

# **Housing Management Panel: Central Area**

Date: 16 February 2022

<u>Time:</u> 2.00pm

Venue Virtual - Zoom

- <u>Members:</u> Councillor Hugh-Jones (Chair), Ward Councillors for the Area, Delegates of Tenants Association in the area.
- <u>Contact:</u> Francis Mitchell Apprentice Democratic Services Officer Francis.Mitchell@brighton-hove.gov.uk

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# AGENDA

PART ONE		Page
1	WELCOME, APOLOGIES & INTRODUCTIONS 5 Minutes.	5 - 6
	Instructions on how to join meeting (copy attached).	
2	ACTIONS & MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING 15 Minutes.	7 - 12
	Actions of the meeting held on 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2021 (copy attached).	
	Minutes of the meeting held on 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2021 (copy attached).	
3	RESPONSES TO RESIDENTS QUESTIONS	13 - 22
	20 Minutes.	
	Responses to Residents Questions (copy attached).	
4	AREA PANEL REVIEW OUTLINE	
	25 Minutes.	
	Facilitated Workshop Session.	
5	HOUSING COMMITTEE WORKPLAN PROGRESS UPDATE AND HOUSING PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 3 2021/22	23 - 50
	20 Minutes.	
	Council Housing Performance Summary (copy attached).	
	Draft Performance Report Q3 2021-22 (copy attached).	
	Appendix – Government list of emergency priority repairs (copy attached).	
6	POSITIVE COMMUNITY NEWS	

5 Minutes – Verbal updates from attendees.

# 7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact , (01273 291354, email thomas.bald@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or email democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk

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Date of Publication - Tuesday, 8 February 2022

## Central Area Panel – meeting invitation

Dear Resident,

On behalf of the Central Area Panel, I would like to invite you to the next meeting. This will be an **online Zoom meeting**.

When	Wednesday 16 February 2022 – from 13:45 to 16:00	
Where	Online on Zoom	
	Please type the following address in your browser:	
	https://tinyurl.com/CAP160222	
	There's no difference between uppercase/lowercase letters. You won't need to enter meeting ID or password.	
	If the link above doesn't work or you will join through the Zoom client instead, please use the following credentials:	
	Meeting ID: 881 2347 9543 Passcode: 3Lt6CG	
	(no difference between uppercase/lowercase letters). You won't need to enter meeting ID or password.	
	If you can't use a device able to connect to the internet, you can access the meeting through audio only, calling with a normal phone one of the following numbers and typing the meeting ID and passcode when asked:	
	0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240, 0203 901 7895, 0131 460 1196	
	Meeting ID: 881 2347 9543 Passcode: 646794	
	To mute and unmute yourself when calling by phone, press *6 (asterisk and 6)	

Please read the papers in advance of the meeting.

Please contact the Community Engagement Admin Team at 07717302872 / 07717302986 / <u>communityengagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk</u> if you have any questions.

# Central

# Actions of Area Panel Meeting December 2021

Action	Who	Response
Janet Dowdell to speak to estates and CityClean regarding weeds in Prestonville and Highcroft Villas.	Janet Dowdell	
Gary Jones to be updated on phone waiting times when calling repairs. He woud like a written response to this action.	Grant Ritchie	
Martin Reid to look into Gary Jones' door fob entry system in his building.	Martin Reid	

## **BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**

### HOUSING MANAGEMENT PANEL: CENTRAL AREA

## 14/12/2021 - 1400HRS

## MINUTES

### Present:

Councillors: Cllr Hugh-Jones (Chair), Cllr Shanks.

Residents: Barry Hughes (Chair of Residents Association), Gary Jones, Carl Boardman, David Spafford, Theresa Mackey

Officers: Martin Reid, Simon Bannister, Janet Dowdell, Theresa Reynolds, Sam Warren, Fabrizio Oliveri, Thomas Bald, Francis Mitchell

#### **1 – WELCOME, APOLOGIES & INTRODUCTIONS**

Apologies from Cllr Rainey

### 2 – ACTIONS AND MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- 2.1 Cllr Hugh-Jones stated 'KMT' should instead be 'K&T', and 'PNR' should be 'P&R'.
- 2.2 Barry Hughes mentioned that David Spafford was misspelled on two occasions.

#### **RESOLVED – The panel agreed the minutes and actions of the previous meeting.**

#### **3 – ESTATE DEVELOPMENT BUDGET**

3.1 There was no discussion.

#### 4 – RESPONSES TO RESIDENTS QUESTIONS

- 4.1 Martin Reid outlined the structure of task and finish groups and informed the panel that there was no planned delay in residents chairing Housing Area Panels.
- 4.2 Carl Boardman asked for more information regarding training residents to chair the panels and was informed by Martin Reid that there were training packages in place. Sam Warren added that chairs training would be developed with the resource centre.
- 4.3 Martin Reid stated his encouragement of residents chairing the panels, adding that the relevant training should not be seen as a barrier for residents.
- 4.4 Barry Hughes clarified that the resource centre delivers chair's training.
- 4.5 Carl Boardman highlighted the importance of refresher training for chairs, agreeing that the training should not be seen as a barrier.

- 4.6 Gary Jones asked if residents would be involved with inspections and was informed by Janet Dowdell that the Council was keen to involve residents in this, but more information would be supplied at the next round of area panels.
- 4.7 David Spafford was informed by Janet Dowdell that Housing Officers are not specialists in repairs, and Janet Dowdell highlighted the roles of various housing staff.
- 4.8 Martin Reid stated that there was a discussion regarding the government's 'decent home standard' to reflect on neighbourhoods as well as individual homes, and highlighted the importance of preventative measures as well as repairs.
- 4.9 David Spafford asked if the decent home standard had been changed to provide different standards for homes in different parts of the city and was informed by Martin Reid that this was not the case and the standard should be consistent throughout the city.
- 4.10 Cllr Hugh-Jones suggested that several officers that are capable of covering different areas of expertise should attend estate inspections to ensure residents questions are answered appropriately.
- 4.11 Barry Hughes highlighted the importance of the need for cooling in hot weather.
- 4.12 David Spafford stated that the removal of weeds would be beneficial around Essex Place.
- 4.13 Barry Hughes asked when non-toxic weed killers would start being used and was informed by Janet Dowdell that the estates team is in the process of identifying areas that require its use.
- 4.14 Barry Hughes suggested the use of weed killers in Essex Place as paved surfaces are becoming hazardous.
- 4.15 Theresa Mackey stated that the presence of weeds and plants on the pavement have made it difficult for individuals living near Highcroft Villas, especially those who are disabled, elderly or frail, to leave their homes, and highlighted the importance of accessibility across the city.
- 4.16 Cllr Hugh-Jones stated that the Tourism, Equalities, Community and Culture Committee is looking into accessibility in the city.

#### **5 – HOUSING PERFORMANCE REPORT**

- 5.1 Martin Reid delivered a verbal update on this item.
- 5.2 Gary Jones raised about long waiting times on the customer service phone line. Martin Reid stated that this is an area of poor performance that needs to be looked into and improved. Janet Dowdell added that between 3 and 5 staff operate the phones and often deal with around 250 phone calls a day, citing difficulties with demand.
- 5.3 David Spafford was informed that staff and apprentices are being bought into the repairs and maintenance service.
- 5.4 David Spafford stated that the stock condition report identified many dwellings that did not meet standards and asked if this standard was only regarding bathrooms and kitchens. Martin Reid stated that the report doesn't only consider bathrooms and kitchens.
- 5.5 Martin Reid informed Theresa Mackey that the decent home standard is being kept under review.

