

Advisory Committee responsibilities

Housing advice & homelessness, housing needs, empty homes, disabled facilities grants, health and leisure

Objectives

- Providing housing advice seeking to prevent homelessness, empowering residents through the HERO scheme and supporting those who become homeless
- Meeting the Community Plan objective to promote a healthy environment where people have healthy lifestyles, equal access to services and where health inequalities are reduced.
- Providing value for money by ensuring leisure facilities are well used and customer satisfaction is high

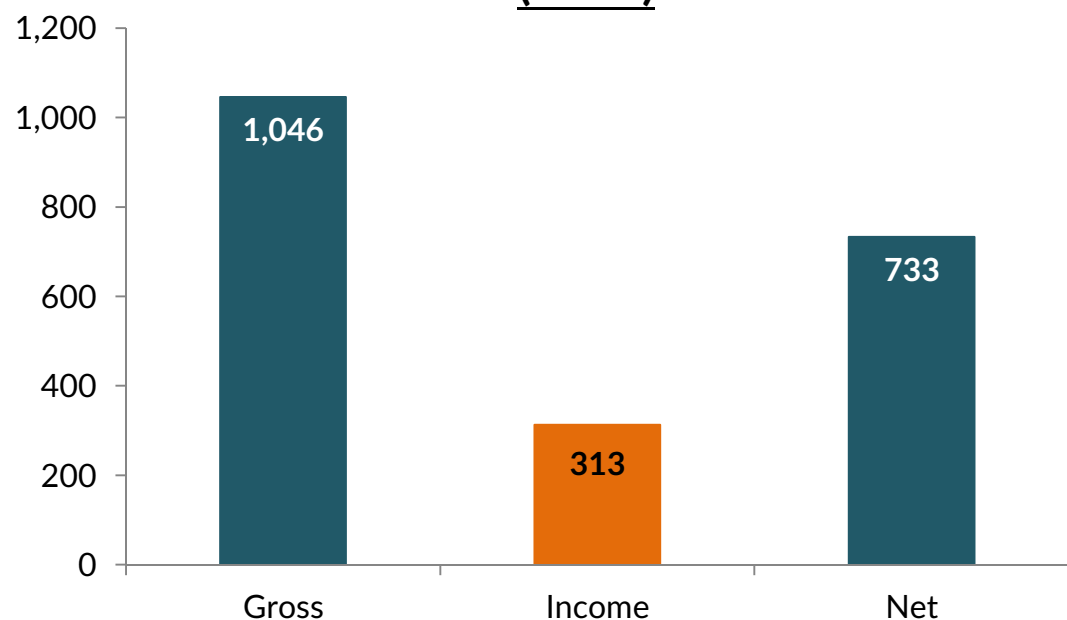
Achievements & Opportunities

- Leisure user numbers above target and exceeding 900,000 visits a year, above the national average
- Negotiates with KCC, TMBC & TWBC regarding a new integrated approach based on District Council health hub
- Excess weight in adults has decreased – significantly better than England average compared with previous year when it was slightly worse than the England average
- Disabled facilities grants process bought back in house, generating financial savings for the Council
- Highly successful HERO service has plans to extend the brand to HandyHERO
- Only accredited properties are used for the Private Sector lettings scheme

Challenges & Risks

- Need to find creative solutions to the Council's ageing leisure facilities
- Leisure strategy to be formulated to reassess local leisure needs
- To reduce health inequalities, particularly in the most deprived parts of the District
- To deliver an innovative Health Improvement Model based on District health hubs
- Tackling homelessness is becoming more challenging because of national trends. The challenge is to find innovative approaches to keep homelessness low in the District
- Government changes to reduce and cap rents and amend the right to buy making business models difficult for Housing Associations

Housing & Health and Leisure Budget (£000)



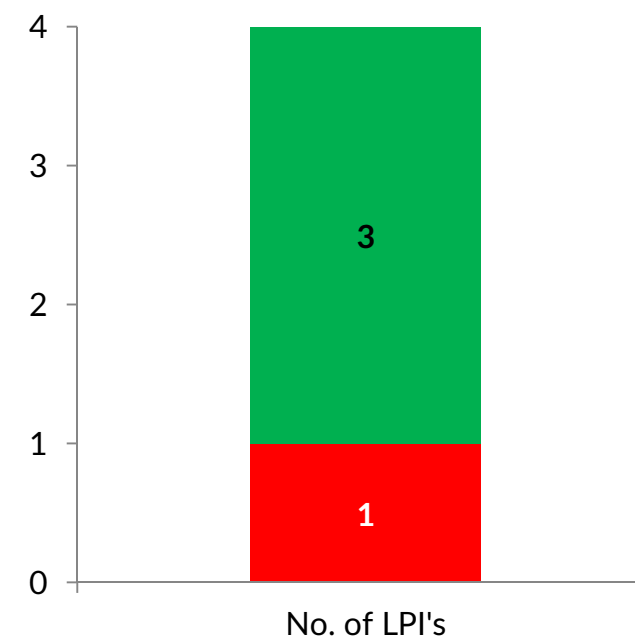
Service contribution

- Statutory service
- Income generating
- Working in partnership

Corporate priorities

- Self sufficiency ✗
- Safe district ✗
- Green Belt ✗
- Value for Money ✓
- Collect rubbish effectively ✗
- Local Economy ✓

