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 9 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, and resource capacity issues.

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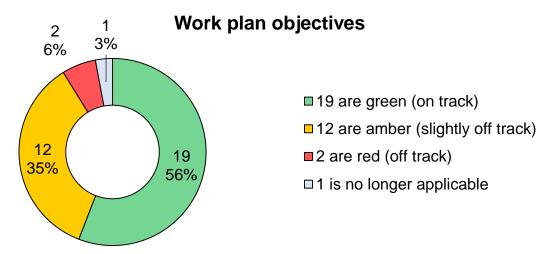
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Performance areas

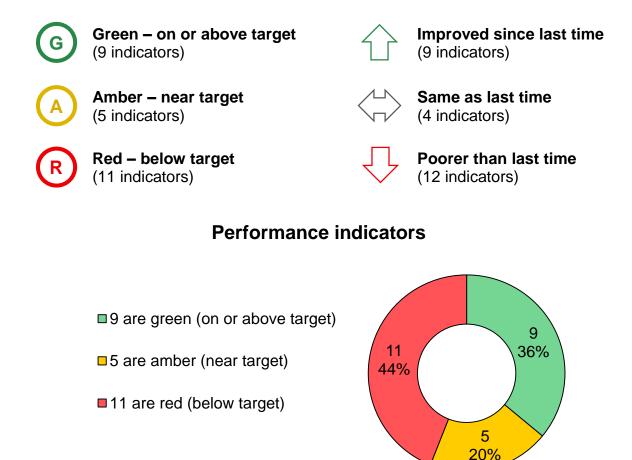
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This housing performance report covers Quarter 3 (Q3) of the 2021/22 financial year. It uses red, amber and green ratings to provide an indication of performance.

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

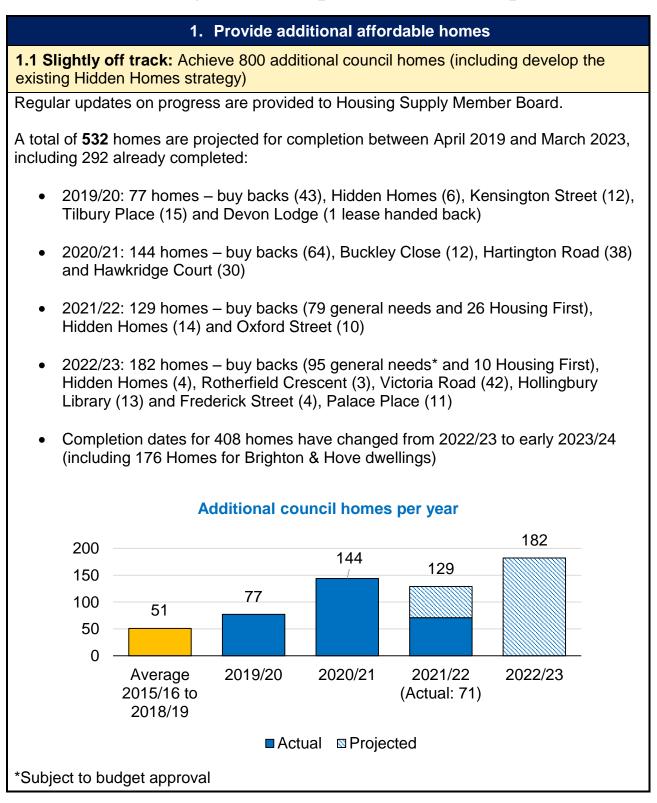


Part two presents results for a range of performance indicators across Housing and similarly uses red, amber and green ratings, as well as trend arrows. Commentary has been included for indicators which are red. During Q3, the ratings and trends were as follows:

