

**Social Justice and Social Security Committee
Thursday 12 June 2025
18th Meeting, 2025 (Session 6)**

Local authority housing emergencies

Note by the Clerk

Introduction

1. At its meeting of 23 January 2025, the Committee agreed to schedule an evidence session on the housing emergency decisions made by some local authorities.
2. Members of the Committee wish to scrutinise the reasons why some local authorities have declared housing emergencies and seek views on how any issues might be mitigated. The evidence session will focus on how the housing emergencies are impacting people with low incomes and/or who are living in poverty.

Witnesses

3. The Committee will hear from the following witnesses:
 - Fionna Kell, Director of Policy, Homes for Scotland
 - John Blackwood, Chief Executive, Scottish Association of Landlords
 - Susie Fitton, Policy Manager, Scottish Federation of Housing Associations
 - Maeve McGoldrick, Head of Policy and Communications in Scotland, Crisis
 - Mike Callaghan, Policy Manager, COSLA

Written submissions

4. The Committee received written submissions from the Scottish Association of Landlords, Association of Local Authority Chief Housing Officers COSLA and Crisis. Please see Annex A for details of the submissions.

**Clerks to the Committee
June 2025**

Annex A

Written Submission by Scottish Association of Landlords

SAL believes that to mitigate the housing emergency we need to increase housing supply in every sector of the housing market, including the private rented sector (PRS). This will help to ensure everyone is able to find a suitable home in an area they wish to live in and at a price they can afford. Given that the housing emergency is impacting most on people with low incomes or who are living in poverty, we are of the opinion that the focus should be on increasing the supply of properties in the social and private rented sectors which are best placed to house those living in poverty or on low incomes.

The PRS is an important component of the housing market. It is the tenure of choice for many including those who require accommodation for a flexible duration due to transient work or educational commitments. It provides accommodation for those who don't want the financial commitment or location constraint associated with home ownership, as well as for those who in the longer term aspire to secure a home in the social rented sector. It also provides a vital housing solution for those who are, or have been, owner occupiers but require alternative accommodation due to renovation work, relationship breakdown or delays between selling and buying homes.

For the PRS we believe a two-pronged approach is needed to increase housing supply:

1. Stemming the exodus of landlords from the sector
2. Encouraging new investment in the sector

Stemming the exodus of landlords from the PRS

According to eviction decisions published on the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland (Housing and Property Chamber) website, 43% of private residential tenancy (PRT) evictions granted in 2024 were granted on the ground that the landlord intended to sell the let property. For tenants on low incomes, this can be a trigger for them to present as homeless at their local authority and end up in temporary social housing.

According to a SAL landlord member survey conducted in December 2024, 29% of respondents had withdrawn properties from the sector in the previous 12 months, while just 9% acquired new properties. A similar survey conducted by the [SafeDeposits Scotland Charitable Trust](#) showed that in the 12 month period to autumn 2024, 16% of landlords surveyed had sold properties, while only 8% acquired new properties.

Respondents in both surveys gave proposed regulatory changes and negative attitudes towards landlords as their main reasons for withdrawing properties from the sector so it is clear that these are the areas to focus on if we wish to stem the exodus. Rent control legislation is a key concern cited by many, particularly the between-tenancy controls planned in rent control areas which would prevent landlords from

charging a market rent at the start of a tenancy. This proposal is leaving landlords concerned that they will be unable to ensure their rental business is financially viable in the face of rising running costs.

Landlords also need clarity around what will be expected of them with regards to energy efficiency standards after more than a decade of uncertainty caused by regular changes in proposals.

Encouraging new investment in the PRS

Addressing the points set out above will also encourage new investment in the sector. However, landlords are an aging population – according to the survey conducted by the [SafeDeposits Scotland Charitable Trust](#), a third are aged over 65. SAL's member survey conducted in December 2024 showed that 84% are aged 50 and above. There is a concern that the aging landlord population will result in a further acceleration in the numbers of properties being removed from the sector as landlords choose to retire.

We therefore believe that further measures are needed to encourage new and younger investors into the sector. We are of the opinion that that the Additional Dwelling Supplement (ADS) which is now levied at 8% of the purchase price of properties bought to let (on top of any Land & Buildings Transaction tax due) is a barrier to investment and should be reconsidered. SAL is therefore calling for an ADS moratorium for at least 2 years to incentivise investment in the sector. While this may reduce the government's tax revenue we believe it would be more cost effective for the government than having to fund the building of new homes to alleviate the housing emergency. An ADS moratorium could lead to the rapid investment in the PRS that is required to help alleviate the housing emergency, while building properties from scratch usually takes several years.

