#### NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH & HOUSING CABINET BOARD

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

20 October 2016

SECTION A - MATTER FOR MONITORING

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

### **NPT HOMES PROGRESS REPORT - TO SEPTEMBER 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.

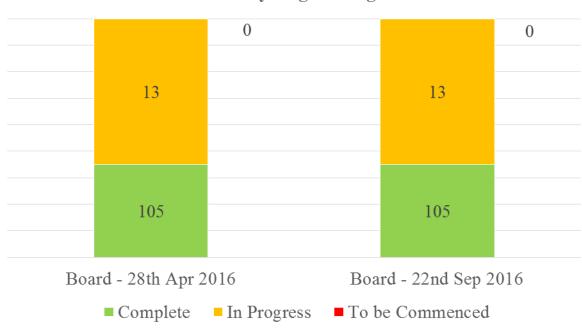
As part of the Transfer Agreement, NPT Homes committed to providing half yearly update reports to the Council's Social Care, Health and Housing Cabinet Committee on progress made in respect of the delivery of the Offer Document promises to tenants.

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 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.

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

The full list of promises including all those completed is accessible on the NPT Homes website.

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.

Although no further promises have been completed since the last report in April, good progress continues to be made with the WHQS programme having completed the following works since transfer:

- 6,942 kitchens
- 6,413 bathrooms
- 5,270 heating system installations
- 1,898 roof replacements

• 2,167 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. 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.

DWP has recently announced that the roll out of Universal Credit is to be further delayed for the area until September 2018. Until then it is expected that the numbers affected will remain low. The greatest impact is expected when full roll out of all claimants takes place which is now expected to start in July 2019 and planned to end by 2022.

As part of the ongoing welfare reform changes, it was announced in the summer budget of 2015 that the household benefit cap originally introduced in 2013 would be further reduced to £20,000 per annum for families (£384.62/week) and £13,400 (£257.69/week) for single people.

We have 66 tenants thought to be affected by the new reduced benefit cap with affected households seeing their benefit reduced in November. Our Financial Inclusion Officers are currently contacting those households who will be affected to provide appropriate support and advice.

NPT Homes has used 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. It was successfully used earlier in the year on designing the new service for tenants living in over 55's accommodation, now called Haven Housing.

We are currently using this approach to work in partnership to co-design our Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Policy. A number of co-design sessions have taken place. Staff have visited tenants in the Borough who have had previous experience of ASB to ask them for their views on what is really important for us to consider as part of the review. Last month, staff and partners, including officers from the Local Authority, Police, other registered social landlords who operate in the County Borough and

victim support agencies, met to follow up on the work and findings of the sub groups ahead of finalising the new co-designed ASB policy.

### 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**





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 Sep-16 Apr-16 Sep-15 Apr-15  0  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 with our specialist lawyers.
			Staff involved in ASB cases attended both