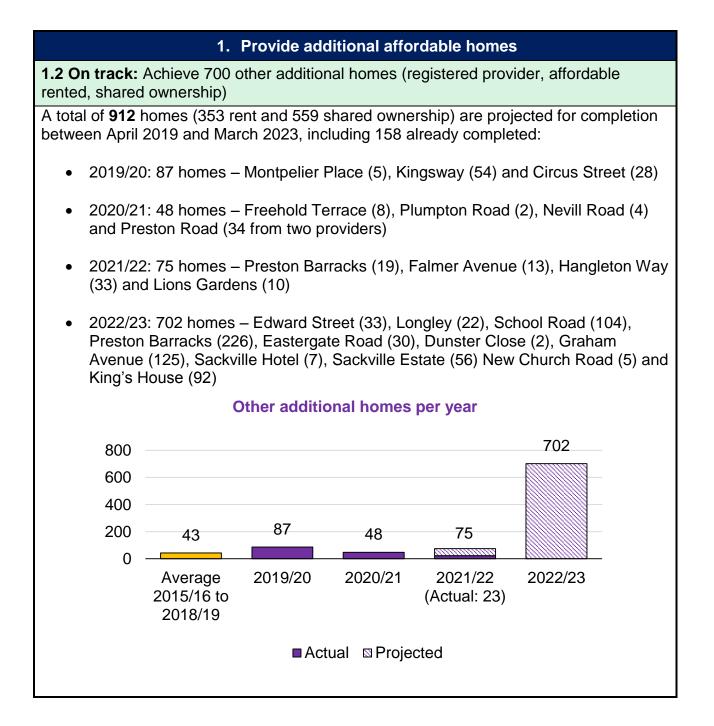


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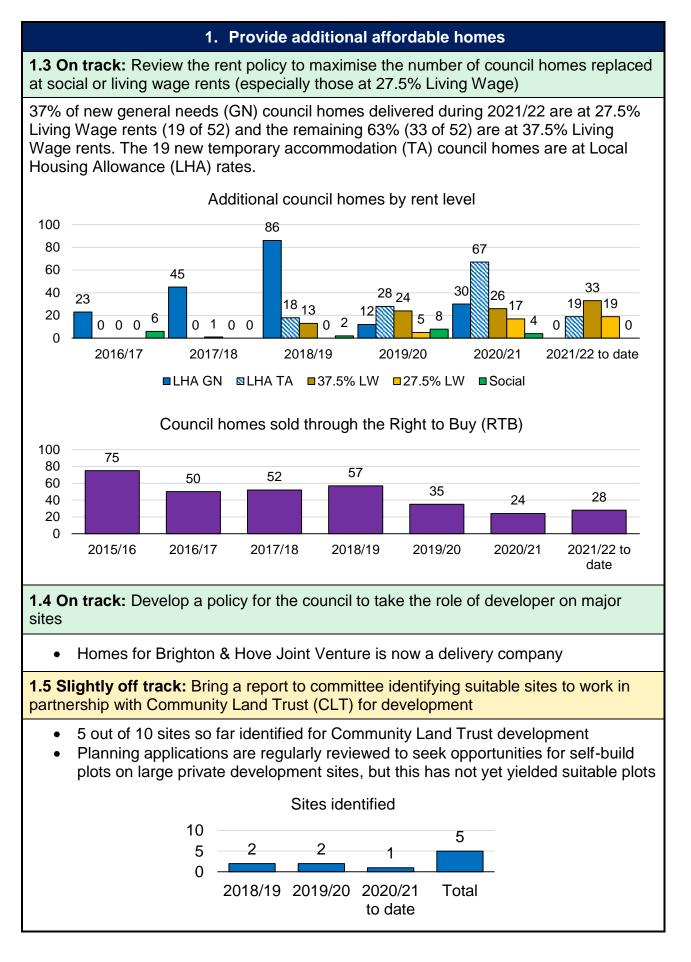
Part one: Housing Committee priorities and work plan 2019-23



