

Selective Licensing 2019-24 Scheme

Annual Monitoring Report of Indicators 2019-20

Selective Licensing began in a further four Lower Super Output Areas on 1st April 2019. As part of the Business Case agreed by Wirral Council's Cabinet for this Selective Licensing scheme, an annual report is to be produced and published on the Council's website containing the following outputs:

1. Number of properties licensed in each designated area;
2. Number of properties compliant;
3. Number of properties where informal action has been taken to improve properties;
4. Number of properties where Improvement Notices have been served to improve properties;
5. Number of hazards removed from properties;
6. Number of prosecutions;
7. Number of empty properties brought back into use in Selective Licensing areas;
8. Number of long term empty properties.

The 2019-24 Selective Licensing scheme was the second scheme to have commenced in Wirral with the first scheme previously commencing on 1st July 2015. In the first 12 months of both the 2015-20 and the 2019-24 scheme, resources had been focussed upon identifying units of rented accommodation, with a relatively low number of inspections being carried out. In the first 12 months of the 2015-20 scheme, 65 property inspections were carried out and during the 2019-24 scheme, 57 property inspections had been carried out. Further similar comparisons between both schemes have been made with the poor property conditions being evident. Within both schemes, only 2 properties within each of the schemes were compliant with the licence conditions at the first inspection.

Despite the relatively low number of inspections carried out, it is estimated that approximately 80% of identified licensable dwellings within the 2019-24 scheme had been identified and licenced in the first 12 months of the scheme.

Towards the end of the first 12 month period of the 2019-24 scheme, the first prosecutions were successfully brought to the courts for operating unlicensed properties with substandard housing conditions.

Outputs 1-6

LSOA no.	LSOA name	Number of properties				No. of hazards removed	No. of prosecutions
		Licensed	Compliant on inspection	Informal action	Improvement notices		
E01007126	Hamilton Square	297	0	25	0	3	
E01007273	Seacombe St Pauls	194	0	11	4	6	
E01007127	Birkenhead West	154	0	4	4	1	
E01007128	Birkenhead Central	146	2	7	0	4	
Total		791	2	47	8	14	6

Outputs 7 & 8

LSOA no.	LSOA name	Number of long-term empty properties (empty over 6 months)		No. of empty properties brought back into use 2019-20	
		01.04.19	01.04.20	Empty <6 months	Empty >6 months
E01007126	Hamilton Square	41	53	5	4
E01007273	Seacombe St Pauls	20	19	3	3
E01007127	Birkenhead West	15	10	0	0
E01007128	Birkenhead Central	30	33	0	2
Total		106	115	8	9