

# Housing (Scotland) Bill: Homelessness Prevention

Audrey McGuinness  
Business Planning Manager, Housing Strategy  
North Lanarkshire Council  
Email: [McGuinnessAu@northlan.gov.uk](mailto:McGuinnessAu@northlan.gov.uk)



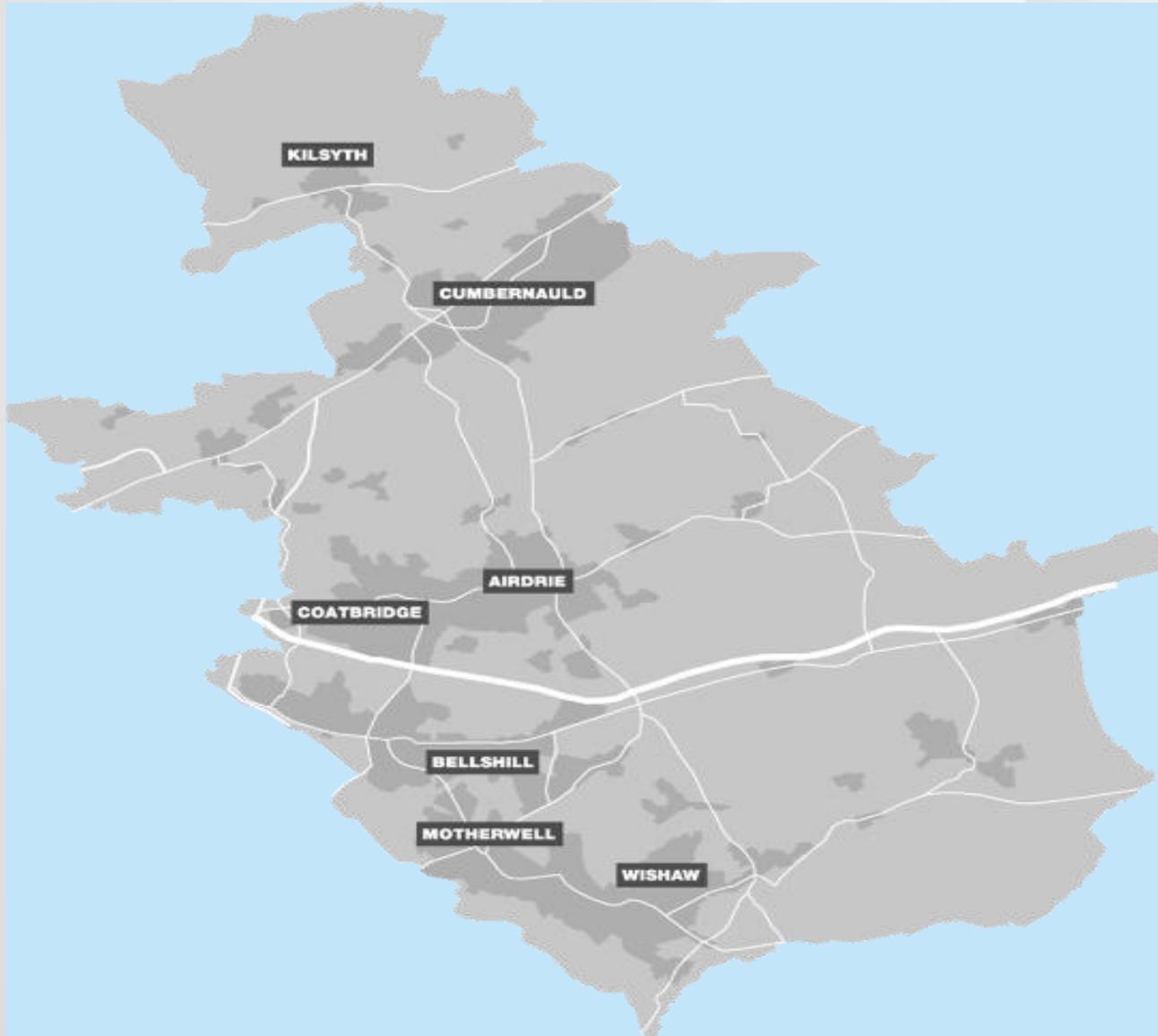
# Overview



- Introduction to North Lanarkshire
- Homeless Legislation in Scotland
- Homelessness in North Lanarkshire
- Housing (Scotland) Bill - Homelessness Prevention
- Impact Considerations
- Prevention & Sustainability in North Lanarkshire
- Challenges