- 5.6 Carl Boardman asked whether Local Government had any input on the carbon reduction white paper and was informed by Martin Reid that while Local Government does not have a say on this paper, the Council is bidding for funds from Central Government to aid with carbon reduction.
- 5.7 Cllr Hugh-Jones stated that the council is working with other local authorities such as Lewes to look into retrofitting homes.

#### **6 – POSITIVE COMMUNITY NEWS**

6.1 There was no discussion.

#### 7 – FUTURE FORMAT OF AREA PANELS

- 7.1 Martin Reid stated that the discussion at the East Area Panel was that Hybrid Meetings were welcomed highlighting benefits in terms of accessibility.
- 7.2 Sam Warren added that the intention for the community engagement team is to move towards hybrid meetings and that the engagement team has purchased a piece of equipment called an 'owl' that will make the hybrid process positive regardless of whether an attendee is physically or virtually present.
- 7.3 David Spafford outlined advantages of hybrid meetings, citing travel times, and requested that Hampshire Court get WiFi connection for virtual meetings. Simon Bannister stated that in the new year there would be an update on WiFi in Hampshire Court.
- 7.4 Barry Hughes highlighted phone reception issues in Hampshire Court.
- 7.5 Gary Jones stated that there is no fire-safety guide for Hove Town Hall that regards disabled residents. Martin Reid confirmed he would come back to the next meeting with a response.
- 7.6 Theresa Mackey supported hybrid meetings, citing that neurodiverse individuals may have difficulty attending virtually and that physically disabled individuals may find it difficult to attend in person.

#### 8 – BUDGET UPDATE

- 8.1 Martin Reid delivered the report.
- 8.2 Barry Hughes stated that not enough money is being spent maintaining the grass and trees. Martin Reid responded that there is an intention to improve service provision and is happy to engage on this.
- 8.3 Gary Jones was informed by Martin Reid that the intention to tackle fuel-poverty is to improve the quality of council stock, citing the improvement of insulation. Martin Reid stated that there are systems in place to help people suffering from fuel poverty, citing vouchers.
- 8.4 Carl Boardman was informed by Martin Reid that the lift repair budget is separate from the lift replacement budget.

8.5 David Spafford was informed that planters purchased through the EDB budget are to be maintained by residents.

### 9 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 9.1 Barry Hughes stated that all residents should take an interest in projects that draw from the Housing Revenue Account, citing expensive door-entry systems. Martin Reid agreed, stating that residents should be consulted regarding works being conducted on their blocks.
- 9.2 Gary Jones asked why his block has had a fob-door entry system installed that cannot be used, Martin Reid confirmed he would look into this and come back with a response.

The meeting concluded at 15:40hrs.

# East, West, North, Central Area 3 Stars

Repairs backlog

## Background

<u>West</u>: there is an overall deterioration of the repairs and maintenance service. This does not seem to be improving, despite assurances from the Council that new staff are being employed. It was acknowledged that COVID has been a difficulty but felt that this wasn't the only problem with the delivery of the service.

For example, there is differing information on the definition of emergency repairs. There can also be different interpretations between the Council and residents about whether a repair is an emergency or not.

<u>North</u>: Residents have been told that it will take 12 months to clear the repairs backlog (written response to Area Panels December 2021). This is extremely frustrating for all the tenants who are waiting for their repairs to be done.

**East**: Windows that are faulty and beyond repair are not being replaced. Residents are being told that they have to wait until this work is scheduled for their block under the planned maintenance programme. At the same time, many windows are being replaced under the planned maintenance programme that are perfectly good and do not need replacing.

Associations are receiving a lot of complaints from residents who have windows which do not keep the heat in, are draughty and let in rain. There is widespread concern about this because:

• It adversely affects the health of residents who are living for long periods of time with faulty windows

• People are paying higher heating bills because so much of the heat is escaping through the faulty windows

• Water coming in through windows can lead to further damage to the fabric of the building and more costly repairs in the long term

• This is hampering the council's plans to reduce carbon emissions as discussed at Housing Committee on 17th November 2021

• This is counter to the promises about the Decent Homes Initiatives made in BHCC 'Our plan 2020 to 2023'

Craven Vale Community Association (CVCA) and Bristol Estate Leaseholders, Tenants and Residents Association (BELTA) have both been trying to address this problem.

BELTA have been supporting residents who have reported faulty windows, by logging the deadline by which work should be done and chasing it up if it isn't done.

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This has been successful in some cases. BELTA has also found that replacing windows in high rise blocks is less of an obstacle than they thought, as this can often be done from inside a flat rather that requiring scaffolding.

Following a discussion at Craven Vale Community Association some residents chose to write to ClIr Nancy Platts. ClIr Platts followed this up but received an unsatisfactory response from officers stating that the residents concerned will have to wait years for windows to be replaced, as Craven Vale window replacements are being done at a rate of two blocks a year. ClIr Platts has suggested this matter could be brought to the Area Panel or Housing Committee if it is found to be a common problem experienced by many residents and the Residents Association is going to follow this up.

<u>Central</u>: Concerns around Sylvan Hall and safety of it because the windows do fall out. Martin Reid has undertaken a survey on feasibility of replace or repair in Sylvan Hall.

## Action

West: Residents are requesting information on:

a) What does an emergency repair consist of?

b) What are the timescales for emergency repairs? Is there a difference between the Council's stated timescales and what is actually happening now?

**North**: Residents are requesting a report on the progress being made by the repairs service to clear the backlog.

**<u>East</u>**: It was agreed to raise this at the Agenda Setting meeting.

Residents are requesting a review of the way windows are assessed for repair or replacement which specifically addresses the following issues:

• Ensuring that windows which are beyond repair are treated the same as all other routine repairs and replaced within 20 days

• Assessing windows prior to replacement under the planned maintenance programme to ensure the work is necessary

• Taking into account the impact on resident's health and fuel bills when there are potential delays to window repairs or replacements

Residents would like a report of this review to be brought back to Area Panels for discussion.

<u>Central</u>: response/update from Martin Reid on the survey on feasibility of replace or repair in Sylvan Hall.

## Response

Theresa Youngman - Contract Compliance Managertheresa.youngman@brighton-hove.gov.uk / Grant Richie - Head of Repairs and Maintence - grant.richie@brighton-hove.gov.uk

<u>West:</u> We are very sorry to hear that there is a general feeling of deterioration of the repairs and maintenance service. Since insourcing into the council in April 2020 the pandemic restrictions have posed (and continue to pose) enormous challenges on

## Central Area Panel Residents Questions

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our service. Unfortunately, a large backlog of works has unavoidably accumulated during this time, which has led to long delays to non-urgent works. We appreciate how frustrating this is for our residents and we are working hard to schedule works according to priority need.

To help us reduce the backlog of works, we are recruiting additional staff, but this is not a quick fix. Recruitment of suitably trained / experienced staff and getting new staff up to speed does take time. We anticipate that normal service delivery will take approximately one year.

The definition of what constitutes an emergency repair is defined by the Government's Right To Repair legislation. All local authorities are required to attend within 1 day (24 hours) of an emergency priority repair being reported. Please see in the appendix the Government's list of emergency priority repairs. I hope this clarifies.

