



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

Housing Management Panel

Title:	East Area Housing Management Panel
Date:	1 December 2014
Time:	7.00pm
Venue	Bristol Estate, Rear of 146-192, Donald Hall Road, Brighton, BN2 5DJ
Members:	Councillors: Wilson (Chair), ; Ward Councillors for the Area, Delegates of Tenants Association in the area.
Contact:	John Peel Democratic Services Officer 01273 29-1058 john.peel@brighton-hove.gov.uk

AGENDA

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To <u>note</u> the minutes and reports of the following Committees and City Wide groups (copies attached):	
A. High Rise Action Group;	
B. Leaseholder Action Group;	
C. Sheltered Housing Action Group;	

EAST AREA HOUSING MANAGEMENT PANEL

- D. Tenant Disability Network;
- E. Service Improvement Groups summary
- F. Brighton & Hove Seaside Community Homes.

35 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
EAST AREA HOUSING MANAGEMENT PANEL

7.00pm 22 SEPTEMBER 2014

ROBERT LODGE

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Mitchell (Chair)

Representatives: Patrick McKenna (Manor Farm), Alan Cooke (Craven Vale), Chris El-Shabba (Robert Lodge)

Non-Voting Delegates:

Officers: Keely McDonald (Resident Involvement Officer), Brett Wells (Health & Safety Manager), Satti Sidhu (Performance & Improvement Officer), Ododo Dafe (Head of Income, Inclusion & Improvement), Becky Purnell (Resident Involvement Manager), James Cryer (Partnering Manager, Mears), Laura Turner (Performance & Improvement Officer), John Peel (Democratic Services Officer)

Guests: Anne Glow

12 APOLOGIES

12.1 Apologies were received from Councillors Mears and Wilson.

13 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

13.1 **RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 July 2014 be approved and signed as the correct record.

14 ELECTIONS / STRENGTHENING AREA PANELS

14.1 Following elections conducted via anonymous electronic voting, representatives for the central area were elected to the following groups:

Business & Value for Money Group

Representative: Chris El-Shabba

Representative: Patrick McKenna

Area Panel Deputy Chair

Chris El-Shabba

Due to low turnout, the Panel agreed that contact be made with all associations in the area regarding their interest to nominate representatives to the group where there was a vacancy.

15 TENANCY POLICY 2014

- 15.1 The Panel considered a report that outlined the draft Tenancy Policy 2014 and request feedback and comments on the draft document.
- 15.2 Chris El-Shabba stated that a local tenant had been told that they did not have a right to succession even though they had a joint bank account with the current resident.
- 15.3 The Performance & Improvement Officer clarified that some proof of residency was required to be eligible for succession.
- 15.4 Chris El-Shabba stated that she welcomed the focus on tenancy fraud and that this issue had been acted upon.
- 15.5 Alan Cooke stated his approval that the Policy went beyond the basic terms set out in the Localism Act.
- 15.6 **RESOLVED-** That the report be noted.

16 PERFORMANCE REPORT Q1 2014/15

- 16.1 The Head of Income, Inclusion & Improvement presented a report that covered Housing Management Performance during Quarter 1 of the 2014/15 financial year. The Head of Income, Inclusion & Improvement stated that the table provided figures and a RAG rating system against key performance indicators adding that the intention of the report was to provide Area Panels with information on Housing services performance and, as with previous versions of the report, comments and feedback on its presentation was welcomed to improve future versions.
- 16.2 Chris El-Shabba stated that she believed tenants should conduct tenant satisfaction with repair surveys as she felt people may be more honest and open in their replies.
- 16.3 The Partnering Manager, Mears clarified that where feasible, resident associations would conduct some surveys.
- 16.4 **RESOLVED-** That the report be noted.

17 SPRINKLERS HIGH RISE BLOCKS

- 17.1 The Panel considered a report that provided information on pilots for the retro fitting of sprinkler systems in high rise buildings. The pilots had been commissioned in response to a Rule 43 letters from the coroner's office and conducted with East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service.
- 17.2 Patrick McKenna asked if the sprinkler units would be in flats as well as communal areas.

- 17.3 The Health & Safety Manager confirmed that one device would be placed in the kitchen, lounge and bathroom of every flat. Furthermore, each sprinkler was highly tamper proof and when activated, would only emit in the area where fire was detected and not every sprinkler in the block would go off.
- 17.4 Patrick McKenna asked if the cost included in the report was accurate or an estimate.
- 17.5 The Health & Safety Manager confirmed that the cost was very accurate for the pilot schemes in St James' House and Somerset Point.
- 17.6 **RESOLVED-** That the report be noted.

18 ITEMS FROM TENANT ONLY MEETING

- 18.1 **RESOLVED-** That the responses provided to the issues raised from the Tenant Only meeting be noted

19 COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY (FOR INFORMATION)

- 19.1 **RESOLVED-** That the Panel notes the information provided regarding CIC's.

20 CITY WIDE REPORTS

- 20.1 **RESOLVED-** That the minutes and reports of the various Citywide groups be noted.

21 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 21.1 Alan Cooke stated that residents had experienced continuing problems with the Post Office accessing flats. It had been explained to representatives that not much could be done.
- 21.2 The Resident Involvement Officer clarified that this issue was being followed up and the possibility of a key fob system investigated. Associations would be contacted when the results of that investigation were clear.

The meeting concluded at 7.55pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

Area Panels: December 2014

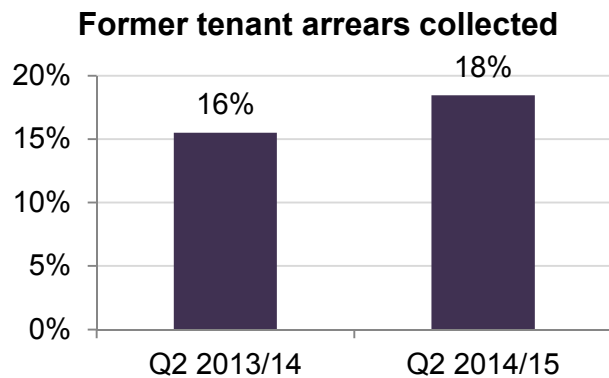
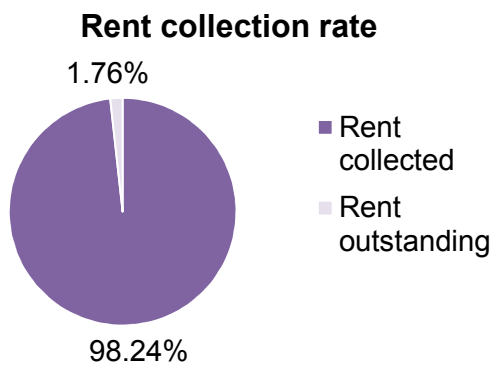
Summary: Housing Management Performance Report ~ Quarter 2 2014/15

Background

The Housing Management Performance Report covers quarter two of the financial year 2014/15. The Area Panel is asked to note and comment upon the report before it goes to Housing Committee. This summary provides performance highlights for the quarter, taken from the full report.

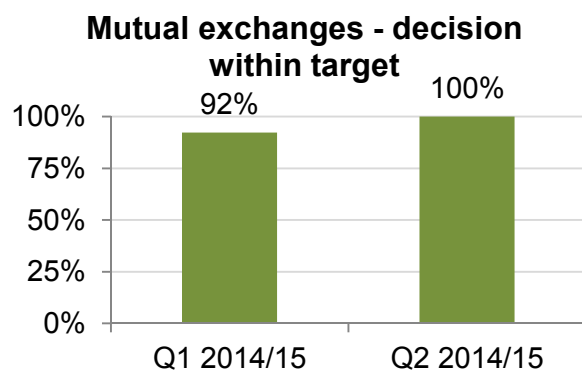
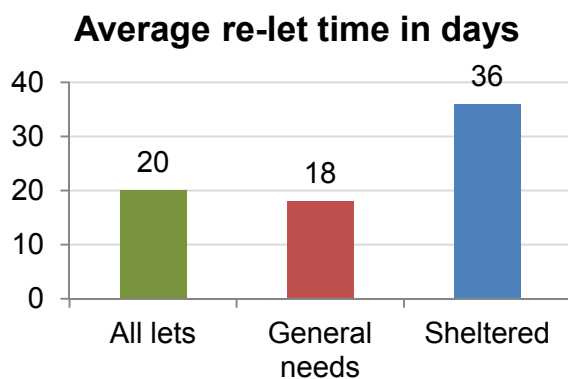
Rent collection and current arrears

- Forecasted rent collection rate of 98.24% for the end of the financial year
- Improved collection rate of former tenants' arrears (18%) compared to same time last year (16%)



Empty home turnaround time and mutual exchanges

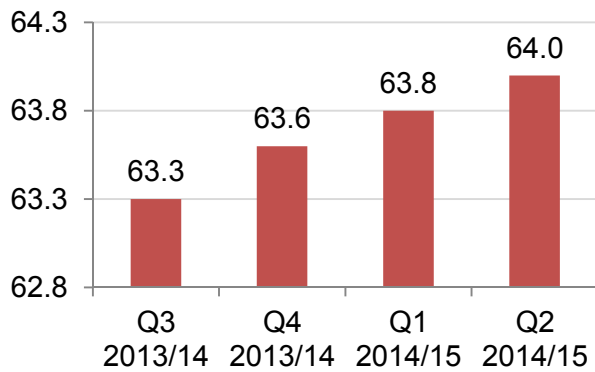
- 159 homes let, taking an average of 20 days (or 38 days including major works)
- 100% of decisions on mutual exchange applications made within 42 days, up from 92% last quarter
- 141 under occupiers affected by welfare reforms have moved since April 2013 (90 through transfer, 51 through a mutual exchange)



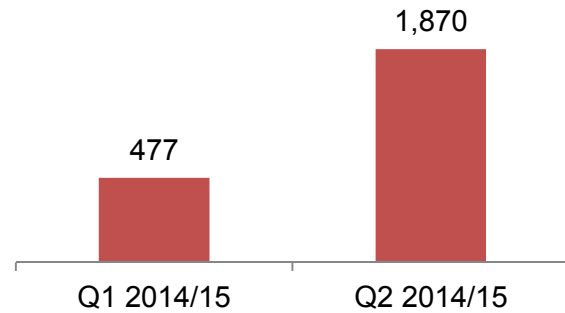
Property & Investment

- Carried out 1,870 satisfaction surveys, more than three times as many during the previous quarter (477)
- Overall energy efficiency rating of council dwellings continues to improve
- 70% of calls to the Repairs Helpdesk answered within 20 seconds

Energy efficiency rating (SAP 2009) of council homes



Satisfaction surveys carried out



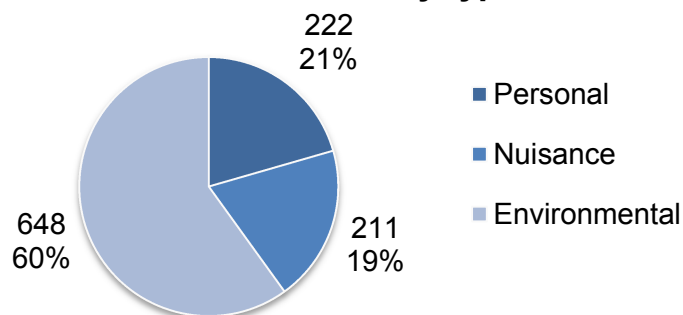
Estates Service

- 99% of cleaning tasks completed (13,422 total tasks during the quarter)
- 99% of bulk waste removed in time
- 99% of lights replacements/repairs completed in time

Anti-social behaviour (ASB)

- 190 open cases at the end of the quarter
- 93 cases closed
- 1 ASB eviction during the quarter
- 1,081 incidents reported to staff

ASB incidents by type



Tenancy Fraud

- 3 cases investigated and closed
- None resulted in eviction

AREA PANEL

Agenda Item

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Housing Management Performance Report
Quarter 2 2014/15

Date of Meetings: 1, 3, 4 & 8 December 2014

Contact Officer: Name: Ododo Dafé Tel: (01273) 293201
Email: ododo.dafe@brighton-hove.gov.uk

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This Housing Management Performance Report covers the second quarter of the financial year 2014/15.







2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Area Panels note and comment on the draft report before it goes to Housing Committee.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The report continues the use of the 'RAG' rating system of red, amber and green traffic light symbols to provide an indication of performance, and also trend arrows to provide an indication of movement from the previous quarter. Explanations of performance have been provided for indicators which are red or amber.

