

## 5. HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which were tabled) by the Head of Housing Customer and Building Services providing an overview of housing performance for the period 1 July to 30 September 2018.

The performance figures for property void and let for mainstream and temporary tenancies were detailed in the report. The committee noted that for the period July to September 2018, a total of 28 properties had been let for mainstream tenancies and 12 properties had been let for temporary tenancies. There were 43 policy voids in the ward.

A graph within the report demonstrated the position for rent arrears for Q2 compared to the same period the previous year. The Ward arrears position for Q2 was £250,587. This was an increase of £60,307 on last year's position. The West Lothian overall position has increased by £593,408 from the previous year and on 1 October 2018 was £2,405,181.

The Housing Manager advised the committee that the overall increased arrears in comparison to the previous year were as a result of Full Service Universal Credit being introduced in West Lothian from May 2018, along with other Welfare Benefit reforms and the current economic climate. Information on the various initiatives to continue to tackle rent arrears was given.

Further information was contained within the report on the following:

- Local area team activity;
- Capital programme and new build activity;
- New build programme;
- Tenant participation update; and
- Safer neighbourhood team update.

The report recommended that members note the contents of the Housing, Customer and Building Services activity report for the period 1 July to 30 September 2018.

### Decision

To note the contents of the report.