| HOUSING | COMMITTEE |  |
|---------|-----------|--|
|         |           |  |

# Agenda Item 55

Brighton & Hove City Council

| Subject:            |        | Housing Management Performance Report<br>Quarter 2 2014/15 |                     |  |
|---------------------|--------|--|---------------------|--|
| Date of Meeting     | g:     | 14 January 2015  |                     |  |
| Report of:          |        | Executive Director for Environment, Development & Housing  |                     |  |
| Contact<br>Officer: | Name:  | Ododo Dafé   | Tel: (01273) 293201 |  |
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| Ward(s) affecte     | ed:    | All  |                     |  |

#### FOR GENERAL RELEASE

#### 1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 This Housing Management Performance Report covers the second quarter of the financial year 2014/15.

#### 2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**:

2.1 That the Housing Committee notes and comments on the report, which went to Area Panels in December 2014.

# 3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

3.1 The report continues the use of the 'RAG' rating system of red, amber and green traffic light symbols to provide an indication of performance, and also trend arrows to provide an indication of movement from the previous quarter. Explanations of performance have been provided for indicators which are red or amber.

#### 3.2 Key to symbols used in the report:

| Status  | Trend |  |   |
|---|-------|--|---|
| Performance is below target (red)   | R     | Poorer than previous<br>reporting period       | - |
| Performance is close to<br>achieving target, but in<br>need of improvement<br>(amber) |       | Same as previous reporting period              | + |
| Performance is on or above target (green)   | G     | Improvement on<br>previous reporting<br>period |   |

- 3.3 The report includes benchmarking figures from Housemark to compare our performance with other housing providers. Unless stated otherwise, all figures represent the top 25% of performers during the year 2013/14 and benchmark against our peer group of the following housing providers:
  - Bristol City Council
  - Derby Homes
  - Enfield Homes
  - Hounslow Homes
  - London Borough of Croydon
  - London Borough of Wandsworth
  - North Tyneside Council
  - Norwich City Council
  - Plymouth Community Homes
  - Southampton City Council
  - Thurrock Borough Council

This group comprises local authorities and ALMOs (Arms Length Management Organisations) who have housing stock with similar characteristics to Brighton and Hove, including number of dwellings, ratio of flats to houses and proportion of high rise flats. The local authorities as a whole are not necessarily similar to Brighton and Hove in terms of demographics, although many are similar in terms of the overall level of deprivation.

#### 4.0 **Rent collection and current arrears**

As the indicators and targets below are year-end, rather than for each quarter, no traffic lights or trend arrows will be applied until the quarter four 2014/15 report. However, the seven evictions carried out so far in 2014/15 were long-standing cases where arrears had built up over a number of years to reach a very high level (around £3,500 on average). Although the number of evictions is higher relative to 2013/14, when there were 5 evictions, it is not compared to 2012/13, when there were 10.

|   | Performance Indicator                        | Target<br>2014/15 | Q2<br>2013/14        | Year end<br>2013/14  | Q2<br>2014/15        | Bench<br>mark |
|---|--|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Rent collected as proportion of rent due for | 98.66%            | 98.37%<br>(£49.9m of | 98.31%<br>(£49.8m of | 98.24%<br>(£51.2m of | _             |
|   | the year (projected rate)                    |                   | £50.7m)              | £50.7m)              | £52.2m)              |               |
|   | Tenants with more than                       |                   | 3.26%                | 3.57%                | 4.04%                |               |
| 2 | seven weeks rent arrears                     | 2.85%             | (381 of<br>11,687)   | (415 of<br>11,619)   | (468 of<br>11,576)   | -             |
|   |  |                   | 26.09%               | 25.89%               | 25.79%               |               |
| 3 | Tenants in arrears                           | N/A               | (3,049 of<br>11,687) | (3,008 of<br>11,619) | (2,985 of<br>11,576) | -             |
|   | Tenants in arrears served                    |                   | 11.71%               | 26.79%               | 9.88%                |               |
| 4 | a Notice of Seeking<br>Possession            | 27.02%            | (357 of<br>3,049)    | (806 of<br>3,008)    | (295 of<br>2,985)    | -             |
|   | Tenants evicted because                      | Less              | 0.00%                | 0.04%                | 0.06%                |               |
| 5 | of rent arrears                              | than<br>0.29%     | (0 of<br>11,687)     | (5 of<br>11,619)     | (7 of<br>11,576)     | 0.2%          |
|   | Rent loss due to empty                       |                   | 0.92%                | 1%                   | 1.04%                |               |
| 6 | dwellings                                    | 1.6%              | (£459k of<br>£49.8m) | (£495k of<br>£49.7m) | (£529k of<br>£51.0m) | 1%            |
|   | Former tenant arrears                        |                   | 15.51%               | 34.66%               | 18.46%               |               |
| 7 | collected                                    | 18%               | (£80k of<br>£513k)   | (£166k of<br>£478k)  | (£101k of<br>£545k)  | -             |
|   | Rechargeable debt                            |                   | 6.85%                | 12.08%               | 6.37%                |               |
| 8 | collected                                    | 11%               | (£16k of<br>£228k)   | (£31k of<br>£255k)   | (£19k of<br>£292k)   | -             |

