

## The Highland Council

**Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee – 31 May 2016**

Agenda Item	<b>7</b>
Report No	<b>BSAC/07/16</b>

### Housing Performance Report - 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016

#### Report by the Director of Community Services

#### Summary

This report provides information on how the Housing Section performed in relation to Scottish Social Housing Charter and other performance indicators up to 31 March 2016.

## 1. Background

- 1.1 The Scottish Housing Regulator has set out the performance indicators that it will use in its scrutiny of landlords. These replaced statutory performance indicators for Housing from April 2013.
- 1.2 This report provides information on performance based on the agreed reporting framework. Information on the key performance indicators is set out in the report below. Information on other performance indicators for housing management is presented in tabular format at **Appendix 1**.
- 1.3 Further performance information by Council Ward can be found on the Highland Council Intranet ward reporting pages.  
[http://www.highland.gov.uk/staffsite/info/13/members\\_intranet/37/ward\\_reporting/2](http://www.highland.gov.uk/staffsite/info/13/members_intranet/37/ward_reporting/2)
- 1.4 In accordance with the Scottish Social Housing Charter guidance the Repairs, Tenancy Management, Rent Arrears figures are cumulative. The Homeless Presentations figures are given for each separate quarter.
- 1.5 Benchmarking information for 2014/15 across all Scottish Landlords has also been provided where available.

## 2 Repairs

- 2.1 The key indicators for measuring repairs performance are considered to be the average time taken to complete emergency repairs and non-emergency repairs. As these indicators only applied from 1 April 2013 we have limited historical data.
- 2.2 The average length of time taken to complete emergency repairs is calculated in hours.
- 2.3 **Table 1: Average length of time taken to complete emergency repairs (hours)**

**Target 14 hours**  
**2014/15 Benchmark – 5.9 hours**

	No of Houses	2013/14				2014/15				2015/16			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Badenoch and Strathspey	542	37.1	12.7	19.2	18.3	20.1	25.2	17.3	15.8	8.4	8.8	9.8	10.5
Highland	13958	13.4	11.6	11.4	14.5	14.8	11.1	9.3	9.1	6.2	6.9	7.1	7.9

- 2.4 Performance for Badenoch and Strathspey continues to be within the 14 hour target time.
- 2.5 Non-emergency repairs are measured in working days.

2.6 **Table 2: Average length of time taken to complete non-emergency repairs (days)**

**Target 8 days**

**2014/15 Benchmark – 7.9 days**

	No of Houses	2013/14				2014/15				2015/16			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Badenoch and Strathspey	542	10.1	11	10.3	8.7	11.3	11.5	10.2	7.9	8.5	8.2	8.1	7.3
Highland	13958	9.8	8.6	8.8	8.7	7.5	7.6	7.4	7.3	7.1	7.3	7.5	7.5

- 2.7 Performance remains within the 8 day target time.
- 2.8 In gathering the information for repairs indicators we do not include instances where we have been unable to gain access to properties. This is in accordance with the Scottish Social Housing Charter guidance.

### 3. Tenancy Management

- 3.1 The chart below provides information on the average re-let time showing the trend back 5 years and highlighting the same quarter in previous years for comparison.

3.2 **Table 3 : Average re-let time (days) Target 35 days**  
**2014/15 Benchmark – 36.9 days**

	No of Houses	No of relets	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
			Q4	Q4	Q4	Q4	Q4	Q4
Badenoch and Strathspey	542	24	41.61	47.33	54.76	48.85	38.86	30.67
Highland	13958	1284	32.07	38.16	38.53	37.60	42.01	47.50

- 3.3 Table 3 shows that re-let times in Badenoch and Strathspey are performing better than the Highland wide figure of 47.5 days.
- 3.4 There were 3 voids in Badenoch and Strathspey at the end of March 2016, 2 of which were PIE (Performance Indicator Exempt) due to requiring major structural work and the third was fire damaged.

### 4. Rent Arrears

- 4.1 A key indicator for rent arrears is considered to be the value of current rent arrears. The table below shows the comparative figure for the same quarter in the previous five years.
- 4.2 The Highland wide current rent arrears figure is £1,539,890.

4.3 **Table 4 – Current Rent Arrears**

	No of Houses	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
		Q4	Q4	Q4	Q4	Q4	Q4
Badenoch and Strathspey	542	36510	36496	48190	42105	44408	56712

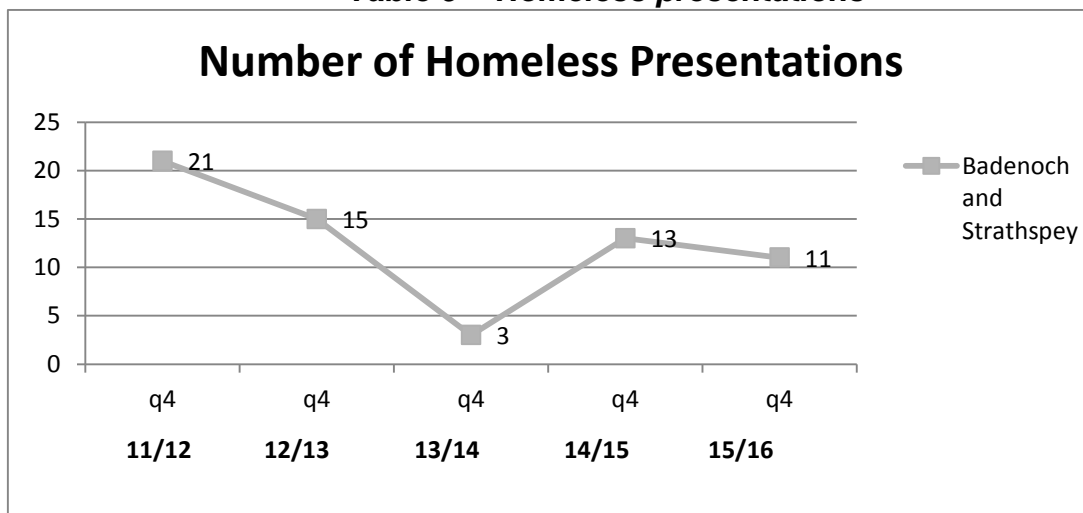
4.4 The arrears have increased by £4,684 since the previous quarter. There has been a steady increase in rent arrears which has been impacted by staff absence issues and a part time vacancy. A Housing Management Officer has now been recruited into the vacant post and will focus on improving rent arrears performance.

