# SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH & HOUSING CABINET BOARD

# REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMISSIONING & SUPPORT SERVICES – A.THOMAS

12 May 2016

**SECTION A – MATTER FOR MONITORING** 

WARD(S) AFFECTED:

ΑII

#### NPT HOMES PROGRESS REPORT – TO APRIL 2016

# **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of the report is to provide members with an overview of progress made by NPT Homes in respect of the promises made to tenants in the Council's Offer Document.

# **Background**

The Council transferred its housing stock to NPT Homes on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

As part of the Transfer Agreement, NPT Homes committed to providing half yearly update reports to the Council's Social Care, Health and Housing Cabinet Committee on progress made in respect of the delivery of the Offer Document promises to tenants.

It is worth noting that the scrutiny of these update reports is complemented by regular meetings between the Chief Executive of NPT Homes and previously the Head of Community Care and Housing Services, and now the Head of Business Strategy and Public Protection.

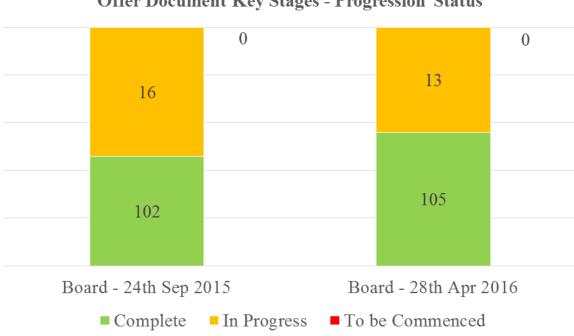
## <u>Delivering the promises made in the Offer Document – Progress</u> <u>update</u>

Attached is an action plan which is in a format agreed by Social Care, Health and Housing Cabinet Board on 28th July 2011.

In the report to Members on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014 it was noted that future reports will be shorter by only including promises that are yet to be delivered.

Promises which have been completed since the report was last presented to members are also included. This approach has been taken by the Board of NPT Homes which now monitors the progress in this way circa April and September of each year. The full list of promises and their status will still be accessible on the NPT Homes website.

The attached report uses red, amber, green (RAG) reporting to show the status of the promises - those yet to commence are red, those in progress are amber, those completed (since the last report) are green.



Offer Document Key Stages - Progression Status

One of the key elements of the Offer Document is the completion of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) works programme by 31st March 2017.

Good progress continues to be made with the WHQS programme having completed the following works since transfer:

- 6,486 kitchens
- 6,016 bathrooms
- 5,020 heating system installations
- 1,802 roof replacements
- 2,322 window and door installations.

Appendix 1 summarises the outstanding Offer Document promises and progress made.

Universal Credit (UC) was introduced to Neath Port Talbot on the 13th April 2015. UC brings together six benefits into a single monthly figure paid directly to claimants who would be required to pay their rent and other housing costs directly to NPT Homes. Due to the roll-out of UC, NPT Homes has set up a team that has established key working partnerships/relations with the Local Authority (Housing Benefits Section) and other support agencies.

Involvement provides NPT Homes with opportunities to meet with key UC stakeholders, help influence future UC policies and be at the forefront of UC developments. This front line support has resulted in NPT Homes attaining Trusted Partner Status with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP).

To date NPT Homes has piloted its approach to help 68 known UC claimants in advance of the anticipated roll out to approximately 4,000 tenants over the next few years.

NPT Homes has also started using a co-design approach with tenants to work on a number of areas of the business. This has enabled both staff, tenants and stakeholders to define a problem and then work out the best solution together.

This working practice has been used by NPT Homes on a number of service reviews and projects, including the launch of Bridge, a new support service for residents in its sheltered accommodation, and finding a better way of managing the buildings in a more cost-efficient manner. Residents also explored the name 'sheltered housing' and chose Haven Housing as the new name for NPT Homes' older person's accommodation.

# Conclusion

Members are asked to note the content of the report and to note that further updates will be provided to Members following NPT Homes' April and September Board meetings.

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Offer Document Promises - Tracking Document.

# **List of Background Papers**

None.

