

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Housing and Environment
DATE	14 January 2014
DIRECTOR	Pete Leonard
TITLE OF REPORT	Housing and Environment Business Plan Performance and Actions
REPORT NUMBER:	H&E/14/012

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to present committee with key performance measures and progress of key improvement work within the Housing and Environment Directorate.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee:

- a) Provide comments and observations on the performance information contained in the report.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct implications arising out of this report, although a number of comments are made on the use of resources.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no other direct implications arising out of this report regarding legal, resource, personnel, property, equipment, sustainability and environmental, health and safety; although a number of comments are made on the use of resources.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

This report presents members with key performance measures and progress of key improvement work within the Housing and Environment Directorate.

This report also comprises of a progress report from the Director.

Performance information and Actions progress are input and updated through Covalent, the corporate performance reporting system, by the relevant lead officers. The data is reviewed and managed within the Directorate by the Director and Senior Management Team.

Within the report the following symbols are used:

Performance Measures

Traffic Light Icon



On target or within 5% of target



Within 5% and 20 % of target and being monitored



Below 20% of target and being actively pursued



Data only PI as there is no target set

6. IMPACT

The performance reporting framework is integrated with the Council's ambition of being a top performing Council which delivers on the Community Plan and the Administration's Policy Statement.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

N/A

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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Director's Progress Report
Housing and Environment
29/10/13 – 13/01/14

Tenant Participation Advisory Service (TPAS) Award – ACC tenant Rita Buchan has been presented with the TPAS Tenant of the year award at the TPAS conference. This is the first time an ACC tenant has received this award and it is certainly an indication of how well Rita has worked with ACC and our tenants and residents. Despite recent ill health, Rita has continued to work with ACC to design and collate feedback forms, audit tenant/resident group accounts, comment on documents as well as attend meetings and events when she can. Rita is a credit to Tenant Participation and to ACC.

NETRALT - North East Tenants Residents and Landlords Together NETRALT were presented with the runner up prize for Tenant Participation of the Year at the Tenant Participation Advisory Service (TPAS) Annual Conference on 15 Nov 2013. Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council and The Moray Council as well as all the local Housing Associations are members of this group. The group started in 2011 and work together to improve tenant & community engagement in the North East. They have held a number of very successful joint events and their recent Housing Café hosted by ACC was seen as an innovative way to our involve tenants and residents.

National Housing Trust - Through the National Housing Trust Initiative 9 mid market rent units have been completed at Charleston, Cove. The mid market rent units were handed over by Stewart Milne Homes on 29 November 2013. This brings the total number of units delivered through the initiative to 25 at Cove and 16 in Kingswells. A further 44 units have been agreed and should be delivered in 2015. A further round of procurement is taking place which could deliver up to 79 additional units.

Victoria House - A sod cutting ceremony on 11 November marked the start of the construction phase of the new £5 million homelessness accommodation and support unit at West North Street. Aberdeen City Council are working with Keir Construction on the development of the new homeless accommodation which will comprise of a three storey block providing 20 bedsits with en suite shower facilities, communal facilities such as kitchen, laundry, lounge and staff accommodation. A six storey block will provide 20 flats ranging from one to four bedroom properties for independent living for homeless people. Construction work is due to finish late August 2104.

Apprenticeship Awards – Stephanie Wright, Apprentice Painter has won the Outstanding Personal Achievement Scotland Award at the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) Managing Apprenticeship Awards 2013. CITB is the national training organisation for construction in the UK and The Managing Agency Awards were launched to celebrate the achievements of apprentices across the UK and to recognise the organisations and employers who support them during their apprenticeship and into employment. ACC was also highly commended in the apprentice employer of the year category. The Awards Ceremony took place on 6 November at the Indig02 in London.

Purple Flag accreditation - Aberdeen city centre has been the first area in Scotland to be awarded Association of Town and City Centre Management (ATCM) Purple Flag accreditation. Purple Flag is the accreditation scheme that recognises excellence in the management of town and city centres at night. Entertainment areas that achieve the standard will be those that offer a better night out to visitors. Purple Flag aims to raise standards and improve the quality of our towns and cities at night. The application for Purple Flag has been led by Aberdeen Inspired and recognises the priority and impact that the services delivered to improve community safety in the city centre delivered over the past six years have achieved. Council officers along with partner representatives received the award at a ceremony on 29 November.

In Bloom Campaign 2014 - After the success of this year's Beautiful Scotland campaign, Aberdeen accepted the nomination from Keep Scotland Beautiful to represent Scotland in Britain In Bloom 2014. This is a very prestigious honour for the city and one that the service looks forward to being successful in.

Its your Neighbourhood Awards - Your Neighbourhood Awards administered by Keep Scotland Beautiful were held in Stirling on Wednesday 30 October 2013. Slopefield Allotments a Council allotment site, in partnership with the Slopefield Allotment Association received an outstanding award for their endeavours. Judges commented 'the site was managed to a very high standard and variety of produce is evident throughout the allotment site'.

Allotments - RGU have entered into a partnership with Environment Services to provide a Community/Learning allotment at Garthdee Field allotments. Already £4000 of Funding has been raised by the School of Health Sciences at RGU to develop the community allotment and Dr Dolan from RGU commented that the University was delighted to be in partnership with the Council to foster links between the University and the community.

RSPB Nature of Scotland Awards 2013 - The Gramps Project which aims to reduce the number of wilful fires on Kincorth Hill, Tullos Hill and around the Bucksburn Valley areas of the City was a finalist in this years RSPB Nature of Scotland Awards in the Innovation category. The Gramps Project continues to show success with another drop in the number of fires with just two in 2013, one of which was a bench that was set on fire on Kincorth Hill.

Awards - Loo Of The Year - Since its introduction in 1987, the annual Loo of the Year Awards competition has helped focus the spotlight on 'away from home' toilets throughout the UK. The Awards are run independently and promoted by the British Toilet Association and have the objective to encourage the highest possible standards in all types of 'away from home' or public toilets. All competition entries receive a grading following an unannounced visit by an authorised Loo of the Year Awards Inspector. Aberdeen's toilets were recognised as being very well managed and maintained and Footdee and Chapel Street were awarded Gold awards. All staff involved will be presented with their awards and their achievement will be highlighted in the local press.