**North**: Residents are requesting a report on the progress being made by the repairs service to clear the backlog.

Response: To help us reduce the backlog of works, we are recruiting additional staff but this is not a quick fix. Recruitment of suitably trained / experienced staff and getting new staff up to speed does take time. We anticipate that normal service delivery will take approximately one year. We appreciate this is incredibly frustrating for residents and we are working hard to schedule outstanding repairs according to priority need.

**<u>East</u>**: It was agreed to raise this at the Agenda Setting meeting.

Residents are requesting a review of the way windows are assessed for repair or replacement which specifically addresses the following issues:

• Ensuring that windows which are beyond repair are treated the same as all other routine repairs and replaced within 20 days

• Assessing windows prior to replacement under the planned maintenance programme to ensure the work is necessary

• Taking into account the impact on resident's health and fuel bills when there are potential delays to window repairs or replacements

Residents would like a report of this review to be brought back to Area Panels for discussion.

Response: We have commenced the city wide Planned Window Programme this year, and the areas / blocks being programmed are prioritised by those most in need of work. We are due to start on the Craven Vale Estate next year and have programmed in 2 blocks to start (the remainder will be phased over coming years). A further verbal update will be given at the East Area Panel meeting.

<u>Central</u>: response/update from Martin Reid on the survey on feasibility of replace or repair in Sylvan Hall.

Response: Works will be commencing at Sylvan Hall next year; residents will be updated by letter before this starts.

West Area 3 Stars

Argus Article on changes to Estate Development Budget

## Background

The Argus printed an article on 14th December about the changes to the Estate Development Budget (EDB). This was before the EDB paper had been discussed at Area Panel and it was felt that it pre-empted residents' decisions.

Not everyone at the meeting had seen the article, and the joint chairs agreed to follow up on this issue and if necessary put in a formal complaint.

## Action

West residents asked if housing had sent a press release to the Argus which instigated the article 14/12/21 on the Estate Development Budget. If so, they asked to see a copy.

## Response

Sam Warren - community engagement manager - sam.warren@brightonhove.gov.uk

The Argus printed an article on 14th December about the changes to the Estate Development Budget (EDB). This was before the EDB paper had been discussed at Area Panel and it was felt that it pre-empted residents' decisions.

Not everyone at the meeting had seen the article, and the joint chairs agreed to follow up on this

The article in the Argus was written by journalist Sarah Booker Lewis who attends most of the Area Panel meetings and receives or accesses the papers from the public website. My understanding is that Sarah picked up the information from the report about Estates Development Budget in the public papers. The article was then based on this information. I'm very sorry but the residents saw this article before being aware that the papers had been made public on the council website.

In addition, I understand from talking to specific residents, that they were unhappy with content of the original report that the article was then based on. In this case I would request but these issues are taken to the Estates Development Budget task and finish group where they can be discussed and reviewed in more detail. Central Area Panel Residents Questions February 2022

West Area 3 Stars

# Area Panel Review and time for consultation

## Background

An Area Panel Review was referred to in the responses given at the last West Area Panel. West Residents had not been aware this was going to take place and want to ensure that there is meaningful consultation with residents before any decisions are made.

West residents feel there is a history of proposals being taken to Housing Committee before disagreements and objections have been resolved and without meaningful consultation. Ways need to be found to improve on this.

An important step would be earlier distribution of papers. Area Panel papers are only available a week before the meeting. For many residents this will be the first time they see the proposals. Often these are detailed and lengthy and a week is insufficient time to read, consult members and draw together a response.

## Action

West residents are asking that papers be published several weeks before Area Panels when they address major issues. Two current examples are the draft terms of reference for the new 'People' and 'Buildings' groups and the Area Panel review.

## Response

Sam Warren - community engagement manager - sam.warren@brightonhove.gov.uk

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the energy and effort it takes for the residents to read and digest all the papers and recognise that sometimes there is a lot of information and we want residents to feel their involvement is valued and has impact.

If there are large documents that have significant impact, we will try to ensure that these come to Area Panel in a timely manner. When something is going to Housing Committee, this is especially important, and officers have been asked to (where possible) bring these papers to Area Panels with time for comments to be taken on board and possible changes to be made. In addition, at the agenda setting meetings we would ask the resident Vice Chair to raise any items they would like to come forward onto the agenda.

# Central Area Panel Residents Questions

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It is also a suggestion to have an annual plan for key priorities, so these can be scheduled in ahead of Housing Committee to ensure residents and officers can have a timescale to bring items to each AP.

In terms of managing the meetings the timescales for the Area Panels are very tight. I have attached the timetable so residents can see the process and hope that is helpful.

In relation to the Area Panel Review there is a timetable and scoping document attached with Feb 2022 Area Panel Papers that sets out the review process. There will be detailed and timely consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, including AP's, Tenants and leaseholder associations and individual tenants and residents.

Central Area Panel Residents Questions February 2022

North Area 3 Stars

Buying back council homes

## Background

The council has the power to buy back properties that have previously been sold under the Right to Buy Scheme, as described in the Home Purchase Policy Guide. Residents are concerned about the lack of affordable housing available in the city and the length of time people have to wait before being housed. With this in mind, there is concern that the council may not be actively pursuing all its options to buy back homes.

## Action

Residents are requesting a report on what action is taken by the council to identify homes that they could potentially buy back, and whether all the funds allocated for this are being used. Also, could the residents have the data in how many homes are being bought back broken down into the four areas of the city? Including the data on Hollingdean and Colddean.

## Response

Diane Hughes -Housing Strategy & Enabling Manager - diane.hughes@brightonhove.gov.uk

Thank you for your question regarding the council's 'buy back' scheme where the council seeks to buy back former council owned homes.

As at 24 January 2022 this scheme has allowed the council to buy back 194 properties with offers currently accepted on a further 40 properties. We have purchases committed against the budget set for this year and we aim to fully use the budget each year.

The council has a range of ways to identify properties for the scheme.

• Some owners are legally required to offer the council the right of first refusal if the Right to Buy has been exercised within the last 10 years. These owners need to approach the council directly

• Including information on the council's website Sell your property back to the council (brighton-hove.gov.uk) and through Homing in which results in direct approaches to the council to sell back a property

• Review properties for sale on platforms such as Rightmove and Zoopla and once ex council properties are identified direct approaches are made to estate agents to explore a potential purchase.

Central Area Panel Residents Questions

## February 2022

We will keep our publicity options under review and if necessary will expand publicity in order to meet our annual targets. The breakdown across the four Area Panel areas is: East: 43 Central: 67 West: 79 North: 45 (of which 22 are in the Hollingdean & Stanmer ward).

# East and North Area 3 Stars

Citywide problems with rubbish and recycling

# Background

The problems with rubbish and recycling collections across the city have not been resolved.

Examples were given from:

- Bristol Estate see item 9
- Whitehawk recycling wasn't collected for 6 weeks in one area

• Robert Lodge – recycling wasn't collected for a month and the bins smell so much that it affects residents when they are in their flats.

- Old Boat Walk regular missed collections.
- Buttercup Walk Patcham missed collections
- Dunster Close miscollections.
- Wigmore Close miscollections.

## Action

It was agreed to raise this at the Agenda Setting meeting. Residents are requesting a review of the provision of bins throughout the city and the frequency of collections. This should include a plan of which bin areas should be de-odorized and how often. It is requested that Rachel Chasseaud attend the Area Panel to respond directly to residents' concerns.