The Scottish Government needs to urgently find solutions to the housing emergency. Building properties from scratch takes time, but encouraging new investment in existing stock in the PRS (including encouraging landlords to buy tenanted properties from other landlords) through an ADS moratorium would prevent homeless and further pressure on the social housing stock. This would also provide cost effective and quick results, commensurate with the action the government should be taking in a time of crisis.

According to a [Freedom of Information request](#) in 2020, 99% of registered landlords have fewer than 3 properties. If just a small fraction of those landlords could be encouraged to invest in one additional property then that will be a huge boost to housing supply in the sector and will go a long way to alleviating the housing emergency.

26 May 2025

Written Submission by ALACHO, June 2025

Introduction

ALACHO is the membership body for senior housing and homelessness officers working in local government. Our purpose is to provide impartial advice and comment to support the development of legislation, policy and practice in housing and homelessness nationally and locally and to promote best practice and improved outcomes from our housing at all levels. In doing so we seek to reflect the diversity of views of our members which, in themselves reflect the range of local contexts in which they work.

Our members are involved in a variety of policy discussions with the Scottish Government, COSLA and other organisations. More details about our work can be found on our [website](#).

This paper has been prepared in response to a request from the Scottish Parliaments Social Security and Social Care Committee ahead of its consideration of the issues that have given rise to 13 Councils and the Scottish Government declaring housing emergencies in the periods since June 2023 and the impacts this is having on those on low incomes or living in poverty.

Background

The complexity of our housing system and the extent to which outcomes are driven by the wider economy as well as changes in the welfare system and public finances make it difficult to provide a simple summary of how we got to our current situation.

However, there are a small number of related trends evident over the past three decades that have underpinned the development of the current emergency. These include

- Increasing real cost of housing relative to incomes in both the rented and owner-occupied sectors. This trend has disproportionately impacted on those on lower incomes;
- A long-term decline in the number of new homes being built for both rent and owner occupation;
- A reduction in the number of existing homes becoming available for both owners and renters. Turnover in all tenures has declined. There is some evidence that in the owner-occupied sector this trend has been reinforced by a growth in the proportion of sales going to those that already own at least one home;
- Continuing growth in both the overall population and the number of households; and
- A decline in the capacity of the social rented sector to offer a realistic alternative to more expensive private sector options at a local level.

These long term trends have been linked to a number of local trends including; the rapid growth in the number of refugees seeking a home, particularly in Glasgow; problems of retaining young people and key workers in many rural and island communities; the disproportionate increase in housing costs in some “hot spot” areas particularly in Edinburgh and east central Scotland; increasing homeless presentations across much, though not all of Scotland; and a decline in the number of social rented homes available for relet in the years following the pandemic.

They have adversely impacted on broadly the same range of households across Scotland. Single people now make up nearly 70% of all homeless presentations; families often struggle to find suitable homes and older people and those with mobility difficulties are poorly served by the availability of adapted or adaptable accommodation in all tenures. Many women face an additional level of disadvantage often as a result of domestic abuse.

These are systemic problems, and, so far as any single council is concerned, largely existential in nature, that is driven by factors outside their control or capacity to influence decisively.

The current housing emergency is the result of policy failures at both UK and Scottish level.

The current situation

The current situation can be summarised by reference to a number of recent publications including:

[Health and homelessness in Scotland: research](#);
[The right to adequate housing: are we focusing on what matters?](#);
[In Their Own Words: Children's Experiences in Temporary Accommodation](#);
[Housing Statistics 2024: Key Trends Summary](#); and
[Homelessness in Scotland: update to 30 September 2024](#).

ALACHO has produced some additional material that has added some depth to these reports including our six-monthly RAG survey of homelessness services. The most recent (November 2024) is attached to this submission¹.

We also held a “deep dive” to consider issues of safety for those in the homelessness system. The proceedings and other material from that session are

¹ The survey is currently being re-run for June 2025 but early returns do not suggest any improvement in the situation locally.

also attached. One of the most startling facts from that session is the estimate that 242 people died whilst in contact with homelessness services in 2023².