# 4.0.1 **Percentage of rent collected as proportion of rent due each year by area**

| Area |                           | Q2<br>2013/14         | Year end<br>2013/14   | Q2<br>2014/15         |
|------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1    | North (includes Sheltered | 98.95%                | 98.87%                | 98.83%                |
| 1    | housing)                  | (£14.2m of<br>£14.4m) | (£14.2m of<br>£14.4m) | (£14.6m of<br>£14.8m) |
|      |                           | 98.57%                | 98.57%                | 98.51%                |
| 2    | West                      | (£10.1m of<br>£10.3m) | (£10.1m of<br>£10.3m) | (£10.4m of<br>£10.5m) |
|      | Central                   | 98.59%                | 98.53%                | 98.43%                |
| 3    |                           | (£9.3m of<br>£9.5m)   | (£9.3m of<br>£9.4m)   | (£9.6m of<br>£9.7m)   |
|      |                           | 97.62%                | 97.54%                | 97.44%                |
| 4    | East                      | (£16.2m of<br>£16.6m) | (£16.2m of<br>£16.6m) | (£16.7m of<br>£17.1m) |
|      |                           | 98.37%                | 98.31%                | 98.24%                |
| 5    | All areas                 | (£49.9m of<br>£50.7m) | (£49.8m of<br>£50.7m) | (£51.2m of<br>£52.2m) |

#### 4.0.2 **Tenants in arrears by amount**

| Amount of arrears        | No.<br>tenants | as % of<br>tenants in<br>arrears |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Under £5                 | 104            | 3%                               |
| £5 to £49.99             | 613            | 20%                              |
| £50 to £99.99            | 495            | 16%                              |
| £100 to £199.99          | 542            | 18%                              |
| £200 to £299.99          | 316            | 11%                              |
| £300 to £399.99          | 252            | 8%                               |
| £400 to £499.99          | 176            | 6%                               |
| £500 to £999.99          | 308            | 10%                              |
| £1000 or more            | 202            | 7%                               |
| Total tenants in arrears | 3,008          | 100%                             |

N.B. The percentage figures for each arrears band do not add up to 100% due to rounding.

4.0.3 A table presenting information relating to the impact of the reduction in Housing Benefit for under occupying households is attached as Appendix 1.

#### 4.1 Empty home turnaround time and mutual exchanges

|    | Performance Indicator<br>indicators are in calendar<br>days)  | Target<br>2014/15 | Q2<br>2013/14 | Year<br>end<br>2013/14 | Q2<br>2014/15         | Status<br>against<br>target | Trend<br>since<br>last<br>quarter | Bench<br>mark |
|----|---|-------------------|---------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| 1  | Average re-let time in<br>calendar days (excluding<br>time spent in major works)                          | 18                | 23            | 19                     | 20                    |                             | +                                 | 23            |
| 1a | as above for general needs properties   | -                 | 19            | 16                     | 18                    | -                           | -                                 | -             |
| 1b | as above for sheltered properties   | -                 | 46            | 34                     | 36                    | -                           | -                                 | -             |
| 2  | Average re-let time in<br>calendar days (including<br>time spent in major works)                          | 45                | 41            | 51                     | 38                    | G                           | +                                 | 37            |
| 2a | as above for general needs properties   | -                 | 39            | 54                     | 38                    | -                           | -                                 | -             |
| 2b | as above for sheltered properties   | -                 | 48            | 38                     | 38                    | -                           | -                                 | -             |
| 3  | Decisions on mutual<br>exchange applications<br>made within statutory<br>timescale of 42 calendar<br>days | 90%               | -             | -                      | 100%<br>(28 of<br>28) | G                           | 1                                 | -             |

4.1.1 As of quarter two, two indicators are on target and one is near target:

#### • Average re-let time excluding time spent in major works:

Overall performance remains at 20 days, missing the 18 day target. This is because the average sheltered re-let time remains high (36 days) and the general needs re-let time, although within target, has increased since the last quarter (from 15 to 18 days). The general needs re-let time is skewed by one property which took 201 days as it was ready to let but was held onto as part of an ASB Court case, for a potential transfer. Sheltered properties are typically more difficult to let than general needs properties, due to their smaller size and fewer applicants meeting the criteria. Nonetheless, the average re-let time for sheltered properties is a significant improvement on the previous quarter (45 days).

