

REPORT TO: Policy and Performance Review Committee

MEETING DATE: 27 November 2012

BY: Executive Director (Support Services)

SUBJECT: 2011/12 SPI comparisons

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To provide the Committee with information on how East Lothian Council performed in comparison with other Scottish Councils in regard to the Statutory Performance Indicators for 2011/12

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Committee is asked to use the information provided in this report to consider whether any aspect of the Council's performance is in need of improvement or further investigation.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Members of the Committee received a briefing including the audited SPI results for 2011/12 prior to their meeting of September 2012. Members may also recall the inclusion of unaudited SPI results as part of the Annual Performance Report to Council in June 2012. However, comparative information for all 32 Council's in Scotland did not become available until October 2012; it is this information which is the subject of this report.
- 3.2 The report attached at Appendix A shows the indicators that are in the top quartile (i.e. within the best performing 25% of results) and bottom quartile (i.e. within the worst 25% of results) in comparison to other Scottish Councils. Results are analysed in the Appendix by showing the actual result for East Lothian, the Scottish Average, and the rank (usually 1-32). The Appendix also displays a graph for each indicator that falls within the bottom quartile to show the trend over time and any comments to explain what the indicator shows and why performance has changed.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Statutory performance indicators represent an important component of East Lothian Council's performance management arrangements and the drive to deliver Continuous Improvement.

5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 This report is not applicable to the well being of equalities groups and an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial none
- 6.2 Personnel none
- 6.3 Other none

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 Appendix A: East Lothian SPIs comparative performance 2011/12

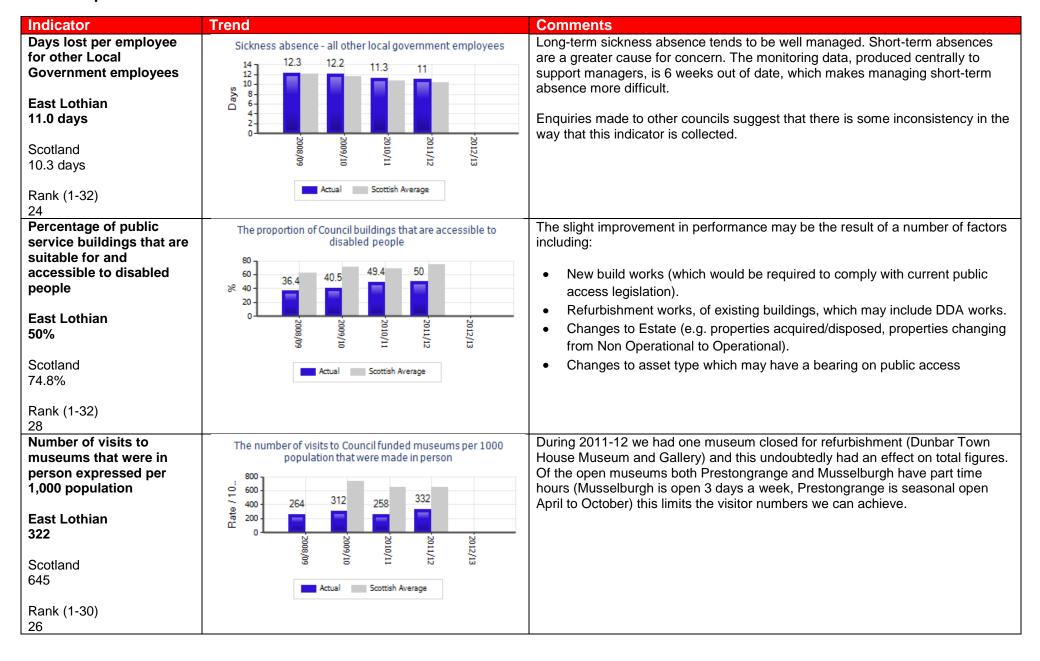
AUTHOR'S NAME	Andrew Strickland
DESIGNATION	Policy Officer
CONTACT INFO	7884, astrickland@eastlothian.gov.uk
DATE	29 October 2012

