



**Response from COSLA to Questions Raised by the Scottish Parliament's
Social Justice and Social Security Committee**

- Q) The Committee asks the Scottish Government and COSLA to outline how they will continue to work with the third sector to ensure that improvements in joint-working and localised decision making are maintained beyond the pandemic. The Committee believes it is vital that momentum and progress are not lost and that the personal and often complex circumstances of individuals are considered.**
- A)** Local authorities will continue to build upon improved joint working with the third sector through their local community planning arrangements and Local Outcome Improvement Plans. Additional funding during the Covid 19 pandemic from the Scottish Government has also helped to sustain and embed joint working to enable it to be more effective.
- Q) The Committee also asks the Scottish Government and COSLA if there has been any audit of all available accommodation, including emergency accommodation in each local authority, so that the type and volume of accommodation that could potentially be used as temporary accommodation is well understood.**
- A)** Local authorities in Scotland as housing providers have accurate local information and figures on all available local accommodation that they manage. As a result, the type and volume of accommodation available is fully understood at a local level and there is no need for an audit.
- Q) The Committee asks the Scottish Government and COSLA if there are plans to review the implementation of all rapid rehousing transition plans within their 5-year lifespan.**
- A)** Councils are working hard to achieve rapid rehousing, but not all have sufficient resources to make progress as quickly as we would have liked.

RRTPs are living documents that councils keep under review and have already adjusted to take account of recent changes/pressures.

The CIH have undertaken work on this area and have pointed to resources being a significant constraint in some areas, particularly in terms of supply of lets (for most applicants) and support (for a small number of applicants).

COSLA

January 2022