

Priority 5

Sustainable Communities

5.3 Council Housing

Leeds City Council manages 57,000 properties, a mixture of flats, houses and bungalows, across the city. Approximately 4,300 of the stock base are sheltered housing units, that are predominantly let to people aged 60 years or older, and approximately 7,000 properties are high rise multi-storey flats. The ambition for Housing Leeds is to create great places where people want to live, and where people take pride in their home and community. Demand for council housing far outstrips supply: there are approximately 25,000 applicants on the housing register and 5,200 lettings are made each year. This means that just over 20% of housing applicants on the waiting list are offered a home each year.

Housing Leeds Priorities/Targets

- Improve tenancy sustainment by making the right lettings decisions and offering tenants the right support
- Ensure all council housing is well maintained and fit to live in
- Reduce the time to re-let a property to no more than 30 days
- Maximise rent collection to enable continued investment in council housing
- Minimise the impact of welfare change
- Make sure all tenants receive an annual tenancy visit

Case Study: Welfare Reform Multi-Storey Pilot

The **Welfare Reform Multi Story Flat pilot** which commenced in May 2014 involves Welfare Reform Officers across the City working with customers residing in multi storey flats who are affected by changes to Housing Benefit due to Under Occupation. The project supports tenants to engage in a number of activities that will help them to improve their financial and overall position to respond to the impacts of the Welfare Reforms, including budgeting and employment. There are currently 800 tenants signed up to the project and to date nearly 100 tenants have been supported into employment.

