

Council/Committee:
Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee

Agenda Item:
RAAC Funding Update - May 2024

The action I wish the Council/Committee to take:

1.Acknowledge that Aberdeen City Council (ACC) actively encouraged and guided homeowners to purchase properties in Balnagask under the Right to Buy scheme. Their officers presented this opportunity as a means to create a lasting legacy for descendants and achieve equitable homeownership.

2.Recognize the failure to meet the objectives of the Right to Buy scheme. Acknowledge joint responsibility with the Scottish Government for selling properties that have now become financial and safety liabilities.

3.Commit to implementing a similar process as West Lothian Council, which opened their buy-back system to RAAC homeowners. Additionally, pledge to arrange a meeting with Housing Minister Paul McLennan MSP to seek funding opportunities for affected homeowners. Continue to advocate for Scottish Government funding for homeowners.

4.Introduce rent pressure zones for newly built developments in the Balnagask area. This initiative ensures that prioritized council tenants, who are forced to relocate, can expect rental rates similar to their current payments upon return. Ensure the availability of relocation grants to cover return costs.

5.Increase the grants available to council tenants compelled to move. For instance, Basildon Council currently provides £8,860 in relocation grants, setting a precedent for appropriate financial support in similar circumstances.

Hannah Chowdhry