

SCOTTISH HOUSING REGULATOR BOARD

Board Meeting 20 June 2019

Present

George Walker (GW)	SHR Chair
Anne Jarvie (AJ)	SHR Deputy Chair
Andrew Watson (AW)	SHR Board member
Siobhan White (SW)	SHR Board member (from item 3 part 1)
Bob Gill (BG)	SHR Board member
Helen Trouten Torres (HTT)	SHR Board member
Colin Stewart (CS)	SHR Board member

In attendance

Michael Cameron (MC)	Chief Executive
Iain Muirhead (IM)	Director of Digital & Business Support
Robert Laley (RL)	Business Intelligence Manager
Helen Shaw (HS)	Assistant Director of Regulation
Kathleen McNulty (KM)	Assistant Director of Regulation (item 3, part 1)
Shaun Keenan (SK)	Assistant Director of Regulation (Item 3, parts 1 & 2)
Shazia Razzaq (SR)	Assistant Director of Regulation
Roisin Harris (RH)	Corporate Governance Manager (secretariat)

1. Apologies and declarations of interest

GW welcomed all present. Apologies were submitted by SHR Board members Mike Dailly and Ewan Fraser as well as Ian Brennan, Director of Regulation and Margaret Sharkey, Assistant Director of Regulation. There were no declarations of interest.

2. Homelessness

MC presented a strategy for regulating councils' delivery of services for people who are or may be homeless.

The Board noted that in May it recognised the imperative for SHR to align its regulatory approach with the new policy framework for homelessness and that SHR should take account of a council's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) when determining how it engages with a council.

KM updated the Board on a recent meeting with Scottish Government on RRTPs.

KM confirmed that the next steps are for councils to finalise their RRTPs and, due to over-bidding, identify priority areas to take forward.

KM explained Scottish Government's plans to incorporate the RRTPs in the new Code of Guidance for homelessness, which is expected to be launched in October 2019.

The Board considered the update and discussed:

- the existing performance information that SHR proposes using to monitor councils' delivery of RRTPs.
- overbidding and the impact and prioritising will have, noting differences in benchmark figures provided by councils and that Scottish Government will only fund transition activities;
- SHR's continued clear focus on statutory requirements; and
- the approach councils have taken to developing RRTPs.

The Board considered the proposal for regulating homeless set out by MC and discussed:

- the unanimous buy-in to RRTPs, agreeing that SHR needs to align to the policy context;
- how the new engagement plans have allowed SHR to communicate more directly the work it is doing with each council;
- prevention, noting that SHR currently focusses most on a person's journey through the homelessness system as this is an area that SHR can have most impact. It noted that areas like prevention and tenancy sustainment would suit a thematic approach and that SHR has committed to develop a programme of thematic work in 20/21 – 21/22; and
- the matrix of information and National Panel research that SHR uses to identify potential gatekeeping in the system and the impact of thematic work into housing options.

The Board approved the future regulatory strategy for homelessness proposed. It asked MC to provide it with further information on development of a future programme of thematic work and to also annual reporting against RRTP progress. It noted the impact that RRTPs could have on how SHR resources regulation.

The Board noted that Scottish Government is also continuing to develop work around the Unsuitable Accommodation Order and standards of temporary accommodation and these may also have resource implications for SHR. MC confirmed SHR has requested more clarity from Scottish Government on these areas and he will update the Board.

Action: MC to provide further information on how SHR will develop a programme of future thematic work and also how SHR will report against RRTP progress.

3. Development workshop

The Board held a development workshop with SHR Management Team.

4. DONM

6 August 2019

Post meeting note - 12 July 2019

1. BI expenditure

RL proposed capital spend of £49K from the existing £125K Business Intelligence (BI) system for 2019/20 to enhance and improve infrastructure and support subsequent developments. The Board considered the proposal between meetings by correspondence. RL confirmed the work is estimated to take around 63 days.

The Board approved the proposed spend of £49K.

Action: RL to instruct the suppliers to commence the work on the BI system.