Performance



Advisory Committee responsibilities

Housing strategy & policy, energy efficiency and fuel poverty

Objectives

- To develop and deliver the Councils strategy for the delivery of housing across the District that meets the needs of residents now and in the future
- Reducing fuel poverty and improving energy efficiency of housing stock through grants and retro-fit projects
- To work with housing providers and the Government to secure funding and to build affordable and specialist housing to meet local need
- To create new products, schemes and initiatives to support the delivery of the Council's housing strategy
- To develop housing interventions that support health outcomes

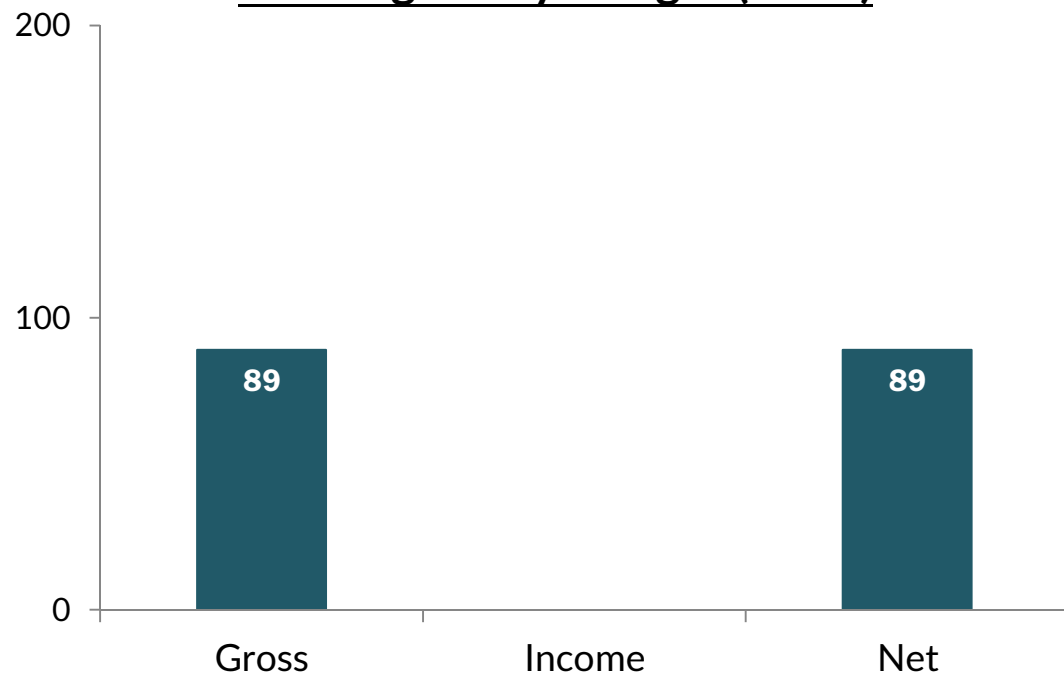
Achievements & Opportunities

- The innovative Switch & Save scheme has helped residents reduce their energy bills by more than £42k
- Delivery of the Warmer Streets Campaign to improve energy efficiency of housing stock was completed. This also enabled the employment of staff and the funding for improvement works to a parish hall and The Stag Theatre.
- Enabled 121 new affordable homes across the Sevenoaks District in 2015/16
- Secured funding to carry out a housing needs study, which once completed will ensure the Council is better able to focus its resources

Challenges & Risks

- Reduced funding from the Government and the Homes and Communities Agency could impact on the ability to deliver housing objectives
- Removal of S106 funding contributions on sites with 1 to 4 units
- Housing association four year rent reduction programme
- Devolved powers to housing associations - working to different priorities
- Freeze on local housing allowance rates

Housing Policy Budget (£000)



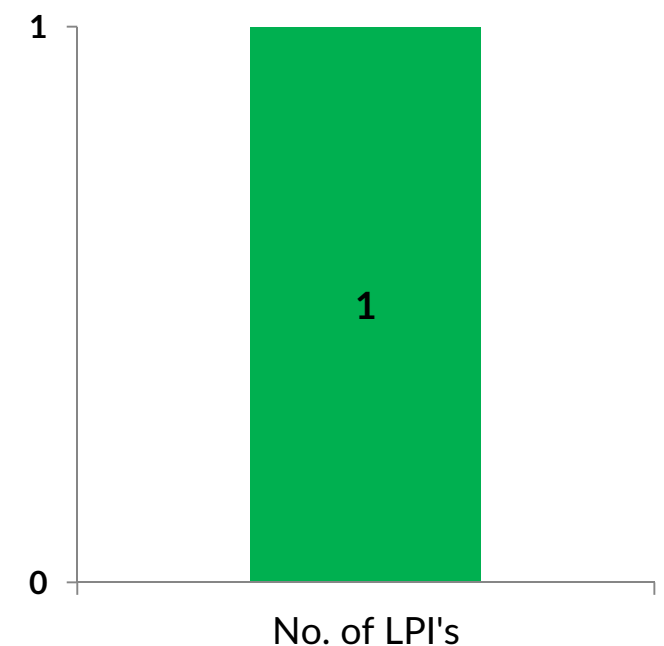
Service contribution

- Statutory service
- Income generating
- Working in partnership

Corporate priorities

- Self sufficiency ✗
- Safe district ✓
- Green Belt ✗
- Value for Money ✓
- Collect rubbish effectively ✗
- Local Economy ✓