# Response

Melissa Francis - Head of Operations - Cityclean • City Environment (Cityclean & Cityparks) - Melissa.Francis@brighton-hove.gov.uk

## • Bristol Estate - see item 9

This was first raised August/September time whether we could increase collecting until the bin stores were built. Unfortunately we did not have the resources to provide more frequent collections. This was at a time when we had driver shortages and on average 4 rounds not going out each day, and we couldn't commit resources when we were struggling to cover the normal service. We will review again whether it is possible to temporarily increase collections but we will need to consider capacity within the refuse and recycling collections service to take on this work. Central Area Panel Residents Questions

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• Whitehawk - recycling wasn't collected for 6 weeks in one area

We have worked with the Driver and crew on service improvements in to recycling within Whitehawk including a recent audit. The results of the audit will be implemented which will lead to further improvement. Hopefully residents are starting to see more regular recycling collections but please do notify Cityclean of any issues.

• Robert Lodge – recycling wasn't collected for a month and the bins smell so much that it affects residents when they are in their flats.

• Old Boat Walk – regular missed collections.

- Buttercup Walk Patcham - missed collections

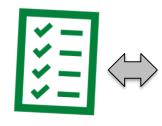
We will undertake a review of these locations and report to the next Area Panel Meeting

• Dunster Close – miscollections.

• Wigmore Close – miscollections.

Dunster Close and Wigmore Close are on the small calls round which has struggled due to additional work being put on this round. We have acquired an additional vehicle and resources to supplement the small calls round and this will increase reliability of collections where a small vehicle is required.

# Council housing performance Quarter 3 2021/22 (Oct to Dec 2021)



**100%** Gas safety compliance



**96.9%** Dwellings meeting Decent Homes standard



**82%** Complaint responses within 10 working days







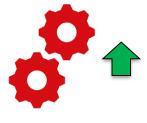




93% Repairs calls answered



**90%** Customer services calls answered



**92%** 

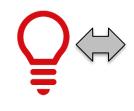
Lifts restored to service within 24 hours



89 days Empty home re-let time



92% Tenancies sustained



Energy efficiency rating of homes (out of 100)

68.1



# **Quarter 3 2021/22 council housing performance – key trends**

## Top scores (compared to target)

- 1. Calls answered by Repairs Helpdesk (93% vs 85% target)
- 2. Calls answered by Housing Customer Services (90% vs 85% target)
- 3. Stage one complaints responded to within 10 working days (82% vs 80% target)
- 4. Tenancies sustained following difficulties (92% vs 90% target)
- 5. Council homes with a valid Landlord's Gas Safety Record (100% vs 100% target)

## Bottom scores (compared to target)

- 1. Average re-let time excluding time spent in major works (89 days vs 21 day target)
- 2. Stage two complaints upheld (43% vs 18% target)
- 3. Energy efficiency rating of homes out of 100 (68.1 vs 76.8 target)
- 4. Lifts restored to service within 24 hours (92% vs 95% target)
- 5. Dwellings meeting Decent Homes Standard (96.9% vs 100% target)

## Biggest improvements (since previous quarter)

- 1. Calls answered by Housing Customer Services (82% to 90%)
- 2. Stage two complaints upheld (47% to 43%)
- 3. Dwellings meeting Decent Homes Standard (92.9% to 96.9%)
- 4. Lifts restored to service within 24 hours (91% to 92%)

## **Biggest drops (since previous quarter)**

- 1. Average re-let time excluding time spent in major works (66 to 89 days)
- 2. Tenancies sustained following difficulties (97% to 92%)
- 3. Stage one complaints responded to within 10 working days (85% to 82%)

Please note there are fewer indicators to compare than usual because several are temporarily absent from this report while work is underway to develop new reporting systems following the switchover of our main housing management IT system since the start of July 2021. Please see the full version of the performance report for more information.

# DRAFT Committee workplan progress update and Housing performance report Quarter 3 2021/22

This report provides updates on the Housing Committee priorities and work plan for 2019 to 2023, as well as a range of performance indicators. Delivery of a complex housing service during the Covid-19 crisis had been a challenge, and gratitude is expressed to residents for the patience and understanding they have shown.

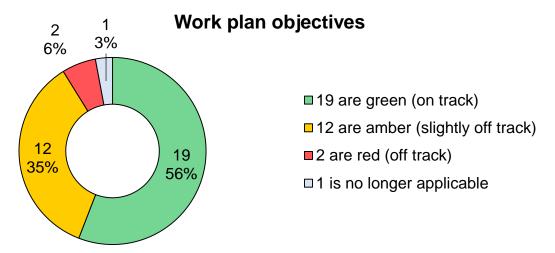
While there continue to be areas of strong performance, with 19 Housing Committee Work Plan objectives on track for delivery and 7 performance indicators on or above target, some delivery challenges remain. The report highlights actions being taken to improve services where performance has been adversely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

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Housing Committee priorities and work plan				
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Right to Buy sales	5, 18			
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Private sector housing 'requests for assistance' received	6			
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Energy efficiency rating of council homes	9, 21			
Private sector empty homes returned to use	12, 16			

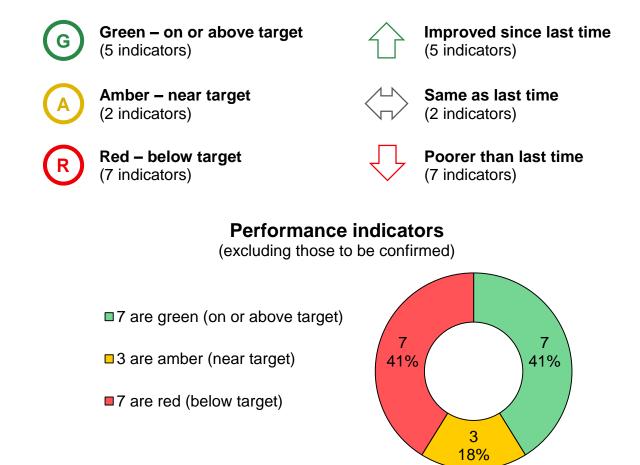
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Universal Credit	20
Tenants evicted	20
Calls answered (Housing Customer Services)	20
Tenancies sustained	20
Re-let times	20
Empty homes	21
Council housing repairs and maintenance	
Calls answered (Repairs Helpdesk)	22
Decent Homes Standard	22
Gas safety compliance (council homes)	22
Lift breakdowns	22
Leaseholder disputes	23

This housing performance report covers Quarter 3 (Q3) of the 2021/22 financial year. It uses red, amber and green ratings to provide an indication of performance.

