

**Highlight Report – 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

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**Corporate Improvement Priority:** To support and invest in our town centres and communities to promote economic growth, regeneration and sustainability, maximise job opportunities and improve access to employment.

<b>RAG Status</b>	<b>Summary of Progress</b>
<b>Green</b>	<p><b>Housing</b></p> <p>The continued interest in the Houses into Homes Loan Scheme has seen a significant improvement and the delivery process for the issuing of Home Improvement Loans is continually being reviewed and is on target to exceed the number of properties that were made warm safe and secure during 2015-16.</p> <p>The Review of the Homelessness Service remains on target for completion in the late autumn of 2016 and the recommendations being implemented in April 2017. Preparatory work is ongoing regarding the Homelessness Strategy and remains on target for the production of a draft document in 2017.</p> <p>NPT Homes continues to make excellent progress in the delivery of its major investment programme and remains on target to achieve WHQS.</p>



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What will be different? (Outcomes)	Lead Officer	RAG Status	Progress
<b>Housing</b>			
1. NPT Homes will continue to meet the Council’s promise (as detailed in the ‘offer document’) to bring all former council housing up to the Welsh Housing Quality Standard and to regenerate communities	A.Thomas	Green	The percentage of properties WHQS compliant at 30.9.16 is 72%. This compares to 51% as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2016 (see <i>Figure 1</i> ). NPT Homes continues to make excellent progress in the delivery of its major investment programme and remains on target to achieve WHQS.
2. We will provide loans to effectively target empty properties to bring them back into use and make sure existing housing stock is safe, warm and secure	A.Thomas	Green	The continued interest in the Houses into Homes Loan Scheme has seen a significant improvement in the number of empty properties being brought back into use and has already exceed the number of properties brought back into use in 2015/16 (8 properties). During this reporting period a total of 20 units were brought back into use through rental accommodation or made available for sale (see <i>Figure 2</i> ).  The delivery process for the issuing of Home Improvement Loans is continually being reviewed and is on target to exceed the number of properties that were made warm safe and secure during 2015/16 (5 properties). During this reporting period a total of 4 properties received a Home Improvement Loan to make their property warm, safe or secure (see <i>Figure 3</i> ).



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<p>3. We will undertake a homelessness review. We will prioritise those most in need by implementing single point of access arrangements for Supported People-funded homelessness prevention support services.</p>	<p><b>A.Thomas</b></p>	<p><b>Green</b></p>	<p>The Review of the Homelessness Service remains on target for completion in the late Autumn of 2016 and the recommendations being implemented in April 2017. It is still proposed that one of the recommendations will be the establishment of a Gateway Officer to manage the single point of access arrangements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase the % of all potentially homeless households for whom homelessness was prevented for at least 6 months. Comparative performance: 93.7% in Quarters 1&amp;2 of 2015-16 vs 98.5% in Quarters 1&amp;2 of 2016-17 (see <i>Figure 4</i>).</li><li>• Increase the number of private rented tenancies made available that were suitable and likely to be available for at least six months. Comparative performance: 33 in Quarters 1&amp;2 of 2015-16 vs 34 in Quarters 1&amp;2 of 2016-17 (see <i>Figure 5</i>)</li></ul> <p>It was assumed that performance last year was greatly enhanced by the availability of a large ring-fenced Welsh Government Homelessness Grant Transitional Fund (TF) allocation. When the TF allocation for 2016-17 was</p>
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			<p>significantly reduced on 2015-16, some degree of consequent deterioration in performance was therefore anticipated. This occurred in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2016-17 but has not continued into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter. However, it is still not considered unlikely that performance may once again deteriorate, as the year progresses.</p>
<p>4. We will develop a Homelessness Strategy that will ensure co-operation agreements are in place with our Housing Association partners to deliver the requirements of the Housing (Wales) Act and monitor the contribution they make to help the Council fulfil its duty</p>	<p><b>A.Thomas</b></p>	<p><b>Green</b></p>	<p>The Homelessness Strategy does not need to be in place until April 2018. Preparatory work is ongoing and remains on target for the production of a draft document in 2017. Negotiation of the agreements is not necessarily dependent on the prior production of the strategy.</p> <p>A Community Housing Agreement Meeting took place in September 2016, attended by Registered Social Landlords and this considered inter alia updating the Community Housing Agreement, how RSL contribution will be monitored and the agreements that will then apply. At a Welsh level, a draft cooperation agreement is being piloted and will provide the basis of NPTCBC’s agreements going forward. NPTCBC still has to review how it will monitor the contribution made by RSLs. A further CHA meeting is</p>

