

REPORT TO: Policy and Performance Review Committee

MEETING DATE: 26 November 2013

BY: Depute Chief Executive – Resources and People Services

SUBJECT: 2012/13 Statutory Performance Indicator 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 (SPIs) for 2012/13

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 2012/13 prior to their meeting of September 2013. However, comparative information for all 32 Council's in Scotland did not become available until October 2013; 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.
- 3.3 The Council has performed well in 2012/13 when compared to 2011/12. Three more indicators are among the top quartile while the number of indicators among the bottom quartile has stayed the same. 13 indicators fall within the top quartile while 10 indicators fall within the bottom quartile.

3.4 From 2013/14 onwards the indicators specified among the SPIs will be replaced by the indicators of the Local Governance Benchmarking Framework. The most recent results for the Framework cover 2011/12. Members of the Committee received a report outlining the 2011/12 results at the meeting of 29 April 2013. The results have subsequently been considered by the Council Management Team, which has identified areas for further benchmarking.

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 2012/13
- 7.2 'Local Government Benchmarking Framework', report to the Policy and Performance Review Committee, 30 April 2013

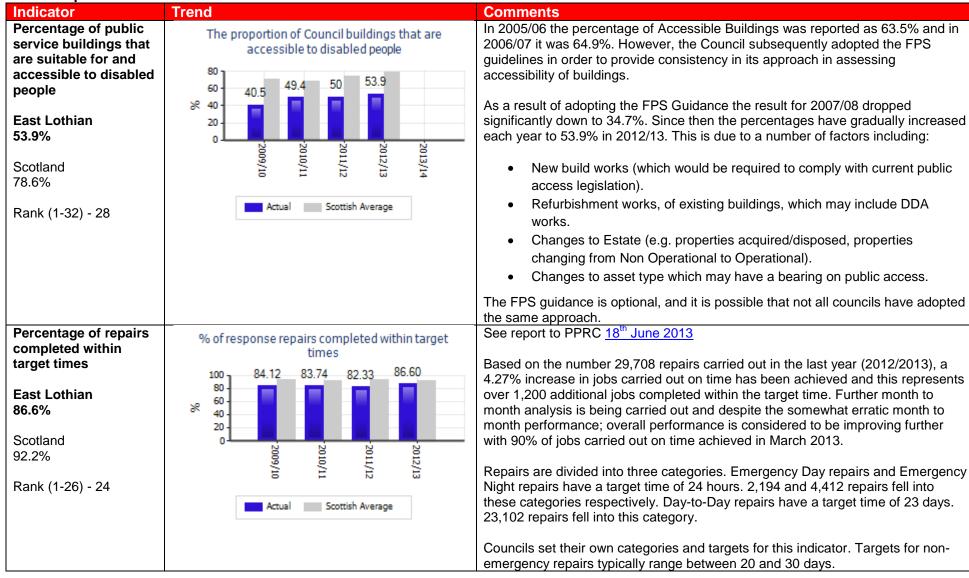
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DATE	14 November 2013

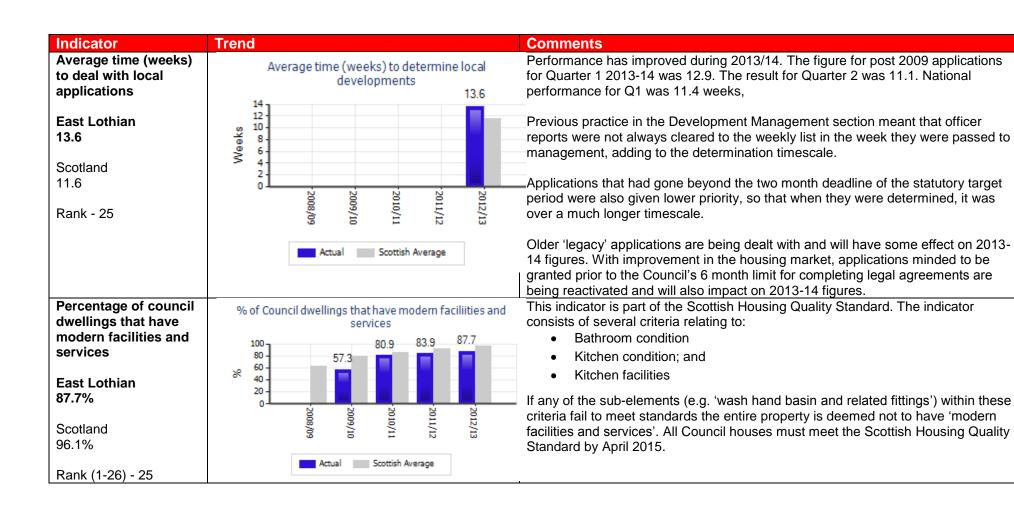
Appendix A: East Lothian SPIs comparative performance 2012/13

