

Report to Housing Services Scrutiny Standing Panel

Date of meeting: 23 March 2009

**Subject: Housemark Benchmarking Report on EFDC
Housing Services 2007/08**

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Committee Secretary: Mark Jenkins, Office of the Chief Executive (01992 56 4607)



Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That the Housemark Benchmarking Report on EFDC Housing Services 2007/08 (circulated separately to all members of the Scrutiny Panel) be considered and that the Panel provides any comments on the results of the benchmarking exercise to the Housing Portfolio Holder and Director of Housing as appropriate.

Report:

1. The Council's Housing Directorate is a member of Housemark, a national housing benchmarking organisation. Housemark enables housing organisations to submit detailed information on their costs, electronically, and then to compare these with other housing organisations nationally.
2. Housemark enables member organisations to compare themselves with user-defined data sets. For example, the Council can compare itself with all housing organisations nationally; all district councils; all local authorities; or all housing associations. It can also define the locations (by regions) of those organisations to be included within the comparison, and can restrict the comparison to housing organisations of more or less than a defined number of properties.
3. In Autumn 2008, with the assistance of Finance officers, all the required cost data for the Housing Directorate relating to 2007/8 was uploaded to the Housemark website. This data was then verified by Housemark.
4. The Director of Housing has produced a report on the benchmarking exercise, which is being circulated separately to all members of the Scrutiny Panel with the agenda.
Members of the Panel are asked to bring their copy of the report to the meeting.
5. The Benchmarking Report sets out the benchmarking results with all the 40 housing organisations (councils, housing associations and ALMOs) in the Eastern, South Eastern and London Regions who have provided Housemark data returns for 2007/8.
6. Section 1 of the report gives information on the benchmarking process; Section 2 summarises which quartile of organisations EFDC is placed for each benchmarked data set; and Section 3 provides all the detailed tables for each data set, that have been printed out from Housemark's webpages.
7. The table below summarises the Council's quartile placings for all 48 benchmark results:

Quartile	Explanation	No. of EFDC Placements in Quartile
Top	EFDC is within the top 25% of housing organisations for this activity (i.e the costs are low or the performance is high)	21 (44%)
2 nd	EFDC is within the range between the top 25% and the top 50% of housing organisations for this activity	12 (25%)
3 rd	EFDC is within the range between the bottom 50% and bottom 25% of housing organisations for this activity	10 (21%)
Bottom	EFDC is within the bottom 25% of housing organisations for this activity (i.e. the costs are high or the performance is low)	5 (10%)

8. The Scrutiny Panel is asked to consider the Housemark Benchmarking Report and provide any comments on the results to the Housing Portfolio Holder and Director of Housing as appropriate.