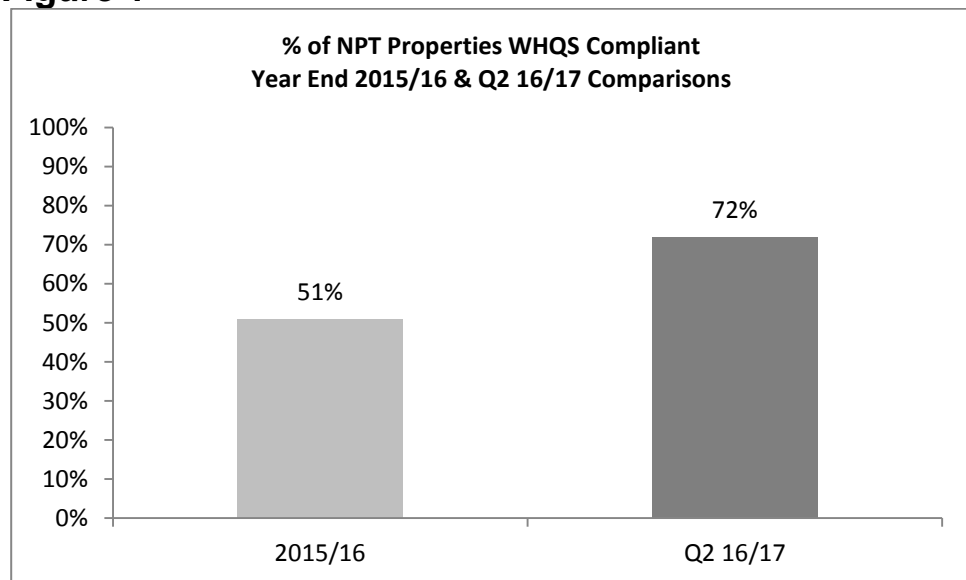


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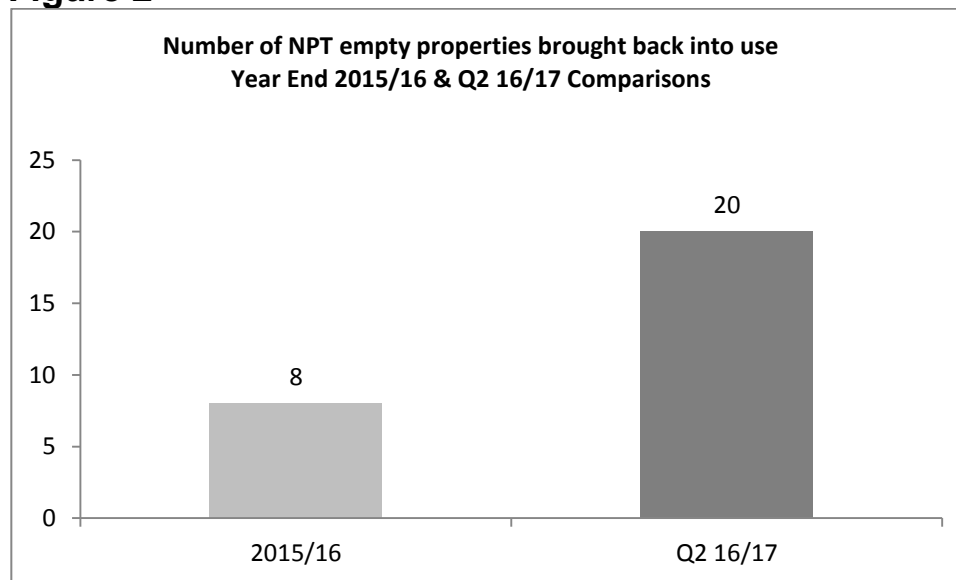
			<p>scheduled for January.</p> <p>% of Housing Association partners with stock in the county borough the Council has a co-operation agreement with (Nil – see above)</p>
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### Measures: Graphs