3.2 Key to symbols used in the report:

Status		Trend	
Performance is below target (red)		Poorer than previous reporting period	
Performance is close to achieving target, but in need of improvement (amber)		Same as previous reporting period	
Performance is on or above target (green)		Improvement on previous reporting period	

3.3 The report includes benchmarking figures from Housemark to compare our performance with other housing providers. Unless stated otherwise, all figures represent the top 25% of performers during the year 2013/14 and benchmark against our peer group of the following housing providers:

- Bristol City Council
- Derby Homes
- Enfield Homes
- Hounslow Homes
- London Borough of Croydon
- London Borough of Wandsworth
- North Tyneside Council
- Norwich City Council
- Plymouth Community Homes
- Southampton City Council
- Thurrock Borough Council

This group comprises local authorities and ALMOs (Arms Length Management Organisations) who share similar characteristics including deprivation levels, stock size and proportion of flats compared to houses.

4.0 Rent collection and current arrears

As the indicators and targets below are year-end, rather than for each quarter, no traffic lights or trend arrows will be applied until the quarter four 2014/15 report. However, the seven evictions carried out so far in 2014/15 were long-standing cases where arrears had built up over a number of years to reach a point (around £3,500 on average) where the Courts no longer showed any leniency to the tenants. This is why the number of evictions is higher relative to 2013/14.

Performance Indicator		Target 2014/15	Q2 2013/14	Year end 2013/14	Q2 2014/15	Bench mark
1	Rent collected as proportion of rent due for the year (projected rate)	98.66%	98.37% (£49.9m of £50.7m)	98.31% (£49.8m of £50.7m)	98.24% (£51.2m of £52.2m)	-
2	Tenants with more than seven weeks rent arrears	2.85%	3.26% (381 of 11,687)	3.57% (415 of 11,619)	4.04% (468 of 11,576)	-
3	Tenants in arrears	N/A	26.09% (3,049 of 11,687)	25.89% (3,008 of 11,619)	25.79% (2,985 of 11,576)	-
4	Tenants in arrears served a Notice of Seeking Possession	27.02%	11.71% (357 of 3,049)	26.79% (806 of 3,008)	9.88% (295 of 2,985)	-
5	Households evicted because of rent arrears*	Less than 0.29%	0.00% (0 of 11,687)	0.04% (5 of 11,619)	0.06% (7 of 11,576)	0.2%
6	Rent loss due to empty dwellings	1.6%	0.92% (£459k of £49.8m)	1% (£495k of £49.7m)	1.04% (£529k of £51.0m)	1%
7	Former tenant arrears collected	18%	15.51% (£80k of £513k)	34.66% (£166k of £478k)	18.46% (£101k of £545k)	-
8	Rechargeable debt collected	11%	6.85% (£16k of £228k)	12.08% (£31k of £255k)	6.37% (£19k of £292k)	-

4.0.1 Percentage of rent collected as proportion of rent due each year by area

Area		Q2 2013/14	Year end 2013/14	Q2 2014/15
1	North (includes Sheltered housing)	98.95% (£14.2m of £14.4m)	98.87% (£14.2m of £14.4m)	98.83% (£14.6m of £14.8m)
2	West	98.57% (£10.1m of £10.3m)	98.57% (£10.1m of £10.3m)	98.51% (£10.4m of £10.5m)
3	Central	98.59% (£9.3m of £9.5m)	98.53% (£9.3m of £9.4m)	98.43% (£9.6m of £9.7m)
4	East	97.62% (£16.2m of £16.6m)	97.54% (£16.2m of £16.6m)	97.44% (£16.7m of £17.1m)
5	All areas	98.37% (£49.9m of £50.7m)	98.31% (£49.8m of £50.7m)	98.24% (£51.2m of £52.2m)

4.0.2 A table presenting information relating to the impact of the reduction in Housing Benefit for under occupying households is attached as Appendix 1.

4.1 Empty home turnaround time and mutual exchanges





























Performance Indicator (indicators are in calendar days)		Target 2014/15	Q2 2013/14	Year end 2013/14	Q2 2014/15	Status against target	Trend since last quarter	Bench mark
1	Average re-let time in calendar days (excluding time spent in major works)	18	23	19	20			23
1a	... as above for general needs properties	-	19	16	18	-	-	-
1b	... as above for sheltered properties	-	46	34	36	-	-	-
2	Average re-let time in calendar days (including time spent in major works)	45	41	51	38			37
2a	... as above for general needs properties	-	39	54	38	-	-	-
2b	... as above for sheltered properties	-	48	38	38	-	-	-
3	Decisions on mutual exchange applications made within government target of 42 calendar days	90%	-	-	100% (28 of 28)			-











4.1.1 As of quarter one, two indicators are on target and one is near target:

- Average re-let time excluding time spent in major works:**
 Overall performance remains at 20 days, missing the 18 day target. This is because the average sheltered re-let time remains high (36 days) and the general needs re-let time, although within target, has increased since the last quarter (from 15 to 18 days). The general needs re-let time is skewed by one property which took 201 days as it was ready to let but was held onto as part of an ASB Court case, for a potential transfer. Sheltered properties are typically more difficult to let than general needs properties, due to their smaller size and fewer applicants meeting the criteria. Nonetheless, the average re-let time for sheltered properties is a significant improvement on the previous quarter (45 days).

4.1.2 A table presenting a summary of 54 dwellings that have been empty for six weeks or more is attached as Appendix 2, in order to provide a recent picture of long-term empty council properties across the city.

4.2 Property & Investment

Performance Indicator		Target 2014/15	Q2 2013/14	Year end 2013/14	Q2 2014/15	Status against target	Trend since last quarter	Bench mark
1	Emergency repairs completed in time	99%	99.83% (2,970 of 2,975)	99.77% (1,261 of 11,287)	99.47% (2,238 of 2,250)			99%
2	Routine repairs completed in time	98.5%	99.85% (7,499 of 7,510)	99.80% (28,276 of 28,332)	99.79% (6,066 of 6,079)			98%
3	Average time to complete routine repairs (calendar days)	15 days	12 days	14 days	15 days			-
4	Appointments kept by contractor	95%	94.23% (6,987 of 7,415)	95.47% (27,579 of 28,889)	97.71% (6,574 of 6,728)			99%
5	Tenant satisfaction with repairs (respondents during the quarter who were very satisfied or fairly satisfied)	96%	99.03% (1,735 of 1,752)	99.09% (5,525 of 5,576)	92.89% (1,737 of 1,870)			95%
6	Responsive repairs passing post-inspection	95%	94.95% (715 of 753)	94.08% (4,023 of 4,276)	99.06% (736 of 743)			-
7	Repairs completed at first visit	85% (TBD)	-	-	93.62% (7,797 of 8,328)			95%
8	Cancelled repair jobs	Under 5%	4.03% (410 of 10,174)	3.26% (1,362 of 44,598)	4.83% (472 of 9,782)			-
9	Dwellings meeting Decent Homes Standard	100%	98.26% (11,688 of 11,895)	100% (11,827 of 11,827)	99.97% (11,723 of 11,726)			100%
10	Energy efficiency rating of homes (SAP 2009)	63.9	63.0	63.6	64.0			-
11	Planned works passing post-inspection	97%	99.70% (336 of 337)	99.15% (1,163 of 1,173)	100% (321 of 321)			-
12	Stock with a gas supply with up-to-date gas certificates	100%	99.99% (10,374 of 10,375)	99.91% (10,284 of 10,293)	99.75% (10,245 of 10,271)			100%
13	Empty properties passing post-inspection	98%	100% (159 of 159)	99.54% (655 of 658)	100% (187 of 187)			-
14	Lifts – average time taken (hours) to respond	2h 30m	4h 09m	2h 59m	1h 49m			-

Performance Indicator		Target 2014/15	Q2 2013/14	Year end 2013/14	Q2 2014/15	Status against target	Trend since last quarter	Bench mark
15	Lifts restored to service within 24 hours	95%	94% (201 of 214)	96% (664 of 692)	96% (152 of 158)			-
16	Lifts – average time to restore service when not within 24 hours	7 days	-	9 days	4 days			-
17	Repairs Helpdesk - calls answered	90%	-	-	94% (18,372 of 19,443)			-
18	Repairs Helpdesk - calls answered within 20 seconds	75%	-	-	70% (12,901 of 18,372)			-
19	Repairs Helpdesk - longest wait time	5 mins	-	-	12 mins			-

N.B. The target for 'repairs completed at first visit' is marked as 'TBD' (to be decided) because it was initially set at 85%, based on guidance from Housemark, but as performance for the second quarter (94%) is well above this a higher target of 95% is being considered.

4.2.1 As of quarter two, 15 indicators are on target, four are near target, and one is below target. The indicator below target is:

- **Tenant satisfaction with repairs**

The percentage of tenants satisfied with repairs has improved to 93% and the number of satisfaction surveys carried out has increased to 1,870 since the last quarter (from 477). Furthermore, the way surveys are carried out has been changed to make greater use of telephone calls, online surveys and residents contacting other residents. This is combined with a change to collect information from each resident around what they thought could have been done better. This valuable feedback has indicated a need to focus on communication and some cases of technical quality and finishing which will be addressed directly with operatives and sub-contractors at review meetings.

The indicators near target are:

- **Dwellings meeting Decent Homes standard**

As of 30th September, three properties out of 11,726 were found to be non-decent, and works are underway to bring these properties to the Brighton & Hove Decent Homes Standard.

- **Stock with a gas supply with up-to-date gas certificates**

As of 30th September, 26 properties did not have safety certificates, and all tenants were referred to Housing Customer Services. The council and both

gas contractors are working together to reduce the time taken to gain access to properties.















- **Repairs Helpdesk - calls answered within 20 seconds**

Although the target was missed by 5% during quarter, this is being addressed through recruiting additional staff to increase availability during busy times. From October the number of full-time call-handling posts has increased from five to eight.

- **Repairs Helpdesk - longest wait time**

The longest waiting time during quarter two was 12 minutes and occurred on Monday 28th July. Additional staff have been being recruited to improve ease of contact for residents, as per the paragraph above.

4.3 Estates Service

Performance Indicator		Target 2014/15	Q2 2013/14	Year end 2013/14	Q2 2014/15	Status against target	Trend since last quarter
1	Cleaning quality inspection pass rate	98%	99% (200 of 202)	99% (723 of 729)	99% (180 of 181)		
2	Neighbourhood Response Team (minor repairs) quality inspection pass rate	99%	100% (206 of 206)	100% (821 of 823)	100% (152 of 152)		
3	Cleaning tasks completed	98%	99% (14,500 of 14,646)	98% (54,602 of 55,766)	99% (13,282 of 13,422)		
4	Bulk waste removed within 7 working days	98%	94% (667 of 707)	96% (2,786 of 2,889)	99% (727 of 733)		
5	Light replacements/repairs completed within 3 working days	99%	98% (413 of 423)	98% (2,180 of 2,216)	99% (424 of 429)		
6	Neighbourhood Response Team jobs completed within 3 working days	96%	95% (1,437 of 1,513)	96% (5,936 of 6,182)	98% (1,658 of 1,692)		
7	Graffiti removals completed within 3 working days	80%	100% (11 of 11)	86% (31 of 36)	100% (9 of 9)		

N.B. There are no comparable benchmark figures for the above indicators on Housemark.

4.4 Anti-social behaviour (ASB)

Performance Indicator		Q2 2013/14	Year end 2013/14	Q2 2014/15	Bench mark*
1	Cases closed without need for legal action	95% (109 of 115)	96% (477 of 495)	97% (90 of 93)	98%
2	Cases closed resulting in legal action	5% (6 of 115)	4% (18 of 495)	3% (3 of 93)	2%
3	Cases closed without eviction	96% (110 of 115)	98% (486 of 495)	100% (93 of 93)	99%
4	Cases closed resulting in eviction**	4% (5 of 115)	2% (9 of 495)	0% (0 of 93)	1%
5	Customer satisfaction with high profile cases (victims of cases closed during the quarter who were very satisfied or fairly satisfied)	83% (5 of 6)	96% (26 of 27)	73% (8 of 11)	80%

*The benchmarking figures presented in this table cover 2013/14 but do not use our peer group. The data is sourced from 43 Housemark members who provided this data as part of a specialist ASB benchmarking exercise.