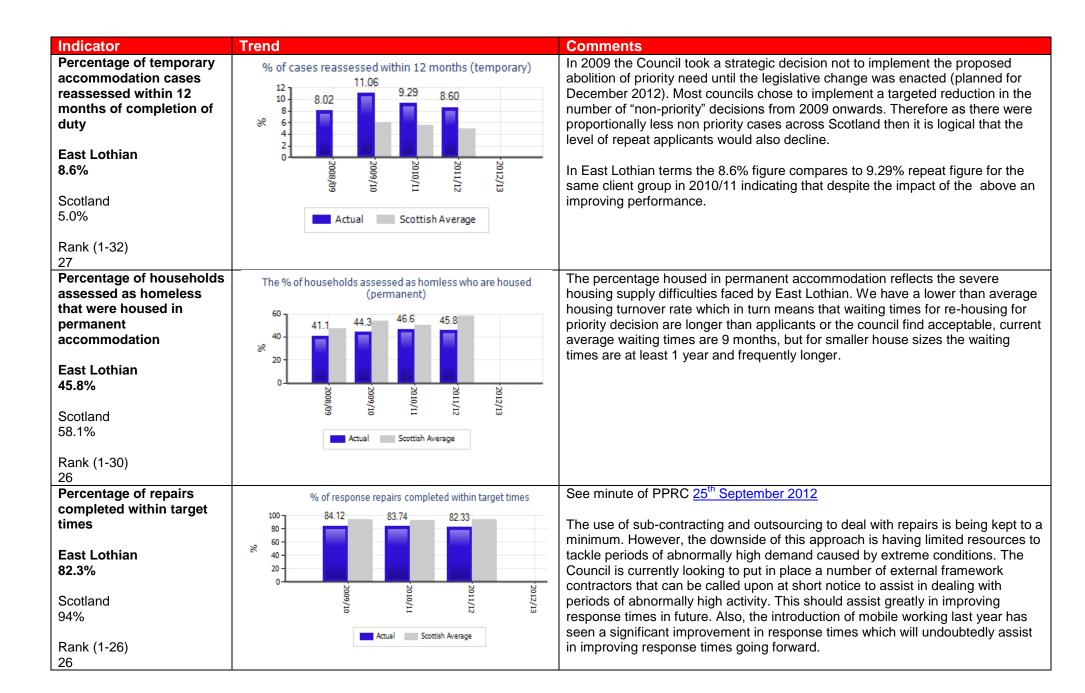
Appendix A: East Lothian SPIs comparative performance 2010/11

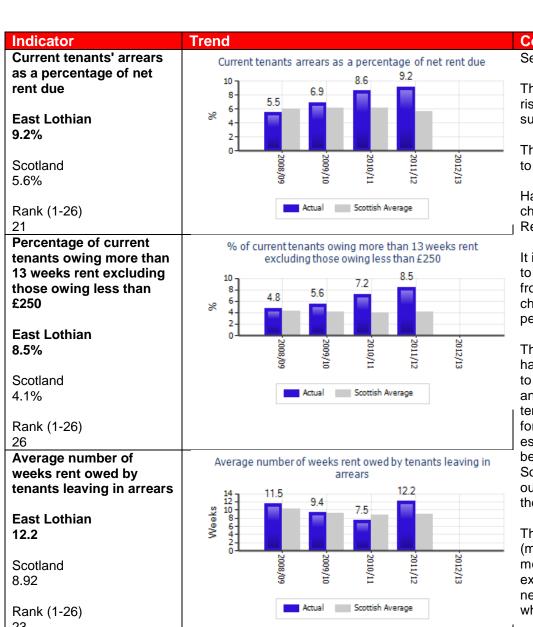
Top Quartile

No.	Indicator	Actual	Scot Av. (median)	Rank (1-32 unless stated)
8	Proportion of internal floor area of operational buildings in satisfactory condition	96.5%	84.6%	3
9	Percentage of homecare clients receiving a service at weekends	87.1%	77.4%	6
10	Number of attendances per 1,000 population to all pools	4,551	3,496	8
11	Number of visits to/usages of council funded or part funded museums expressed per 1,000 population	4,559	1,075	4 (1-30)
13	Percentage of householder applications dealt with within two months	92.6%	86.5%	6
17	Average time to re-let not low demand houses	17 days	34 days	3 (1-26)
18	Proportion of those tenants [giving up tenancy] that were in rent arrears	30.5%	41.7%	6 (1-26)
19	The proportion of those provided with permanent accommodation in council stock who maintained their tenancy for at least 12 months	94.8%	85.8%	2 (1-26)
21	Percentage of consumer complaints dealt with within 14 days of receipt	90.9%	82.5%	6 (1-31)
22	Overall percentage of road network that should be considered for maintenance treatment	30.2%	36.4%	6

Bottom quartile







Comments

See report to PPRC 20th March 2012

There could conceivably be a number of reasons why rent arrears are on the rise. Some of the main areas where difficulties are being reported are summarised below.