**Figure 1**



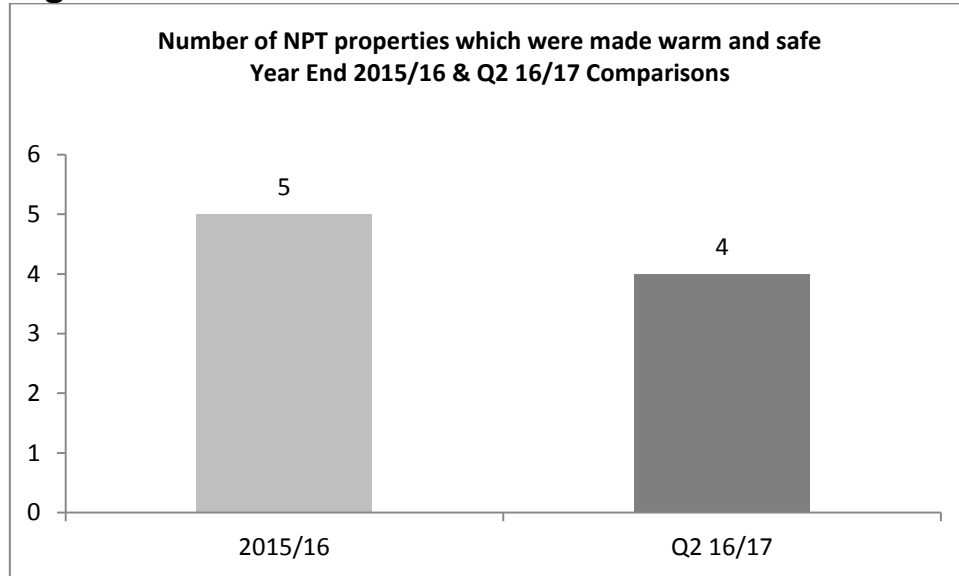
**Figure 2**



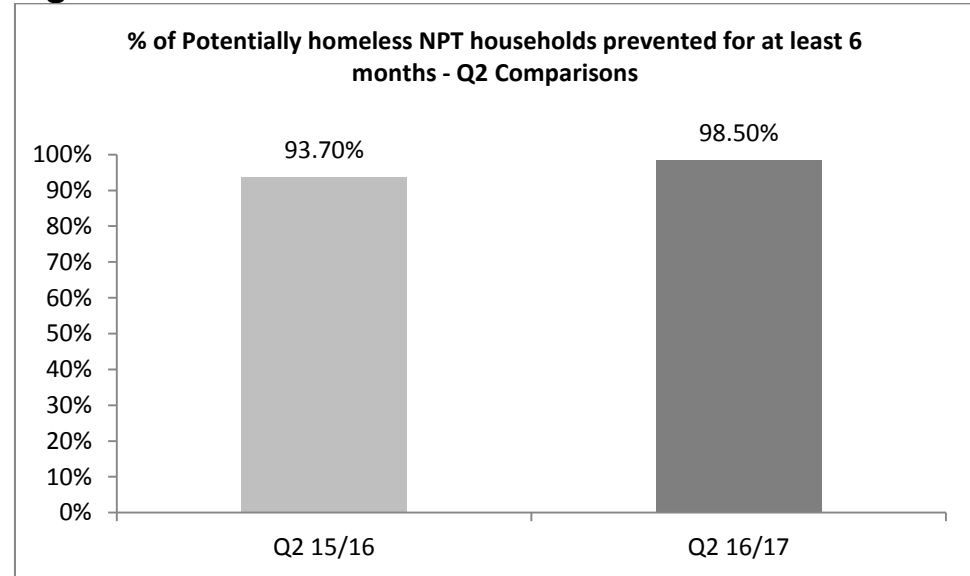


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**Figure 3**



**Figure 4**





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**Figure 5**