Part one provides an update of performance against the Housing Committee work plan objectives for 2019 - 2023:

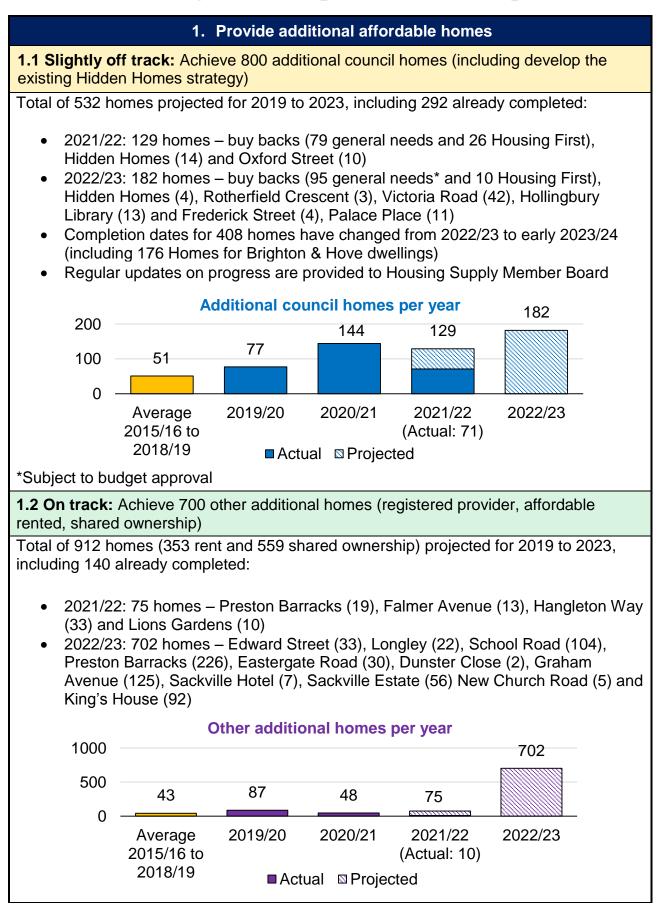


Part two presents results for a range of performance indicators across Housing and similarly uses red, amber and green ratings, as well as trend arrows. Commentary has been included for indicators which are red. During Quarter 3, the ratings and trends were as follows:



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# Part one: Housing Committee priorities and work plan 2019-23

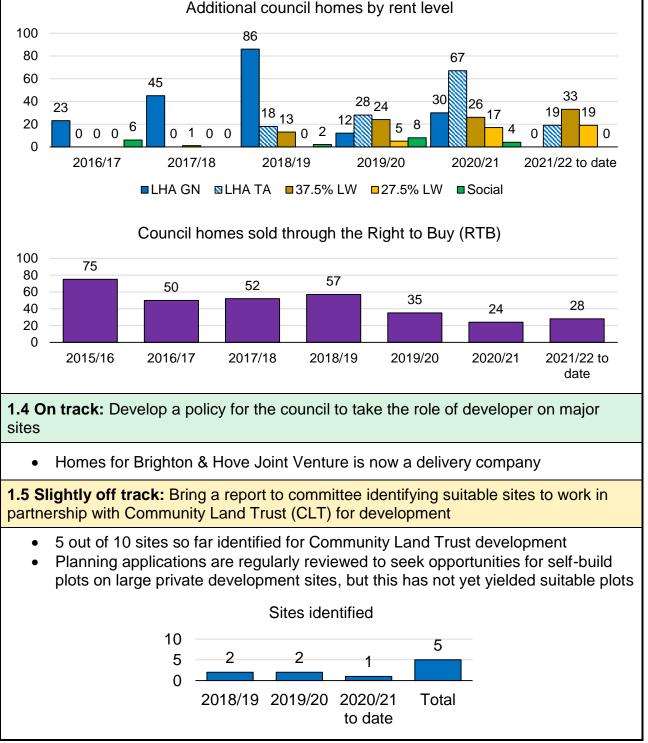


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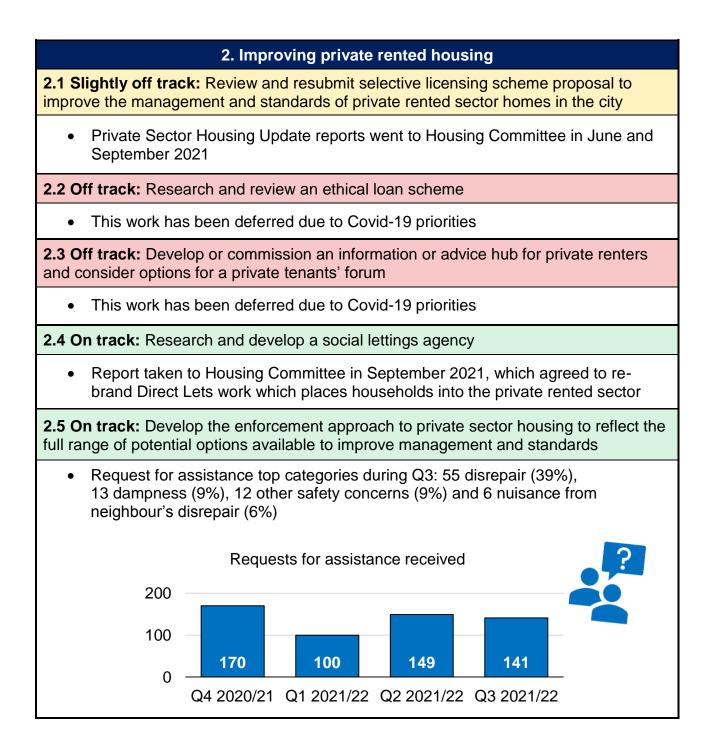
## 1. Provide additional affordable homes

1.3 On track: Review the rent policy to maximise the number of council homes replaced at social or living wage rents (especially those at 27.5% Living Wage)

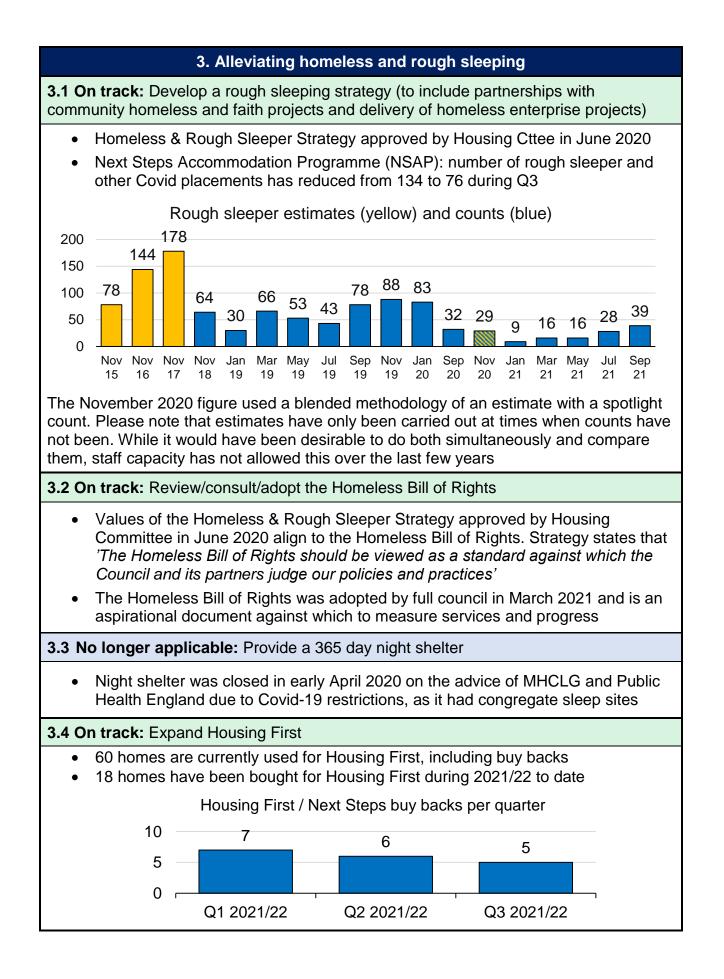
19 of the 52 (37%) of new general needs council homes delivered during 2021/22 are at 27.5% Living Wage rents, and the remaining 33 (54%) are at 37.5% Living Wage rents. The temporary accommodation (TA) council homes are at Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates.



