

---

- 8.1 None

## **9. Appendices**

---

- 9.1 None