And whilst much of the attention has been on the number of households and children in temporary accommodation and breaches of duties to provide suitable temporary accommodation, we would also point out that:

- the most recent statistics show that as well as 16,634 households, (including 10,360 children) in temporary accommodation, there were a further 15,638 households making their own accommodation arrangements. The published statistics do not provide any further information about these households. However, correspondence with the Scottish Government's analysts confirmed that these households included 7,225 children.
- In 20% of cases where there was a duty to assess support needs, no such assessment was carried out and no support was provided.

The current situation can be summarised as one of widespread failures to meet the human right to adequate housing linked to:

- Historically low levels of house building and declining completions across all tenures;
- A long-term reduction in the relative size of the social rented sector and the availability of affordable housing more generally;
- Historically high rent and house prices relative to household incomes;
- The long-term erosion of the effectiveness of the social security "safety net" and in particular, housing support for those on low incomes;
- Locally significant numbers of refugees seeking rehousing;
- A record number of open cases in the homelessness system including 17,585 children³; and
- Rising levels of rough sleeping.

With the best will in the world, it is unlikely that all these challenges will be resolved in the short term. This suggests the need for a two-pronged response, focusing both on how to improve the situation and end the emergency and protecting the safety and wellbeing of those caught up in it.

Responding to the emergency

The scale of this challenge and the depth of the emergency has prompted a substantial response from councils and a number of organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors. This list of policies and programmes provided by one local authority is typical of the range of activity underway:

² [242 died while homeless - National Records of Scotland \(NRS\)](#)

³ As at September 2024

- Continuing to work in partnership with Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) to accelerate and increase the development of new affordable homes through the Affordable Housing Supply Programme with a focus on key investment priorities including larger family housing, housing for older people, wheelchair adaptable housing and housing that meets health and social care priorities;
- Delivering the Strategic Acquisition Programme in partnership with RSLs to acquire private sector properties with a focus on family housing, to increase social rented housing supply to alleviate homelessness pressures;
- Working to bring empty privately owned homes back into use;
- Prioritising and Supporting RSLs to accelerate bringing long term void properties back into use;
- Promoting the Council's Housing Transfer Incentive Scheme, which has been established to try and support households who are under occupying family; housing to voluntarily move to another property that meets their housing need.
- Continuing homelessness prevention activity through partnerships working with health, social care and the private sector;
- Exploring opportunities to increase the supply of temporary accommodation to reduce the reliance on hotel and B&B type accommodation;
- Supporting the development of private sector housing, mixed tenure developments, mid-market rent and low-cost homeownership with key stakeholders, housebuilders and investors;
- Continuing our approach to housing led regeneration through the large scale neighbourhood regeneration initiatives;
- Working with RSLs to increasing the percentage of RSL lets to homeless households;
- Revising the Temporary Accommodation Strategy;
- Engaging with RSLs on a regular basis to outline the housing and homelessness pressures and further enhance partnership working;
- Regularly engaging with the Scottish Government and other councils to explore best practice and innovative solutions;
- Engaging with Elected Members a Cross-Party Working Group established in response to the Housing Emergency; and
- Increasing staff resources to progress actions and alleviate housing and homelessness pressures.

COSLA has also been active in developing options through a Special Interest Group on housing and the Community Wellbeing Board. Whilst some successes have been achieved particularly in demonstrating the value of focused support for those facing the highest levels of disadvantage and in joint working to prevent homelessness including homelessness at the point of release from custody, there is no sign of overall improvement in the short term.

Conclusions

Whatever else has happened since the publication of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group report in 2018, Scotland is not “ending homelessness together”. The challenges are more acute and the level of harm being experienced by many vulnerable households has increased.

The most significant of the many underlying problems is a shortage of social rented homes across much of Scotland coupled with the long-term rise in housing costs in all sectors.

Increasing the number and proportion of social rented housing remains the one long term policy response that is most likely to have a lasting impact. Local efforts to deliver more homes have been held back by significant periods of retrenchment in the funding for the affordable housing supply programme, the first between 2011 and 2015 and again between 2022 and 2025.

This long-term uncertainty around funding coupled with challenges in land supply, rising costs driven both by improved standards and construction inflation, and the limited availability of land and willing developers in many rural areas has made it difficult for some Councils to fully commit the resources available. Overall, the AHSP has underspent by around £300m since 2023. Most of this in the centrally managed, rather than locally delivered programmes.