4.1.2 A table presenting a summary of 47 dwellings that have been empty for six weeks or more is attached as Appendix 2, in order to provide a recent picture of long-term empty council properties across the city.

# 4.2 Property & Investment

| F  | Performance Indicator   | Target<br>2014/15 | Q2<br>2013/14                   | Year<br>end<br>2013/14          | Q2<br>2014/15                   | Status<br>against<br>target | Trend<br>since<br>last<br>quarter | Bench<br>mark |
|----|---|-------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| 1  | Emergency repairs<br>completed in time  | 99%               | 99.83%<br>(2,970 of<br>2,975)   | 99.77%<br>(1,261 of<br>11,287)  | 99.47%<br>(2,238 of<br>2,250)   | G                           | -                                 | 99%           |
| 2  | Routine repairs completed in time   | 98.5%             | 99.85%<br>(7,499 of<br>7,510)   | 99.80%<br>(28,276 of<br>28,332) | 99.79%<br>(6,066 of<br>6,079)   | G                           | 1                                 | 98%           |
| 3  | Average time to<br>complete routine repairs<br>(calendar days)  | 15 days           | 12 days                         | 14 days                         | 15 days                         | G                           | $\Leftrightarrow$                 | -             |
| 4  | Appointments kept by contractor   | 95%               | 94.23%<br>(6,987 of<br>7,415)   | 95.47%<br>(27,579 of<br>28,889) | 97.71%<br>(6,574 of<br>6,728)   | G                           | +                                 | 99%           |
| 5  | Tenant satisfaction with<br>repairs (respondents<br>during the quarter who<br>were very satisfied or fairly<br>satisfied) | 96%               | 99.03%<br>(1,735 of<br>1,752)   | 99.09%<br>(5,525 of<br>5,576)   | 92.89%<br>(1,737 of<br>1,870)   | R                           | 1                                 | 95%           |
| 6  | Responsive repairs<br>passing post-inspection   | 95%               | 94.95%<br>(715 of<br>753)       | 94.08%<br>(4,023 of<br>4,276)   | 99.06%<br>(736 of<br>743)       | G                           | ₽                                 | -             |
| 7  | Repairs completed at first visit  | 85%               | -                               | -                               | 93.62%<br>(7,797 of<br>8,328)   | G                           | ₽                                 | 95%           |
| 8  | Cancelled repair jobs   | Under<br>5%       | 4.03%<br>(410 of<br>10,174)     | 3.26%<br>(1,362 of<br>44,598)   | 4.83%<br>(472 of<br>9,782)      | G                           | +                                 | -             |
| 9  | Dwellings meeting the<br>Decent Homes Standard  | 100%              | 98.26%<br>(11,688 of<br>11,895) | 100%<br>(11,827 of<br>11,827)   | 99.97%<br>(11,693 of<br>11,696) |                             | •                                 | 100%          |
| 10 | Energy efficiency rating of homes (SAP 2009)  | 63.9              | 63.0                            | 63.6                            | 64.0                            | G                           | 1                                 | -             |
| 11 | Planned works passing<br>post-inspection  | 97%               | 99.70%<br>(336 of<br>337)       | 99.15%<br>(1,163 of<br>1,173)   | 100%<br>(321 of<br>321)         | G                           | 1                                 | -             |
| 12 | Stock with a gas supply<br>with up-to-date gas<br>certificates  | 100%              | 99.99%<br>(10,374 of<br>10,375) | 99.91%<br>(10,284 of<br>10,293) | 99.75%<br>(10,245 of<br>10,271) |                             | ₽                                 | 100%          |
| 13 | Empty properties<br>passing post-inspection   | 98%               | 100%<br>(159 of<br>159)         | 99.54%<br>(655 of<br>658)       | 100%<br>(187 of<br>187)         | G                           | 1                                 | -             |

| F  | Performance Indicator  | Target<br>2014/15 | Q2<br>2013/14          | Year<br>end<br>2013/14 | Q2<br>2014/15                | Status<br>against<br>target | Trend<br>since<br>last<br>quarter | Bench<br>mark |
|----|--|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| 14 | Lifts – average time<br>taken (hours) to respond                 | 2h 30m            | 4h 09m                 | 2h 59m                 | 1h 49m                       | G                           | 1                                 | -             |
| 15 | Lifts restored to service within 24 hours                        | 95%               | 94%<br>(201 of<br>214) | 96%<br>(664 of<br>692) | 96%<br>(152 of<br>158)       | G                           | 1                                 | -             |
| 16 | Lifts – average time to restore service when not within 24 hours | 7 days            | -                      | 9 days                 | 4 days                       | G                           | +                                 | -             |
| 17 | Repairs Helpdesk - calls<br>answered                             | 90%               | -                      | -                      | 94%<br>(18,372 of<br>19,443) | G                           | +                                 | -             |
| 18 | Repairs Helpdesk - calls<br>answered within 20<br>seconds        | 75%               | -                      | -                      | 70%<br>(12,901 of<br>18,372) |                             | •                                 | -             |
| 19 | Repairs Helpdesk -<br>longest wait time                          | 5 mins            | -                      | -                      | 12 mins                      | R                           | 1                                 | -             |