Performance



Advisory Committee responsibilities

Private Sector Housing, including disabled facilities grants (DFG's), gypsy and traveller sites, unauthorised encampments, licencing mobile homes and energy efficiency

Objectives

- Working to improve housing conditions through grants, enforcement and working with local landlords and housing providers
- Providing advice on gypsy traveller encampments and managing the Council owned site
- To maximise spend of the Disabled Facilities Grant allocation and continue integration with the NHS
- To promote initiatives to improve energy efficiency and reduce fuel poverty
- To protect the safety of people living on licenced mobile home sites

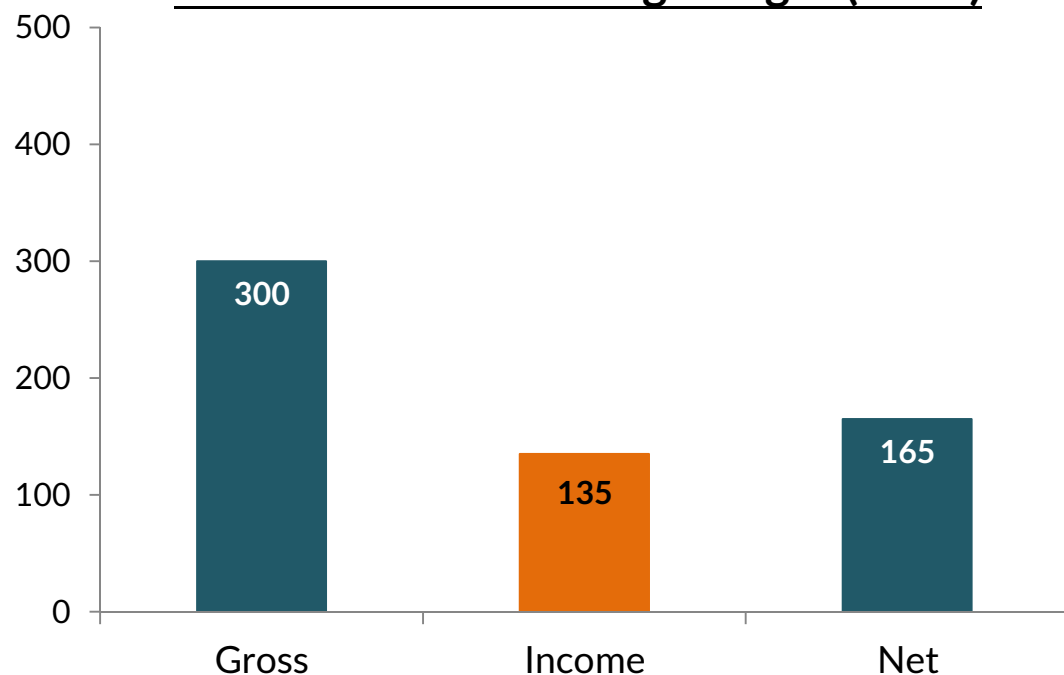
Achievements & Opportunities

- Spent the whole allocation of Disabled Facilities Grant funding in 2015/16
- 100% occupancy of Romani Way with no arrears for 2015/16
- Resolving complex cases of vulnerable people residing in unsanitary and unsafe properties
- Improvements in addressing unauthorised encampments through better intelligence sharing between the District and Town & Parish Council and better availability of advice
- Increase in DFG grant allocation allows the Private Sector Housing team to be increasingly effective in supporting the health of residents, with improved preventative services and reducing delayed hospital discharge problems through the opportunity for a Handyperson scheme

Challenges & Risks

- Potential extension of mandatory licensing of houses in multiple occupation and related reforms
- New initiatives increasing demand for DFG's placing pressure on current resources
- No capital funding for energy efficiency measures impacting on our ability to reduce fuel poverty
- Building and maintaining relationships with external partners to improve effective delivery of our objectives
- Ensuring unauthorised encampments are ended efficiently.
- Developing an in house maintenance team to provide a Handyperson scheme with potential to grow to support larger projects associated with the DFG process

Private Sector Housing Budget (£000)



Service contribution

- Statutory service
- Income generating
- Working in partnership

Corporate priorities

- Self sufficiency ✘
- Value for Money ✔
- Safe district ✔
- Collect rubbish effectively ✘
- Green Belt ✘
- Local Economy ✔

Performance