The most recent increase in the resource planning assumptions provided to councils still leaves the programme 26% smaller in real terms than it was in 2021/22. Councils and RSLs are now having to work hard to rebuild programmes and capacity to ensure that the locally available resources are fully committed.

Whilst the issue of underspends is not addressed in the Scottish Government’s recent review of the Affordable Housing Supply Programme, the report did acknowledge that most in the sector are now doubtful that the Scottish Government’s target of 110,000 affordable homes (including 70% for social rent) by 2032 will be met.

If the housing emergency won’t be over soon there is a pressing need to ensure that those impacted by homelessness are safe and properly supported whilst they wait for settled accommodation. This isn’t just the task of those working in homelessness services, it requires health, social care, education, employability and social security services to work closely to properly identify those at risk and provide the support, and in some cases protection that they need.

Work on these issues remains a key area for development. ALACHO began to focus on this through our “deep dive” session in January of this year, but it

SJSS/S6/25/18/4

remains an underdeveloped area of work that will require increased focus and resources in the coming months.

ALCHO
June 2025

Written Submission Agreed by COSLA Leaders

Background

The housing sector in Scotland is at a critical junction. Rising costs, regulatory changes, and the ongoing Housing Emergency necessitate a co-ordinated and strategic response. Our focus must be on ensuring sustainable, affordable and high quality housing for individuals and families in our local communities, while addressing the immediate needs of those in temporary accommodation and the long-term goals of housing development and planning.

This document outlines a series of actions designed to enhance governance and policy development, financial and investment strategies, temporary accommodation, collaborative efforts and provide some housing solutions. By implementing these measures, we aim to create a resilient housing system that meets the diverse needs of our communities and supports the well-being of residents.

**The new actions developed by COSLA's Housing SIG are shown in bold. While the others are existing joint actions with the Scottish Government and partners to provide alignment and coherence.*

1. Governance, Policy Development and Legislation

- **A governance structure is agreed for the Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP) between COSLA and the Scottish Government that involves e.g. monthly reporting on progress by the Scottish Government and oversight of any decisions on funding involving local authorities.**
- **Submissions on the Housing Bill at Stages 2 and 3 of its passage through the Scottish Parliament are taken forward by COSLA.**
- **A realistic implementation period for the Housing Bill is established, along with adequate resources to local authorities.**

2. Financial Support and Investment Strategies

- **The cost of Temporary Accommodation is ascertained to better understand how it is being funded including rent charging, housing benefits and housing benefit loss.**
- **Scottish Government provide multi-year settlements for RPAs to facilitate improved housing investment strategies.**
- **Scottish Government commit to adequate new burdens funding for local authority homelessness services arising from the Housing Bill.**

- **The Affordable Housing Supply Programme along with other funding streams for housing is reviewed with the Scottish Government to allow greater flexibility e.g. for the provision of key worker housing, acquisitions and supporting community trusts.**
- **Local authorities strive to ensure AHSP funding is fully spent during the next financial year.**

3. Collaboration and Engagement

- **Scottish Government work in a collegiate way with Local Government in the management of the Affordable Housing Supply Programme through sharing information, e.g. outturn reports and workings for new future homes, as well as advise local authorities of their RPAs for 2025/26 and publish the analysis of SHIPs.**
- **Work is taken forward with relevant partners (including Registered Social Landlords) to identify the current and future housing needs of New Scots and barriers around housing for some groups, including those at risk of destitution who are not entitled to statutory housing or homelessness services.**
- **The performance of Registered Social Landlords is considered by Local Government and the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations (SFHA) to ensure they provide appropriate support to councils for homeless applicants.**

4. Enhancing Housing Solutions and Temporary Accommodation

- **The use of Affordable Housing Supply Programme homes or grants are considered for better quality temporary accommodation.**
- **Work is progressed with the KLTR by Local Government to identify vacant properties across local authority areas suitable for the Ownerless Property Transfer Scheme that can be made habitable.**
- **The Scottish Government publish an analysis of homeless applicants not in temporary accommodation based on existing data.**
- **A focus on the delivery of smaller units in city centres for single adults is taken forward to deliver more housing, e.g. MMR that is linked to wider AHSP investment.**
- **Work is continued with the Scottish Government on the Housing Investment Taskforce.**

- Work is continued with the Scottish Government to demonstrate an improvement on void performance.
- **The risks to safety for people in temporary accommodation, in particular for women and children are better understood by Scottish Government and Local Government, in order to agree effective support and protection services.**

Written Submission Agreed by Crisis, 10 June 2025

Crisis is the national charity for people experiencing homelessness. We help people directly out of homelessness, including through our Skylight service operating in Edinburgh and the Lothians, and we research and campaign for the social changes needed to solve it altogether.

