

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Housing and Environment
DATE	26 August 2014
DIRECTOR	Pete Leonard
TITLE OF REPORT	Housing and Environment Business Plan Performance and Actions
REPORT NUMBER:	H&E/14/065

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.
- b) Note the minor amendments to the structure of the report which reflects the restructure of the Homelessness and Housing Advice Service, now referred to as the Housing Access Service and Housing Support Service.
- c) Note the additional PIs as requested by Committee on the new void paths.

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

Carol Fraser
Team Manager (Communication and Administration)
01224 523115
carolfraser@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Director's Progress Report
Housing and Environment
21/05/14 – 25/08/14

Low Cost Home Ownership - Scotia Homes are currently marketing 3 low cost home ownership properties at Dubford, Bridge of Don, as part of their obligation to provide a percentage of affordable housing on new developments in the city. These are aimed primarily at first time buyers on modest incomes and current tenants of Aberdeen City Council and Registered Social Landlords in the city are given priority. Barratt Homes are also developing at the same location and will be providing 8 x 3 bedroom properties. Aberdeen City Council will process the applications for these properties and prioritise applicants to ensure they are sold to people who may otherwise be unable to meet their housing needs. Purchasers grant a Standard Security in favour of ACC for the discounted amount to ensure the properties remain affordable for future sales.

Housing (Scotland) Act 2014 – The Act will receive royal assent soon and regulations and supplementary guidance will be issued later this year. The Act covers a wide range of housing issues affecting social housing, the law affecting private housing, the regulation of letting agents and the licensing of sites for mobile homes. One of the main provisions of the Act is the abolition of the right to buy which will have an impact on a number of social housing tenants.

Supported Work Placements - Aberdeen City Council has launched a scheme to help disadvantaged young people move into the world of work. The unique programme has been designed to offer supported work placements for the participants within the many skilled trades carried out by the City Council – with educational opportunities also on offer to make sure the young people emerge better equipped for working life. The initiative will be based initially within the Building Services team, but hopes are high that it could be rolled out across a range of council services and ultimately into the private sector. Support will be offered through the whole period to help the young workers sit and pass the core entrance exam which is a 'must' for acceptance on an apprenticeship scheme. They will also be given an allowance during their time working with the Council, and will receive a certificate on completing the course which can be presented to a prospective future employee.

Graduate Trainees - A Graduate Trainee scheme has been introduced within the Housing Service. The scheme is aimed at university graduates who have the potential to be developed into future managers and leaders of the City Council. Each trainee recruited will be supported by management within the City Council and the Human Resources and Organisational development service. They will be expected to become professionally qualified in an appropriate discipline and whilst as a trainee, in addition to their development, they will contribute during their period as a trainee both to the ongoing work of the Directorate but will also carry out specific projects to contribute to the Councils Vision of a Smarter City. The Trainees will be recruited on a 2 year fixed term basis and would be expected to complete the full first year of the scheme before being considered for a permanent post elsewhere within the

Directorate or Council. The initial 2 trainees took up their posts in early August.

Mixed Recycling - The first mixed recycling bins in the city are now available to approximately 420 properties on Bedford Road, Powis Circle and Powis Crescent. The new bins take more materials compared to the kerbside box and bag service with plastic pots, tubs and trays added to the existing paper, cardboard, metal, glass and plastic bottles collection. Residents in this area were also recently offered a food recycling collection. The Powis Residents Group has taken an active role in helping to spread the word about the new services including organising a clean up day on the 28th June and posting regular messages on their Facebook page to promote the new services, encourage residents to make the most of them, as well as to report and resolve any problems that come up. The mixed recycling pilot is due to be extended at the end of July to Bedford Road, Elmbank Road, Jute Street and Nelson Street. This will add almost 600 more properties to the new service and be a precursor to all flats and tenements receiving the service in 2015/16.

WWI and Britain in Bloom Flower Crests - The outbreak of the First World War and the 50th anniversary of the Britain in Bloom competition are being commemorated in Aberdeen through a series of floral crests. Three have been planted in Union Terrace Gardens to complement the existing Bon Accord crest, while a further two have been planted in Rubislaw Terrace Gardens. The three new Union Terrace Gardens crests commemorate the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War and feature the logos for veterans' charity Erskine, the Gordon Highlanders and Poppyscotland. The crests in Rubislaw Terrace Gardens commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Britain in Bloom competition and Aberdeen's involvement as an original entrant in 1964. They have been planted beside the fountain which was commissioned to mark Aberdeen's consecutive wins in 1969, 1970 and 1971. The Britain in Bloom 50th anniversary logo and the Aberdeen in Bloom logo are depicted in the planting.

Duthie Park - Duthie Park has been awarded a Green Flag for 2014/15 from Keep Scotland Beautiful which is given in recognition of achieving the national standard for parks and green spaces. This is the second year that the Duthie Park has been recognised for the hard work and dedication of park staff, volunteers and communities in creating and maintaining the park to an excellent standard. Keep Scotland Beautiful aims to improve our environment and the quality of life of people in Scotland by working in partnership with a wide range of individuals, volunteers and organisations. Delivering the Green Flag Award in Scotland is an important part of this vision, to encourage and recognise the commitment to achieve this national benchmark of quality.

Duthie Park Ranger Service Environment Day - Sunday 20th July was the Duthie Park Ranger Service's first 'Environment Day'. Over the afternoon 500 people came along to 'The Green' to visit a variety of stall holders, taking part in a range of free activities. As well as the Ranger Service, the Butterfly Conservation Society, Satrosphere, the Royal Horticultural Society of Aberdeen, ACC Tree Squad, Aberdeen and District Beekeepers Association, an Allotment Market Stall, the Owl and Pussy Cat Company and the Aberdeen Play Forum were all there providing information and interactive activities for the whole family.