N.B. The target for 'repairs completed at first visit' was set at 85% when it was introduced for 2014/15, based on guidance from Housemark. However, as performance for the second quarter (94%) is well above this a higher target will be set for 2015/16.

4.2.1 As of quarter two, 14 indicators are on target, three are near target, and two are below target. The indicators below target are:

#### • Tenant satisfaction with repairs

The percentage of tenants satisfied with repairs has improved slightly to 93% from 92% last quarter. Also, the number of satisfaction surveys carried out has increased from 477 to 1,870 since the last quarter. Furthermore, the way surveys are carried out has been changed to make greater use of telephone calls and online surveys. This is combined with a change to collect information from each resident around what they thought could have been done better. This valuable feedback has indicated a need to focus on communication and some cases of technical quality and finishing which will be addressed directly with operatives and sub-contractors at review meetings.

#### • Repairs Helpdesk - longest wait time

The longest waiting time during quarter two was 12 minutes and occurred on Monday 28th July. The joint second longest waiting time was 8 minutes and occurred on 3 separate days. The 5 minute target was met on 34 of 65 working days during the quarter. The need to reduce waiting times is being addressed through recruiting additional staff to increase availability during busy times. From October the number of full-time call-handling posts has increased from five to eight. The indicators near target are:

#### • Dwellings meeting the Decent Homes standard

As of 30th September, three properties out of 11,696 were found to be nondecent, and works are underway to bring these properties to the Brighton & Hove Decent Homes Standard.

#### • Stock with a gas supply with up-to-date gas certificates

As of 30th September, 26 properties did not have safety certificates, and all tenants were referred to Housing Customer Services, who deal with non-access cases. The council and both gas contractors are working together to reduce the time taken to gain access to properties.

#### • Repairs Helpdesk - calls answered within 20 seconds

Although the target was missed by 5% during the quarter, this is being addressed through recruiting additional staff as per the commentary for the 'longest wait time' indicator on the previous page.

# 4.3 Estates Service

|   | Performance Indicator  | Target<br>2014/15 | Q2<br>2013/14                | Year<br>end<br>2013/14       | Q2<br>2014/15                | Status<br>against<br>target | Trend<br>since<br>last<br>quarter |
|---|--|-------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Cleaning quality inspection pass rate  | 98%               | 99%<br>(200 of<br>202)       | 99%<br>(723 of<br>729)       | 99%<br>(180 of<br>181)       | G                           | 1                                 |
| 2 | Neighbourhood Response<br>Team (minor repairs) quality<br>inspection pass rate | 99%               | 100%<br>(206 of<br>206)      | 100%<br>(821 of<br>823)      | 100%<br>(152 of<br>152)      | 0                           | +                                 |
| 3 | Cleaning tasks completed   | 98%               | 99%<br>(14,500 of<br>14,646) | 98%<br>(54,602 of<br>55,766) | 99%<br>(13,282 of<br>13,422) | G                           | $\blacklozenge$                   |
| 4 | Bulk waste removed within 7 working days                                       | 98%               | 94%<br>(667 of<br>707)       | 96%<br>(2,786 of<br>2,889)   | 99%<br>(727 of<br>733)       | G                           | $\blacklozenge$                   |
| 5 | Light replacements/repairs<br>completed within 3 working<br>days               | 99%               | 98%<br>(413 of<br>423)       | 98%<br>(2,180 of<br>2,216)   | 99%<br>(424 of<br>429)       | G                           |                                   |
| 6 | Neighbourhood Response<br>Team jobs completed within<br>3 working days         | 96%               | 95%<br>(1,437 of<br>1,513)   | 96%<br>(5,936 of<br>6,182)   | 98%<br>(1,658 of<br>1,692)   | G                           | 1                                 |
| 7 | Graffiti removals completed within 3 working days                              | 80%               | 100%<br>(11 of<br>11)        | 86%<br>(31 of<br>36)         | 100%<br>(9 of<br>9)          | G                           | $\blacklozenge$                   |

N.B. There are no comparable benchmark figures for the above indicators on Housemark.