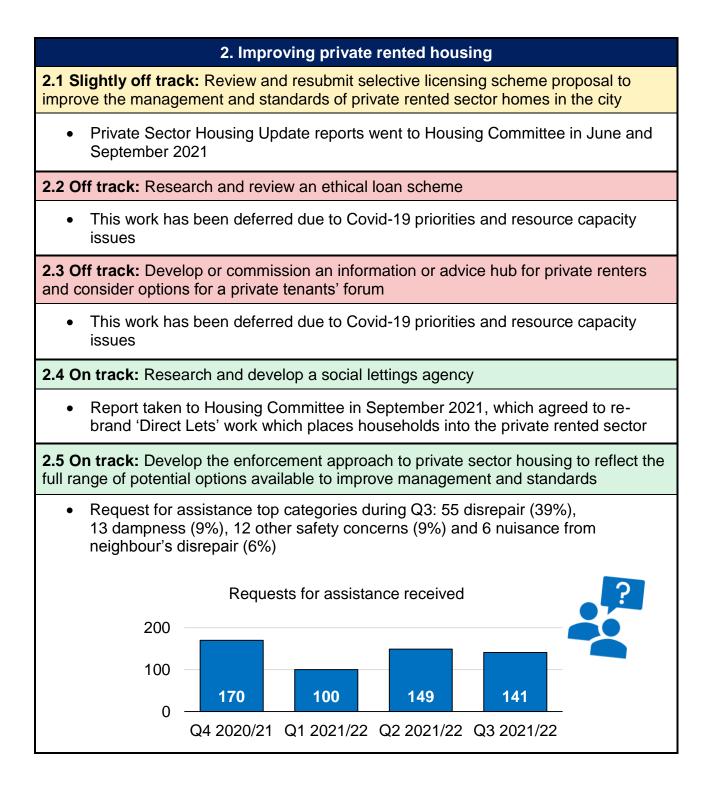
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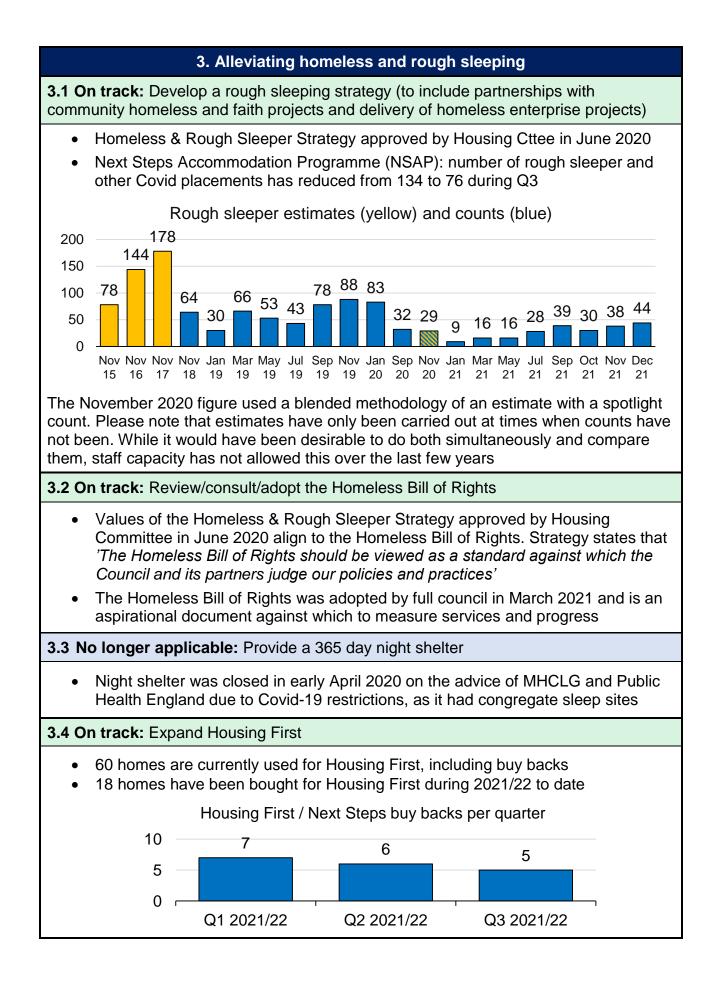
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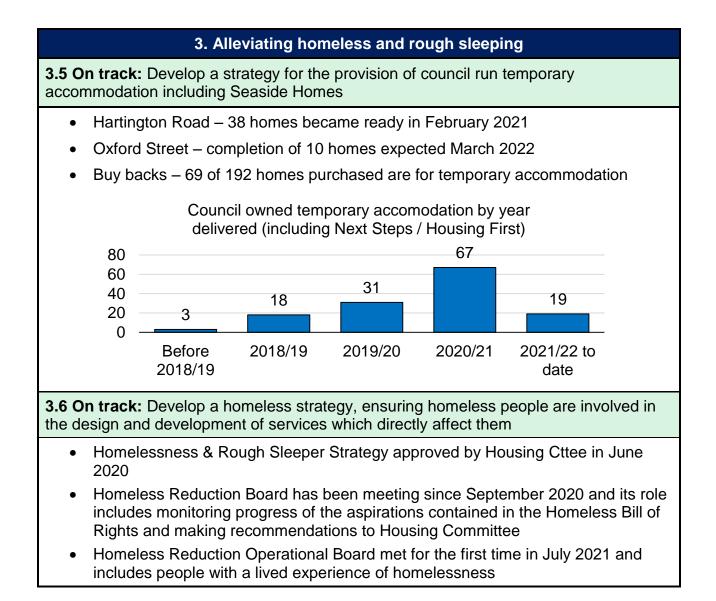
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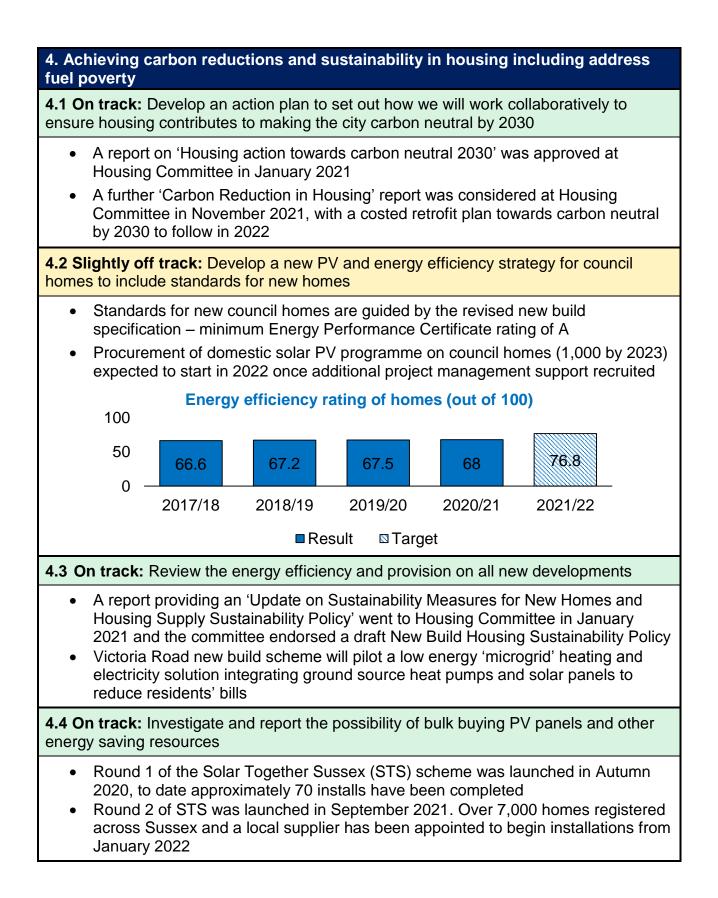