#### **Officer Contact**

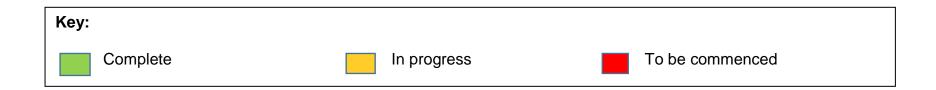
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# Appendix 1 - Offer Document Promises Tracking Document





Promise No.	Nature of Work	To be commence d	In Progress	Complet e	Comments
Part C	Delivering local services and				
	tackling anti-social behaviour - NPT				
	Homes would plan to:				
	Service Improvements:				
	Anti-social behaviour and breach of				
	tenancy				
C16	Develop expertise and best practice in dealing with anti-social behaviour problems and gather evidence to help ensure successful court action.				Promise C16  Apr-16 Sep-15 Apr-15 Sep-14 0 50 100  The Director of Housing is a member of the Safer Neath Port Talbot Partnership Board.  An NPT Homes case review group has been established with clear terms of reference. Relevant cases which are identified through this process are reviewed by officers

Promise No.	Nature of Work	To be commence d	In Progress	Complet e	Comments
					with our specialist lawyers.
C16 Cont.					Staff involved in ASB cases attended both the review group and the joint meetings with our specialist lawyers allowing them to benefit from the best practice being implemented elsewhere and contribute to their training & development in this area.
					A suite of KPIs have been established in relation to ASB; these are reported quarterly.
					An ASB internal audit (June 2015) reported a 'substantial' level of assurance regarding the way in which NPT Homes seeks to address/prevent ASB.
					NPT Homes has embarked on a codesign review of the anti-social

Promise No.	Nature of Work	To be commence d	In Progress	Complet e	Comments
					behaviour policy and procedure. Tenant input into the process is considered a more appropriate validation/accreditation of our procedure and will result in 100% completion of this promise.
Part D	Improving and repairing your home				
	Planned Maintenance and				
	Improvements				Promise D1
	Windows and external doors -				Profitise D1
D1	There would be double glazed window installations to approximately 2,500 homes which would where possible have:				Apr-16 Sep-15 Apr-15 Sep-14  0  50  100
	<ul><li>High quality double glazed uPVC windows</li><li>Secure locking handles to ground floor</li></ul>				PVC door and window renewal programme is ahead of target to meet WHQS by 2016/17.

Promise No.	Nature of Work	To be commence d	In Progress	Complet e	Comments
	windows and doors.  It is planned that, wherever possible, all homes would have double glazed windows within six years of transfer.  New double glazed uPVC front and rear external doors would be provided where not already in place within six years of transfer. They would be of high quality and where possible contain:  - Multi point locking system complying with, Secure by Design Standard; - Security chain.  Kitchens –				As at 31/03/2016 2,322 properties have been completed with double glazing.  93% of current target; 93% including 13 acceptable fails. (% completion now includes acceptable fails).
D4	Kitchens would be modernised and tenants would where possible be given a choice of worktops, doors and tiles. It is planned that all kitchens would meet WHQS within six years of transfer.				

Promise No.	Nature of Work	To be commence d	In Progress	Complet e	Comments
	Around 3,700 new high quality kitchens would be fitted in the first 6 years following transfer.  Around 4,800 kitchens would be upgraded.  Further survey work since transfer has led to a revised target of 8,740 new or upgraded kitchens and the percentage completion is reviewed against this figure which may be further revised as the programme is completed.				The kitchen replacement programme has made excellent progress since it commenced 4 years ago.  A delivery strategy has been developed which will achieve our deadline of 2016/17. As of 31/03/2016, 6,486 properties had received new kitchens.  74% of current target; 84% including 849 acceptable fails. (% completion now includes acceptable).

Promise No.	Nature of Work	To be commence d	In Progress	Complet e	Comments
	Heating -				
D8	It is planned that all homes where heating systems fail the WHQS would be offered a new full central heating system with boilers and radiators, with approximately 6,000 central heating boilers being replaced in the first 6 years following transfer.  All new systems would where possible include:  - separate radiator thermostats; - energy efficient boilers; - programmable heating timers.  Further survey work since transfer has led to a revised target of 5,900 new or upgraded heating systems and the percentage completion is reviewed against this figure which				The main programme commenced in October 2011. As at 31/03/2016, 5,020 new heating systems have been installed and the programme is on target to complete during 2016/17.  85% of current target; 91% including 347 acceptable fails. (% completion now includes acceptable).