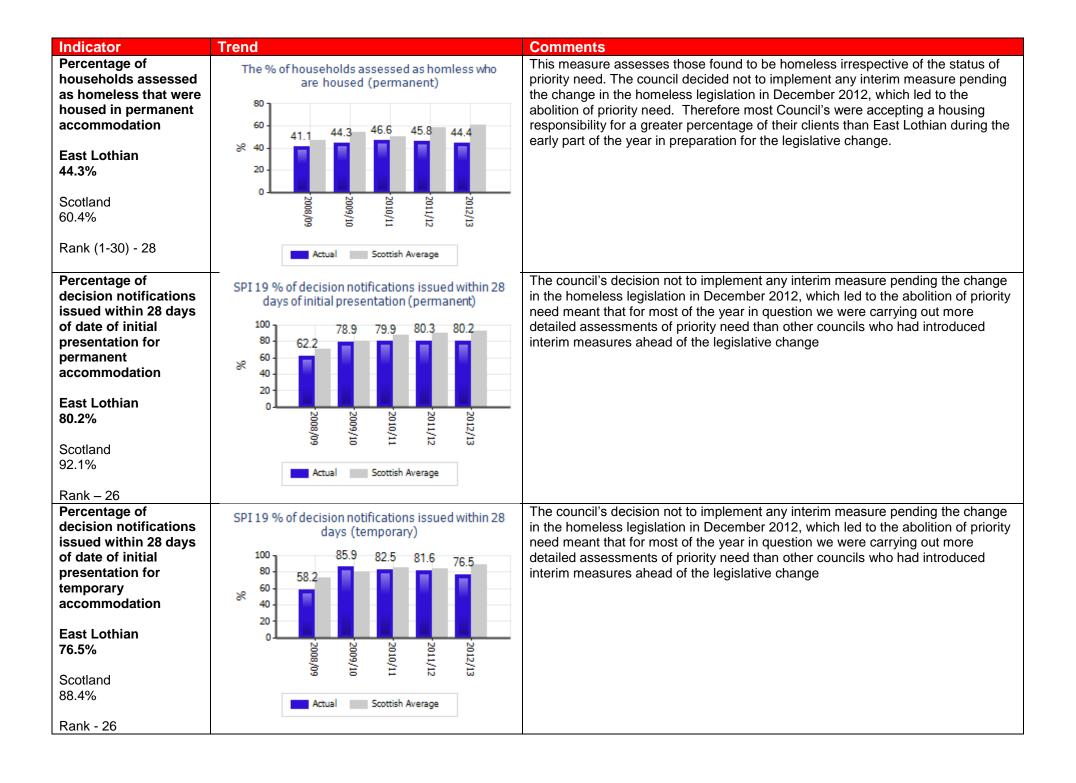
Top Quartile

Indicator	Actual	Scot Av. (median)	Rank (1-32 unless stated)
Days lost per employee for teachers	5.5	6.6	6
Percentage of council employees in top 5% of earners that are women	52.4%	47.7%	8
Proportion of internal floor area of operational buildings in satisfactory condition	96.1%	84.7%	5
Percentage of homecare clients receiving a service at weekends	86.6%	80.7%	5
Number of visits to libraries expressed per 1,000 population	8,278	6,199	6
Average time (weeks) to deal with major applications	20.7	39.0	5
Average time to re-let not low demand houses (days)	17	33.1	3 (1.26)
			(1-26)
Proportion of those tenants [giving up tenancy] that were in rent arrears	29.4%	45.0%	6 (1-26)
Percentage of permanent accommodation cases reassessed	2.3%	4.6%	5
Average time (hours) between time of complaint and attendance on site, for those dealt with under the ASB Act 2004	0.3	0.42	3 (1-24)
Percentage of consumer complaints dealt with within 14 days of receipt	90.4%	79.6%	4 (1-31)
Net cost of refuse disposal per premise	£83.63	£93.27	8
Overall percentage of road network that should be considered for maintenance treatment	31.5%	34.7%	8
	Percentage of council employees in top 5% of earners that are women Proportion of internal floor area of operational buildings in satisfactory condition Percentage of homecare clients receiving a service at weekends Number of visits to libraries expressed per 1,000 population Average time (weeks) to deal with major applications Average time to re-let not low demand houses (days) Proportion of those tenants [giving up tenancy] that were in rent arrears Percentage of permanent accommodation cases reassessed Average time (hours) between time of complaint and attendance on site, for those dealt with under the ASB Act 2004 Percentage of consumer complaints dealt with within 14 days of receipt Net cost of refuse disposal per premise Overall percentage of road network that should be	Days lost per employee for teachers Percentage of council employees in top 5% of earners that are women Proportion of internal floor area of operational buildings in satisfactory condition Percentage of homecare clients receiving a service at weekends Number of visits to libraries expressed per 1,000 population Average time (weeks) to deal with major applications Average time to re-let not low demand houses (days) 17 Proportion of those tenants [giving up tenancy] that were in rent arrears Percentage of permanent accommodation cases reassessed Average time (hours) between time of complaint and attendance