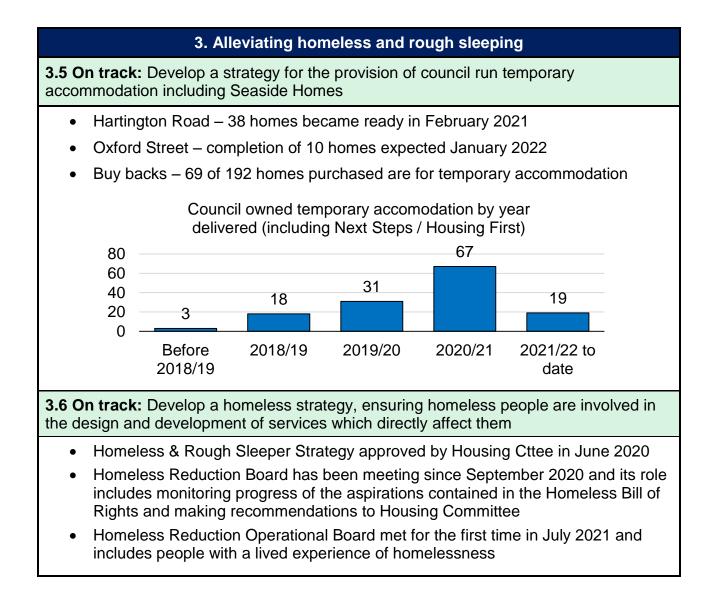


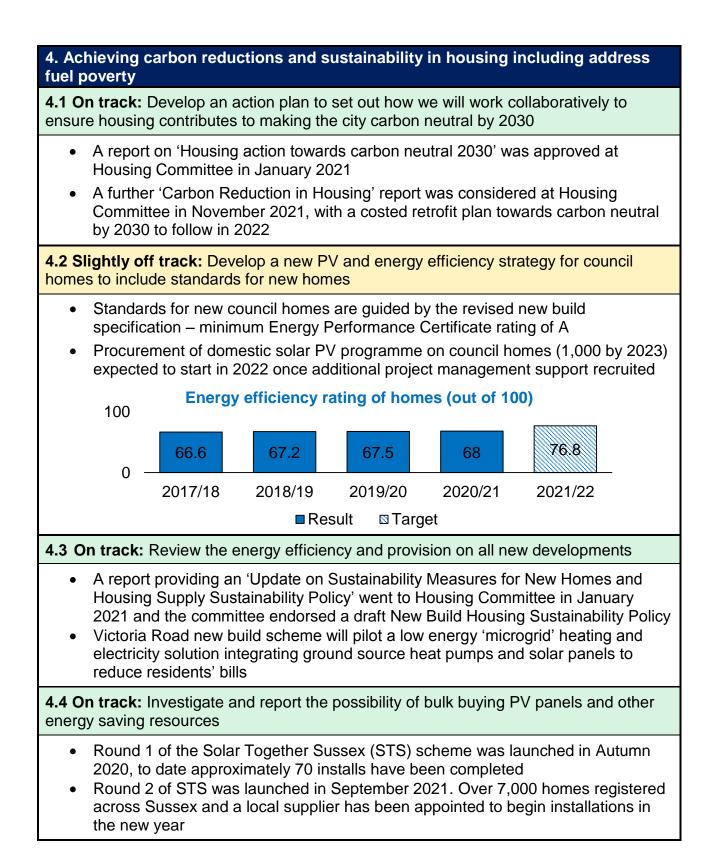


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## 5. Improving council housing and community involvement

5.1 Slightly off track: Work with tenants to develop a 'decent environment' standard

• Delayed due to service pressures and other priorities due to Covid-19

5.2 On track: Develop a fire safety programme in conjunction with tenants and residents

- Sprinklers are now fitted as standard in all council new build homes
- Sprinkler systems at St James's House and Essex Place currently reviewing following feedback from residents
- Council is working to consider the likely impacts of the proposed Building Safety legislation including proposed resident engagement strategy for building safety
- Fire Risk Assessments are carried out regularly to council housing buildings
- Currently engaging consultancy services to support a review of the new building safety guidance and implementation

**5.3 On track:** Review and develop a new tenant and community involvement policy/strategy for housing, ensuring we learn from the lived experience of our clients, meet the 'Involvement and Empowerment' standard and that co-production is at the heart of our tenant and resident involvement work

• New Tenant and Leaseholder Engagement Strategy was approved at Housing Committee in March 2021

## **5.4 On track:** Extend participatory budgeting

• Report approved at March 2021 Housing Committee including development of a policy for extending participatory budgeting

**5.5 Slightly off track:** Develop the work undertaken with leaseholders to develop a new leasehold involvement policy, setting out how leaseholders can be supported to be more proactively involved in capital works and other leasehold matters

- Consultation with leaseholders on new planned maintenance and improvement programme contracts has concluded and contracts are now operating Leaseholders are being consulted where the council has plans to undertake works under these contracts on a block-by-block basis
- Engagement with tenants and leaseholders is underway for proposed projects that will be tendered through the major works framework
- The council is continuing to update tenants and leaseholders that sit on the 'task and finish' group that is working on the programme. Online sessions are now operating for this group
- The council has completed a survey of all leaseholders and will share the results of this with the Leaseholder Action Group

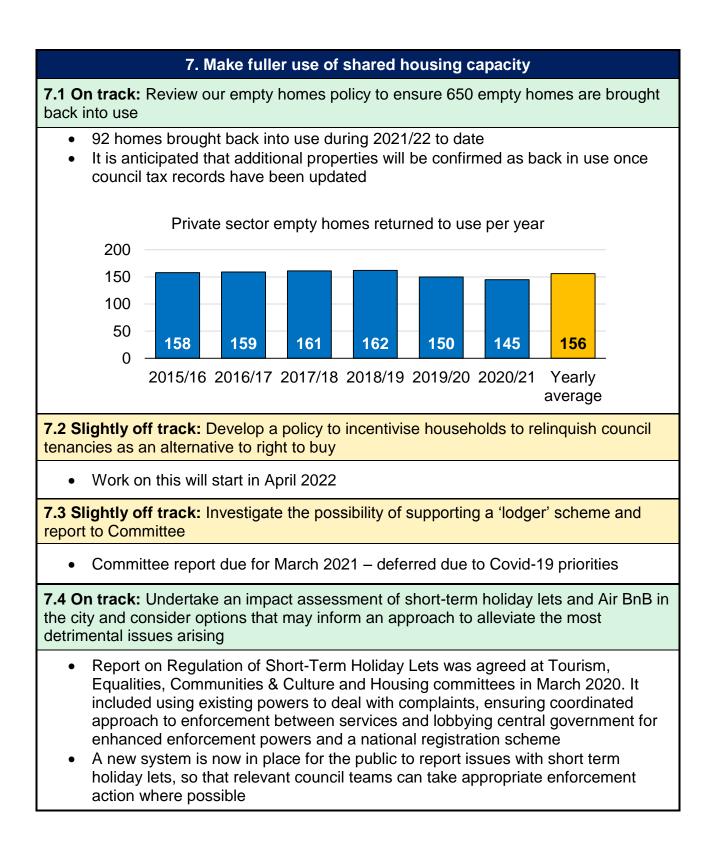
## 6. Enabling more affordable home ownership