**One ASB eviction took place near the end of the quarter, although the case had not yet been closed.

4.4.1 Reports of ASB incidents by type

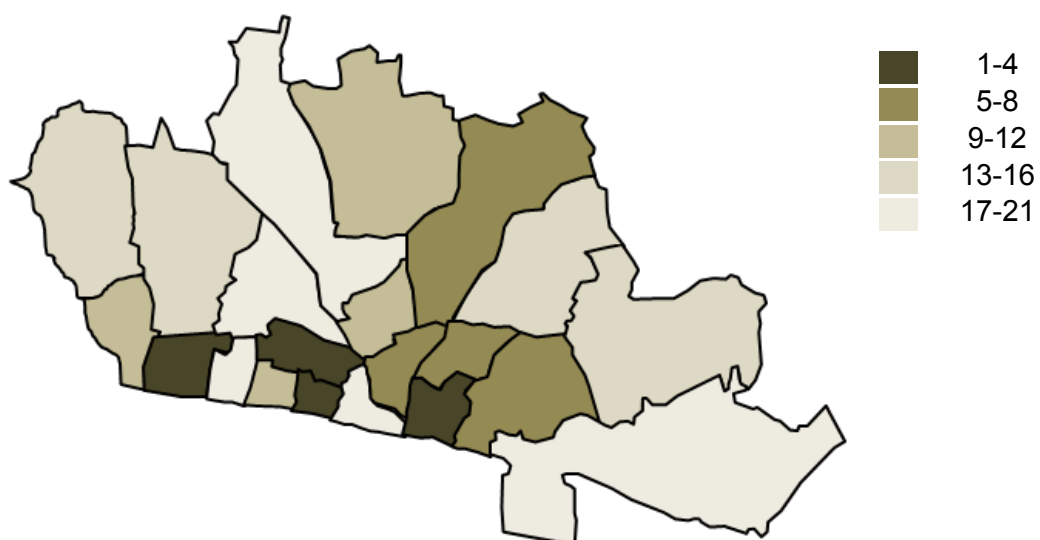
Category	Q2 2013/14	Year end 2013/14	Q2 2014/15
Personal (eg verbal abuse, harassment, intimidation)	12% (131)	9% (354)	20.5% (222)
Nuisance (eg noise, pets and animal nuisance)	22% (228)	18% (698)	19.5% (211)
... of which drugs/substance misuse	94	242	98
Environmental (eg bulk waste and graffiti)	66% (696)	73% (2,878)	60% (648)
Total	100% (1,055)	100% (3,930)	100% (1,081)

4.4.2 Reports of ASB incidents by ward

Ward	Q2 2014/15	...per 1,000 tenancies	Change since last quarter	No. tenancies*
Brunswick & Adelaide	1	250	1	4
Central Hove	4	70	4	57
East Brighton	244	110	-30	2,219
Goldsmid	43	130	6	330
Hangleton & Knoll	47	39	17	1,198
Hanover & Elm Grove	54	109	14	494
Hollingdean & Stanmer	118	93	20	1,271
Hove Park	0	0	0	9
Moulsecoomb & Bevendean	69	44	31	1,555
North Portslade	28	69	-11	408
Patcham	49	91	25	538
Preston Park	5	79	0	63
Queen's Park	274	161	78	1,706
Regency	0	0	-1	28
Rottingdean Coastal	0	0	0	24
South Portslade	32	86	12	370
St. Peter's & North Laine	49	130	1	378
Westbourne	2	17	-9	116
Wish	48	139	19	346
Withdean	1	23	0	43
Woodingdean	13	28	3	461
Total	1081	93	180	11,618

*General needs and sheltered tenancies as of 31 March 2014

4.4.3 Map of reports of ASB incidents per 1,000 tenancies by ward (rank)



4.5 Tenancy Fraud

The Tenancy Enforcement Team investigated and closed three tenancy fraud cases, although none resulted in an eviction.

4.6 Sheltered Housing

We have worked with residents of sheltered housing to develop a new service offer, and are developing a new performance compact which focuses on improving health and well-being outcomes for residents. We will use both quantitative and qualitative data to demonstrate the impact of the sheltered service.

- 4.6.1 We have trialled a nationally developed 'outcome star' for measuring an individual's wellbeing. This exercise was carried out in a scheme in Whitehawk and all 23 residents took part. The scores range from 1 (low/negative) to 5 (high/positive) and enables the service to quantify impact and change. We will introduce the outcome star across all of our schemes by end of this financial year.

Outcome	Average score at assessment	Average score after 3 months	Average change outcome
Staying as well as you can	4.1	4.1	No change
Keeping in touch	4.5	4.5	No change
Feeling Positive	4.4	4.3	-0.1
Being treated with dignity	4.8	4.8	No change
Are you able to look after yourself	4.6	4.6	No change
Do you feel safe	4.9	4.9	No change
How are you managing your money	4.6	4.7	+0.1

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION:

- 5.1 The performance measures in this report demonstrate whether we are delivering quality services for scrutiny by members, residents and the general public. This report is being taken to Area Panels before going to Housing Committee, and will include feedback from the former.

6. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 6.1 Comment to be provided for Housing Committee

Legal Implications:

- 6.2 Comment to be provided for Housing Committee

Equalities Implications:

- 6.3 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

Sustainability Implications:

- 6.4 Where appropriate, sustainability implications are included within the body of the report. The increase in the energy efficiency rating of homes reflects an improvement towards the council's sustainability commitments, among other objectives such as reducing fuel poverty and deprivation.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 6.5 There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report. Cases of anti-social behaviour involving criminal activity are worked on in partnership with the Police and other appropriate agencies.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 6.6 There are no direct risk and opportunity implications arising from this report.

Public Health Implications:

- 6.7 There are no direct public health implications arising from this report.

Corporate or Citywide Implications:

- 6.8 There are no direct corporate or city wide implications arising from this report. However, two performance indicators featuring in this report (the percentage of homes that are decent and the energy efficiency rating of homes) are among those used to measure success against the Corporate Plan Priority of Tackling Inequality.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Appendix 1. Outline of under occupation arrears and related information
2. Appendix 2. Long term empty properties

Background Documents:

1. None

Appendix 1. Outline of council under occupation arrears and related information

Item	Indicator	Baseline March 2013*	End Jul 14	End Aug 14	End Sep 14
1	Number of under occupying households affected by the charge	949	731	742	734
2	Percentage of under occupying households in arrears (numbers)	29% (277)	47% (347)	54% (398)	54% (396)
3	Average arrears per under occupying household	£122	£108	£125	£118
4	Total arrears of under occupying households	£84k	£152k	£168k	£161k
5	Percentage increase in arrears of under occupying households since 1 April 2013 (amount of arrears)	0% (£84k)	29% (£108k)	48% (£125k)	41% (£118k)
6	Percentage increase in arrears of all current tenant arrears since 1 April 2013 (amount of arrears)	0% (£639k)	51% (£963k)	51% (£1m)	49% (£949k)
7	Under occupier arrears as a percentage of all arrears	13%	11%	12%	12%
8	Cumulative number of under occupying households moved via mutual exchange since baseline	0	47	49	51
9	Cumulative number of under occupying households moved via a transfer since baseline	0	85	89	90

*Baseline = before the under occupation charge was introduced in April 2013.

N.B. The arrears figures include both rents and service charges.

Appendix 2. Long term empty properties

Of the 48 general needs and sheltered properties that have, as of 17 October 2014, been empty for 6 weeks or more:

- 21 are ready to let (10 of which are sheltered dwellings)
- 11 are undergoing major repairs/refurbishment
- 8 to be leased to Seaside Homes
- 6 small sheltered flats being converted into larger dwellings
- 1 exploring option to convert property into flats
- 1 with a new tenancy commencing 20/10/14

Of the 6 temporary accommodation properties that have been empty for 6 weeks or more:

- 4 prefab bungalows to be redeveloped, as agreed at Housing Committee in November 2013.
- 2 adjacent studio flats for which discussions are underway with Pre-Planning team to merge into one flat.

General needs and sheltered long term empty properties (6 weeks or more)		
Calendar days empty as at 17/10/14	Ward	Status
111	Central Hove	Ready to let
2,099	Central Hove	Ready to let following major refurbishment to merge two small studio dwellings into one flat.
48	East Brighton	With Mears for major repairs
55	East Brighton	Ready to let following major repairs
69	East Brighton	To be leased to Seaside Homes - batch TBC
76	East Brighton	To be leased to Seaside Homes - batch TBC
90	East Brighton	Ready to let - sheltered studio flat
111	East Brighton	To be leased to Seaside Homes - batch TBC
146	East Brighton	To be leased to Seaside Homes - batch TBC
272	East Brighton	Ready to let - sheltered studio flat
398	East Brighton	To be leased to Seaside Homes - batch TBC
635	East Brighton	With Mears undergoing extensive major works, along with adjoining property, prior to letting
76	Goldsmid	Ready to let following major repairs
118	Goldsmid	Ready to let following major repairs

General needs and sheltered long term empty properties (6 weeks or more)		
Calendar days empty as at 17/10/14	Ward	Status
1,164	Goldsmid	Ready to let following major refurbishment to merge two small studio dwellings into one flat.
244	Hangleton and Knoll	With BHCC for refurbishment
251	Hangleton and Knoll	With BHCC for refurbishment
293	Hangleton and Knoll	With BHCC for extension and refurbishment
48	Hanover and Elm Grove	With Mears for major repairs
132	Hanover and Elm Grove	Ready to let - sheltered studio flat
146	Hanover and Elm Grove	With Mears for major repairs
48	Hollingdean and Stanmer	To be leased to Seaside Homes - batch TBC
55	Hollingdean and Stanmer	Ready to let - sheltered studio flat
279	Hollingdean and Stanmer	Ready to let - sheltered studio flat
510	Hollingdean and Stanmer	Ready to let - sheltered studio flat
55	Moulsecoomb and Bevendean	Ready to let
76	Moulsecoomb and Bevendean	Let - new tenancy commencing 20/10/14
188	Moulsecoomb and Bevendean	Ready to let - sheltered studio flat
377	Moulsecoomb and Bevendean	Ready to let - sheltered studio flat
426	Moulsecoomb and Bevendean	With BHCC for extension and refurbishment
90	North Portslade	Ready to let following major repairs
265	North Portslade	With BHCC for refurbishment
111	Patcham	Ready to let
139	Patcham	Ready to let - sheltered one bed flat
48	Queen's Park	To be leased to Seaside Homes - batch TBC
125	Queen's Park	To be leased to Seaside Homes - batch TBC
153	Queen's Park	Ready to let following major repairs
244	Queen's Park	With BHCC for refurbishment

General needs and sheltered long term empty properties (6 weeks or more)		
Calendar days empty as at 17/10/14	Ward	Status
167	South Portslade	Ready to let - sheltered studio flat
279	South Portslade	With BHCC exploring option to convert property into flats, detailed discussions with planning underway.
97	St. Peter's and North Laine	Ready to let
69	Wish	Small sheltered flat due for conversion into larger dwelling along with adjacent flats
125	Wish	As above - same block
132	Wish	As above - same block
195	Wish	As above - same block
244	Wish	As above - same block
265	Wish	As above - same block
321	Woodingdean	With Mears for major repairs
Total of 48 dwellings		

Temporary accommodation long term empty properties (6 weeks or more)		
Calendar days empty as at 17/10/14	Ward	Status
1,164	Westbourne (2 properties containing 2 flats)	Discussions are underway with Pre-Planning team to merge two studio dwellings, which are adjacent, into one flat.
1,165	Withdean (4 prefab bungalows and surrounding land)	To be redeveloped, as agreed at Housing Committee in November 2013.
Total of 6 dwellings		

Area Panels: December 2014

Briefing Paper: STAR Survey 2014

Background:

This survey is called STAR (Survey of Tenants and Residents) and is undertaken by landlords on a voluntary basis to allow them to benchmark tenant satisfaction with other housing providers. Housing last carried out a STAR survey of resident satisfaction in 2011.

The survey was undertaken in June this year, using a postal methodology with a randomly selected sample of tenants as recommended by Housemark. The survey achieved a response rate of 24% - 724 respondents.

Key findings:

Comparison of 2008, 2011 and 2014 figures with benchmarking data					
	% satisfied (2008)	% satisfied (2011)	% satisfied (2014)	Benchmark figure	Ranking in 2014
Satisfied overall with the service from housing	72%	83%	78%	82%	6 of 9
The overall quality of your home	79%	81%	80%	82%	6 of 9
Your neighbourhood as a place to live	80%	83%	84%	80%	2 of 8
Satisfaction with the last completed repair	77%	81%	76%	80%	No ranking data
That your rent provides value for money	84%	86%	84%	79%	2 of 8
Listen to views and acts upon them	60%	62%	64%	56%	2 of 6

Next steps:

The results will be published in the winter edition of homing in and on the council website.