#### 4.4 Anti-social behaviour (ASB)

|   | Performance Indicator   | Q2<br>2013/14          | Year end<br>2013/14    | Q2<br>2014/15         | Bench<br>mark* |
|---|---|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Cases closed without need for legal action  | 95%<br>(109 of<br>115) | 96%<br>(477 of<br>495) | 97%<br>(90 of<br>93)  | 98%            |
| 2 | Cases closed resulting in legal action  | 5%<br>(6 of<br>115)    | 4%<br>(18 of<br>495)   | 3%<br>(3 of<br>93)    | 2%             |
| 3 | Cases closed without eviction   | 96%<br>(110 of<br>115) | 98%<br>(486 of<br>495) | 100%<br>(93 of<br>93) | 99%            |
| 4 | Cases closed resulting in eviction**  | 4%<br>(5 of<br>115)    | 2%<br>(9 of<br>495)    | 0%<br>(0 of<br>93)    | 1%             |
| 5 | Customer satisfaction with high<br>profile cases (victims of cases<br>closed during the quarter who were<br>very satisfied or fairly satisfied) | 83%<br>(5 of<br>6)     | 96%<br>(26 of<br>27)   | 73%<br>(8 of<br>11)   | 80%            |

\*The benchmarking figures presented in this table cover 2013/14 but do not use our peer group. The data is sourced from 43 Housemark members who provided this data as part of a specialist ASB benchmarking exercise.

\*\*One ASB eviction took place near the end of the quarter, although the case had not yet been closed.

#### 4.4.1 **Reports of ASB incidents by type**

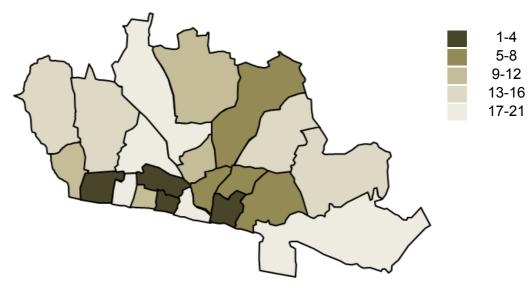
| Category                            | Q2<br>2013/14 | Year<br>end<br>2013/14 | Q2<br>2014/15 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Personal (eg verbal abuse,          | 12%           | 9%                     | 20%           |
| harassment, intimidation)           | (131)         | (354)                  | (221)         |
| Nuisance (eg noise, pets and animal | 22%           | 18%                    | 19%           |
| nuisance)                           | (228)         | (698)                  | (211)         |
| of which drugs/substance misuse     | 94            | 242                    | 98            |
| Environmental (eg bulk waste and    | 66%           | 73%                    | 61%           |
| graffiti)                           | (696)         | (2,878)                | (675)         |
| Total                               | 100%          | 100%                   | 100%          |
|                                     | (1,055)       | (3,930)                | (1,107)       |

# 4.4.2 Reports of ASB incidents by ward during the quarter

| Ward                         | Personal incidents* | Nuisance<br>incidents* | Environ-<br>mental<br>incidents* | Total<br>incidents | Trend<br>since last<br>quarter | Total per<br>1,000<br>tenancies |
|------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Brunswick & Adelaide         | 0                   | 0                      | 1                                | 1                  | +1                             | 250                             |
| Central Hove                 | 1                   | 3                      | 0                                | 4                  | +4                             | 70                              |
| East Brighton                | 33                  | 31                     | 181                              | 245                | -30                            | 110                             |
| Goldsmid                     | 4                   | 7                      | 32                               | 43                 | +6                             | 130                             |
| Hangleton & Knoll            | 28                  | 18                     | 27                               | 73                 | +17                            | 61                              |
| Hanover & Elm Grove          | 18                  | 7                      | 29                               | 54                 | +14                            | 109                             |
| Hollingdean & Stanmer        | 32                  | 26                     | 60                               | 118                | +20                            | 93                              |
| Hove Park                    | 0                   | 0                      | 0                                | 0                  | 0                              | 0                               |
| Moulsecoomb & Bevendean      | 24                  | 15                     | 30                               | 69                 | +31                            | 44                              |
| North Portslade              | 5                   | 1                      | 22                               | 28                 | -11                            | 69                              |
| Patcham                      | 9                   | 3                      | 37                               | 49                 | +25                            | 91                              |
| Preston Park                 | 0                   | 2                      | 3                                | 5                  | 0                              | 79                              |
| Queen's Park                 | 42                  | 82                     | 149                              | 273                | +77                            | 160                             |
| Regency                      | 0                   | 0                      | 0                                | 0                  | -1                             | 0                               |
| Rottingdean Coastal          | 0                   | 0                      | 0                                | 0                  | 0                              | 0                               |
| South Portslade              | 6                   | 0                      | 26                               | 32                 | +12                            | 86                              |
| St. Peter's & North<br>Laine | 14                  | 7                      | 28                               | 49                 | +1                             | 130                             |
| Westbourne                   | 1                   | 0                      | 1                                | 2                  | -9                             | 17                              |
| Wish                         | 4                   | 5                      | 39                               | 48                 | +19                            | 139                             |
| Withdean                     | 0                   | 0                      | 1                                | 1                  | 0                              | 23                              |
| Woodingdean                  | 0                   | 4                      | 9                                | 13                 | +3                             | 28                              |
| Total                        | 221                 | 211                    | 675                              | 1,107              | 179                            | 95                              |