Key messages:

1. Seek to end **BOTH a housing emergency and a homeless emergency**. We need measures and strategies for both – they are distinct but interlinked challenges.
2. How ‘**housing emergency**’ relates to ‘**systemic failure**’ - shared understanding of these definitions is needed.
3. Having a strong focus on specific cohorts in the homeless system drives results for that group, but **risks deprioritising other cohorts**. There is a risk this approach goes against the intentions behind the removal of Priority Need and the extension of the 7-day UAO to everyone in the homeless system.
4. **Retain focus on rapid rehousing agenda**: important to recognise that success isn’t a rise in the use of suitable TA. For rapid rehousing to happen at scale, this requires more permanent housing options.
5. A long-term national strategy to end the Housing/ Homelessness emergency must address three things: **increasing housing supply, reducing the backlog in TA, and stemming the flow of people into the homeless system**. Therefore, government must work with LAs, and the housing and homeless sectors to build more homes that will end homelessness specifically and push forward the rapid rehousing and prevention agendas. These actions will require **investment, public service reforms and sustained central government leadership** to deliver the whole system approach needed.

1.

1. Difference between a housing and homelessness emergency.

With several councils and national government having declared a ‘housing emergency’, there have been local and national plans put in place to address these emergencies. At both a local and national level, responses have consisted of a multipronged approach centred around investing in the housing market through reinstating the Affordable Housing Budget, targeted work to reduce the numbers of families in temporary accommodation through increases acquisitions and reducing voids, and more recently, efforts to reduce breaches in legal duties (in response to rising levels of rough sleeping and the use of unsuitable temporary accommodation). Since the housing emergency was declared there have been 141 references to “housing emergency” and 5 references

to “homelessness emergency” in the Scottish Parliament (in the chamber and in committees) – an average of almost three references per week. (4 of the 5 “homelessness emergency” references combined the phrase to discuss the “housing and homelessness emergency”, while the other reference was a request by Miles Briggs MSP for the issue to be rephrased as a “homelessness emergency”). When discussing the “housing emergency”, several contributions refer to both housing and homelessness, evidencing that the issues are being conflated. Housing and homelessness are undoubtedly interlinked; however, strategies are needed to address both challenges.

The Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee published a report on the housing emergency in May 2025. While referencing the “whole-systems approach”, preventing future emergencies and the need for an implementation plan off the back of Housing to 2040, less reference is made to homelessness. While the public discussion conflates housing and homelessness, and while this has also been the case in the Scottish Parliament, this report does not address homelessness to the same extent. The report also notes that Housing to 2040 provides a long-term vision for housing, but the Scottish Government has only identified short-term solutions to the housing emergency.

2. Define what an emergency is. What is systemic failure (market, or Government)?

A SPICe blog from May 2025 notes that *“There’s no standard definition of what constitutes a housing emergency.”* One year on from a national emergency being declared and 13 local authorities declaring emergencies there is no agreement on what constitutes an “emergency” with each of the local authorities displaying differing levels of homelessness, while some local authorities with higher rates of homelessness have not having declared an emergency (e.g. Dundee, Falkirk, North Lanarkshire).

It is not possible to have a housing/homelessness crisis without a housing market crisis. Edinburgh City Council has been described as in “systemic failure” by the Scottish Housing Regulator, along with two other local authorities, while another seven are at risk of being impacted by systemic failure. However, an argument has been made by City of Edinburgh Council that the accurate picture is that the local housing market is in failure and the local authority is having to respond to the behaviour of the market and the consequences of this behaviour. It is also not clear what constitutes ‘systemic failure’ for the Scottish Housing Regulator. There is an indication that this means it is no longer within the power of the local authority to resolve the matter and requires more structural interventions from national government. Nowhere does it clearly state what exactly has ‘failed’ and therefore what levers needs to be pulled to reversed this ‘failure’.

