

Council
Monday 19th November 2007

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing

Value for money public services

Housing department performance

A number of improvements have been made in the department's performance over recent months, including:

- Council Tax collection, still on target for the highest ever recorded % rate of 98%.
- Processing of new benefit claims, currently an average of just over 30 days
- Rent collection for September, now 101% meaning we have collected more in rent than was due for the month and reduced the overall level of arrears owed to the Council.

The priority areas for improved performance remain timely benefits administration, maximising collection of revenues and rental income, minimising voids and prevention of homelessness. A monthly performance Clinic is holding Managers to account for their performance.

Partnership Working

A Homeless Action Planning Day is due to be held in December aimed at improving joined up responses to youth homelessness.

Housing inspection

Preparations are ongoing for our Housing progress inspection next May. Interim arrangements are in place to support the Directorate through the next few months.

NTACT

We are working with NTACT to improve the effectiveness of tenant participation in the town.

Choice based lettings

There is a cross party involvement in the development of choice based lettings and the review of the current allocations policy.

Housing Visioning Day

A Visioning Day is planned to understand the thinking from Government on meeting affordable homes targets and options for delivery.

Estate regeneration

A group of Offices and Councillors recently visited a regeneration project in Coventry to get some advice about how that experience could help us to regenerate estates in Northampton.

Sally Beardsworth
November 2007