

For the benefit of people across Scotland, COSLA expects a UK government, working with their devolved governments, to respect the democratic mandate of Councillors and put the **LOCAL** back into Local Government by:

Working collectively across the spheres of government to accelerate work to tackle the causes and effects of poverty, particularly the impact on children.

The impact on our communities: a housing emergency

- The Scottish Government formally declared a **Housing Emergency** on 15th May. 8 Councils have also done so individually.
- Official figures confirm record levels of (domestic) homelessness including around 10,000 children in temporary accommodation, exacerbated by pressures on social housing from humanitarian programmes and asylum seeker dispersals coordinated by the UK Govt's Home Office.
- In June 2024, the Scottish Parliament approved the early release of some short-term prisoners to address the impacts of a recent rapid rise in the prison population. Partners, including COSLA, are working together to ensure a smooth transition to liberation however Housing is a significant challenge for Local Authorities. The risk of homelessness for individuals being liberated is therefore a considerable concern.

Our ask for the incoming UK Government:

- COSLA's ask of a newly elected UK Government is to engage collaboratively with Scottish and Local Government on a tripartite political basis to discuss and take concrete measures to address homelessness. This would include urgently helping to provide more permanent accommodation in Scotland to tackle child poverty.
- Working with and empowering Local Government through a tripartite approach will mean that the needs of all those in our communities, who require safe, warm, high-quality housing can be better understood, addressed and met. Local Government brings the "local" into decision making and can better work with local partners to deliver higher quality living standards that many so desperately need.