

Report of:

Meeting of:	Date:	Ward(s):
Housing Scrutiny Committee	20 th September 2022	All

Delete as appropriate	Exempt	Non-exempt
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SUBJECT: Quarter 1 Performance Report: Housing
1. Synopsis

- 1.1 The council has in place a suite of corporate performance indicators to help monitor progress in delivering the outcomes set out in the council's Corporate Plan. Progress on key performance measures is reported through the Council's Scrutiny Committees on a quarterly basis to ensure accountability to residents and to enable challenge where necessary.
- 1.2 This report sets out Quarter 1 progress against targets for those performance indicators that fall within the Housing outcome area, for which the Housing Scrutiny Committee has responsibility.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To note performance against targets in Quarter 1, 2022/23 for measures relating to Housing.

3. Background

- 3.1 A suite of corporate performance indicators has been agreed, which help track progress in delivering the seven priorities set out in the Council's Corporate Plan - *Building a Fairer Islington*. Targets are set on an annual basis and performance is monitored internally, through Departmental Management Teams, Corporate Management Board and Joint Board, and externally through the Scrutiny Committees.
- 3.2 The Housing Scrutiny Committee is responsible for monitoring and challenging performance for the following key outcome area: Housing: Delivering decent and genuinely affordable homes for all.

4. Quarter 1 performance update – Housing

4.1 Key performance indicators relating to Housing.

#	Indicator	2019/ 20 Actual	2020/ 21 Actual	2021/ 22 Actual	2022/ 23 Q1	Targets	On target ?	Q1 last year	Better than Q1 last year?
H1	Number of planning permissions agreed for new council housing	0	43	30	0	0 (Q1)	YES	30	N/A
H2	Number of new council homes started on site	New	New	47	0	0 (Q1)	YES	0	N/A
H3	Number of affordable new homes (social rented or shared ownership) completed by the council	63	53	10	46	102 (Q1)	YES	0	N/A
H4	Number of affordable new homes (social rented or shared ownership) completed by Developers	89	118	40	0	0	YES	0	N/A
H5	Percentage of homeless decisions made in the target timeframe	New	40%	68%	77%	90% (annual)	YES	62%	BETTER
H6	Number of households in nightly booked temporary accommodation	316	468	403	446	365 (annual)	NO	455	BETTER
H7	Number of homeless preventions	717	947	701	250	850 (annual)	YES	141	BETTER
H8	Number of people sleeping rough	New	11	6	14	0	NO	11	WORSE
H9	Percentage of all lettings provided to council tenants securing a transfer	38%	35%	29%	39%		YES	32%	BETTER
H10	Percentage of LBI repairs fixed first time	87.7%	92.9%	88.5%	88.4%	85% (annual)	YES	89.6%	WORSE
H11	Rent arrears as a proportion of the rent roll - LBI (%)	3.9%	4.7%	4.50%	4.9%	Target TBC	NO	4.67%	N/A*
H12	Rent arrears as a proportion of the rent roll - partner properties	3.7%	4.9%	5.38%	4.7%	Target TBC	NO	4.91%	N/A
H13	% of residents who are very satisfied or satisfied with whole experience of having works carried out	N/A	N/A	N/A	74%*	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW

*NB Q1 figures for this year are not directly comparable to Q1 of last year as the Council took back management of the PF12 housing stock, approximately 3,000 properties from the first quarter of this year.

** Results relate to schemes ending in Q4 of 21-22

4.2 *H1: Number of planning permissions agreed for new council housing*

This figure is on target at this point in the year as no new planning permissions for council housing were planned for Q1. For 2022/23 there is a target of 82 planning permissions to be granted for new council housing in Q2 (Bemerton Estate South (Including Orkney House)) and Q3 (Vorley Road).

4.3 *H2: Number of new council homes started on site*

This figure is on target as there are no new council homes planned to start on site in Q1. A total of 77 new council homes units are planned over Q2, Q3 and Q4.