Promise No.	Nature of Work	To be commence d	In Progress	Complet e	Comments
	programme is completed.				
	Bathrooms -				
D10	Around 2,400 homes would be fitted with new bathrooms within six years of transfer allowing for where possible:  - over bath electric showers (or separate shower cubicles where space and budget permit);  - extractor fans;  - non-slip flooring;  - a choice of tiles.				Promise D10  Apr-16 Sep-15 Apr-15 Sep-14 0 50 100  The bathroom replacement programme has made excellent progress since it commenced 4 years ago.

Promise No.	Nature of Work	To be commence d	In Progress	Complet e	Comments
	Around 6,000 bathrooms would be upgraded.  It is planned that all bathrooms would meet the WHQS within six years of transfer.  Further survey work since transfer has led to a revised target of 8,339 new or upgraded bathrooms and the percentage completion is reviewed against this figure which may be further revised as the programme is completed.				As of 31/03/2016, 6,016 properties had received new bathrooms and the programme is on target to complete during 2016/17.  72% of current target; 80% including 686 acceptable fails. (% completion now includes acceptable fails).
	Roofs -				
D13	NPT Homes would have a budget of around £2.8 million for a programme of roof repairs and renewal in the first six years after transfer including ongoing replacement of roof coverings as necessary throughout the 30 years of the business plan.  Further survey work since transfer has led to a revised target of 2,319 new or upgraded roofs and the				Promise D13  Apr-16 Sep-15 Apr-15 Sep-14 0 50 100  The roof repair programme has continued since transfer and is

Promise No.	Nature of Work	To be commence d	In Progress	Complet e	Comments
	percentage completion is reviewed against this figure which may be further revised as the programme is completed.				programmed to be completed within 6 years.  As at 31/03/2016, 1,802 roofs have been replaced since transfer and the programme is on target to complete during 2016/17.  78% of current target; 78% including 0 acceptable fails. (% completion now includes acceptable fails).
	Security -				
D15	Tenants would be offered (where appropriate):				
	<ul><li>- (i) front and rear external entrance lights;</li><li>- (ii) NPT Homes would have a budget for</li></ul>				

Promise No.	Nature of Work	To be commence d	In Progress	Complet e	Comments
	improvements to fences and gates.				Promise D15  Apr-16 Sep-15 Apr-15 Sep-14  0 50 100
					Promise D15 (i)  Apr-16 Sep-15 Apr-15 Sep-14  0 50 100
					Promise D15 (ii)
					Apr-16
D15					

Promise No.	Nature of Work	To be commence d	In Progress	Complet e	Comments
Cont.					Security lights form part of D14 rewiring works which has previously been signed off as complete.
					The provision of gates and fences is being assessed (globally) as part of the land appraisal process with works anticipated to start 2016. The data regarding fences and gates is currently being collected.

Promise No.	Nature of Work	To be commence d	In Progress	Complet e	Comments
	Environmental and Security Improvements				
D17	NPT Homes would have a budget of £13.5 million within its investment programme for environmental and security improvements in the first six years alone - over £10m on estate and environmental improvements and over £3.5m on security.  Examples of improvements that could be provided for each estate include:  - improved estate car parking; - fencing, walls and railings around communal blocks; - improved external lighting and security				Promise D17  Apr-16 35 Sep-15 35 Apr-15 35 Sep-14 35  The Regeneration Team has an ongoing programme of community consultation following Welsh Government best practice (100% completed as at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2015) which will establish a resident led approach to define estate based
	lighting; - repairs to walkways, pathways and other				priorities and neighbourhood enhancements.