\*ASB categories are included following a request at Housing Committee in November 2014.

# 4.4.3 Map of reports of ASB incidents per 1,000 tenancies by ward (rank)



4.4.4 The following background information is provided as a result of a query at Housing Committee in November 2014:

The proportion of vulnerable people living in council housing in Brighton and Hove is high. For example, the proportion of tenants who have disclosed that they have a long term health issue or disability has increased from 37% in 2012 to 41% currently, which contrasts with 16% of the total population of the city according to the 2011 Census. Also, 28% of council tenants in the city are aged 65 years or over compared to 13% for the population of the whole city. Furthermore, we have an increasing number of residents living in council housing who we have identified as having complex needs, which applies to 17% of tenants. We define complex needs as residents who have multiple needs and where there are potentially serious risks to their or others health, safety and wellbeing without intervention.

This leads to complex social problems where there are high levels of antisocial behaviour (ASB), and often vulnerable victims living alongside vulnerable perpetrators. It should however be noted that many vulnerable residents do not cause ASB. To put this in context we manage around 14,000 dwellings (11,700 council and 2,300 leasehold) and are dealing with 190 cases of ASB as of quarter two 2014/15. However when we do have ASB it is often high profile, often affects mixed tenure communities, and public perception can be that it takes an unacceptably long time to resolve.

We attempt to address this through investing in services to support our most vulnerable residents such as the Tenancy Sustainment Team and the Inclusion Team.

#### 4.5 Tenancy Fraud

Two tenancy fraud cases were closed in quarter two, of which one resulted in an abandoned property in Hollingdean being taken back and another where no evidence of fraud was found.

Following a query at Housing Committee in November regarding the outcomes of closed tenancy fraud cases in quarter one, the number of closed cases from this period now stands at 8, of which:

- 2 properties taken back through eviction (1 in Whitehawk, 1 in Kemp Town)
- 1 property in the Preston Park area surrendered
- 5 cases where no evidence of fraud was found.

#### 4.6 Sheltered Housing

We have worked with residents of sheltered housing to develop a new service offer, and are developing a new performance compact which focuses on improving health and well-being outcomes for residents. We will use both quantitative and qualitative data to demonstrate the impact of the sheltered service.

4.6.1 We have trialled a nationally developed 'outcome star' for measuring an individual's wellbeing. This exercise was carried out in a scheme in Whitehawk and all 23 residents took part. The scores range from 1 (low/negative) to 5 (high/positive) and enables the service to quantify impact and change. We will introduce the outcome star across all of our schemes by end of this financial year.

| Outcome                             | Average<br>score at<br>assessment | Average<br>score after 3<br>months | Average<br>change<br>outcome |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Staying as well as you can          | 4.1                               | 4.1                                | No change                    |
| Keeping in touch                    | 4.5                               | 4.5                                | No change                    |
| Feeling Positive                    | 4.4                               | 4.3                                | -0.1                         |
| Being treated with dignity          | 4.8                               | 4.8                                | No change                    |
| Are you able to look after yourself | 4.6                               | 4.6                                | No change                    |
| Do you feel safe                    | 4.9                               | 4.9                                | No change                    |
| How are you managing your money     | 4.6                               | 4.7                                | +0.1                         |

### 5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION:

- 5.1 The performance measures in this report demonstrate whether we are delivering quality service and are for scrutiny by members, residents and the general public. This report was taken to the four Area Panels on 1, 3, 4 & 8 December 2014 and the following comments were made:
  - That the benchmarking peer group includes landlords covering places that are very different to Brighton and Hove in terms of demographics, such as Derby. Therefore, paragraph 3.3 of the report has been amended to clarify the similarities are only in terms of the housing stock rather than for the areas as a whole.
  - That the inclusion of a column for Q2 2013/14, together with the absence of one for Q1 2014/15, was confusing. However, no request was made to change this format so whether or not any change is needed is at the discretion of the Housing Committee.
  - That the overall number of tenants has decreased compared to a year ago due to properties being sold or leased to Seaside Homes.
  - Whether the almost £1m rent arrears would continue in view of continuing welfare reforms.
  - That the report includes a detailed breakdown of tenants in arrears by the amount they owe, in order to identify the extent to which the indicator 'tenants in arrears' is affected by tenants owing small amounts.
  - General comments about the under occupancy charge including how it was unfair that it only applied to those of working age.
  - The circumstances in which rent arrears would be written off, in particular at what point they become too costly to pursue.
  - That 'Senior Housing' should be used instead of 'Sheltered Housing' once the change in name was ratified at Housing Committee in March 2015.