**5. Homelessness**

5.1 Performance information on homelessness is not collected as part of the Scottish Social Housing Charter. However a number of indicators have been agreed by the Council.

5.2

**Table 5 - Homeless presentations**



5.3 Table 5 shows the number of homeless presentations received by Badenoch and Strathspey charting the same quarter in previous years. There were 329 presentations across Highland in the quarter ending 31 March 2016. Homeless presentations in Badenoch and Strathspey increased from 8 in Quarter 3 in 15/16 to 11 in Quarter 4.

5.4 Our Homelessness Service was reviewed following a thematic inquiry on Housing Options by the Scottish Housing Regulator, published in May 2014. This involved a re-design of the job roles of staff to ensure a person-centred approach. The table below provides information on housing options cases opened and closed in the quarter. These figures are by quarter not cumulative.

5.5 *Table 6 - Housing Options cases*

	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
Housing Option cases opened	18	26	15	20
Housing Options cases closed	16	17	19	14

5.6 The tables below provide information on the housing options approach reasons and the case closure outcomes each quarter

5.7 *Table 7- Approach reasons*

	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
Anti-Social Behaviour				
Financial Problems			1	
Accommodation unsuitable due to medical reason				
Accommodation unsuitable due to overcrowding	2	3		
Accommodation unsuitable due to poor housing	1	1		1

condition				
Eviction notice received				
Hospital discharge		1	1	
Leaving care				
Leaving armed forces				
Marital/domestic breakdown	5	7	5	5
Notice given to landlord				2
Notice served by landlord	5	7	5	9
Prison release		1		
Relocating to the Highlands			1	
Section 11				1
Wants to leave parental home	5	5	1	
Tied accommodation ended		1	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>

5.8 *Table 8 – Case closure outcomes*

	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4
Homeless application made	4	4	8	9
Remained in current accommodation	5	3	7	3
Private rented – short assured tenancy	3	3		
Local Authority Tenancy		2		
RSL (Housing Association) Tenancy	2	2		
Private Rented	2			
Moved in with friends/relatives			1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>

## 6. Implications

### 6.1 Resources

There are ongoing resource implications arising from the need to develop and maintain performance monitoring systems relating to Scottish Housing Charter Performance Indicators. This is managed within the current HRA budget.

### 6.2 Legal

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

### 6.3 Equality

There are no known specific equality implications resulting from this report.

### 6.4 Climate Change/Carbon Clever

There are no known climate change/Carbon Clever implications resulting from this report.

### 6.5 Risk

Risk is managed through regular review and reporting to allow corrective action to be taken if necessary.

### 6.6 Gaelic

There are no Gaelic implications arising from this report.

### 6.7 Rural

There are no rural implications arising from this report.

## **Recommendation**

Members are invited to scrutinise the information provided on housing performance in the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.

Designation: Director of Community Services

Date: 18 May 2016

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Background Papers: Scottish Housing Regulator: The Scottish Social Housing Charter: Indicators and Context Information

Appendix 1

	15/16	Scottish Average	Target	Qtr 4	Qtr3	Qtr2	Qtr1	Qtr4 2014/15
Ave time to complete emergency repairs (hours) B&S	Green	5.9	14	10.5	9.8	8.8	8.4	15.8
Ave time to complete non emergency repairs (days) B&S	Green	7.9	8	7.3	8.1	8.2	8.5	7.9
Reactive repairs carried out first time B&S	Green	90.2	92	92.3	89.0	89.0	87.7	87.9
Rent collected as % of rent due B&S	Amber	99.5	99	98.7	100.4	100.3	102.7	98.4
Gross rent arrears as % of rent due B&S	Green	5.3	5	5.0	4.8	4.8	4.4	5.5
% rent loss through voids B&S	Green	1.1	1	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.9	0.8
% of court actions which resulted in eviction B&S	Green	14.7	10	0	0	0	0	22.2
ASB cases reported and resolved B&S	Green	83.2	85	100	50	33.3	33.3	50
Ave time taken to re-let B&S	Green	36.9	35	30.7	31.0	36.8	40.7	38.9
% of new tenancies sustained for more than a year B&S	Red	88.8	90	85.5	93.5	94.4	94.6	96.4
Tenancy offers refused B&S	Green	42		40.7	41.9	44.4	42.9	30.7
% of lettable houses becoming vacant B&S		8.9		6.4	7.0	12.3	13.6	13.2
% households requiring temp/eme accomm who receive offer B&S	Green	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
% temp/eme accomm offers refused B&S				19.4	18.2	14.3	0.0	27.8
Ave time in temp/eme accomm (weeks) B&S				13.3	11.6	15.7	14.9	17.0