

Report to the Housing Scrutiny Panel

Date of meeting: 30 January 2007

Portfolio: Housing – Cllr D. Stallan

Subject: Housemark Benchmarking Report on EFDC Housing Services – 2005/6

Officer contact for further information: Alan Hall, Head of Housing Services

Committee Secretary: Adrian Hendry



Recommendations:

That the Housemark Benchmarking Report on EFDC Housing Services 2005/06 (previously 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 Head of Housing Services as appropriate.

Report

1. Epping Forest DC Housing Services is a member of Housemark, a national housing benchmarking organisation. Housemark enables housing organisations to submit detailed information on their performance and 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 2006, all the required performance and cost data for Housing Services relating to 2005/6 was uploaded to the Housemark website. This data was then verified by Housemark.
4. The Head of Housing Services has produced a report on the benchmarking exercise, which was circulated separately to all members of the Scrutiny Panel at the beginning of January 2007. **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 51 housing organisations in the Eastern and London Regions who have provided Housemark data returns for 2005/6.
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, where the Council has provided data.
7. The table below summarises the Council's quartile placings for all 76 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)	37 (49%)
2 nd	EFDC is within the range between the top 25% and the top 50% of housing organisations for this activity	13 (17%)
3 rd	EFDC is within the range between the bottom 50% and bottom 25% of housing organisations for this activity	16 (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)	10 (13%)

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 Head of Housing Services as appropriate.