Contact: James Pemberton
 Performance & Improvement Officer
 E-mail: james.pemberton@brighton-hove.gov.uk
 Telephone: 01273 290562

Area Panels	Agenda Item
	Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	STAR tenant satisfaction survey 2014		
Date of Meeting:	1,3, 4, 8 December 2014		
Report of:	Executive Director of Environment, Development and Housing		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Ododo Dafé	Tel: 293201
	Email:	ododo.dafe@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report provides feedback from a satisfaction survey of a sample of council tenants carried out in June 2014.
- 1.2 The survey results provide an up-to-date and statistically significant indication of customer satisfaction on a range of council housing services.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Area Panels note and comment on the contents of this report.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 Housemark, a national housing organisation, has consulted widely with social housing providers to produce a set of questions that organisations prefer and that enable comparison, but with the freedom for each organisation to add local questions as they wish. This survey is called STAR (Survey of Tenants and Residents) and is undertaken by landlords on a voluntary basis. Housing last carried out a STAR survey of resident satisfaction in 2011.
- 3.2 Housemark's recommended standard questions were adopted, along with some of our own, and we will be in a position to compare ourselves against other housing providers as many of them undertake this survey and upload their results onto Housemark.

- 3.3 The survey was undertaken in June this year, using a postal methodology with a randomly selected sample of tenants as recommended by Housemark. The survey achieved a response rate of 24% - 724 respondents. This compares with 42% - 1,251 completed questionnaires in 2011. However, this lower response rate reflects a decision not to undertake a second postal mailing to those tenants who had not replied. Tenants on the selected list with emails were contacted a second time. By avoiding a second postal mailing we reduced costs from £9,473 in 2011 to £6,121 in 2014. It also had considerable sustainability implications saving greatly on paper and print.
- 3.4 The results have been analysed by APR, a research company. The table below shows the results of key indicators in this survey compared with the STAR survey in 2011 and 2008, and the comparison benchmarking figure.

Comparison of 2008, 2011 and 2014 figures with benchmarking data					
	% satisfied (2008)	% satisfied (2011)	% satisfied (2014)	Benchmark figure	Ranking in 2014
Satisfied overall with the service from housing	72%	83%	78%	82%	6 of 9
The overall quality of your home	79%	81%	80%	82%	6 of 9
Your neighbourhood as a place to live	80%	83%	84%	80%	2 of 8
Satisfaction with the last completed repair	77%	81%	76%	80%	No ranking data
That your rent provides value for money	84%	86%	84%	79%	2 of 8
Listen to views and acts upon them	60%	62%	64%	56%	2 of 6

- 3.4.1 This benchmarking data is a comparison with eight other stock retained authorities in urban areas who subscribe to Housemark and who have completed a STAR survey in the past two years. In some categories not all authorities provide data so the ranking numbers vary. Unfortunately this group does not provide repairs ranking data.

3.5.1 Overall satisfaction

- 3.5.1 Overall the tenant satisfaction survey results in 2014 are broadly similar to those attained in the 2011 survey, with most questions varying by only one or two percentage points.
- 3.5.2 Some of the positive drivers for satisfaction arising from the survey results include how Housing listens to and acts on resident's views, and our standards of customer service and enquiry handling.
- 3.5.3 However the fall in the overall satisfaction figure from 83% to 78% is disappointing. There seems to be a clear link between the decline in overall satisfaction and the decline with the last completed repair (discussed further in paragraph 3.7 of this report). Another factor that contributed was a fall in the satisfaction with grounds maintenance (down from 74% to 69%). We need to understand the reasons for this dissatisfaction particularly in the west of the city (51%) so focus groups will be arranged with residents and discussions will be held with our grounds maintenance provider, City Parks.
- 3.5.4 Younger people also expressed less satisfaction with services. Over the last three years a number of projects have tried to engage younger tenants – however, the results have largely been disappointing and only a few younger tenants engaging with Housing. Currently, we are considering pre-tenancy workshops to engage younger people with Housing before their tenancy begins, and we continue to use preferred ways of communicating with younger residents such as email (63% of 16-34 year olds preferred this as a communication channel). We will also expand our use of Facebook as 17% would use this form of social media.
- 3.5.5 It is however pleasing to report that sheltered housing tenants indicated high levels of satisfaction with sheltered housing services – 90% including around two thirds (63%) who were very satisfied.

3.6 Home and Neighbourhood

- 3.6.1 This result for satisfaction with the quality of their home remains at a similar level to 2011 (80% compared to 81% in 2011). Once again older tenants were significantly more satisfied than their younger peers with 89% of over 65's satisfied, compared to 65% of those aged under 35.

- 3.6.2 The ability to move or swap house remains low at 42% (38% in 2011), although a number of responses were of an ambivalent nature with 36% selecting the 'neither' option. One way we have tried to address this is to ensuring the mutual exchange process is centrally managed by one team, and our performance data demonstrates applications are being well managed with 92% of decisions being made within 42 days. We have also improved our service offer to tenants wishing to move by mutual exchange to provide some practical and financial support to remove barriers tenants may experience in carrying out a mutual exchange. Building on the success of a mutual exchange event held in 2013 a series of community based mutual exchange events in partnership with housing associations are planned over the next year with the first one due to take place in December.
- 3.6.3 Satisfaction with the local neighbourhood as a place to live remains high - 84% compared with 80% for benchmarked authorities. There was a slight fall in satisfaction with the way we dealt with ASB (down from 64% from 62%) with satisfaction lower in the central area. The introduction of the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014 in October provides further potential powers for us to tackle ASB. The theme of November's City Assembly is Safer Communities which provides a further platform to discuss resident experiences of our service.
- 3.6.4 We have also reviewed the way we carry out estate inspections, and during this year we will be introducing a new way for residents to engage in rating their satisfaction through the introduction of a 'scores on the door' scheme.
- 3.6.5 Another area for closer scrutiny is that satisfaction with the cleaning of internal areas remains static at 73%, however our performance data indicates that the cleaning quality inspection pass rate is 98%. The Estates Service Team carry out a random sample of satisfaction surveys which will assist us with tracking this on a regular basis. This disparity between satisfaction and quality will be discussed with the Neighbourhoods Service Improvement Group to identify how improvements can be made.

3.7 Repairs and Maintenance

- 3.7.1 Satisfaction with the last completed repair (76%, down from 81% in 2011) is a major factor in reduced satisfaction with Housing. However these findings are in conflict with our performance report data where surveys of individual tenants in Quarter 1 of 2014/15, showed that of the 477 residents telephoned, 93% state they were satisfied with their repair.

- 3.7.2 However for the STAR survey, this issue of the timeliness of our repairs response was a negative driver of satisfaction. Again we have an anomaly with our performance data which shows that for both emergency repairs and routine repairs the performance was above 99%, against a target of 99% and 98.5% respectively. This may be because the performance data is for our responsive repairs service whereas the STAR survey does not differentiate between this and our planned and major works programme which naturally does involve longer lead times for these works due to planning, leasehold consultations and the delivery of a planned programme.
- 3.7.3 Better communication of programmes is therefore a key area for the service to focus on to ensure that residents are better informed around the timing of major and planned works for their area. At the same time the service has made significant changes to better deal with roofing and scaffolding delays that have been experienced this year. These include bringing more local roofing specialists into the partnership, expanding the scaffolding contractors used and using a mobile platform vehicle in order to speed up the safe completion of inaccessible repairs and reduce the need and disruption of scaffold.
- 3.7.4 Working alongside tenant representatives, Mears and officers will continue to consider and take action on all aspects of the repairs service where further improvements can be made.

3.8 Value for money

- 3.8.1 These figures remain favourable compared with other authorities with 84% of respondents satisfied that their rent levels represented good value, including nearly a half (47%) who were very satisfied. It is also encouraging to find 71% were satisfied with service charge in terms of value for money. The slight fall in satisfaction from 73% may be linked to the new services charges that were introduced at the beginning of this financial year and impacted most upon residents in high-rise properties.

3.9 Customer Service

- 3.9.1 It is pleasing to see that four out of five (81%) respondents said the standard of customer service they receive is good. This included 40% who said that it was very good. 19% of people who contact the Housing Customer Service Team made a positive comment when provided the opportunity to offer free text.

3.9.2 The majority of respondents also found it easy to access services (84%), including over a third (36%) who said it was very easy, and residents in the Central area were more satisfied than those in other areas. A small proportion of respondents said they had some difficulty accessing services with around one in ten (9%) saying this was the case for them. When asked how this could be improved, the most commonly cited issue was the time it took to get through on the telephone. The team will continue to review resources at peak times to assist with call handling. The Housing Customer Service Team also undertakes customer satisfaction surveys every six months and performance data will be included in the performance report twice a year.

3.10 Resident Involvement

3.10.1 The proportion of tenants who say we listen to their views and act on them is increasing - 64% compared with 62% in 2011 and 60% in 2008 and above the benchmark for similar authorities at 56%. It is worth noting that while we can be pleased with this finding from the survey, it also represents a significant area where future improvements can be found. This is not least because the main driver that reportedly negatively impacted the results was the lower levels of satisfaction amongst lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender residents. The Resident Involvement Team will be carrying out some work to look into this further and ascertain whether lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender residents might be interested in forming a consultative group. If there is little appetite for an ongoing group, there may be some gains in achieving understanding from carrying out a focus group with some residents from this community group.

3.10.2 The result for satisfaction with opportunities to get involved has remained static (63%). The Business and Value for Money Service Improvement Group identified that it wishes to review levels of involvement to see whether or not the changes identified through the 'Everyone Counts' report has increased participation. This piece of work will be included in the group's work programme for the year ahead.

3.11 Information and communication

3.11.1 Three quarters of tenants (76%) said Housing is good at keeping them informed about things that may affect them. Nine out of ten respondents say they have read the 'Homing in' magazine (90%), more than half of whom said they 'always' read it (57%). The number of under 35s stating that they read Homing In was considerably lower than the over 65s at 17% and 70% respectively, and it will be important in future to consider how it can be made more appealing and relevant to younger tenants, while maintaining the aspects that are of interest to older residents.

3.11.2 There was mixed feedback in the area of internet communication and access to services, with some residents feeding back that they wanted access to traditionally based services, yet with others wanting more access to online services. On a survey question relating to the possible development of a Housing App it is interesting to note that 26% of respondents would be interested in using such a service, with interest highest amongst the under 35's (63%).

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The report feeds back on consultation with a representative sample of tenants, and is valuable in providing information about satisfaction levels on a range of housing services, communication preferences, involvement, and tenant profile data against which comparisons can be made. The work also provides a platform for further engagement of residents in service improvement.
- 4.2 The report was presented to Housing Committee on 12 November prior to going to Area Panels on 1 to 5 December, in order to avoid delaying publication of the survey findings in the winter edition of Homing In in December. This route for the report was also desirable in order to meet the Scrutiny Panel's request for access to the STAR survey results to inform its current scrutiny review of aspects of the repairs service
- 4.3 The contents are for noting and comment and no decision is required. Any significant feedback from Area Panels will be reported to the Housing Committee in January 2015 under Chairs Communications, or as a separate information paper for Housing Committee members.
- 4.4 The findings have been subject to discussions with service managers and our repairs partner, Mears and these discussions will continue. Future actions to address increased resident satisfaction with Housing services will feature in service business plans and in annual and mid-term performance reviews with managers and staff.
- 4.5 A full copy of the report will be made available on the council's website.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 As mentioned in the report the cost of this survey was £6,121. These costs have been met from the current HRA revenue budget 2014/15.

Finance Officer Consulted: Monica Brooks Date: 30th October 2014

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 This is for note and comment only and so does not have any legal consequences arising. Should it lead to any actions, then this would be the subject of further legal advice at a later time.

Lawyer Consulted: Simon Court Date: 30th October 2014

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 Equalities implications have been considered within the report. Most groups within equalities strands are well represented within the survey respondent group. There are variations to levels of satisfaction that we now need to consider how to address.
- 5.3.1 As in previous surveys those aged 45 and over were over represented compared to younger residents. Similarly one bedroom properties were over represented compared to family homes, as were high rise properties. The fact that tenants with disabilities were over represented is likely to be due to the age profile. The sample was representative by gender, there was a good response rate amongst Black and Asian tenants, as well as gay men. Whilst some other characteristics such as hindu, mixed ethnic background or lesbian were under represented these were small groups in the sample and therefore prone to greater variability.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 The avoidance of a second mailing greatly reduced paper and print used in producing the report compared with previous years. We also worked with a local charity Paper Mates to assist with the mail out. This provided a joint working opportunity and helped the sustainability of its service.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 There was a slight fall in satisfaction with the way we dealt with ASB (down from 64% from 62%) with satisfaction lower in the central area. The introduction of the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014 in October provides further potential powers for us to tackle ASB. The theme of November's City Assembly is Safer Communities which provides a further platform to discuss resident experiences of our service.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 There are no risk and opportunity management implications arising from this report.