on site, for those dealt with under the ASB Act 2004 Percentage of consumer complaints dealt with within 14 days of receipt Net cost of refuse disposal per premise £83.63 Overall percentage of road network that should be 31.5%	Days lost per employee for teachers Percentage of council employees in top 5% of earners that are women Proportion of internal floor area of operational buildings in satisfactory condition Percentage of homecare clients receiving a service at weekends Number of visits to libraries expressed per 1,000 population Average time (weeks) to deal with major applications Average time to re-let not low demand houses (days) Proportion of those tenants [giving up tenancy] that were in rent arrears Percentage of permanent accommodation cases reassessed Average time (hours) between time of complaint and attendance on site, for those dealt with under the ASB Act 2004 Percentage of consumer complaints dealt with within 14 days of receipt Net cost of refuse disposal per premise £83.63 £93.27 Overall percentage of road network that should be 31.5% 47.7% 48.4.7% 49.4.7%

Bottom quartile







Indicator Trend **Current tenants'** Current tenants arrears as a percentage of net arrears as a rent due percentage of net rent 12 · 10 · due 6.9 % **East Lothian** 6-11.0% 2009/10 Scotland 6.8% Rank (1-26) - 26 Scottish Average Percentage of current % of current tenants owing more than 13 weeks tenants owing more rent excluding those owing less than £250 than 13 weeks rent excluding those owing 8. less than £250 % **East Lothian** 9.5% 2009/10 Scotland 4.7% Scottish Average Rank (1-26) - 26 Average number of Average number of weeks rent owed by tenants weeks rent owed by leaving in arrears tenants leaving in 14 -12 -10 -8 -6 -4 arrears Weeks **East Lothian** 11.4 2009/10 Scotland 8.57 Rank (1-26) - 24 Scottish Average

Comments

2010/11

2010/11

2010/11

2011/12

2012/13

9.5

2012/13

11.4

2012/13

8.5

2011/12

See report to PPRC 19th March 2013

Council house rent debt has become a growing problem in East Lothian with current tenant arrears totalling around £1.5m, an increase of £245k from 2011/12. Rent arrears SPIs are not reported by discrete financial year however; the in-year collection rate for 2012/13 was 94.2%. By comparison, the Revenues team's inyear collection rate for Council Tax was 96.39% and for Business Rates was £96.62. Around £500k of the amount of rent outstanding is owed by tenants on full or part housing benefit. In these circumstances, recovery can be difficult with minimal and often erratic repayments from debtors.

