

## 6. HOUSING UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services providing an update on the housing service activities for the ward.

The report examined Property Void and Let Performance for both mainstream and temporary properties for the period January to March 2017. It was noted that delays in re-letting could occur for a variety of reasons including additional works not visible during the initial inspection and the type and location of the property.

The Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services continued by providing details of rent arrears for the ward noting that for Quarter 4 of 2016-17 it was £39,389 which was an increase of £4,798 on last year's position. It was also reported that much work was being done in preparation of Universal Credit which was being introduced in February 2018 which would bring with it a number of challenges for both the council and its tenants.

Information continued to be provided on the capital programme and new build council housing, tenant participation including digital inclusion and the work of safer neighbourhood team.

In relation to questions raised by local members following the recent tragic tower block fire in London, the local area committee was assured by officers of the council that no council house buildings in West Lothian had the same type of outside cladding as used on the tower block and that a review of the council's historic building portfolio was also underway.

In relation to the properties belonging to Weslo and Almond Housing Association officers undertook to ascertain the position with regards to the materials used in the construction process of their housing stock and advise local ward members in due course.

It was recommended that the local area committee was asked to note Housing, Customer and Building Services activity as detailed in the report for the period January to March 2017.

### Decision

1. Noted the contents of the report;
2. Noted the update with regards to the types of materials used to clad council housing and that a review of other council buildings was being undertaken;
3. Requested that information on the types of materials being used on the housing stock belonging to Weslo and Almond Housing Association be provided to local ward members; and
4. Requested that officers ascertain if online facilities would be available in the new East Calder Partnership Centre.