Promise No.	Nature of Work	To be commence d	In Progress	Complet e	Comments
D17 Cont.	hard landscaping; - enhancing the landscaping features around the homes; - reviewing the use of and improving communal drying areas; - reviewing the use of underused garage sites and rationalising their provision; and - play areas.				Interpreting the environmental standard will be different for each area as it will have to meet the needs of each local neighbourhood.  A co-design approach to the works that will be completed in an area is being piloted in the lower Brynamman area.  This will ensure that community based priorities are captured accurately and effectively leading to a delivery plan of environmental improvements commencing early 2016.
	Repairs Service -				
	NPT Homes would plan to:				

Promise No.	Nature of Work	To be commence d	In Progress	Complet e	Comments
D23	day repairs are carried out, such as early evenings on weekdays and on Saturday mornings so as to be able to offer more convenient appointments for working tenants.				Promise D23  Apr-16 Sep-15 Apr-15 Sep-14 0 50 Tenants who are unable to accept a normal working hours appointment for non-urgent works inside their home due to their own work commitments are offered an early evening (up to 6.00 pm) or Saturday morning between 8.00 am and 12.00 midday appointment for non-urgent internal works.
	Planned Maintenance Programmes -				
D28	Decorate internal communal areas in sheltered schemes and blocks of				

Promise No.	Nature of Work	To be commence d	In Progress	Complet	Comments
	flats.				Promise D28  Apr-16 Sep-15 Apr-15 Sep-14  0 50 100
					A review is currently underway of all communal areas to identify the full extent of the works required to upgrade the communal areas. A pilot refurbishment scheme has been completed in Gwent House, Sandfields.
					The tenants in the 5 sheltered housing schemes that will be included in the WHQS programme 2015/16 have been consulted on what they would like to see with regard to the communal areas and communal facilities.
					The communal corridors in the building have been upgraded/are in

Promise No.	Nature of Work	To be commence d	In Progress	Complet e	Comments
D28					the process of being upgraded (where applicable) as part of this work.
Cont.					We are running a pilot programme in relation to the refurbishment of the communal lounge areas.
Part E	Service for older people and sheltered housing services				
	Improvements to Sheltered Schemes:				
	NPT Homes would plan the following improvements to sheltered schemes:				
E11	Where appropriate, and subject to resources being available, give a choice of a replacement of bath with shower or a walk-in shower to tenants with mobility problems when bathroom replacement programmes are carried out.				Promise E11  Apr-16 33 Sep-15 33 Apr-15 25 Sep-14 25 0 50 100  To date 5 Haven housing buildings have benefited from WHQS works to

Promise No.	Nature of Work	To be commence d	In Progress	Complet e	Comments
					individual flats; the bungalows that form part of another complex have also been upgraded.
E11 Cont.					Where appropriate tenants receive an assessment from a qualified Occupational Therapist so that their needs can be accommodated, wherever possible, in the upgrade works.  Showers are fitted as standard and, where feasible, an assisted bathing/communal bathing facility is
					made available.
E13	Ensure accommodation is more accessible where possible by automotive doors to communal areas.				Promise E13  Apr-16
					This is being considered/delivered

Promise No.	Nature of Work	To be commence d	In Progress	Complet e	Comments
					as part of the sheltered housing WHQS programme; this commenced in Summer 2014 and will be completed during 2017.
					New doors to individual dwellings have been provided in Riverside Court; they have been fitted with assisted door openers which means they can be opened with the minimum of effort. These will be fitted at all other schemes where it is identified that a standard door will prove problematic for a tenant.
E13 Cont.					Where replacement doors are required to communal areas the feasibility of these being fully automated will be considered.  Notwithstanding the work that will take place as part of WHQS, progress has been made towards

Promise No.	Nature of Work	To be commence d	In Progress	Complet e	Comments
					<ol> <li>the achievement of this promise through the following actions:</li> <li>An automated door and access ramp have been installed at Ty Llansawel sheltered housing complex.</li> <li>An automated door is already in place at Michaelstone Court and Gwyn Court.</li> <li>The ramp and entrance door to the rear of Cysgodfa have been reconfigured to allow ease of access.</li> <li>A vertical lift has been installed at Cysgodfa, Ty Maes Marchog, Mozart Court and Maesydarren.</li> </ol>