# 6. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

6.1 Changes in most performance areas will have a financial implication. The area with the most significant financial impact is the ability to collect rents from tenants. The current quarterly trend is showing a reduction in rent collection performance. This is being closely monitored and analysed so that appropriate action can be taken to minimise arrears. However, this is of growing concern as rents are the main source of income for the HRA and further welfare reform changes are still to follow. The 2014/15 budget for the contribution to bad debt provision is currently just sufficient to meet this level of increased debt. However, the HRA Revenue Budget for 2015/16 (elsewhere on this agenda) proposes an increase of £30,000 to this budget, given the on-going welfare reform changes. Any reduction in rent collected has a direct impact on the resources available to spend on the management and maintenance of tenants' properties.

Finance Officer Consulted: Monica Brooks

Date: 11/12/14

Legal Implications:

6.2 There are no significant legal implications arising from this regular performance report.

Lawyer Consulted: Liz Woodley

Date: 10/12/14

Equalities Implications:

6.3 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

Sustainability Implications:

6.4 The increase in the energy efficiency rating of homes reflects an improvement towards the council's sustainability commitments, among other objectives such as financial inclusion and reducing fuel poverty.

#### Crime & Disorder Implications:

6.5 There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report. Cases of anti-social behaviour involving criminal activity are worked on in partnership with the Police and other appropriate agencies.

#### Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

6.6 There are no direct risk and opportunity implications arising from this report.

#### Public Health Implications:

6.7 There are no direct public health implications arising from this report.

#### Corporate or Citywide Implications:

6.8 There are no direct corporate or city wide implications arising from this report. However, two performance indicators featuring in this report (the percentage of homes that are decent and the energy efficiency rating of homes) are among those used to measure success against the Corporate Plan Priority of Tackling Inequality.

# SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

#### Appendices:

- 1. Appendix 1. Outline of under occupation arrears and related information
- 2. Appendix 2. Long term empty properties

#### Background Documents:

1. None

# Appendix 1. Outline of council under occupation arrears and related information

| ltem | Indicator   | Baseline<br>March<br>2013* | End<br>Sep 14  | End<br>Oct 14   | End<br>Nov 14  |
|------|---|----------------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1    | Number of under occupying households affected by the charge   | 949                        | 734            | 732             | 728            |
| 2    | Percentage of under occupying households in arrears (numbers)   | 29%<br>(277)               | 54%<br>(396)   | 56%<br>(412)    | 55%<br>(400)   |
| 3    | Average arrears per under occupying household   | £122                       | £161           | £163            | £165           |
| 4    | Total arrears of under occupying households   | £84k                       | £118k          | £119k           | £120k          |
| 5    | Percentage increase in arrears of<br>under occupying households since 1<br>April 2013 (amount of arrears) | 0%<br>(£84k)               | 41%<br>(£118k) | 42%<br>(£119k)  | 43%<br>(£120k) |
| 6    | Percentage increase in arrears of all<br>current tenant arrears since 1 April<br>2013 (amount of arrears) | 0%<br>(£639k)              | 49%<br>(£949k) | 58%<br>(£1.01m) | 55%<br>(£988k) |
| 7    | Under occupier arrears as a percentage of all arrears   | 13%                        | 12%            | 12%             | 12%            |
| 8    | Cumulative number of under<br>occupying households moved via<br>mutual exchange since baseline            | 0                          | 51             | 51              | 51             |
| 9    | Cumulative number of under<br>occupying households moved via a<br>transfer since baseline                 | 0                          | 90             | 94              | 95             |

\*Baseline = before the under occupation charge was introduced in April 2013.

N.B. The arrears figures include both rents and service charges.

