

## OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Prevention of Homelessness</b>
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<b>Meeting Date:</b>	15 February 2021
<b>Accountable Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Stephen Hibbert

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 After considering the Council’s Performance Report for Quarter 2 of 2020/21, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee has requested more information about one Measure:
- **HML07** – Number of households that are prevented from becoming homeless
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with additional information about the number of households prevented from becoming homeless.

### 2. HML007 – Number of households that are prevented from becoming homeless

- 2.1 During the first six months of 2020/21, the number of households that approached the Homelessness Prevention Team for assistance (558) was 32% lower than the number of households (818) that approached the Team for assistance during the first six months of 2019/20. This was due, in the main, to the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency and the Government’s ban on evictions.
- 2.2 Despite the 32% reduction in the number of households seeking help, the number of households that the Homelessness Prevention Team prevented from becoming homeless during the first six months of 2020/21 was just 6% lower than the number that were prevented from becoming homeless during the first six months of 2019/20.
- 2.3 As they were dealing with fewer approaches, the Homelessness Prevention Team was able to concentrate on achieving positive outcomes and, during Quarter 2 of 2020/21, it prevented a total of 132 households from becoming homeless:

- Jul 2020: 44
- Aug 2020: 26
- Sept 2020: 62

- 2.4 During Quarter 2, the Homelessness Prevention Team was more successful at preventing private tenants from becoming homeless and helped a total of 21 tenants to secure suitable alternative private rented accommodation. This was achieved through negotiation with landlords and letting agents, and was assisted by the increase in the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates.
- 2.5 The Homelessness Prevention Team also persuaded applicants' families and friends to continue accommodating 10 households (as part of the 'Homeless at Home' scheme and in spite of the COVID-19 restrictions) in order to prevent them from losing their accommodation and having to move into temporary accommodation.

**Phil Harris**  
**Director of Housing and Wellbeing**