Public Health Implications:

5.7 There are no public health implications arising from this report.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

5.8 There are no corporate or citywide implications arising from this report.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices: None

Background Documents None

Area Panels: December 2014

Briefing Paper: Discretionary Decorating and Gardening Schemes (Housing)

Background

Brighton & Hove City Council offers the following discretionary schemes to tenants of pension age and those with a disability to help them maintain their properties.

Decorating:

- Vouchers to purchase decorating materials
- The decorating carried out by Mears
- Applications are restricted to one room per year per household and the same room cannot be decorated again for another 10 years

Gardening

- Grass cutting and hedge trimming carried out by Mears
- Applicants accepted to the gardening scheme receive four cuts a year, two of which include hedge trims

Currently, in order to be eligible for either scheme, the applicant must be pension age or in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA)/Personal Independence Payments (PIP) or Attendance Allowance (AA).

Why we are reviewing these schemes

The schemes have not been fully reviewed since their introduction over 30 years ago and recent government changes to Disability Living Allowance, pension age and the introduction of the Welfare Reform Act 2012 have prompted a review to make sure that resources are used fairly and provide value for money.

Current issues with the existing schemes

- There is no formal assessment of the property to establish the condition of the garden or property and whether it is reasonable to fund gardening or decorating
- There is no determination of financial need or ability

Feedback so far

Telephone consultation around the current scheme has been carried out with over 100 tenants including those that applied but were turned down. Their comments included:

- Application forms should be less complicated to fill in
- The allowance was only enough to decorate half a room
- Better communication so that access can be arranged and gardens can be made ready
- Trees need cutting back but aren't included in work
- Once you register and are accepted you shouldn't have to apply again every year
- The able bodied adult in the house may not be capable of doing decorating, it's unfair that we are not able to get the decorating done because of this

- Applied but the scheme was already full even though it had only been open a couple of months
- Current criteria doesn't allow for temporary changes in a tenants circumstances i.e. able bodied relative staying with a tenant on a temporary basis
- Would like you to assess the need for help before accepting or refusing
- The schemes should be promoted more widely so all eligible tenants have an equal opportunity to apply
- The application should be easy to understand and complete
- Tenants who are not disabled but are over 75 years may not be able to do the decorating themselves or have any friends or family that could do it for them. Therefore, they wouldn't be able to get their properties decorated unless they are on Housing Benefit.

Recommendations for changing the schemes

- Change the eligibility criteria for both the decorating and gardening schemes to age 75+ **and** in receipt of Housing Benefit (HB), **or** any age and on DLA/PIP/AA **and** in receipt of HB
- Restrict successful decorating applications to every other year
- That the decorating vouchers are removed and replaced with a decorating pack containing all materials needed to decorate one room

Why these recommendations have been brought to Area Panels

To seek the Area Panel representatives comments prior to the report being presented to Housing Committee in January.

Next steps

All feedback will be considered and summarised in the report being presented to Housing Committee on 14 January 2015.

If agreed the changes to the scheme will be implemented at the beginning of the 2015/16 financial year and widely publicised including on the council's website, in Homing In and by other means to ensure the information is accessible to tenants e.g. through tenant association newsletters.

Contact: Jane White
 Performance & Improvement Officer
 E-mail: jane.white@brighton-hove.gov.uk
 Telephone: 01273 294598

AREA PANELS

Agenda Item

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Discretionary Decorating and Gardening Schemes		
Date of Meeting:	1, 3, 4, 8 December 2014		
Report of:	Executive Director, Environment, Development & Housing		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Jane White	Tel: 01273 29-4598
	Email:	Jane.white@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Wards(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report provides the findings of the recent review of the Discretionary Decorating and Gardening Scheme and sets out the recommended changes for consideration.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Area Panels comment on the following recommendations:
- 2.2 That the criteria, for those applying to both the discretionary schemes, be changed to age 75+ **and** in receipt of HB, **or** on DLA/PIP or AA **and** in receipt of HB.
- 2.3 That the decorating vouchers are removed and replaced with decorating packs.
- 2.4 That, for the discretionary decorating scheme, successful applicants are restricted to one award every other year.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- 3.1 The discretionary gardening and discretionary decorating schemes are provided to help older tenants or those with a disability to maintain their properties. The current eligibility criterion is based around tenants being of pension age or in receipt of DLA. This criterion gives no determination of financial need or ability to pay. There is also no formal assessment of the property to establish the condition or whether it is reasonable to fund decoration. Each year the schemes are oversubscribed with waiting lists for both schemes.
- 3.2 The review has been carried out to look at how the needs of tenants can best be met and ensure that resources are used fairly and provide value for money.

- 3.3 Research has been carried out around the provision that other Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) provide and how our scheme compares. Given the discretionary nature of the scheme a number of RSLs have opted to no longer provide this service and instead invest the funding in maintaining their existing stock. Of the RSLs that do still offer a discretionary service the age criteria is generally higher than that of Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC), most only being open to tenants aged 70 and above although still open to disabled tenants. Some RSLs only operate a gardening scheme and not a decorating scheme.
- 3.4 It should be noted that this scheme is discretionary and that tenants have garden and decorating standards that they are expected to maintain. The tenancy agreement states the following:

“If you have a garden, patio or balcony you must keep it tidy. You must not allow any garden plants, trees or shrubs to grow onto or over neighbouring land. You are responsible for minor repairs and you should decorate all internal parts of your home as often as is necessary to keep them in good decorative order”.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

4.1

Option 1	Anticipated benefits	Identified risks
Remove all discretionary decorating and gardening schemes	<p>Savings from the scheme could be reinvested into services for tenants and to make improvements to the housing stock</p> <p>Greater responsibility on the tenants for maintaining properties and could result in tenants deciding to move if the garden is no longer manageable, ensuring residents are housed in properties that meet their needs.</p>	<p>Disabled and older tenants may struggle to maintain their gardens without assistance. This could lead to overgrown gardens causing environmental hazard and nuisance to neighbours resulting in an increase in complaints and tenancy breaches.</p> <p>Less affluent communities deteriorate as gardens become unkempt and neighbours who may previously have kept their properties in a good state of repair lose enthusiasm for maintaining their own gardens.</p> <p>With no opportunity for tenants to access funding to improve their properties those already in poor decorative order</p>

		may be neglected further. This may have a negative impact on a tenant's health and wellbeing.
Option 2	Anticipated benefits	Identified risks
<p>Replace the decorating vouchers with decorating packs and continue with the current criteria</p> <p>Keep the decorating and gardening works schemes as they are, continuing with the current criteria</p>	<p>Changing to decorating packs removes the risk of fraudulent use of vouchers</p> <p>Decorating packs provide better value for money containing all materials required to decorate a room</p> <p>No travelling for tenants- the supplier can deliver packs directly to tenants the next day</p>	<p>Tenants would have slightly less choice in the materials they can purchase i.e. wallpaper is not included</p> <p>The scheme may not be targeted at tenants who are most in need as there is no assessment of the property/financial need</p> <p>Tenants will be restricted to one supplier in order for value for money benefits to be achieved from having packs that include everything needed to decorate a room</p>
Option 3	Anticipated benefits	Identified risks
<p>The criteria, for those applying to both the discretionary decorating and gardening schemes, be changed to those aged 75+ and in receipt of HB or those on DLA/PIP or AA and in receipt of HB</p> <p>Replace the decorating vouchers with decorating packs</p> <p>Successful applications to either the decorating works or decorating packs are restricted to one award every other year</p>	<p>Changing the criteria ensures that the schemes are targeted at tenants who are most in need</p> <p>Being able to improve the inside of a property can have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of a tenant</p> <p>Decorating packs provide better value for money containing all materials required to decorate a room</p> <p>Changing to decorating packs removes risk of fraudulent use of vouchers</p>	<p>Decreased customer satisfaction - especially from those that were previously eligible and no longer are, based on 2013/14 figures: -</p> <p>Of the 372 applications accepted 23% or 86 tenants would no longer be eligible for gardening works</p> <p>Of the 235 applications accepted 31% or 72 tenants would no longer be eligible for decorating works</p> <p>Of the 152 applications accepted 5% or 8 tenants would no longer be eligible for decorating vouchers</p>

	<p>No travelling for tenants - the supplier can deliver packs directly to tenants the next day</p> <p>Restricting successful decorating applications to every other year will enable more households to access the scheme</p>	<p>However, alternative sources of support could be investigated for these residents i.e. Age UK Help at Home service or the Royal Voluntary Service Good Neighbour Scheme</p> <p>Tenants would have slightly less choice in the materials they can purchase i.e. wallpaper is not included</p> <p>Tenants will be restricted to one supplier in order for value for money benefits to be achieved from having packs that include everything needed to decorate a room</p>
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Having considered all the information and research gathered the recommendation would be to adopt option three, as per the reasons in the benefits table.

- 4.2 The discretionary scheme budget for the current financial year is £288,390. The proposed change in criteria for the scheme would reduce the number of tenants eligible to apply but would also enable those tenants in greatest need of assistance to access this scheme. For the financial year 2015/16 it is therefore proposed to reduce the budget by £38,390 to £250,000. The table gives details of how this reduction would be applied to each of the schemes and the number of properties that would potentially be affected. Savings from the schemes will be reinvested in services to tenants and in making improvements to the housing stock.

	Current budget			Proposed budget 2015/16		
	Amount	Number of properties	Average spend per property	Amount	Number of properties	Reduction in properties from 2014/15
Decorating works	£154,060	235	£656	£122,672	187	48
Gardening works	£128,830	372	£346	£122,138	353	19
Decorating vouchers	£5,500	152	£36	£5,190	144	8
Total	£288,390	759	-	£250,000	684	75

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

5.1 Consultation has been carried out with over 100 tenants including those that applied for the decorating schemes but were turned down. The feedback from these tenants has been used to understand how tenants feel about the current schemes and to find out what changes they would like to see. A sample of the comments we received are presented below:

Comment	Proposal
Application forms are too complicated	The application forms will be simplified and completed online; tenants without internet access will be able to speak directly to a Housing Service Advisor who will fill in the application for them.
The decorating voucher wasn't enough to do a whole room	Replace the vouchers with decorating packs. These packs will contain all materials needed to decorate the specified room.
Applied but the scheme was already full even though it had only been open a couple of months	Changing the criteria and targeting those most in need will reduce the number of applications.
Would like you to assess the need for help before accepting or refusing	The change in criteria will ensure that help is provided to those most in need.
Better communication so that access can be arranged and gardens can be made ready	The website will have a link to the garden schedules that customers can access for up to date information on the routes and dates. The Housing Customer Service Team can also provide this information directly to those residents without internet access.

5.2 The following feedback was received from discussions with the Home Service Improvement Group:

- The schemes should be promoted more widely so that all eligible tenants have equal opportunity to apply
- The application should be easy to understand and complete
- Tenants who are not over 75 years may not be able to do the decorating themselves or have any friends or family that could do it for them. Therefore, they wouldn't be able to get their properties decorated unless they are on housing benefit, would exceptions be made in certain cases?

6. CONCLUSION

The recommendations in this report will support the aim of offering discretionary decorating and gardening schemes that provide best value for money and meet the needs of vulnerable tenants in maintaining their homes and gardens and enhancing their quality of life.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

7.1 Financial Implications:

The HRA budget for 2014/15 for these discretionary schemes is £288,390. The proposals in this report would reduce the budget for these schemes for 2015/16 by £38,390 to £250,000. The changes to the eligibility criteria will reduce the number of tenants eligible to apply and will ensure that more is spent on those with the most need. This saving will be reinvested in services and improvements to tenants and will be included as part of the 2015/16 budget report to Housing Committee on 14 January 2014.

Finance Officer Consulted: Monica Brooks

Date: 12 November 2014

7.2 Legal Implications:

Although there is no legal obligation on the council to provide discretionary decorating and gardening schemes, it has sufficient power under the Housing Act 1985 to provide them. Where changes to current services are proposed, proper consultation with those affected or likely to be affected is necessary. The consultation to date has been appropriate.

Lawyer Consulted: Liz Woodley

Date: 11 November 2014

7.3 Equalities Implications:

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been carried out alongside this review to consider the impact each option might have on different groups.

7.4 Sustainability Implications:

The most sustainable method for future applications to this scheme is considered to be online. The internal decoration of properties and maintenance of the gardens is the responsibility of tenants. However, the provision of discretionary schemes to assist tenants who might otherwise find this maintenance difficult or too expensive is important to the future upkeep of our properties.

7.5 Crime & Disorder Implications:

There are no crime and disorder implications.