Promise No.	Nature of Work	To be commence d	In Progress	Complet e	Comments
	Scheme Managers				
	NPT Homes would also aim to improve services provided by the scheme managers in order to meet the needs of older people. It would consult with tenants on a range of possible improvements which, for example, could include:				
E14					Promise E14  Apr-16 Sep-15 Apr-15 Sep-14 0 50 100  A draft handbook has been produced.  The handbook's content was produced by a working group made up of tenant volunteers, scheme

Promise No.	Nature of Work	To be commence d	In Progress	Complet e	Comments
					managers and the tenant empowerment officer with responsibility for 'older persons'.  The working group was split into
E14					small task and finish groups, looking at individual subjects/sections of the handbook in more detail.
Cont.					As well as hard copies it is envisaged that the content of the handbook will also be presented in the form of a DVD which will be shown in the communal lounge of each sheltered housing scheme.
					We have recently undertaken a review of the sheltered housing service which has seen the introduction of brand names 'Haven Housing' and 'Bridge'. The handbook will be updated to reflect this and new service criteria.
					This promise will be considered to

Promise No.	Nature of Work	To be commence d	In Progress	Complet e	Comments
					have been achieved once the amendments have been made and the handbook published.
E17	Developing communities around sheltered schemes.				Promise E17  Apr-16 Sep-15 Apr-15 Sep-14  0 50 100
E17					A 'Haven Housing' social group has been established; this was initially run in conjunction with Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service (NPTCVS).  The group aims to empower tenants

Promise No.	Nature of Work	To be commence d	In Progress	Complet e	Comments
Cont.					to set up social activities for other tenants.
					A co-design approach has been taken to the re-design of the role of the scheme managers and the support service, which is now branded as 'Bridge'. This has seen tenant volunteers/ambassadors working together to design the future service utilising the assets available within schemes and the community that surrounds them. Operating the service in this way will be fundamental to meeting the needs of tenants at a time when the Supporting People budget is reducing.
					The launch of the new co-designed service on the 4th April now sees tenants in the community supported and links made to sheltered housing schemes which have been rebranded as 'Haven Housing'. As such this promise is now considered

Promise No.	Nature of Work	To be commence d	In Progress	Complet e	Comments
					to be 100% complete.
	Other improvements:				
	Additional improvements could include:				
E23	Developing a good neighbour scheme for sheltered accommodation so that additional on-site support would be available for emergencies outside office hours.				Apr-16 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 1

Promise No.	Nature of Work	To be commence d	In Progress	Complet e	Comments
E23 Cont.					The establishment of a good neighbour scheme was re-visited as part of the co-design of the revised scheme manager/support service. The Tenant Empowerment Team have since visited each scheme to discuss the idea with tenants and although there are a number of 'natural' good neighbours, there was reluctance to formalise it with people being happier to carry on doing things for each other as normal and stay away from feeling they had a 'responsibility'.
					Previous Offer Document updates have reported that this promise will be considered to be 100% complete once the feasibility of a good neighbour scheme has been explored further; on this basis the promise is considered achieved.

Promise No.	Nature of Work	To be commence d	In Progress	Complet e	Comments
					In order to recognise those tenants who are giving up their time on an informal basis to help their neighbours we are planning to undertake the following tasks:  • Put a poster up at all schemes and ask for people to share with us who is a good neighbour to them and why  • Send each of these tenants a 'Good neighbour' certificate and automatically put them into the running for a tenant award at the AGM  • Seek permission from these tenants to feature them in the tenant newsletter.

Promise No.	Nature of Work	To be commence d	In Progress	Complet e	Comments
E24	Within its investment programme, NPT Homes would have a budget of up to £5.5 million in the first six years after transfer for improvements and re-modelling work in sheltered schemes. This work would be undertaken in consultation with tenants to provide self-contained flats with their own bathrooms and to upgrade bedsit flats to provide separate bedrooms and living rooms.				Promise E24  Apr-16 33 Apr-15 33 Apr-15 25 Sep-14 40 0 50 100  The Sheltered Housing WHQS programme commenced in the summer 2014 and due to finish 2017. Based on the work carried out to date and the costs of other planned work it is estimated that circa £11m will be spent on bringing all schemes up to the WHQS.