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5. Improving council housing and community involvement

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
- A new procedure is now in place for engagement with tenants and leaseholders for proposed projects that will be tendered through the major works framework
- The council has completed a survey of all leaseholders and shared the results with the Leaseholder Action Group

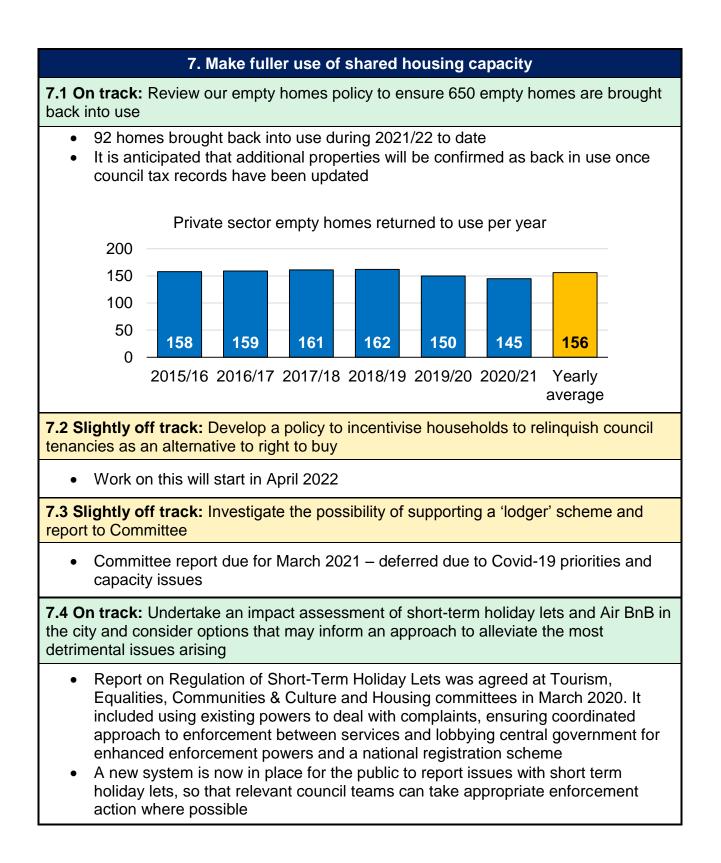
6. Enabling more affordable home ownership

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 has recruited three electrical apprentices and further apprenticeship opportunities will be advertised later in the year

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

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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.