The current economic climate has made it increasingly challenging for councils to collect house rents and revenues in general.

Having to contract services in line with budgetary constraints is proving to be a challenge too and has the potential to cause difficulties in future should the Revenues establishment continue to shrink.

It is worth mentioning a significant local factor which has impacted on our ability to collect rent. The council is now recovering overpayments of housing benefit from ongoing benefit entitlement. This effectively increases the fortnightly rent charge when applied and leads to the council trying to collect more money from people with limited means.

There is a direct link between housing benefit issues and rent arrears. Despite having the support of rent income officers, tenants on low income are often slow to apply for benefit and arrears can accrue until there is a willingness to engage and the process can begin. There can also be unwillingness on the part of the tenant to apply for benefit despite being entitled – the complexity of the claim form can sometimes be a factor. Claim verification can be a slow process, especially now that there are no benefits visiting officers, and can lead to claims being made void if e.g. supporting evidence for a claim is not returned timeously. Some tenants assume they will qualify for benefit and avoid paying until the outcome of their application, which leads to arrears if benefit is not awarded or the award is not what the tenant had expected.

There is a relatively high level of arrears for council homeless properties (managed by Community Services) and at times non-paying tenants are being moved from homeless accommodation into mainstream housing with limited experience of successfully managing their tenancy, financially. The council needs to encourage a culture of prompt and regular payment from all tenants, whilst ensuring compliance with Homelessness legislation.

Possibly the biggest challenge facing local authority rent collection services has yet to come – the government's proposed Welfare Reform. The introduction of universal credits and changes to Local Housing Allowance payments, together with reductions in some welfare benefits and allowances, can only make rent far more difficult to collect and will undoubtedly have a major impact on the social housing sector in general.

Indicator	Trend				
Gross cost per case of benefits administration	The gross cost per case for benefits administration				nistration
	80]	59.69	60.08	56.85	
East Lothian	60 -				
£56.85	ы 40-				
	20	_		-	
Scotland	0				
£41.10		2009/10	201	201	201:
~		2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Rank (1-32)		_			_
25		Actual	Scottish	Average	

Comments

The East Lothian Benefits Service has continued to use whatever means at its disposal to reduce the gross administration cost per case. Whilst this has included a 10% reduction in its staffing establishment since 2009/10 and modernising its computer systems during the same period these changes have only managed to yield a 5% reduction in the gross administration cost per case. Other costs recharged to the Benefits Unit are out with the scope of its control and may therefore continue to be reflected to the Unit's performance against this particular SPI. It should be noted that the accuracy of reporting of this particular SPI is subject to what costs Councils actually include in their performance returns. Given the variance in figures reported it is likely that this indicator may be an unreliable measure for comparison of true costs being borne by Housing Benefit / Council Tax Benefit Administrations across Scotland.

2011/12 SPIs – Scottish Average and Rank

No.	Indicator	Actual	Scot Av. (median)	Rank (1-32 unless stated)
1	Days lost per employee for teachers	5.7	6.3	9
1	Days lost per employee through sickness absence for other Local Government employees	11.0	10.3	24
2	Percentage of council employees in top 2% of earners that are women	35.9%	39.8%	22
2	Percentage of council employees in top 5% of earners that are women	47.5%	47.1%	15
3	Percentage of public service buildings that are suitable for and accessible to disabled people	50.0%	74.8%	28
4	Gross [cost of benefits] administration cost per case	£56.85	£41.10	25
5	Cost of collecting council tax per dwelling	£12.11	£12.46	16
6	Percentage of income due from council tax for the year that was received by the end of the year	95.8%	95.6%	13
7	Percentage of invoices sampled paid within 30 days	89.1%	88.6%	16
8	Proportion of internal floor area of operational buildings in satisfactory condition	96.5%	84.6%	3
8	Proportion of operational buildings that are suitable for their current use	80.1%	81.6%	19
9	Percentage of homecare clients receiving personal care	91.1%	95.4%	22
9	Percentage of homecare clients receiving a service during evening/overnight	41.7%	43.5%	19
9	Percentage of homecare clients receiving a service at weekends	87.1%	77.4%	6
10	Number of attendances per 1,000 population to all pools	4,551	3,496	8
10	Number of attendances per 1,000 population for other indoor sports and leisure facilities excluding pools in a combined complex	5,534	5,874	20
11	Number of visits to/usages of council funded or part funded museums expressed per 1,000 population	4,559	1,075	4 (1-30)
11	Number of visits that were in person expressed per 1,000 population	332	645	26 (1-30)