# Appendix 2. Long term empty properties

Of the 47 general needs and sheltered properties that have, as of 1 December 2014, been empty for 6 weeks or more:

- 22 are ready to let (12 of which are sheltered dwellings)
- 9 are undergoing major repairs/refurbishment
- 8 to be leased to Seaside Homes
- 7 small sheltered flats being converted into larger dwellings
- 1 exploring option to convert property into flats.

| General needs and sheltered long term empty properties (6 weeks or more) |                       |   |  |  |
|--|-----------------------|---|--|--|
| Calendar<br>days empty<br>as at<br>01/12/14                              | Ward                  | Status  |  |  |
| 43   | East Brighton         | Ready to let  |  |  |
| 50   | East Brighton         | Ready to let  |  |  |
| 57   | East Brighton         | Ready to let  |  |  |
| 85   | East Brighton         | To be leased to Seaside Homes - batch TBC   |  |  |
| 113  | East Brighton         | To be leased to Seaside Homes - batch TBC   |  |  |
| 120  | East Brighton         | To be leased to Seaside Homes - batch TBC   |  |  |
| 155  | East Brighton         | To be leased to Seaside Homes - batch TBC   |  |  |
| 190  | East Brighton         | To be leased to Seaside Homes - batch TBC   |  |  |
| 679  | East Brighton         | Undergoing extensive major works, along with adjoining property, prior to letting             |  |  |
| 120  | Goldsmid              | Ready to let following major repairs  |  |  |
| 1,208  | Goldsmid              | Ready to let following major refurbishment to merge two small studio dwellings into one flat. |  |  |
| 78   | Hangleton and Knoll   | Ready to let  |  |  |
| 288  | Hangleton and Knoll   | With BHCC for refurbishment   |  |  |
| 295  | Hangleton and Knoll   | With BHCC for refurbishment   |  |  |
| 337  | Hangleton and Knoll   | With BHCC for extension and refurbishment   |  |  |
| 64   | Hanover and Elm Grove | Ready to let - sheltered studio flat  |  |  |
| 78   | Hanover and Elm Grove | Ready to let - sheltered studio flat  |  |  |
| 176  | Hanover and Elm Grove | Ready to let - sheltered studio flat  |  |  |

| General needs and sheltered long term empty properties (6 weeks or more) |                              |  |  |  |
|--|------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Calendar<br>days empty<br>as at<br>01/12/14                              | Ward                         | Status   |  |  |
| 190  | Hanover and Elm Grove        | With Mears for major repairs   |  |  |
| 50   | Hollingdean and<br>Stanmer   | Ready to let - sheltered studio flat   |  |  |
| 57   | Hollingdean and<br>Stanmer   | Ready to let   |  |  |
| 92   | Hollingdean and<br>Stanmer   | To be leased to Seaside Homes - batch TBC  |  |  |
| 554  | Hollingdean and<br>Stanmer   | Ready to let - sheltered studio flat   |  |  |
| 57   | Moulsecoomb and<br>Bevendean | Ready to let   |  |  |
| 232  | Moulsecoomb and<br>Bevendean | Ready to let - sheltered studio flat   |  |  |
| 421  | Moulsecoomb and<br>Bevendean | Ready to let - sheltered studio flat   |  |  |
| 470  | Moulsecoomb and<br>Bevendean | With BHCC for extension and refurbishment  |  |  |
| 71   | North Portslade              | Ready to let - sheltered studio flat   |  |  |
| 309  | North Portslade              | With BHCC for refurbishment  |  |  |
| 57   | Patcham                      | Ready to let   |  |  |
| 78   | Patcham                      | Ready to let - sheltered studio flat   |  |  |
| 183  | Patcham                      | Ready to let - sheltered one bed flat  |  |  |
| 50   | Queen's Park                 | Ready to let   |  |  |
| 92   | Queen's Park                 | To be leased to Seaside Homes - batch TBC  |  |  |
| 169  | Queen's Park                 | To be leased to Seaside Homes - batch TBC  |  |  |
| 288  | Queen's Park                 | With BHCC for refurbishment  |  |  |
| 211  | South Portslade              | Ready to let - sheltered studio flat   |  |  |
| 323  | South Portslade              | With BHCC exploring option to convert property into flats  |  |  |
| 78   | Westbourne                   | Ready to let - sheltered studio flat   |  |  |
| 43   | Wish                         | Part of a sheltered block where studio flats with<br>shared facilities are being converted into self-<br>contained one bedroom flats |  |  |
| 113  | Wish                         | As above   |  |  |

| General needs and sheltered long term empty properties (6 weeks or more) |             |                              |  |  |
|--|-------------|------------------------------|--|--|
| Calendar<br>days empty<br>as at<br>01/12/14                              | Ward        | Status                       |  |  |
| 169  | Wish        | As above                     |  |  |
| 176  | Wish        | As above                     |  |  |
| 239  | Wish        | As above                     |  |  |
| 288  | Wish        | As above                     |  |  |
| 309  | Wish        | As above                     |  |  |
| 365  | Woodingdean | With Mears for major repairs |  |  |
| Total of 47 dwellings  |             |                              |  |  |