

Homelessness, Housing and Fair Work

10:00am, Thursday, 5 November 2020

Private Sector Leasing - Update

Routine
Wards
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 Committee notes the content of this report as requested at Housing and Economy Committee on 6 June 2019.

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Report

Private Sector Leasing - Update

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 Housing and Economy committee on 6 June 2019 requested an update to progress on delivery of the Private Sector Leasing Scheme.

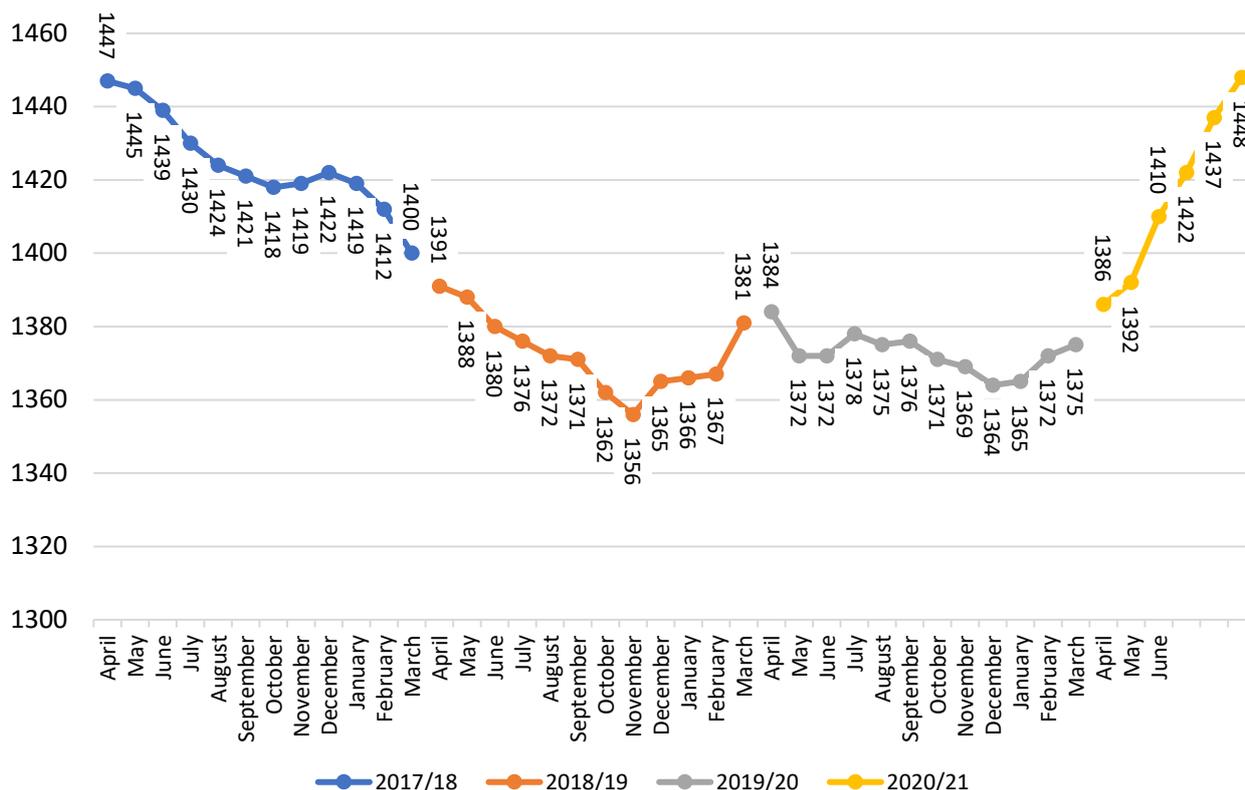
3. Background

- 3.1 The City of Edinburgh Council has a legal duty to provide temporary accommodation for households experiencing homelessness. Wherever possible this is provided within self-contained accommodation suitable to the size and make-up of the household.
- 3.2 On 1 April 2020 a new contract for Private Sector Leasing was implemented with Link Group following a competitive tender process.

4. Main report

- 4.1 To meet the City of Edinburgh Council's duties to homeless households a range of temporary accommodation is required. Self-contained flats leased from private landlords provides a significant proportion of this supply.
- 4.2 The Private Sector Leasing (PSL) service provides procurement of properties and management of these properties. At the end of September 2020 there were 1448 properties on the PSL scheme. Figure 1 below shows a significant growth in the number of properties since the commencement of the new contract, reversing a longer period of decline.
- 4.3 Within the new contract the lease rates are pegged to local market rates within Edinburgh. This has allowed a more flexible offer to landlords and broadened the areas which properties can be procured in. Implementation of the new contract has taken place at an extremely challenging time due to the global covid-19 pandemic. Despite this Link Group have delivered this growth in properties.

Figure 1: Monthly PSL Properties (all sizes)



4.4 The new PSL contract provides additional service improvements including same-day access to properties instead of a waiting list, reduction in void times (average for 1 April 2020 to 31 August 2020 is 19 days, down from 32 days in the 2019/20 financial year).

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Link Housing Association will continue to increase the number of properties in PSL through either purchasing or leasing additional stock.
- 5.2 Officers will report back at the end of the financial year.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 No additional financial requirements arise from this report.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 PSL contributes to the Council's duty to provide temporary accommodation for homeless households in Edinburgh in line with the recommendations of Edinburgh's Rapid Re-housing Transition Plan and the Scottish Governments Action Plan to End Homelessness.

8. Background reading/external references

8.1 [PSL Contract Award Report](#)

9. Appendices

9.1 None.