The Council's reported rent collection performance has been below the Scottish average for the last three years but research carried out from information supplied to the Scottish Rent Arrears Forum has shown that not all Councils had been reporting rent arrears in the same way, with legislation being interpreted differently. Notwithstanding this, our own trend analysis shows a decline in performance.

The Committee has received two previous reports regarding rent arrears. The most recent report was provided to the Committee on the 19th March 2013. The information provided in this report remains relevant but the welfare reforms which have taken effect from April 2013 have given rise to further challenges for the Rent Income team.

Additionally, the focus of the Rent Income team since April 2013 has been to minimise the early impacts of welfare reform on rent collection. The introduction of under occupancy benefit reductions (of either 14 or 25%), for those who are deemed to have unused bedrooms, has contributed to a further rise in arrears. It is estimated that around £7k per fortnight is currently uncollected from those affected who are either unwilling or unable to afford to pay their rent charge. Tenants affected are being asked to explore their housing choices with the option to downsize available in some cases. Not all have been prepared to engage with Council staff and arrears recovery action is being taken to recover this debt from those who remain unwilling to work with our staff.

The impact of welfare reform on the Benefits service, which has recently taken on responsibility for the Scottish Welfare Fund and Community Care Finance, has seen an increase in outstanding processing work (oldest mail currently dating back around 7 weeks) and this is proving to be a challenge for all involved and other services affected by the impact of these changes. The Benefits service is also now responsible for managing a significantly increased Discretionary Hardship Fund; a significant proportion of which has been made available to help tenants affected by welfare changes. Directing payment to the most in need should help reduce rent arrears.

Additional funding for help with rent collection has allowed additional temporary posts to be established although staff retention within the team (and to these posts in particular) continues to present a considerable challenge.

A new team leader has recently taken up post and a review of working methods is taking place. The team leader also manages Investigations (Fraud) in a new, dual role.

Recent additions to a developing rent arrears improvement plan include:

- 1.5 new temporary Tenancy Support Officers, funded by Scottish Legal Aid Board, will work closely with Rent staff
- Housing Quality Network delivered 'High Impact Arrears Management' training for rent staff
- Implementation of workflow and document management system (EDRMS) in Housing teams will allow Rent staff direct access to Housing documentation – particularly important at tenancy sign up stage
- Reviewing pre-tenancy work with Housing colleagues
- Developing Housing Management system to better manage and report under occupancy
- Reviewing direct debit payment frequencies with system supplier, with a view to collecting by DD on any day of the month (ahead of implementation of Universal Credit)
- DHP take-up campaign planned by Benefits team, in conjunction with Revenues and Housing staff, following release of additional Scottish Government money
- · Christmas arrears campaign planned

2012/13 SPIs – Scottish Average and Rank

No.	Indicator	Actual	Scot Av. (median)	Rank (1-32 unless stated)
1	Days lost per employee for teachers	5.5	6.6	6
1	Days lost per employee through sickness absence for other Local Government employees	10.5	10.9	12
2	Percentage of council employees in top 2% of earners that are women	42.6%	41.7%	15
2	Percentage of council employees in top 5% of earners that are women	52.4%	47.7%	8
3	Percentage of public service buildings that are suitable for and accessible to disabled people	53.9%	78.6%	28
4	Gross [cost of benefits] administration cost per case	£53.65	£40.44	24
5	Cost of collecting council tax per dwelling	£12.40	£12.59	16
6	Percentage of income due from council tax for the year that was received by the end of the year	96.4%	95.6%	9
7	Percentage of invoices sampled paid within 30 days	86.5%	90.3%	24
8	Proportion of internal floor area of operational buildings in satisfactory condition	96.1%	84.7%	5
8	Proportion of operational buildings that are suitable for their current use	83.2%	82.9%	16
9	Percentage of homecare clients receiving personal care	94.3%	96.5%	24
9	Percentage of homecare clients receiving a service during evening/overnight	49.8%	46.3%	11
9	Percentage of homecare clients receiving a service at weekends	86.6%	80.7%	5
10	Number of attendances per 1,000 population to all pools	4,172	3,468	12
10	Number of attendances per 1,000 population for other indoor sports and leisure facilities excluding pools in a combined complex	5,546	6,432	21
11	Number of visits to/usages of council funded or part funded museums expressed per 1,000 population	2,265	1,179	13
	Tunded museums expressed per 1,000 population			(1-30)
11	Number of visits that were in person expressed per 1,000 population	538	677	22
				(1-30)