**LIVE HERE**

# North Lanarkshire



Located in West-Central Scotland, on the eastern boundary of Glasgow

Population 341,400

Largest Local Authority Landlord in Scotland

Stock of 36,302 homes (22.6%)



LIVE  
LEARN  
WORK  
INVEST  
VISIT

# Homeless Legislation in Scotland

Abolished Priority Need in  
December 2012

Duty to assess for intentionality  
amended to a Power in 2019 -  
only assess where there is  
reason to believe 'deliberate  
manipulation'

Homeless Etc  
(Scotland) Act 2003

Suspension of Local Connection  
Rules in 2022

Duty to provide settled housing  
to all who have been assessed  
as unintentionally homeless

# Homelessness in NL

- Homelessness increased 16% in 2023/24 following a rise of 13% in 2022/23.
- Key reasons for homelessness:
  - Asked to leave 26.1%
  - Relationship Breakdown 16.8%
  - Violent/Abusive Relationship Breakdown 15.1%
- 46% of all applications are from Males
- 31.36% of homeless households contain children
- Repeat homeless applications up by 5.2% from 4.4%
- Average length of stay in temporary accommodation has reduced from 164 days to 131
- Number of children in Temporary Accommodation reduced by 15%
- Council housed approximately 80% of all homeless applicants.



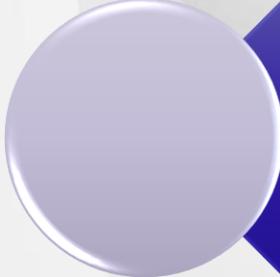
# Housing (Scotland) Bill: Homelessness Prevention

- Introduced to Scottish Parliament on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024
- Ask & Act Duty on all public bodies
  - Includes Social Landlords, Local Authorities, NHS Boards, Health & Social Care Boards, Police, Prisons and potentially Courts and Private Landlords.
  - Responsibility to 'ask' if a person they are working with is homeless/at risk of homelessness and then to 'act' to prevent homelessness from occurring.
- Extension of threatened with homelessness from 2 months to 6 months
  - To enable early intervention and take reasonable steps to prevent homelessness
- Mandatory support for tenants affected by Domestic Abuse
  - Support for tenants if they are overdue on their rent because of domestic abuse
  - Requirement to put in place a Policy setting out the support they will provide

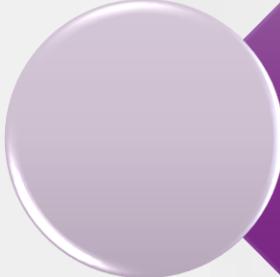
# Impact Considerations



**Likely to lead to increased requests for assistance**



**Successful delivery of 'ask & act' will be dependent on collaboration, commitment & effort across all key partners**



**Likely to create additional resource implications**

# Prevention & Sustainability in North Lanarkshire

Staff  
Restructure

Rapid Rehousing  
Transition Plan  
(RRTP)

Homes First  
Service

Income  
Maximisers

Review &  
Redesign of  
Housing Support

Homeless  
Action Plan

Housing Options  
Advice & Information

Trauma Informed &  
Person Centred

'Out of Hours'  
Crisis Response  
Service

New Builds &  
Open Market  
Purchase  
Scheme

Participate in  
Mortgage to  
Rent Scheme

Created Rent  
Assistance  
Fund

Review of Rent  
Deposit  
Guarantee  
Scheme (RDGS)

Revised  
Temporary  
Accommodation  
Strategy

# Barriers to Supporting a 'No Wrong Door' Ethos

