





**Brighton & Hove  
City Council**

# Scrutiny Panel

Title:	<b>Scrutiny Panel on Party Houses</b>
Date:	<b>28 January 2014</b>
Time:	<b>3.00pm</b>
Venue	<b>Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall</b>
Members:	<b>Councillors:</b> Bowden (Chair) Bennett Robins
Contact:	<b>Kath Vlcek</b> <a href="mailto:Kath.vlcek@brighton-hove.gov.uk">Kath.vlcek@brighton-hove.gov.uk</a> <b>(01273) 290450</b>

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1. Introductions and Chair's Communications

1 - 2

Introduction from the Chair of the Panel, Councillor Geoffrey Bowden.

Draft Terms of Reference for the Panel are attached.

2. Residents' comments and experiences of living near party houses

This section of the meeting is for residents to tell us their experiences of living near party houses and suggestions for how problematic issues could be addressed.

Some of the time slots are available to be pre-booked and there is additional time for residents who have not been able to book a time slot.

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Meeting papers can be provided, on request, in large print, in Braille, on audio tape or on disc, or translated into any other language as requested.

For further details and general enquiries about this meeting email [scrutiny@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or phone (01273) 290450

Date of Publication 21 January 2014

## Party Houses Terms of Reference

### 1. Panel Members-

Cllrs Geoffrey Bowden (Chair), Jayne Bennett and Alan Robins.

### 2. Definition of a party house –

Panel members understand that there is no agreed definition for 'party houses' and that properties that are used as 'hen/ stag party houses' are just as likely to be used as holiday let accommodation for large family groups, conference attendees and other large groups. There are also a large number of holiday lets that would not fall into the category of 'party houses', tending to be smaller self catering holiday lets throughout the city.

Panel members further understand that some operators who manage such accommodation do not like the term 'party houses' and feel that it is a negative term for their businesses.

Panel members note this and aim not to use the term in a derogatory or negative way; they do not want to annoy responsible business operators.

However panel members feel that it is a useful way of describing those types of property that can cause problems for neighbouring properties and that generally, people will know what is meant by the term 'party houses'. If a more suitable term emerges, the panel will consider this as an alternative.

### 3. With all of the above in mind, panel members have defined 'party houses' characteristics as

- short term let available to rent for up to a week at a time
- accommodating 6 people or more (not usually a family group), usually with two or more people per room
- tend to be used for stag and hen parties, but not always the case.

### 4. Recent Local Action Team (LAT) meetings in Queen's Park have highlighted such accommodation and the temporary nature of its residents as an increasing nuisance problem to local residents. This is not just a problem in Queens Park but complaints have been received from other areas of Brighton & Hove. The main problem that has been reported is noise nuisance and other anti social behaviour throughout the night, but complaints

have also been received about excess refuse not being managed properly, lack of parking etc.

There are public safety implications as well, particularly in larger unfamiliar properties, where there may be fire risks caused by irresponsible behaviour either on the part of the visitors or the operators.

5. The panel acknowledges that properly managed 'party houses' can bring financial benefit to the city contributing to the visitor economy.
6. The scope of the panel is
  - To seek positive solutions to encourage responsible providers operating 'party houses' in Brighton and Hove.
  - working together with responsible providers for the benefit of everyone in the city and visiting
  - better response for neighbours, reducing impact as far as possible
  - providing a better experience for visitors
  - Ideally the panel would like to see a trade organisation or an agreed set of good practice standards emerging, hopefully led by the current good practice operators in the city.
7. Panel members will want to talk to:
  - Existing party house operators
  - Residents who have been affected
  - Fire service
  - Police
  - Environmental health
  - Planning
  - Private sector housing
  - Community Safety
  - Tourism partners
  - Other parties identified through the panel process