6.1 On track: Work with Community Land Trust (CLT) to develop self-build opportunities

• CLT focus is on affordable rented homes which are likely to be self-build

**6.2 On track:** Work with Homes for Brighton & Hove and registered providers in the city to develop 500 shared ownership properties for essential workers who live and work in the city

- 559 shared ownership homes are projected for development by March 2023
- The Living Wage Joint Venture, Homes for Brighton & Hove, has started construction on its first two sites totalling 346 homes
- Homes for Brighton & Hove is becoming a delivery company, with 168 Hyde shared ownership homes and 178 rented homes (176 council and 2 Hyde) expected for completion in 2023/24



#### 8. Alleviating poverty

**8.1 Slightly off track:** Ensure the in house repairs services include measures to: provide opportunities for young people to develop skills for example through apprenticeships; maximise community benefits, including through use of local firms and labour for supply chain as well as planned and major works; and, develop pathways to employment that are inclusive in offering opportunities to all the communities we serve

- Due to the Covid-19 outbreak, the planned and major works procurement was paused as were other areas of the programme, including taking on apprentices
- Some existing apprentices were moved to empty property works so they could physically distance while working, but it has not yet been possible to recruit many additional apprentices
- However, the service is currently recruiting two electrical apprentices

**8.2 Slightly off track:** Review arrears policy to ensure all action is taken at the earliest stage, support given and eviction is used as a last resort

• Business Process Review of income collection, including arrears policies, has been delayed while resources have been diverted to the Covid-19 response

**8.3 On track:** Develop an arrears policy for temporary accommodation, which gives tenants the same level of support and assistance as those in permanent accommodation

Policy is in place for long term temporary accommodation which matches that in council owned housing

# **Part two: Performance indicators**

The council is responsible for managing 11,729 council owned homes and 2,301 leaseholder homes, as well as providing temporary accommodation for 1,965 households.

There are several indicators which are temporarily absent from this report while work is underway to develop new reporting systems following the switchover of our main housing management IT system since the start of July 2021. Once this work is complete, we intend to retrospectively provide the results in future versions of this report.

The areas are:

- Adaptations to council housing
- Anti-social behaviour
- Repairs to council housing

	Customer feedback – all Housing services	Target	Q2 2021/22	Q3 2021/22	Status against target	<b>Trend</b> since Q2			
9.1	Compliments received from customers	Info	59	60	n/a	n/a			
9.2	Stage one complaints responded to within 10 working days	80%	85% (84 of 99)	82% (120 of 146)	G	$\bigcirc$			
9.3	Stage one complaints upheld	Info	46% (46 of 99)	49% (72 of 146)	n/a	n/a			
9.4	Stage two complaints upheld	18%	47% (9 of 19)	43% (6 of 14)	R	$\hat{\mathbf{U}}$			
improv proces	There is an increased focus on how complaints are handled across the council, especially on improving the overall quality of complaint responses in the early stages of the complaints process, in order to reduce the need for cases to be escalated from stage one to stage two for further investigation.								

	Private sector housing	Target	Q2 2021/22	Q3 2021/22	Status against target	<b>Trend</b> since Q2
10.1	New licences issued for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)	Info	147	153	n/a	n/a
10.2	HMOs where all special conditions have been met (for licences issued over 12 months ago)	47%	53.05% (1,019 of 1,921)	52.97% (1,016 of 1,918)	G	$\overline{\mathbf{v}}$
10.3	Private sector empty homes returned to use	32	37	21	R	$\bigcirc$
Tax re	2 figure above has increased from 26 cords have identified more homes bro ng lag between the date they were ba	ught back	in use during	g this period	, and ther	e is a

ŗ.	Housing adaptations	Target	Q2 2021/22	Q3 2021/22	Status against target	<b>Trend</b> since Q2
11.1	Private housing – average weeks taken to approve Disabled Facilities Grant applications	10	21.3	15.7		$\bigcirc$

The amber threshold for this indicator is set at 26 weeks based on historic guidance timescales, with the target of 10 weeks reflecting the revised guidance timescales.

	Housing Needs – Housing Options and allocations	Target	Q2 2021/22	Q3 2021/22	Status against target	<b>Trend</b> since Q2
12.1	Households prevented from becoming homeless (by council and partner agencies)	424	448	ТВС	TBC	TBC
12.2	New households accepted as homeless	Info	77	TBC	n/a	n/a
12.3	Number of households on the social housing waiting list	Info	5,143	TBC	n/a	n/a

	Housing Needs – temporary accommodation (including emergency accommodation)	Target	Q2 2021/22	Q3 2021/22	Status against target	<b>Trend</b> since Q2
13.1	Total households in temporary accommodation (homeless and through service level agreements)	Info	2,012	1,965	n/a	n/a
13.2	Rent collected for emergency accommodation (year to date including loss from empty homes)	89.21%	73.30% (£2.6m of £3.6m)	81.12% (£3.8m of £4.6m)	R	$\bigcirc$
been h from 'b	dicator includes rent loss from empty igher than usual while people who we lock booked' accommodation such as The collection rate excluding this type	ere placed is hotels and	n response t d hostels, ah	to Covid-19 ead of hand	are move ling some	d on of them
13.3	as above but excluding rent loss from empty homes	For info	94.89% (£2.6m of £2.8m)	97.69% (£3.8m of (£3.8m)	n/a	n/a
13.4	Rent collected for leased temporary accommodation properties (year to date)	96.10%	87.28% (£3.3m of £3.8m)	85.81% (£4.9m of £5.7m)	R	$\bigcirc$
our ma	reporting system has recently been do in housing management IT system, a current financial year.					
13.5	as above but excluding rent loss from empty homes	For info	93.33% (£3.3m of £3.6m)	92.62% (£4.9m of £5.3m)	n/a	n/a
13.6	Rent collected for Seaside Homes (year to date)	91.00%	90.74% (£2.6m of £2.7m)	92.64% (£3.9m of £4.2m)	G	$\widehat{\mathbf{U}}$
13.7	as above but excluding rent loss from empty homes	For info	95.49% (£2.6m of £2.6m)	99.22% (£3.9m of £4.0m)	n/a	n/a
13.8	Empty temporary accommodation homes	For info	115	141	n/a	n/a
13.9	Seaside Homes with a valid Landlord's Gas Safety Record	100%	99.8% (425 of 426)	99.5% (424 of 426)		$\bigcirc$
13.10	Leased properties with a valid Landlord's Gas Safety Record	For info	89.1% (554 of 622)	TBC	n/a	n/a
leased	dicator above does not have a target of properties is to monitor progress and as the council's gas contractor carries	remind lar	ndlords to ari	ange gas sa	afety chec	

