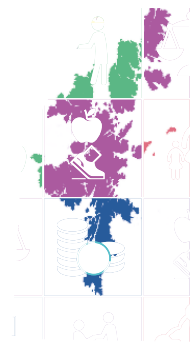


# Invest Locally



# In Scotland's Housing

#FundLocallyBenefitNationally



## The Scottish Government Must:



Reverse cuts made to the Affordable Housing Supply Programme since 2023/24 in full



Bring the Local Government benchmark for the construction of new affordable housing in line with that provided to Registered Social Landlords



Provide Local Government with sustainable funding required to provide good quality affordable housing, reduce numbers on social housing waiting lists, and meet our statutory homeless duties

Our councils are increasingly unable to meet statutory duties. In response to rising homelessness and growing social housing waiting lists, **thirteen councils have so far declared housing emergencies**, and it is extremely likely that more will do so as demand continues to rise.

With significant impacts for child poverty, health and wellbeing, the drive to meet net zero targets, and improve educational attainment, **it is vital that the Scottish Government provides Local Government with the funding to improve outcomes for individuals, communities, and Scotland as a whole.**

### The Cut

**£163m cut**

to the Affordable Housing Supply Programme since 2023/24, equating to a 22% real terms reduction

### The Community Impact

Councils less able to deal with higher demand for social housing: **243,603** people currently on local authority waiting lists.

Councils increasingly struggling to fulfil statutory homelessness duties: **31,870 open cases** as of March 2024 alongside key challenges with **workforce recruitment and capacity** in key homelessness teams.

Further detrimental impacts on wellbeing due to increased homelessness, exacerbating widening health inequalities across Scotland. There were **206 deaths in the homelessness system** in 2023.

Negative impact on wider efforts to tackle child poverty: **10,000 children** currently in temporary accommodation with harmful impacts felt over a person's lifetime.

Councils further restricted in ability to provide funding for decarbonisation of existing housing with financial burden increasingly passed to tenants through rising rents.

Challenges relating to the ability of councils to meet the rising costs of goods and materials as a result of inflation and supply chain issues further exacerbated.

## Benchmarks

Councils receive disproportionately less funding for the construction of social rent properties than the equivalent funding provided to registered social landlords: **over £7000 less in urban areas and over £8000 less in rural areas.**



With additional funding, our councils could build upon the hugely important work they carry out in communities across Scotland every single day:



City of Edinburgh Council's Mixed Tenure Improvement Service pilot scheme has successfully **improved energy efficiency for 1325 households**, reducing fuel bills, and tackling fuel poverty



North Lanarkshire Council's New Supply Programme aims to deliver **5000 new council homes by 2035**, with the Dykehead Road Project offering energy efficiency measures such as EV charging points and links to active travel infrastructure



East Ayrshire Council's Wallace Court development is an assisted living housing model, offering support to adults with disabilities, which has led to residents feeling **healthier and offering greater independence**

Sustainable investment in local affordable housing

Councils more able to meet homelessness duties

Councils able to tackle increased demand on waiting lists

Improved outcomes for individuals and communities

Ending national and local housing emergencies

Downstream benefits for public sector partners

It is through upstream investment that the provision of good quality affordable housing can also have wider benefits across our local communities:



Enabling councils to better support women and families fleeing domestic abuse and violence



Opportunities from the construction of new housing for local employability programmes



Wider availability of stable accommodation for offenders on release from prison to support their effective community integration



Enabling councils to better support people who have been granted asylum, and people arriving under humanitarian programmes

Investment in local housing benefits us all - at the individual, community, and national level.

To deliver 110,000 new homes by 2032, it is vital that the Scottish Government provides adequate funding to Local Government to delivery good quality affordable housing in the 2025/26 Budget.

Another year of cuts to the Affordable Housing Supply Programme is unsustainable and will only lead to increased waiting lists, greater homelessness, and negative impacts across a range of areas from health and wellbeing to child poverty.

Local Government is close to **tipping point** – if we want our councils to continue to provide the vital community services and facilities that we all benefit from over the course of a normal day, there can be more no flat cash settlements or budget cuts.

## Local Government must receive a fair and flexible funding settlement.



**COSLA**


Verity House  
19 Haymarket Yards  
Edinburgh  
EH12 5BH

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