7.6 Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

The main risk identified with these proposals is that tenants between the

age of 65 and 75 who are currently eligible would no longer be. However, these proposals provide the opportunity to ensure that the schemes are aimed at those who are most in need.

7.7 Public Health Implications:

Overgrown gardens can have a significant impact on a local environment. A decent environment means a better quality of life for local people, gives people pride in their area and encourages new people to move there. This report considers both tenant quality of life and the impact on the wider neighbourhood.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

7.8 There are no corporate or citywide implications arising from this report.

Area Panels: 1 – 5 December 2014

Briefing paper: Citywide Parking Enforcement

Background and context

The Car Parks & Garages (CP&G) Team currently manages 56 of the 80 or so parking sites on Housing land. This means the managed sites have paid parking bays at a weekly charge, which are protected by enforcement.

The team has identified sites that would benefit from enforcement due to parking areas being abused by non residents. The abuse generates numerous complaints that have been difficult to resolve, sometimes prevents residents parking in their preferred parking areas close to their homes, and takes up considerable officer time.

Historically when we have received complaints from residents about parking issues on Housing land we have consulted all residents in that location, and introduced enforcement when the consultation result has requested this. Where residents have been reluctant to give up their free parking and have not opted to introduce enforcement, parking problems and neighbourhood disputes continue.

CP&G charges are increased annually based on inflation, and the city is broken down into three different charging areas with different charges for four customer groups, giving a total of 12 different charges that apply across the city. The table on the following page gives an indication of the variation in charges.

Recommendation

1. This paper recommends that the parking areas that have enforcement are increased to include all Housing land, with some exceptions. This will protect residents preferred parking and provide consistent arrangements in Housing areas.

In adopting a citywide approach, areas that fall within and on the boundaries of the corporate parking zones, as well as areas where residents are struggling to park due to non-residents parking in the area will be the first to be prioritised for enforcement. As the controlled parking areas expand throughout the city, any council housing parking sites that border on these new controlled parking areas will have parking enforcement introduced.

2. The paper also recommends introducing parking enforcement to the 99 Housing garage sites.

This will address a further problem that residents report of cars parking inappropriately in these areas, blocking access to garages. It will also encourage more people to rent

garages that are currently vacant. The cost of improved signage, as requested by residents, will be met from the Housing Revenue Account, but will be more effective with enforcement taking place at these sites.

Identifying sites

Housing continually considers areas of Housing land where there is e the potential for developing new homes. Where this is not possible, the suitability for creating additional parking to meet tenants’ needs is also considered.

The table below identifies areas where there is no enforcement and that would immediately benefit from its introduction. As well as addressing the issues that arise from lack of enforcement, it will generate income to the Housing Revenue Account. The table also shows the weekly charges, and minimum and maximum potential income.

Site	Spaces	Blue badge - tenant & leasehold rate	Blue badge – private rate	Tenant & leasehold rate	Private rate	Min. weekly income	Max. weekly income
Lavender House	5	£1.99	£9.26	£9.00	£18	£9.95	£90
Newstead	5	£1.99	£9.26	£9.00	£18	£9.95	£90
Philip Court	15	£1.52	£6.54	£5.84	£11.70	£22.80	£175.70
Highcroft Lodge	10	£1.99	£9.26	£9.00	£18	£19.90	£180
Site off Southover Street	13	£1.99	£9.26	£9.00	£18	£25.87	£234
Ingram Crescent	230	£1.23	£1.67	£2.24	£4.51	£282.90	£1037.30
Manor Gardens	15	£1.23	£1.67	£2.24	£4.51	£18.45	£67.65
Ansty Close	15	£1.23	£1.67	£2.24	£4.51	£18.45	£67.65
Henfield Close	15	£1.23	£1.67	£2.24	£4.51	£18.45	£67.65
Playden Close	15	£1.23	£1.67	£2.24	£4.51	£18.45	£67.65
Flimwell Close	15	£1.23	£1.67	£2.24	£4.51	£18.45	£67.65

AGENDA ITEM 29

Byworth Close	7	£1.23	£1.67	£2.24	£4.51	£8.61	£31.57
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Next steps

All feedback will be considered and summarised for the report being presented to Housing Committee on 14 January 2015.

Once decided upon, the outcome will be and in feedback to Area Panels and published on the Housing pages of the Council's website.

Contact: Lucie Royall, Housing Customer Service Team Leader
Email: Lucie.Royall@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Telephone: 01273 296672

Area Panels: 1 – 5 December 2014

Briefing paper: Sheltered Housing Stock Review

Background

BHCC owns and manages 850 sheltered flats, studios and bungalows within 23 sheltered schemes.

The brief for the sheltered housing stock review was to examine the challenges of the physical environment and make property-based recommendations to ensure our sheltered schemes are fit for purpose.

Report Recommendations (in brief)

That area panels comment on the following recommendations, so the comments can be included in the report to housing committee:

1. Agree the converting up to 235 studios into one bedroom flats, wherever possible, subject to the required budget approvals, at the same time meeting the Lifetime Homes standard as far as possible. This proposal will be included in the HRA Capital Investment programme 2015-2018 proposals.
2. Agree the principle of de-commissioning (closing) of a small number of sheltered schemes which cannot be made fit for purpose, re-designating them for alternative clients groups, or agreeing to redevelop the sites (subject to 2.3).
3. Note that business case reports will be brought to Housing Committee on a case by case basis, where recommendations will be made on specific schemes which should be de-commissioned. Each report will include tenant consultation plans, the sensitive rehousing of tenants and the delegation to the Head of Housing to stop lettings at the scheme in question and at nearby schemes (to allow rehousing).
4. Note the creation, from 2015/16, of a 10 year cyclical programme for upgrading internal communal and external decoration.
5. Note the creation of a budget to address access issues in communal areas (e.g. ramps and stair lifts).

Process

This Item will go to the Housing Committee on 14 January 2015 for approval of the recommendations.

Resident Involvement

The Senior Housing Action Group considered the findings on 12 November 2014. Sheltered housing tenants will be consulted on the redesign of the studio flats and in the implementation of other recommendations.

Contact: Simon Pickles, Housing Stock Review Manager
Email: simon.pickles@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Telephone: 01273 292083

COMMITTEE**Agenda Item**

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Sheltered housing stock review		
Date of Meeting:	Area Panels - December 2014		
Report of:	Geoff Raw – Executive Director, Environment, Development and Housing		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Simon Pickles - Housing Stock Review Manager	Tel: 29-2083
	Email:	simon.pickles@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

The brief for the sheltered housing stock review was to examine the challenges of the physical environment and make property-based recommendations to ensure our sheltered housing remains fit for purpose into the future and continues to support the City housing strategy.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

That area panels comment on the following recommendations, so the comments can be included in the report to housing committee:

- 2.1 Agrees the converting up to 235 studios into one bedroom flats, wherever possible, subject to the required budget approvals, at the same time meeting the Lifetime Homes standard as far as possible. This proposal will be included in the HRA Capital Investment programme 2015-2018 proposals.
- 2.2 Agrees the principle of de-commissioning (closing) of a small number of sheltered schemes which cannot be made fit for purpose, re-designating them for alternative clients groups, or agreeing to redevelop the sites (subject to 2.3).
- 2.3 Notes that business case reports will be brought to Housing Committee on a case by case basis, where recommendations will be made on specific schemes which should be de-commissioned. Each report will include tenant consultation plans, the sensitive rehousing of tenants and the delegation to the Head of Housing to stop lettings at the scheme in question and at nearby schemes (to allow rehousing).
- 2.5 Notes the creation, from 2015/16, of a 10 year cyclical programme for upgrading internal communal and external decoration.
- 2.6 Notes the creation of a budget to address access issues in communal areas (e.g. ramps and stair lifts).

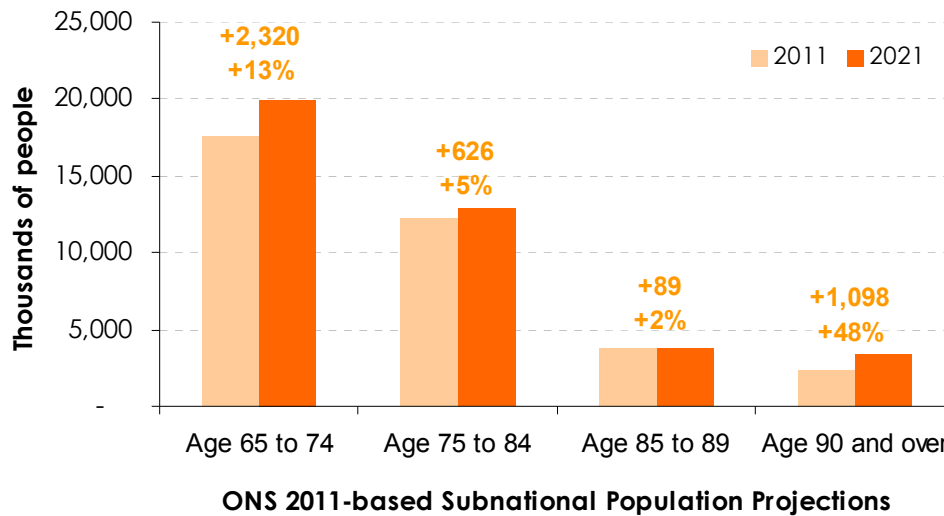
3. CONTEXT

- 3.1 Brighton & Hove City Council owns and manages 850 sheltered flats, studios and bungalows within 23 schemes. In asset terms this is a significant portfolio, providing an annual rental income of £3.2M (excluding service charges).
- 3.2 Sheltered housing plays a crucial role in promoting independent living and preventing or delaying the need for higher dependency services such as extra care and residential care. The service currently houses mainly older people with the support of a scheme manager and alarm service. The service has recently reviewed its aims, which closer aligns the service to the aims and objectives of Adult Social Care and Public Health strategies.
- 3.3 In terms of ongoing demand for sheltered housing – we know from Home-move that on 16th September 2014 there were 795 households on the housing register assessed as requiring sheltered housing.
- 3.4 The council's supply of affordable sheltered housing is supplemented by the sheltered housing managed by registered providers (housing associations) in the City. There are fourteen other registered providers of sheltered housing in the city, providing a total of 908 sheltered flats.
- 3.5 There have been major demographic changes within the sheltered housing client group (longer, fitter lives, and higher numbers of frail elderly people with complex needs). At the time of the 2011 Census there were 35,692 people aged 65 and over living in the city representing 13% of the total population. 20,038 (56%) were female and 15,654 (44%) were male, with the ratio of women to men increasing with age. There is a fairly even split between males and females aged 65 to 74 but as people grow older the ratio changes, with 69% of people aged 85 years and over being female. These ratios are expected to change over the next 10 years as male life expectancy is increasing faster than that of females. In 2021, the ratio of males to females is likely to be 38% females and 62% males

	Brighton & Hove			
	Age 65 to 74	Age 75 to 84	Age 85 & over	Total
All Persons	17,460 (49%)	12,248 (34%)	5,984 (17%)	35,692 (100%)
Males	8,537 (55%)	5,243 (33%)	1,874 (12%)	15,654 (100%)
Females	8,923 (45%)	7,005 (35%)	4,110 (20%)	20,038 (100%)

The Office of National Statistics projects that there will be a 12% increase in the number of people aged 65 or above between 2011 and 2021. Within this, there is a projected 48% increase of people aged 90 and above, with an additional 1,098 people taking the number to 3,382.

Brighton & Hove
Age Profile Change



- 3.6 The sheltered housing service has responded by drawing up a new service offer. It is now time to modernise our sheltered housing assets to ensure their fitness for the future.
- 3.7 The accommodation that makes up our sheltered housing portfolio is varied. At one end of the spectrum we have three ‘flagship schemes’ where in the late 1980s careful attention was paid to providing a good range of communal facilities, thereby ‘future proofing’ these schemes. At the other end, in the 1960s and 70’s the council built a significant number of sheltered studio flats with shared facilities, which are now proving unpopular and hard to let. Refurbishment has already taken place to ensure all studios have their own bathrooms and will be completed in 2014/15 This leaves over 200 studios with their own bathrooms, but where the bed is in the lounge. The conversion of these studios to one bedroom flats is a major recommendation within this report.
- 3.8 However, a small number of schemes cannot be made fit for purpose cost effectively. Proposals on such schemes will be brought to future committee meetings.
- 3.9 The internal communal areas on some of the council’s sheltered schemes, despite being clean and safe, can have a tired and clinical feel. Moving forward, tenants are making good use of the Estate Development Budget system to brighten up the communal interiors and make them more homely. However, this is no substitute for a scheduled programme to upgrade decor and furnishings. Such a programme is another key recommendation of this report.