	Customer feedback – all Housing services	Target	Q2 2021/22	Q3 2021/22	Status against target	Trend 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	Trend 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	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$					
The indicator above measures cases where the council has verified that conditions have been completed. We are currently working through a backlog of cases that need to be verified as complete and so it is anticipated this figure will rise.											
10.3	Private sector empty homes returned to use	32	37	21	R	\bigcirc					
Tax re	The Q2 figure above has increased from 26 to 37 since last reported. This is because Council Tax records have identified more homes brought back in use during this period, and there is a reporting lag between the date they were back in use and the date this could be confirmed.										

Housing adaptations	Target	Q2 2021/22	Q3 2021/22	Status against target	Trend since Q2
Private housing – average weeks 11.1 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 revised guidance timescales. The indicator relating to adaptations to council homes is 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.

	Housing Needs – Housing Options and allocations	Target	Q2 2021/22	Q3 2021/22	Status against target	Trend since Q2
12.1	Households prevented from becoming homeless (by council and partner agencies)	424	448	394		\bigcirc
12.2	New households accepted as homeless	Info	77	67	n/a	n/a
12.3	Number of households on the social housing waiting list	Info	5,143	5,265	n/a	n/a

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	Housing Needs – temporary accommodation (including emergency accommodation)	Target	Q2 2021/22	Q3 2021/22	Status against target	Trend 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					
year to rent los while p	The rent collection indicators in this table measure the actual amount of rent collected during the year to date compared to the amount due within the same period. The indicator above includes rent loss from empty emergency accommodation dwellings, which has been higher than usual while people who were placed in response to Covid-19 are moved on from 'block booked' accommodation such as hotels and hostels, ahead of handing some of them back.										
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 properties (year to date including loss from empty homes)	96.10%	87.28% (£3.3m of £3.8m)	85.81% (£4.9m of £5.7m)	R	$\overline{\Box}$					
our ma	reporting system has recently been de 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 including loss from empty homes)	91.00%	90.74% (£2.6m of £2.7m)	92.64% (£3.9m of £4.2m)	G						
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)		\Box					
13.10	Leased properties with a valid Landlord's Gas Safety Record	For info	89.1% (554 of 622)	87.4% (508 of 617)	n/a	n/a					
counci	dicator above does not have a target k 's role is to monitor progress and rem uncil's gas contractor carries out chec	ind landlor	ds to arrang	e gas safety	checks, v						

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	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 and Q3 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										
	ouncil owned dwelling stock of 11,729 includes 10,714 gen g and 138 temporary housing (including dwellings not yet h		77 seniors								

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	Trend since Q2				
15.1	Rent collected from council tenants (forecast for whole financial year)	95.68%	96.16% (£51.2m of £53.2m)	95.58% (£50.8m of £53.2m)	A	\bigcirc				
The Q2 and Q3 figures above are forecasts for the whole of the 2021/22 financial year, and the Q4 figures in the next report will provide the actual results for the year. The methodology exclud rent loss from empty properties and includes arrears from the end of the previous financial year.										
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)	48% (875 of 1,837)	n/a	n/a				
15.4	Arrears of UC tenants as a proportion of total arrears	Info	65% (£1.3m of £2.0m)	63% (£1.5m of £2.4m)	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	New reports of ASB from victims and witnesses	Info	236	203	n/a	n/a				
15.8	ASB perpetrator cases opened	Info	144	157	n/a	n/a				
15.9	ASB perpetrator cases closed	Info	35	99	n/a	n/a				
15.10	Average days to close ASB perpetrator cases	Info	20	56	n/a	n/a				
15.11	Active ASB perpetrator cases at quarter end	Info	120	178	n/a	n/a				
record witnes	nti-social behaviour (ASB) indicators ed on the new housing management ses as well as linked cases dealt with e victims and witnesses linked to a s	IT system	, which includ n to the perpe	es reports fro	om victims	and				
15.12	Calls answered by Housing Customer Services	85%	82% (5,385 of 6,596)	90% (4,272 of 4,763)	G	$\hat{\Box}$				
15.13	Tenancies sustained following difficulties	90%	97% (31 of 32)	92% (12 of 13)	G	$\overline{\nabla}$				