4.4 *H3: Number of affordable new homes (social rented or shared ownership) completed by the council*

46 council homes completed in Q1 out of a planned 102 for Q1. Q1 planned completed (Charles Simmons Hse 25 units) is currently due to complete 28th September 2022 (Q2). Stacey Street (30 units) is now occupied but completion will be in Q2.

4.5 *H4: Number of affordable new homes (social rented or shared ownership) completed by Developers*

No new affordable homes completed by Developers are planned for Q1. There is a target of 171 new homes to be completed during Q3 and Q4.

4.6 *H5: Percentage of homeless decisions made in the target timeframe*

77% of homeless decisions were made in the target framework. Though this is 13% below the annual target of 90%, it is a significant improvement compared to Q1 of last year. Performance has been affected by a combination of the increased demand for the service which has increased significantly over the quarter and the complexity of the homeless cases presenting that require more detailed inquiries and lengthier enquiries. The increased demand has been reflected nationally that has seen an increase of 5.4% in statutory homelessness presentations for the same quarter. The mitigating actions that are underway include continuing weekly focus on performance on this indicator, increasing the officer target for decision reached and provision of overtime for high performing officers to reach decision within the target time frame. The service has set an ambitious target and if achieved this will result in the council being placed in the top quartile of performance.

4.7 *H6: Number of households in nightly booked temporary accommodation*

There were 446 households in nightly booked temporary accommodation in Q1 compared to 455 in Q1. The annual target is 365. There has been a significant increase in homeless approaches due to domestic abuse, including those fleeing threats of violence/gang violence [this represents a marked shift from what has been the most common reason for homeless to date- being asked to leave by friends/family]. Q1 2022/23- 79 approaches due to domestic abuse vs 61 approaches due to being asked to leave by friends and family. In contrast, Q4 2021/22- 53 approaches due to domestic abuse vs 60 approaches due to being asked to leave by friends and family.

The team are continuing to work to discharge ineligible households as quickly as possible, to bring the number down further.

In London, there are 15.7 households living in temporary accommodation per 1,000 households, compared with 1.9 households per 1,000 in the Rest of England. In Islington there are 8.1

households per 1,000 living in temporary accommodation. Newham had the highest rate of TA in London with 48.3 households per 1,000 households and Luton had the highest rate of TA outside London with 13.7 households per 1,000 households. Therefore, Islington Council's overall performance in managing temporary accommodation is excellent. However, further reductions in the use of private sector properties are urgently needed going forward and we should not be complacent. The council has set a stretching target to eliminate the use of expensive nightly paid temporary accommodation to provide greater security for our homeless residents.

4.8 *H7: Number of homeless preventions*

In Q1 there were 250 households that were prevented from being homeless. This is 18% above the target for this quarter (213) and better than Q1 of the previous year. The annual target is 850. Whilst on target for this quarter there are wider factors of concern that may impact on homelessness prevention success in future quarters. These include, increase in rents in London which will make securing private sector accommodation more challenging, corresponding decrease in affordability due to the cost of living crisis, energy costs, inflation etc which will impact more acutely on those on low and moderate incomes, concerns about the affordability of social housing properties owned by Housing Association and a further increase in homeless presentations from September 2022, as initial six-month placements through the Homes for Ukraine scheme end. Homelessness is expected to increase during the remaining part of 2022/2023 and throughout the 2023/2024 financial year as a result of the cost-of-living crisis and people in Islington being unable to afford the basics of heating their homes, food for the households, and stable/secure accommodation.

4.9 *H8: Number of people sleeping rough*

The number of people sleeping rough this quarter is higher compared to Q1 last year. Rough sleeping is increasing across London. However, Islington Council continues to re-house people from the streets as no one should be sleeping on the streets of Islington. The increase in people sleeping on the streets is being driven by a number of councils closing covid accommodation in particular for people with no recourse to public funds and Councils going back to business as usual and assessing people under the Homeless Reduction Act for interim temporary accommodation. This has led to rough sleepers moving into Islington due to the lack of provision in the boroughs the rough sleepers were previously in. Islington Council has raised this gatekeeping approach with these council's and Islington Council have escalated this gatekeeping with the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities for the past six months without any noticeable success.