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION: MAIN FINDINGS OF THE SHELTERED HOUSING STOCK REVIEW

4.1 The need to address schemes which have studio flats

- 4.1.1 The council still has around 350 sheltered studios flats, where the bed is in the lounge. The presence of studios is a key factor where a scheme has become hard to let. The evidence is that women expect a separate bedroom, whereas men will accept studios more readily.
- 4.1.2 However by allocating properties in sheltered schemes to a different client group (*i.e.* single vulnerable adults with complex needs) rather than to those for whom they were originally intended, we have in some instances changed the nature of the communities and inadvertently generated negative outcomes. Negative outcomes include safeguarding risks and increasing isolation, which both have a detrimental impact on the quality of life of residents and is also costly to manage. The recent Chartered Institute of Housing service review clearly identifies this problem in a number of sheltered housing schemes. Converting studios to one bedroom flats is likely to make them more appropriate and attractive to older people who need sheltered housing.
- 4.1.3 In conclusion, studios are no longer an acceptable form of sheltered accommodation and do not fulfil the objectives of a number of key council strategies, nor the 'HAPPI' all party government task force standards. HAPPI stands for Housing our Ageing Population: Plan for Implementation (see Appendix 1 for summary of the review's self-assessment). It is therefore recommended to convert 235 studios into one bedroom flats and at the same time meet the *Lifetime Homes standards where possible. The total capital requirement will be in the order of £5.9M over three financial years (see financial implications for more detail). In some instances this may result in a reduction of the number of units, which will be quantified on a case by case basis.

* Lifetime Homes standards are a set of features that make housing more functional and 'future proofed'. There are 16 key requirements and specific features. These include:

- Level or gently sloping approach to property
- Wide doorways to allow wheelchair access
- Living rooms at entrance level
- Entrance level toilet
- Low level window sills and electric sockets.

4.2 Schemes which cannot be made fit for purpose

- 4.2.1 There are a small number of schemes where it is not feasible or viable to make them fit for purpose. Reasons for this include: structural or serious repair problems, the absence of a lift, fundamental accessibility issues resulting from

the original design. People know they cannot stay at these schemes as they become frailer.

4.2.2 In these situations the council can consider 'de-commissioning' and designating the scheme as general needs or for fitter older people only, or consider redeveloping the schemes.

4.2.3 If Housing Committee agrees, in future, business case reports will be brought to committee on a case by case basis, where recommendations will be made on specific schemes which should be de-commissioned, including the sensitive rehousing of tenants and the delegation to the Head of Housing to stop lettings at the scheme in question and at named nearby schemes (to allow rehousing).

4.3 Develop additional sheltered housing flats on existing schemes

4.3.1 There may be opportunities in the future to create additional flats on a scheme, at the same time as improving communal areas. This would compensate for the loss of units caused by any de-commissioning of sheltered schemes which are no longer fit for purpose.

4.4. Flagship sheltered schemes

4.4.1 From the mid-1980s the council delivered high quality and well-appointed sheltered housing schemes. The range of communal facilities, including library, cafe area, hairdressing salon, is impressive. The good provision of communal facilities combined with the absence of studio flats, means they have been 'future proofed' and can be justifiably labelled as 'flagship' schemes.

4.4.2 They are: Elwyn Jones Court, Lindfield Court and Sloane Court

4.4.3 The following schemes have the potential to be flagships schemes, subject to investment that is dealt with earlier in the report:

- Elizabeth Court (studio conversions)
- Muriel House (studio conversions)

4.4.4 Where such flagship schemes are used as 'community hubs' (e.g. social or fitness activities), there will be a need for 'progressive security', whereby access to the non-communal areas of the scheme is restricted.

4.5 Accessibility of communal areas

4.5.1 There are some required improvements to communal areas such as ramps and stair lifts, which are relatively minor but which will improve tenants' quality of life. A dedicated budget would address this issue.

5. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

5.1 To develop a newbuild scheme instead of converting the studios would cost in the range of £120-£150,000 per flat, purely for the construction works (excluding fees and land). Conversion of existing schemes, where this is possible, will cost approximately £25,000 per flat.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Tenants have been consulted on the converting of studios into one bedroom flats at Sanders House, by holding 'open house' viewings of a showflat.
- 6.2 Sheltered housing tenants will be fully consulted on the redesign of the studio flats, on the possible decommissioning of schemes (once specific schemes have been approved by Housing Committee) and on the implementation of other recommendations of the review.
- 6.3 In previous conversions (creating individual shower rooms) tenants have been able to 'opt out' and not have the works done. It is recommended that this is allowed only in exceptional circumstances and on a case-by-case discretionary basis, such as a serious illness.
- 6.4 In relation to cyclical renewal of communal furnishings, further discussions with residents at each scheme will take place to establish the residents' changing aspirations.
- 6.5 This report has been discussed with the Area Panels and the Sheltered Housing Action Group (November and December 2014).

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 Studio accommodation is not a model of best practice for sheltered accommodation in the 21st century, and the council should develop a programme of conversion to one bedroom flats. However, this will not always be feasible or viable.
- 7.2 The review recommends systems are put in place to ensure improvements to communal decorating and furnishing are cyclical, not one offs.

8. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

8.1 Financial Implications:

- 8.1.1 It is estimated that the cost of converting the 235 flats will be £25,000 per flat, giving a total cost of £5.875 million.
- 8.1.2 The funding of the 3 year programme for sheltered housing studio conversions will need to be included in the HRA Capital Investment Programme 2015-2018 budget and funding proposals, which will be presented to Housing Committee for approval, prior to seeking Policy & Resources Committee approval in February 2015.
- 8.1.3 Home loss payments will not be required as part of the studio conversions.
- 8.1.4 The proposed budget to improve the accessibility of communal areas will be set at £25,000 per annum.

Finance Officer Consulted: Susie Allen, Principal Accountant

Date: 8/08/2014

8.2 Legal Implications:

8.2.1 The Housing Committee has wide power to manage property within the HRA. This includes the power to demolish. Recommendations 2.1. and 2.2 are therefore within the Committee's powers.

Lawyer Consulted: Joanne Dougnaglo/ Liz Woodley Date: 08/08/14

8.2 Equalities Implications:

8.2.1 Improvements to the accessibility of the buildings will be achieved through the proposed small works and conversion works.

8.3 Sustainability Implications:

8.3.1 The thermal and environmental performance of the converted flats will only marginally be improved, because internal wall insulation would reduce the size of the accommodation.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendix 1: Self-assessment against 'HAPPI' standards (HAPPI = Housing our Ageing Population: Plan for Implementation)

Appendix 2: Draft sheltered lettable standard.

Appendix 1: Self-assessment against 'HAPPI' standards

Suggestions to APPG Inquiry for refinements to HAPPI criteria	BHCC position with respect to our current sheltered stock
Provide accessibility to wheelchair standards i.e., in excess of Lifetime Home Standards with lift access to all apartments	<p>Non-compliant: not all our schemes have lifts, and where they do some do not reach all parts of the building where there are flats.</p> <p>Even in our best schemes, doors in flats have to be widened through adaptations to cater for larger wheelchairs.</p> <p>All our new housing will be built to Lifetime Homes standards and 10 per cent of new housing will be designed to be wheelchair accessible or easily adaptable.</p> <p>In future, studio conversions we will seek to implement Lifetime Homes standards wherever possible.</p>
Offer a mix of space standards that exceed 'minimum' requirements and that are dictated by meeting the accessibility requirements (two bed flats at least 70m sq. and one bed flats at least 58m sq.)	<p>Non-compliant: we have over 200 studio flats that need to be converted to good sized one bedroom flats.</p>
Concentrate on typologies that are suited to older people i.e. apartments or single-storey dwellings (or dwellings which provide self-contained accommodation on one level)	<p>Compliant. New single storey accommodation does not represent good value given the land scarcity in the city.</p>
Notwithstanding proposed housing benefit reform, provide predominantly two bed apartments because of the greater flexibility that they offer	<p>Not in agreement. Our rehousing team has confirmed that 2 bedroom sheltered flats are hard to let. So, the recommendation for new flats should be predominantly larger (2 person) one bedroom flats.</p>
Incorporate communal facilities to promote social interaction. This could be limited to a single, multi-functional space with ancillary accommodation	<p>Compliant. BHCC has good range of communal rooms on its sheltered estates, some of which may need to be reconfigured to meet the needs of the new client groups of single 'younger elderly' men.</p>
Provide for high levels of energy efficiency to minimise energy costs and reduce fuel poverty	<p>Compliant. BHCC has an active sustainability programme (communal boilers/ insulation/ solar panels); One</p>

Appendix 1: Self-assessment against 'HAPPI' standards

	Plant principles.
Allow for good security arrangements	Work in progress. Evidence of good liaison with crime prevention officers.
Be located in an area which constitute a Lifetime Neighbourhood in terms of accessibility to transport, retail and other amenities and facilities that older people need	In the main compliant, accepting that much of Brighton's topography presents hills and inclines. Good access to bus routes.
Be 'age-eligible' accommodation, with a minimum age requirement that will require a lower level of parking provision	Compliant, but the Housing Needs and Rehousing teams will be flexible in exceptional cases or where flats are hard to let.
Offer a housing tenure and management regime that will ensure that some resident control is retained	Compliant. We offer the most secure social housing tenancy available and tenants are supported by an active RI structure.
Provide the ability to incorporate 'care aware' smart technology to help with future personal care and support	We are auditing our community alarm equipment in the schemes to ensure they are compatible with the latest telecare and telehealthcare add-ons (personalised equipment), taking forward the emerging technological changes that will support independence, security and wellbeing in retirement housing schemes.

Subject:	Modernising the EDB		
Date of Meeting:	EDB Panel September 2014 Area Panels December 2014		
Report of:	Benjamin Ben O'kagbue Head of Property & Investment		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Janine Healey	Tel: 29-3314
	Email:	Janine.healey@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consult with Area Panels about proposals to improve the delivery of Estate Development Budget (EDB) projects and to inform Area Panels of changes to EDB processes.
- 1.2 The recommendations within this report have the support of the EDB Panel.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 In order for an EDB bid to be approved, the responsibility for any ongoing maintenance requirements must be specified and agreed.
- 2.2 The main bids for the fencing programme can include up to 25% of the bid value to be unallocated to any address.
- 2.3 EDB Panel to monitor receipts for any cheque request payment to TRAs.
- 2.4 Community Payback (CP) to have an Area based budget available for materials, contributed to by each Area Panel.
- 2.5 Set up four Area based tool stores for Community Payback and EDB funded items.
- 2.6 The spend cap on quick bids to be increased from £500 to £750.

3. UPDATES TO PROCESS & PROCEDURE

The following updates to process and procedures are taking place across the current and next financial years.

- 3.1 During 2015-16 the resident involvement Service Improvement Groups look to develop a citywide fencing scheme.

- 3.2 During 2015-16 the resident involvement Service Improvement Groups look to broaden and increase the involvement of residents in proposing EDB project bids and voting on the projects to be pursued within their area.
- 3.3 Mears' approved suppliers to have funds placed on store accounts for TRAs and CP to select & collect.
- 3.4 Where appropriate, leaseholder recharging to commence in April 2015 for projects completed during 2014-15.
- 3.5 Area based budget calculations for 2015 onwards will include leaseholder dwellings as well as tenant dwellings.

4. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4.1 Financial Framework

From Autumn 2014 the geographical boundary of the four Area Panel areas will be changing. In light of this, the EDB Panel have agreed to a "clean slate" approach to the budgets and unallocated funds for the four areas, as follows:

- 4.1.1 Funds which remain unused *and* uncommitted at the end of this 2014-15 financial year will be returned to the over-arching EDB fund for re-allocation to new bids in the new areas for financial year 2015-16.
- 4.1.2 EDB Panel to sense check the outstanding quick bids to assess whether or not the bids are still feasible and able to be delivered. Those which are not, will be cancelled and the funds returned to the over-arching EDB fund for re-allocation to new bids in the new areas for financial year 2015-16. This means that live bids will remain even if the Tenant Association has changed area.
- 4.1.3 At the end of successive financial years (April 2016 onwards) funds which remain uncommitted and unspent will be carried forward within the relevant Area's budget for the following financial year's new bids.
- 4.1.4 All live bids will remain with the TRA until delivered (the majority of which will be completed by March 2015).