While there is no standard definition of what constitutes an emergency, SPICe briefings note that “a range of factors” have been cited including, for example, demand for social housing outstripping supply; rent increases in the private rented sector; pressures on

homelessness services; high levels of people in temporary accommodation and a lack of affordable homes. However, responses to the emergencies have varied locally and nationally. It is also notable that at the 2024 HNS conference, during a fringe event, a representative of Argyll and Bute Council – the first local authority to declare a housing emergency – did so in order to engage other services: [Housing emergency | Argyll and Bute Council](#). An emergency was declared as a “call to action” to move the discussion away from being solely about homelessness/housing and to instead make it into a more whole-systems discussion as it was “envisioned as the catalyst to bring partners, stakeholders, investors and communities together to prioritise and commit to the collective action needed to tackle the housing shortage.”

3. Reducing the backlog in TA – the impact of targets

Since the declaration of various housing emergencies, local authorities and the national government have had a clear focus on targets to reduce the number of families in temporary accommodation. Housing outcomes illustrate that this focus has been a success, although to varying degrees in different locations across Scotland.

Whilst supply is scarce and demand is constantly increasing, there is a risk that informal prioritisation practices can come back into play. Scottish government must be alert to this and put in place mitigation measures to enable councils to be in the position to respond to all homelessness need in the system. It can be the case that individuals with a complex set of support needs, as well as individuals with low support needs can often be considered less of a priority in such ‘emergency’ circumstances. Stepping up the pace of the national rollout of Housing First should be a priority in local and national strategies to mitigate this risk, as should the expansion of housing options (homes and tenancy sustainment support) for individuals with low support needs, so that issues do not escalate over time spent in TA and especially, unsuitable TA.

4. Rapid rehousing should be a central to approach to the emergency.

To avoid the legal breaches related to rising rough sleeping levels, or the increasing use of unsuitable temporary accommodation, it is likely that a growing percentage of available council housing stock is increasingly being used as suitable temporary accommodation. Without a means by which to rehome people there is a risk that this is compounded by an increase in the duration of stay in temporary accommodation.

This is at odds with the rapid rehousing model. The Scottish Government has invested in transitioning to rapid rehousing with local authorities committing to implementing this approach. HARSAG’s recommendation of a shift towards rapid rehousing is therefore at risk of being undermined if Scottish Government does not put in place measures to scale up rapid rehousing at speed. Recent reviews of the rapid rehousing transition plans indicated that sustained funding arrangements are central to allowing councils to make the system changes needed to embed a rapid rehousing approach. Practices such as flipping temporary accommodation could be an effective response to the above challenge, particularly in areas of significant housing shortage. However, for this

practice to be sustainable it needs to be cost effective and crucially, work needs to be in place to continuously replenish the stock.

- 5. A long-term national strategy to end the housing/ homelessness emergency must address three things: increasing supply, reducing the backlog in TA, and stemming the flow of people into the homeless system.**

As outlined in the recent local government committee report, a long term, whole systems approach is needed to tackle the housing emergency in Scotland. There is already a commitment from Scottish government to end all forms of homelessness in Scotland, as outlined in the Ending Homelessness Together Action Plan, and a long-term national strategy and vision for building the right homes for people in Scotland by 2040, with targets in place for 100,000 affordable homes to be built by 2032 (70% for social rent). Both agendas are interlinked and a long-term response to ending the housing emergency in Scotland must reflect this.

At a time of 'crisis', it is essential that Government goes above and beyond to address the problem early - before the housing and homelessness emergency becomes ingrained in society. But also, that Government puts in place robust measures to prevent future flow into the homeless system, otherwise the housing emergency will not end, and instead, it will become normalised. The declaration of a national housing emergency will only be of benefit to Scotland if success is clearly defined and action targeted at the root causes is taken swiftly. That means putting in place a three pronged strategic approach consisting of: increasing support for Local Authorities to address the backlog in the homeless system, building more social and affordable homes so that if someone loses their home, they can be rapidly rehoused into accommodation that meets their needs, and, thirdly, ensuring that new measures to prevent and respond to homelessness earlier, as outlined in the Housing Bill, are robust and backed by sufficient resources. The best way to end homelessness is to prevent it from happening in the first place.