	Council housing – supply	Q2 2021/22	Q3 2021/22						
14.1	Additional council homes	27	20						
14.2	at Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rents	22% (6 of 27)	25% (5 of 20)						
*All six	*All six homes at LHA rates from Q2 were buy backs for use as temporary housing								
14.3	at 37.5% Living Wage rents	37% (10 of 27)	65% 13 of 20						
14.4	at 27.5% Living Wage rents	41% (11 of 27)	10% (2 of 20)						
14.5	at social rents	0% (0 of 27)	0% (0 of 20)						
14.6	Council homes sold through the Right to Buy	11	7						
	21 homes sold during 2021/22 to date, 10 were for leaseho d (houses)	ld (flats) and	11 were for						
14.7	Net change in the number of council homes – all rent levels	+16	+13						
14.8	Net change in the number of council homes – social and 27.5% Living Wage rent homes only	0	-5						
14.9	Total council owned homes	11,716	11,729						
	tock of 11,729 includes 10,714 general needs, 877 seniors rary housing (including dwellings not yet handed over).	housing and	138						

Buy backs by application date	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22 to date	Total
Total applications	5	53	88	159	124	429
Of which, became purchases	2	32	53	86	19	192
Council declined	1	13	11	16	6	47
Owner declined offer	1	5	12	15	9	42
Owner withdrew	1	3	12	34	32	82
Outcome pending	0	0	0	8	58	66

## 14.10 Council housing – buy backs (Home Purchase and Next Steps / Housing First)

Completed buy backs by rent level	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22 to date	Total
Completed purchases	1	13	43	64	71	192
general needs social rent	0	0	1	4	0	5
general needs 27.5% Living Wage	0	0	5	17	19	41
general needs 37.5% Living Wage	1	5	24	14	33	77
temporary housing at LHA rates	0	8	13	29	19	69

### Summary of all buy backs since start of programmes, September 2017

To purch		Social rent	27.5% LWR	37.5% LWR	LHA rate	No. rent reserve applied	Total rent reserve applied	Net modelled subsidy (surplus) over all properties to date (£)
19	2*	5	41	77	69	26 **	£1.233m ***	£104,000

\* Of which 174 are flats (4 studio, 63 one bed, 92 two bed, 15 three bed) and 18 are houses (3 two bed, 14 three bed, 1 four bed) \*\* Following Housing Committee decision to use rent reserve to keep rents as low as possible

\*\*\* Applied during 2019/20 – a further £827k is anticipated to be used during 2021/22

Ľ	Council housing – management	Target	Q2 2021/22	Q3 2021/22	Status against target	<b>Trend</b> since Q2				
15.1	Rent collected from council tenants	95.68%	96.16% (£51.2m of £53.2m)	TBC	ТВС	TBC				
	The result above is provisional following implementation of our new housing management IT system and is pending verification.									
15.2	Tenants known to claim Universal Credit (UC)	Info	24% (2,717 of 11,290)	25% (2,820 of 11,298)	n/a	n/a				
15.3	UC tenants in arrears who have an alternative payment arrangement	Info	57% (848 of 1,496)	ТВС	n/a	n/a				
15.4	Arrears of UC tenants as a proportion of total arrears	Info	65% (£1.3m of £2.0m)	TBC	n/a	n/a				
15.5	Tenants evicted due to rent arrears	Info	0	0	n/a	n/a				
15.6	Tenants evicted due to anti-social behaviour (ASB)	Info	0	2	n/a	n/a				
15.7	Calls answered by Housing Customer Services	85%	82% (5,385 of 6,596)	90% (4,272 of 4,763)	G	$\bigcirc$				
15.8	Tenancies sustained following difficulties	90%	97% (31 of 32)	92% (12 of 13)	G	Ţ ♪				
15.9	Average re-let time (calendar days) excluding time spent in major works	21	66	89	R					
counci Howev	times remain high while recovery eff I homes, which includes many home rer, there has been a significant impr ds pre pandemic levels (based on an	s which ha ovement ir	ve been empt	y for long per lets during (	riods of tir ຊ3 (122) v	ne.				
15.10	Average re-let time (calendar days) including time spent in major works	Info	206	223	n/a	n/a				
15.11	Number of previously occupied council homes re-let (general needs and seniors)	Info	98	122	n/a	n/a				
15.12	Number of new council homes let for the first time (general needs and seniors)	Info	5	16	n/a	n/a				

Council housing – management		Target	Q2 2021/22	Q3 2021/22	Status against target	<b>Trend</b> since Q2
15.13	Empty general needs and seniors council homes (includes new homes)	Info	273	293	n/a	n/a
15.14	Empty council owned temporary accommodation homes (includes new homes not yet handed over)	Info	15	15	n/a	n/a

and the second s		incil housing – repairs and ntenance	Target	Q2 2021/22	Q3 2021/22	Status against target	<b>Trend</b> since Q2		
16.1	¢,	Calls answered by Repairs Helpdesk	85%	93% (19,888 of 21,410)	93% (19,739 of 21,159)	G			
16.2		Dwellings meeting Decent Homes Standard	100%	92.9% (10,884 of 11,716)	96.9% (11,365 of 11,729)	R	$\bigcirc$		
was a restrict Howev	The stock condition survey identified many dwellings which did not meet the standard, and there was a lack of planned installations of new kitchens and bathrooms through 2020 due to Covid restrictions, shortages of supplies and components, and the mobilisation of new contractors. However, performance has increased since kitchen and bathroom replacements resumed under new contracts, focusing on empty homes (in order to reduce the backlog) then occupied homes.								
16.3	Energy (out of	<ul><li>efficiency rating of homes</li><li>100)</li></ul>	76.8	68.1	68.1	R			
our Ho for Hou	useMarl	us target was set in line with p k peer group was 76.8 at the e ommittee to show how Housin a programme to install solar p	end of Ma g can con	rch 2021). A tribute to the	retrofit plan is Carbon Neutı	being pre ral 2030	epared		
16.4	¥==	Council homes with a valid Landlord's Gas Safety Record	100%	100% (10,017 of 10,017)	100% (10,044 of 10,044)	G			
16.5	00	Lifts restored to service within 24 hours	95%	91% (292 of 321)	92% (288 of 312)	R	$\widehat{\Box}$		
spare p 2022/2	There have been delays in repairing some lifts due to aging equipment and difficulty sourcing spare parts. Aging equipment is being modernised at Seniors schemes during 2021/22 and 2022/23; and the lift contactor will investigate potential to retain a greater stock of critical spares from European supply chains.								
16.6		average time taken (days) to e service when not within 24	7	12	ТВС	ТВС	твс		

New performance indicators relating to planned and major works are currently being developed and will accompany future versions of these performance reports.

<sup>+</sup>	Leaseholder disputes	Q2 2021/22	Q3 2021/22
17.1	Stage one disputes opened	7	6
17.2	Stage one disputes closed	4	7
17.3	Active stage one disputes (end quarter)	22	23
17.4	Stage two disputes opened	0	1
17.5	Stage two disputes closed	0	1
17.6	Active stage two disputes (end quarter)	3	3
17.7	Stage three disputes opened	0	0
17.8	Stage three disputes closed	1	0
17.9	Active stage three disputes (end quarter)	1	1

# Appendix - Government list of emergency priority repairs

Repair type	Response time (working days)
Total loss of electric power	1
Unsafe power or lighting socket or electrical fitting	1
Total loss of water supply	1
Total or partial loss of gas supply	1
Blocked flue to open fire or boiler	1
Heating or hot water not working between 31 October and 1 May	1
Blocked/leaking foul drain, soil stack or toilet	1
Toilet not flushing (if there is only one toilet in the property)	1
Leak from a water pipe, tank or cistern	1
Insecure external window, door or lock	1