12	Number of visits to libraries expressed per 1,000 population	5,258	5,871	21
13	Percentage of householder applications dealt with within two months	92.6%	86.5%	6
13	Percentage of non-householder applications dealt with within two months	56.2%	58.6%	19
13	Percentage of householder and non-householder applications dealt with within two months	74.2%	71.6%	14
14	Percentage of repairs completed within target times	82.3%	94%	26 (1-26)
15	Percentage of council dwellings brought up to a tolerable standard	100%	100%	-
15	Percentage of council dwellings free from serious disrepair	98.3%	98.6%	15 (1-26)
15	Percentage of council dwellings that are energy efficient	75.9%	86.1%	19 (1-26)
15	Percentage of council dwellings that have modern facilities and services	83.9%	92.2%	22 (1-26)
15	Percentage of council dwellings that are healthy, safe and secure	96.7%	93.6%	9 (1-26)
15	Percentage of dwellings meeting SHQS	62.4%	70.8%	17 (1-26)
16	Percentage of rent due in the year that was lost due to voids	1.0%	1.0%	14 (1-26)
17	Average time to re-let low demand houses	72 days	66 days	17 (1-26)
17	Average time to re-let not low demand houses	17 days	34 days	3 (1-26)
18	Current tenants' arrears as a percentage of net rent due	9.2%	5.6%	21 (1-26)
18	Percentage of current tenants owing more than 13 weeks rent excluding those owing less than £250	8.5%	4.1%	26 (1-26)
18	Proportion of those tenants [giving up tenancy] that were in rent arrears	30.5%	41.7%	6 (1-26)

18	Average debt owed by tenants leaving their tenancies	£544	£548	14
	with arrears			(1-26)
18	Average number of weeks rent owed by tenants	12.18 weeks	8.92	23
	leaving in arrears	weeks	weeks	(1-26)
18	Percentage of former tenant arrears written off or collected during the year	28.7%	34.0%	10
	collected during the year			(1-26)
19	Percentage of decision notifications issued within 28 days of date of initial presentation for permanent accommodation	89.8%	89.5%	16
19	Percentage who are housed into permanent accommodation	45.8%	58.1%	26
19	Percentage of permanent accommodation cases reassessed	4.9%	5.7%	12
19	Percentage of decision notifications issued within 28 days of date of initial presentation for temporary accommodation	81.2%	83.5%	20
19	Percentage of temporary accommodation cases reassessed	8.6%	5.0%	27
19	The proportion of those provided with permanent accommodation in council stock who maintained their	94.8%	85.8%	2
	tenancy for at least 12 months			(1-26)
20	Average time (hours) between time of complaint and attendance on site, for those requiring attendance on	4.0	12.5	11
	site			(1-29)
20	Average time (hours) between time of complaint and	1.0	0.5	18
	attendance on site, for those dealt with under the ASB Act 2004			(1-24)
21	Percentage of consumer complaints dealt with within	90.9%	82.5%	6
	14 days of receipt			(1-31)
21	Percentage of business advice requests dealt with within 14 days of receipt	96.6%	96.8%	18
22	Overall percentage of road network that should be considered for maintenance treatment	30.2%	36.4%	6
23	Net cost of refuse collection per premise	£61.24	£67.00	13
23	Net cost of refuse disposal per premise	£70.01	£89.16	4
24	Percentage of municipal waste recycled	43.7%	43.6%	15
25	Overall cleanliness index	75	75	12