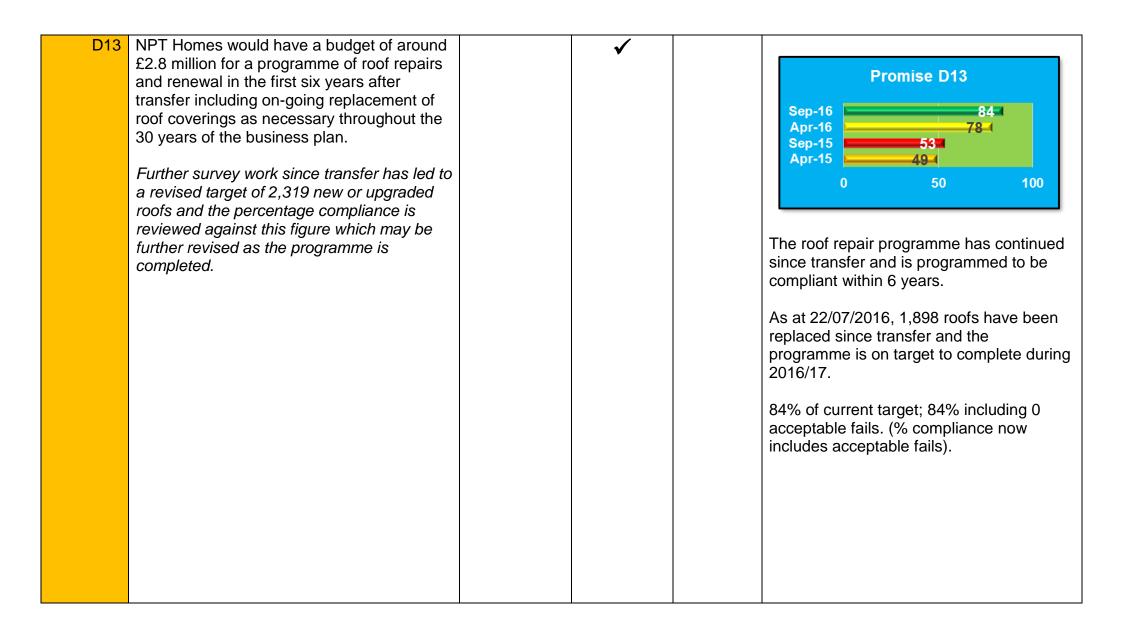
implemented elsewhere and contribute to their training & development in this area.  A suite of KPIs have been established in relation to ASB; these are reported quarterly.  An ASB internal audit (June 2015) reported a 'substantial' level of assurance regarding the way in which NPT Homes seeks to address/prevent ASB.  NPT Homes has embarked on a co-desig review of the anti-social behaviour policy and procedure. Tenant input into the process is considered a more appropriate validation/accreditation of our procedure and will result in 100% compliance with this promise. 3 of the planned 4 co-design session have been undertaken to date an officers are due to attend the pre-board session scheduled for the 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2016.	C16 Cont.		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 co-design review of the anti-social behaviour policy and procedure. Tenant input into the process is considered a more appropriate validation/accreditation of our procedure and will result in 100% compliance with this promise. 3 of the planned 4 co-design session have been undertaken to date an officers are due to attend the pre-board session scheduled for the 24 <sup>th</sup> November
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Part D Improving and repairing your home	
Planned Maintenance and Improvements	
Windows and external doors –	Promise D1
D1 There would be double glazed window installations to approximately 2,500 homes which would where possible have:  - High quality double glazed uPVC windows - Secure locking handles to ground floor 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.	PVC door and window renewal programme is ahead of target to meet WHQS by 2016/17.  As at 22/07/2016 2,167 properties are compliant.  88% of current target; 88% including 0 acceptable fails. (% compliance now includes acceptable fails).  The figures noted above indicate a lower compliance figure than previously reported. This amendment has been done intentionally to ensure the WHQS verification process is thorough and accurate. The change in compliance is the result of the removal of 'door only installations' which require further verification. The delivery programme

	Kitchens –		2017. This programme is still on target and is in line to be complete by March 2017.
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.  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 compliance is reviewed against this figure which may be further revised as the programme is completed.		Promise D4  Sep-16 Apr-16 Sep-15 Apr-15  O  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 22/07/2016, 6,942 properties had received new kitchens.  81% of current target; 92% including 967 acceptable fails. (% compliance now includes acceptable).

	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 compliance is reviewed against this figure which may be further revised as the programme is completed.		Promise D8  Sep-16 Apr-16 Sep-15 Apr-15 0 50 100  The main programme commenced in October 2011. As at 22/07/2016, 5,270 new heating systems have been installed and the programme is on target to complete during 2016/17.  87% of current target; 95% including 476 acceptable fails. (% compliance now includes acceptable).

	Bathrooms –		
D10	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.  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 compliance is reviewed against this figure which may be further revised as the programme is completed.		Promise D10  Sep-16 Apr-16 Sep-15 Apr-15 0 50 100  The bathroom replacement programme has made excellent progress since it commenced 4 years ago.  As of 22/07/2016, 6,413 properties had received new bathrooms and the programme is on target to complete during 2016/17.  80% of current target; 91% including 820 acceptable fails. (% compliance now includes acceptable fails).
	Roofs –		