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٩	Council housing – empty homes	Target	Q2 2021/22	Q3 2021/22	Status against target	Trend since Q2
15.14	Average re-let time (calendar days) excluding time spent in major works	21	66	89	R	\bigcirc
Re-let times are high while recovery efforts remain underway to tackle the backlog of empty council homes, which includes many homes which have been empty for long periods of time. However, there has been a significant improvement in number of re-lets during Q3 (122) which exceeds pre pandemic levels (based on an average of 111 per quarter during 2019/20).						
15.15	Average re-let time (calendar days) including time spent in major works	Info	206	223	n/a	n/a
15.16	Number of previously occupied council homes re-let (general needs and seniors)	Info	98	122	n/a	n/a
15.17	Number of new council homes let for the first time (general needs and seniors)	Info	5	16	n/a	n/a
15.18	Empty general needs and seniors council homes (includes new homes)	Info	273	293	n/a	n/a
15.19	Empty council owned temporary accommodation homes (includes new homes not yet handed over)	Info	15	15	n/a	n/a

, *	Council housing – repairs and maintenance	Target	Q2 2021/22	Q3 2021/22	Status against target	Trend since Q2	
16.1	Emergency repairs completed within 24 hours	99%	95.5% (2,583 of 2,706)	95.8% (2,759 of 2,880)	R	\bigcirc	
Q3 shows a small improvement over Q2. Emergency response times are still being impacted by a shortage of trades people and the impact on staff resource of the Covid pandemic and self-isolation guidance. Recruitment to full staff capacity is underway (reaching approximately 80/85% in January 2022) and is scheduled to be complete by the end of the 2021/22 financial year.							
16.2	Routine repairs completed within 28 calendar days	92%	67.0% (2,786 of 4,156)	64.0% (2,574 of 4,020)	R	\bigcirc	
Recently completed routine repairs have included jobs from a backlog which has built up since the start of the pandemic and due to reduced staffing levels and availability of contractors. This means that these jobs took longer than their target timescales once they were completed. Recruitment to full staff capacity is underway (as per the comment above) and the service will determine whether any future recruitment is needed as part of a plan to clear the backlog.							
16.3	Average time to complete routine repairs (calendar days)	15	48	43	R		
As above.							
16.4	Calls answered by Repairs Helpdesk	85%	93% (19,888 of 21,410)	93% (19,739 of 21,159)	G	$\langle \neg \rangle$	
16.5	Surveyed tenants satisfied with standard of work	96%	-	97% (199 of 205)	G	\bigcirc	
16.6	Surveyed tenants satisfied with overall customer service	96%	-	99% (203 of 205)	G	$\langle \neg \rangle$	
Satisfaction surveys were paused during Q2 to allow time to develop a new IT system for capturing and reporting on satisfaction data. Once this was achieved, surveys resumed in November 2021 and therefore the trend arrows for the two indicators above compare to performance from Q1, which was 98% and 99% respectively.							

Please note the figures for the first three indicators in the table above are provisional as there are currently issues with reporting of repairs data arising from the switchover of our main housing management IT system since the start of July 2021. At present two IT systems are being used and it is not possible to integrate reporting between them, meaning that performance data is currently being extracted and manually combined from the two systems, which is likely to be less accurate than automatic system reporting (due to the volume and multiple stages of the jobs managed by the repairs and maintenance service). We are in the process of procuring a new works management system. Once we have this new system, we should be able to report on all jobs automatically.

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1	Council housing - maintenance	- repairs and	Target	Q2 2021/22	Q3 2021/22	Status against target	Trend since Q2
16.6	Dwellings me Homes Stand	•	100%	92.9% (10,884 of 11,716)	96.9% (11,365 of 11,729)	R	\bigcirc
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.							
16.7	6.7Energy efficiency rating of homes (out of 100)76.868.168			68.1	R	$\langle \neg \rangle$	
A very ambitious target was set in line with performance by other local authorities (the median for our HouseMark peer group was 76.8 at the end of March 2021). A retrofit plan is being prepared for Housing Committee to show how Housing can contribute to the Carbon Neutral 2030 objective, and a programme to install solar panels on 1,000 council homes is to begin in 2022.							
16.8	Council home Landlord's Ga Record		100%	100% (10,017 of 10,017)	100% (10,044 of 10,044)	G	$\langle \neg \rangle$
16.9	Lifts restored within 24 hour		95%	91% (292 of 321)	92% (288 of 312)	R	$\widehat{\mathbf{U}}$
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.							
16.10	Lifts – average time taken (days) to restore service when not within 24 hours		7	12	14	R	$\overline{\mathbf{v}}$
As above.							

Following a request at Area Panel in February 2022, a summary of the capital works programme will be included as an accompaniment to future versions of this report.

×	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	21
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