4.10 *H9: Percentage of all lettings provided to council tenants securing a transfer*

This indicator shows how many of the council's existing tenants have been successful in moving to a more suitable social rented home, alleviating overcrowding for example and freeing up council homes for those in need. The lettings target has been exceeded by 4% during Q1 as a result of the completion of a key new build scheme at King Square. This has meant that the service achieved a higher number of social housing lettings (for council tenants) than in the previous quarter. The service continues to focus on under-occupiers to release larger properties for households that need them and encouraging social housing tenants to consider the mutual exchange scheme to increase the lettings to those seeking a transfer. However, with the cost of living crisis and the demand for accommodation for homeless households, plus Children's Services and Adult Services statutory clients it is anticipated this target will not be met during this financial year.

4.11 *H10: Percentage of LBI repairs fixed first time*

88.4% of repairs have been fixed first time in Q1 of this year, although this is lower than Q1 of the previous year it is above the annual target of 85% for 2022/23.

4.12 *H11: Rent arrears as a proportion of the rent roll – LBI*

In April 2022 the Council took back the management of PFI2 housing stock, approximately 3,000 properties which has resulted in the proportion of rent arrears of the rent roll for LBI increasing. 37% of the former PFI2 accounts are in arrears, which represents between 4% to 8% more arrears accounts than for LBI patches. Rent values for PFI properties are up to 25% higher than pre-existing LBI managed stock and the average arrears value of these accounts is also £417 higher compared to pre-existing LBI managed properties. A detailed review of PFI2 accounts has been undertaken since handover resulting in a significant number requiring enforcement action to bring them in line with the LBI arrears process.

Reducing rent arrears over the next year will be a significant challenge, due to the increase in the cost of living and fuel bills, which will adversely affect a majority of our residents and limit their ability to make rent payments.

4.13 *H12: Rent arrears as a proportion of the rent roll - Partner properties*

Rent arrears as a proportion of the rent roll for partner properties is down compared to Q1 of last year due to many properties been brought back in-house in April 2022.

4.14 *H13: % of residents who are very satisfied or satisfied with whole experience of having works carried out.*

Satisfaction for capital works is collected quarterly by an independent satisfaction monitoring company. Due to the long-term nature of capital programmes Q1s results will relate to schemes ending in Q4 of 21-22. We are hoping to increase the number of surveys working with residents and the sampling company as sample rates are low. The Satisfaction measure is new, so we have not set targets this year. It is also important to note that Q4 was the last month some of our legacy contract work was completed (old Breyers and Mears contracts)

5. **Implications**

Financial implications:

5.1 The cost of providing resources to monitor performance is met within each service's core budget.

Legal Implications:

5.2 There are no legal duties upon local authorities to set targets or monitor performance. However, these enable us to strive for continuous improvement.

Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030:

5.3 There are no environmental impact arising from monitoring performance.

Resident Impact Assessment:

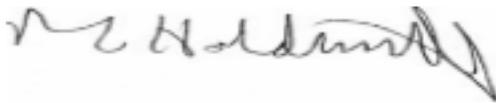
5.4 The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010).

5.5 The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

6. **Conclusion**

6.1 The Council's Corporate Plan sets out a clear set of priorities, underpinned by a set of firm commitments and actions that we will take over the next four years to work towards our vision of a Fairer Islington. The corporate performance indicators are one of a number of tools that enable us to ensure that we are making progress in delivering key priorities whilst maintaining good quality services.

Signed by:



Corporate Director, Homes and Neighbourhoods

Date: 9th September 2022

Report Author: Mahnaz Shaukat
Tel: 0207 527 2924
Email: Mahnaz.Shaukat@islington.gov.uk