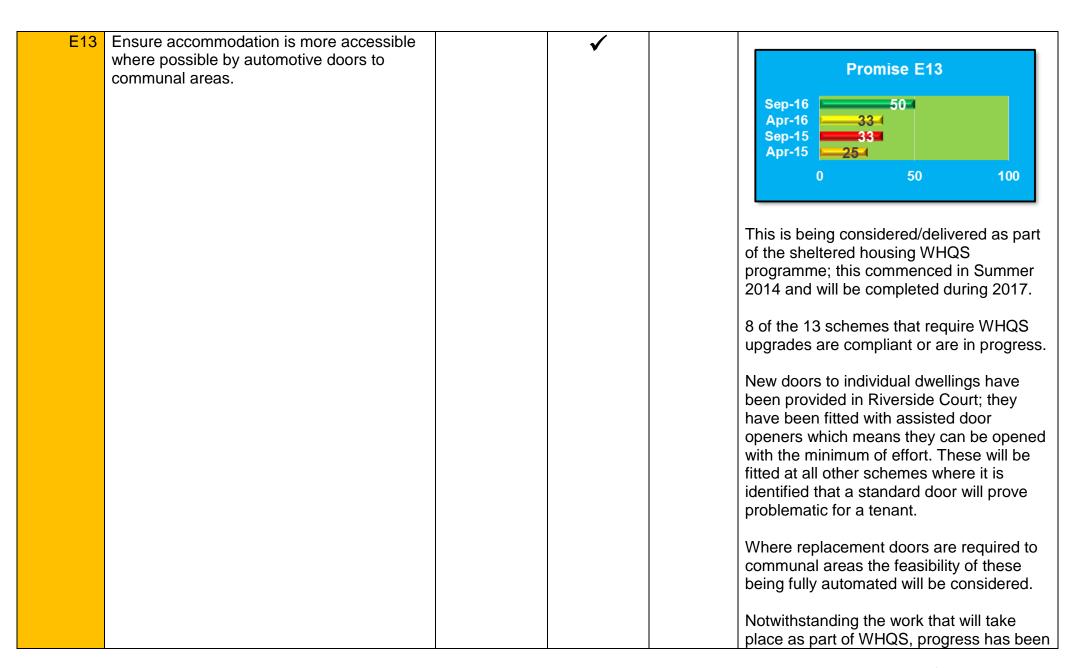
	Security –		
D15	Tenants would be offered (where appropriate):  - (i) front and rear external entrance lights;  - (ii) NPT Homes would have a budget for improvements to fences and gates.	<b>√</b>	Promise D15  Sep-16 Apr-16 Sep-15 Apr-15 0 50 100
			Promise D15 (i)  Sep-16 Apr-16 Sep-15 Apr-15  0 50 100
			Promise D15 (ii)  Sep-16
			Sep-15 10 Apr-15 10 0 50 100  Security lights form part of D14 rewiring

D15 Cont.		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.
	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 lighting; - repairs to walkways, pathways and other hard landscaping; - enhancing the landscaping features around the homes;	Promise D17  Sep-16 Apr-16 Sep-15 Apr-15 35 Apr-15 0 50 100  The Regeneration Team has an on-going programme of community consultation following Welsh Government best practice (100% compliant as at 31 st December 2015) which will establish a resident led approach to define estate based priorities and neighbourhood enhancements.
D17 Cont.	- reviewing the use of and improving	Interpreting the environmental standard will be different for each area as it will have

	communal drying areas; - reviewing the use of underused garage sites and rationalising their provision; and - play areas.		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.
	Planned Maintenance Programmes –		
D28	Decorate internal communal areas in sheltered schemes and blocks of flats.		Promise D28  Sep-16 50- Apr-16 50- Sep-15 50- Apr-15 50- O 50 100  A review is currently underway of all communal areas in blocks of flats 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.
D28 Cont.			The communal corridors in Sheltered/Haven housing buildings are being upgraded and painted as part of the

		wider WHQS works that are being undertaken at the schemes. With regard to the communal loung a pilot refurbishment programme is progress, commencing at Llys Nant which is due for completion August This will see the lounge area overhand will include the provision of new furniture for which a service charge applied. The scheme will be used to tenants in other scheme what can be achieved; if successful it will be rolled across all of the schemes.	in Fer 2016. auled v will be o show
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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 walkin shower to tenants with mobility problems when bathroom replacement programmes are carried out.		Promise E11  Sep-16 Apr-16 Sep-15 Sep-15 Apr-15 December 25 Decemb



E13 Cont.	Scheme Managers		<ol> <li>made towards 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>
E14	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:  Introducing a tenants' handbook specifically		
L14	for tenants of sheltered housing.	•	Promise E14  Sep-16 Apr-16 Sep-15 Apr-15  0 50 100

E14 Cont.	A draft handbook has been produced. The handbook's content was produced by a working group made up of tenant volunteers, scheme managers and the tenant empowerment officer with responsibility for 'older persons'.  The working group was split into small task and finish groups, looking at individual subjects/sections of the handbook in more
	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 have been achieved once the amendments have been made and the handbook published. It is anticipated that this promise will be complete by December 2016

	Other improvements:		
	Additional improvements could include:		
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  Sep-16 Apr-16 Sep-15 Sep-15 Sep-15 O The Sheltered Housing WHQS prograted commenced in the summer 2014 and to finish 2017. 8 of the 13 schemes the require WHQS upgrades are compliant are in progress.  Based on the costs of the works completed to date and that planned at the other schemes the budget will increase from £5.5 million to circa £11m.	amme due hat nt or