12	Number of visits to libraries expressed per 1,000 population	8,278	6,199	6
13	Average time (weeks) to deal with major applications	20.7	39.0	5
13	Average time (weeks) to deal with local applications	13.6	11.6	25
13	Average time (weeks) to deal with all major and local applications	13.6	12.0	20
14	Percentage of repairs completed within target times	86.6%	92.2%	24
				(1-26)
15	Percentage of council dwellings brought up to a tolerable standard	100.0%	100.0%	-
15	Percentage of council dwellings free from serious disrepair	98.5%	98.5%	13
	uisiepaii			(1-26)
15	Percentage of council dwellings that are energy efficient	88.1%	90.2%	15
	endent			(1-26)
15	Percentage of council dwellings that have modern facilities and services	87.7%	96.1%	25
	racilities and services			(1-26)
15	Percentage of council dwellings that are healthy, safe and secure	97.3%	94.7%	10
	and Secure			(1-26)
15	Percentage of dwellings meeting SHQS	76.7%	79.7%	16
				(1-26)
16	Percentage of rent due in the year that was lost due to voids	1.0%	1.0%	10
	voius			(1-26)
17	Average time to re-let low demand houses (days)	79	74.1	14
				(1-26)
17	Average time to re-let not low demand houses (days)	17	33.1	3
				(1-26)
18	Current tenants' arrears as a percentage of net rent due	11.0%	6.8%	26
	uuc			(1-26)
18	Percentage of current tenants owing more than 13 weeks rent excluding those owing less than £250	9.5%	4.7%	26
	WEEKS TELL EXCLUDING THOSE OWING 1855 THAIT £250			(1-26)
18	Proportion of those tenants [giving up tenancy] that were in rent arrears	29.4%	45.0%	6
	WOIG III IGIIL AIIGAIS			(1-26)

18	Average debt owed by tenants leaving their tenancies	£550	£528.04	16
	with arrears			(1-26)
18	Average number of weeks rent owed by tenants	11.40	8.57	24
	leaving in arrears			(1-26)
18	Percentage of former tenant arrears written off or collected during the year	26.3%	29.0%	14
	collected during the year			(1-26)
19	Percentage of decision notifications issued within 28 days of date of initial presentation for permanent accommodation	80.2%	92.1%	26
19	Percentage who are housed into permanent accommodation	44.3%	60.4%	28
19	Percentage of permanent accommodation cases reassessed	2.3%	4.6%	5
19	Percentage of decision notifications issued within 28 days of date of initial presentation for temporary accommodation	76.5%	88.4%	26
19	Percentage of temporary accommodation cases reassessed	5.5%	5.3%	19
19	The proportion of those provided with permanent accommodation in council stock who maintained their	89.2%	87.0%	8
	tenancy for at least 12 months			(1-26)
20	Average time (hours) between time of complaint and	1.7	10.4	10
	attendance on site, for those requiring attendance on site			(1-29)
20	Average time (hours) between time of complaint and	0.3	0.42	3
	attendance on site, for those dealt with under the ASB Act 2004			(1-24)
21	Percentage of consumer complaints dealt with within	90.4%	79.6%	4
	14 days of receipt			(1-31)
21	Percentage of business advice requests dealt with within 14 days of receipt	96.7%	96.3%	15
22	Overall percentage of road network that should be considered for maintenance treatment	31.5%	34.7%	8
23	Net cost of refuse collection per premise	£68.91	£69.27	16
23	Net cost of refuse disposal per premise	£83.63	£93.27	8
24	Percentage of municipal waste recycled	45.1%	42.8%	11
25	Overall cleanliness index	74.0%	74.0%	16