4.2 Scope of Work

- 4.2.1 Discussion was had around whether it was appropriate for EDB funds to be used for cyclical maintenance such as decorating shared areas. It was agreed that EDB had always been available to bring forward the capital programme where it was a priority for residents.
- 4.2.2 There is currently a review of BHCCs Sheltered Housing stock and one of the recommendations in the draft report (due to Area Panels in December 2014) is to introduce a new ten year cyclical programme of decorating to sheltered housing communal areas. If this programme is agreed, any EDB bids already approved for this type of work will be reviewed by the EDB Panel in conjunction with the new programme.

4.3 Service Delivery Model

- 4.3.1 The benefit of having area based bids and stores for CP materials, would allow the EDB Panel to easily approve work for CP to deliver, combined with a quicker method for Mears to provide access to materials via supplier store accounts. CP would then be able to collect the materials at their own convenience and commence work on site without the need to meet a resident. This aims to address historical issues surrounding the ownership, usage and secure storage of items funded via EDB.
- 4.3.2 TRAs will still be able to have their own stores with their own tools and materials.
- 4.3.3 TRAs will still be able to place main bids for specific projects in their area for CP to deliver.

4.4 Resident Involvement

- 4.4.1 The EDB Panel will commit to requesting an article in every edition of Homing In to raise the profile of EDB across the city, by having a feature on a recently completed bid or upcoming bid.

5. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

5.1 Financial Framework

The discussions around finances and budget allowed for the following areas to be discussed and agreed:

- 5.1.1 There was the suggestion and agreement that a common-sense approach be taken with quick bids with a value of just over £500 e.g. £510. This then developed into the suggestion of increasing the cap of quick bids to £750.
- 5.1.2 There was the alternative suggestion of introducing a second round of main bids, however this was dropped due to the difficulty of timing of the Area Panels and the amount of work involved in setting up an additional round of four meetings.
- 5.1.3 It was also suggested that each Area Panel could bid for any amount of quick bid funding. At present the bid is usually £15k, it was agreed that a suggested increase of this cap to £25k in order for more quick bids to be funded.
- 5.1.4 It was agreed that in some circumstances it may be necessary to issue a cheque to a TRA, although this would be in exceptional circumstances only. Where a cheque is requested and issued, then a breakdown of items or description of the specific item must be provided to the EDB Panel.

5.2 Service Delivery Model

5.2.1 Discussions were also had around ongoing ownership of tools, materials and items purchased under EDB. It was agreed that if it was felt necessary to be able to identify items funded by EDB then the use of an “asset tag” would be suitable.

5.2.2 Having sought advice from HRA Finance around ownership of items, it was suggested that the items are “gifted” to CP or the TRA along with responsibility for ongoing service and maintenance. When the items are no longer functional, they can be replaced where needed by a new EDB bid or if recommendation 2.4 is agreed, with a pot of generic funding for CP tools and materials.

5.3 Resident Involvement

5.3.1 A group of officers met the council’s Communities Manager to talk about best practise within the city, when it comes to involving more residents in the EDB process, particularly around ideas for bids and voting on the bids to be carried out. It was agreed that this would be looked at in the future, led by the Resident Involvement Team.

6 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

6.1 The EDB Panel have been fully involved with this review, identifying the issues within the EDB processes and working through potential solutions. The panel contributed to the content of this final report and support all the recommendations within it.

6.2 Other interested parties have also been consulted with, including Mears EDB Project Manager, Community Payback Project Coordinator and the Resident Involvement Team.

7. CONCLUSION

The recommendations within this report will support the aim of modernising the EDB and ensuring that projects are delivered in a timely manner whilst ensuring value for money and high quality.

Area Panels: 1 – 5 December 2014

Briefing paper: Update on Estates Development Budget Programme

Background and context

The Mears Estates Development Budget (EDB) Project Team have been asked by some residents and representatives on the EDB Panel to provide an update on the programme to the Area Panels. The information provided in the report was suggested by the EDB Panel and the report was written on 17 November 2014.

22 of the jobs below are EDB quick bids that were agreed at the October EDB Panel. The number of jobs increases with each EDB Panel, while the Programme Team are getting through the backlog of work. Keith Dadswell is attending the Area Panels.

EDB 2014 - 2015		
Statistics as of 17/11/14	jobs	%
2009-10	1	0.22%
2010-11	6	1.34%
2011-12	10	2.23%
2012-13	44	9.80%
2013-14	114	25.39%
2014-15	274	61.02%
Number of jobs old and new plus any quick bids to date	449	100%
Completed	272	60.58%
Outstanding work	177	outstanding
In progress	42	23.73%
Remaining	135	76.27%

Contact: EDB Projects Team
 Email: mears.edb.brighton@mearsgroup.co.uk
 Telephone: 01273 574356 or 07595 887621

Area	Bid ref	Ten Ass	Description of Works	Mears Update Update	Anticipated Start date
Central QB	12-13/C101_22	Terminus Road	3 or 4 bicycle racks in bin room	ON HOLD BY INSTRUCTION OF BHCC	TBC
Central	13-14/C102	1 & 2 St Aubyns Gardens	Bird proofing and pigeon spikes	KP to arrange site visit / KD to speak to RIO	NOV
North QB	12-13/ne101_03	27a&b Beaconsfield Villas	Flooring to lower commonway	Contractor instructed	JAN
West	14-15/W17	Abinger Court	Internal decs	Internal delivery Dee to arrange dates	DEC
West QB	14-15/W101_23	Abinger Court	Supply voucher for getting the shrubs from stanmer.	Cheque request?	NOV
North QB	14-15/NE101_17	Abinger Court	Install gate for privacy of rear area	Scaffolding in way	NOV
West QB	14-15/W101_31	Abinger Court	Weed and jet wash rear area off block		FEB
North	12-13/NE105	Albion Hill RA	Dinapore House, 2 new rear doors	Site visit by contractor awaiting price	JAN
North QB	13-14/NE101_04	Albion Hill RA	Allow £2,800 per door project to be done over two years	Mex to contact TA and agree works do not know anything	DEC
North QB	14-15/NE101_23	Albion Hill RA	Black out blind in window of 4th floor drying room plus electricity points installed		
East	14-15/E8	Amberley Lodge Residents	New street bench hill in Albion Hill opposite number 13 + 14 (under the street light)		JAN
East QB		Amberley Lodge Residents	2 x Gates at front and locks on back door	AWAITING COSTS	FEB
East	12-13/EB103	Bates Esate TRA	Storage locker		FEB
			Feasibility study -car parking spaces Seisfield Drive		FEB
East	14-15/E7	Bevendean TA	Fencing x 7 (addresses already supplied)	Priced /overbudget awaiting ta selections / SELECTION MADE 28/10/14	NOV
Central	12-13/C105	Bristol Estate CA	Gardening works NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE	Meeting with Projects Sept 14 to discuss going forward after project work	TBC
Central	13-14/C105	Bristol Estate CA	£2,500 to fund Community Payback Team work on the estate	Meeting with Projects Sept 14 to discuss going forward after project work	TBC
East QB	14-15/EB101_17	Broadfields	Supply of 50ft garden hose		DEC
East	12-13/EB109	Central Whitehawk	Parking bays	Chase copy of feasibility study	MARCH
West	13-14/W104	Churchill House	Piece of waste land changed to parking bays. Planning permission	Mears to contact TA and agree works	MARCH
West QB	14-15/W101_09	Churchill House	Shrubs		
Central	09-10/C110	Clarendon & Ellen	Security lighting to be installed on the building by the gate at the office end of churchill house	GIVEN TO JAMES PAULEY 22/10/14	NOV
Central	13-14/C111	Clarendon & Ellen	ON HOLD Nov TA confirmed the remaining £500 to be used for taps, but sure of location so asked for it to be put on hold.	DS TO VISIT SITE TO LOCATE STOPCOCK	DEC
Central	14-15/C30	Clarendon & Ellen	Community wifi pilot and PC	Glyn looking at possibilities	TBC
Central	14-15/C40	Clarendon & Ellen	Painting Equipment Budget Community Payback / check raised for 300	Ongoing	ONGOING
Central	14-15/C44	Clarendon & Ellen	Internal Notice Boards x 3 (what size)	What size?	DEC
Central			Dummy CCTV Cameras x 6 chnged to x1 cctv camera real	Details passed to Jamie Smith 12/08/14	MARCH

Area	Bid ref	Ten Ass	Description of Works	Mears Update Update	Anticipated Start date
Central	14-15/C48	Clarendon & Ellen	Remove carpeting lobbies and landings; replace with suitable coverings 27 landing s and 6 lobbies	Site visit required EDB and contractor	FEB
West QB	12-13/W101_11	Clarke Court	2 picnic tables / 30.Jan 13 requested more info from TA	Still require further info	DEC
Central QB	13-14/C101_12	Phillip Court	Better illumination	RESOURCE APPOINTED	NOV
East QB	14-15/EB101_15	Coldean Tenants and Residents Association	Three seat park bench for Haig Park. To be placed near path, facing the play area		JAN
East QB	14-15/EB101_16	Coldean Tenants and Residents Association	Fencing to make safe the play area for children using the park and keep dogs out of the play area.		DEC
East QB	14-15/EB101_01	Coldean TLA	Security lighting with motion sensors – in twitten to allotments. front & back steps to flats	GIVEN TO JAMES PAULEY 22/10/14	NOV
East QB	14-15/EB101_06	Coldean TLA	notice board		DEC
East	14-15/E3	Coldean Youth Club	Improvements to Youth Centre building: Internal (storage cupboards, heating, flooring, bathroom) / External (garden access doorway, fencing)		ONGOING
Central	14-15/C24	Craven Vale	Play Area Feasibility Study		DEC
Central	14-15/C28	Craven Vale	Additional External Lighting for Badly Lit, Darkened Stairways and Access to Buildings	JP has agreed works on site / Contractor assigned	OCT
Central	14-15/C33	Craven Vale	Replace Carpeting Craven Vale Community Centre	Dee site visit 12/9/14 / awaiting price	NOV / DEC
Central	14-15/C41	Craven Vale	Bench (concrete and wood)	Bench ordered 11/9/14	OCT
Central	14-15/C45	Craven Vale	Repainting Stairwell Hadlow Close	Dee to measure	JAN
Central QB	14-15/C10_07	Craven Vale	Masonry Paint for Painting Steps by Community Payback Team	Awaiting info poss cheque request	NOV
North QB	14-15/NE101_26	Ditchlings Gardens	Have requested a microwave for the community room		DEC
North QB	14-15/NE101_27	Ditchlings Gardens	Parasol and base and table for outside of the community room .		DEC
North QB	14-15/NE101_28	Ditchlings Gardens	Portable stereo for community room		DEC
West QB	11-12/W101_17	Downland Court	Entrance door matting / email sent to Buxtons 30/01/14		FEB
West QB	13-14/W101_11	Downland Court	Prune 2 trees in front of block 35-45	Awaiting response from MG re Tree preservation	FEB
West QB	13-14/W101_16	Downland Court	Prune Trees by 159-169 and 47-57	Awaiting response from MG re Tree preservation	FEB
East	13-14/EB111	East Central Moulseccomb TRA	Tools for gardening, funding for contractor to carry out clearance and training for volunteers / 5 Feb 14, Hannah Barker requested funds carried forward	Awaiting info from RIO / SPOKE TO RIO HANNAH 9/10/14	TBC
East	10-11/EB113	East Moulseccomb TRA	Funds for clean of Moulseccomb woods / JOB NO: 9069146 vehicles/skips/drivers/rubbish disposal. To clear rubbish from woods in Moulseccomb Way that has now been secured with 'kissing gates' funded from last round. NOT HRA LAND	WORKS AGREED TO BE STARTED IN NOV	NOV
East QB	14-15/EB101_14	East Moulseccomb TRA	Request for a notice board to be put on the green at the junction of Halland Rd + Ashurst Rd		DEC
Central	14-15/C10	Elizabeth Court	Redecorate toilets	Decs complete 15/9/14 / awaiting price for flooring / price approved contractor instructed	11/09/2014

Area	Bid ref	Ten Ass	Description of Works	Mears Update Update	Anticipated Start date
Central	14-15/C38	Elizabeth Court	New carpet communal hallway	Awaiting price	JAN
North	13-14/NE110	Elwyn Jones	Decorate kitchen and replace flooring	Decs completed / contractor assigned to flooring	FEB
North	14-15N3	Elwyn Jones	Wall art / decorations to meet fire regs plus brick planter	Cheque delivered 13/8/14 for wall art / bricks to source	JAN
North	14-15N16	Elwyn Jones	Lounge Pleated curtains for both windows / doors		NOV
North QB	14-15/NE101_14	Elwyn Jones Court	Pleated or roller blinds to be fitted to two top floor communal windows.		NOV
Central	14-15/C11	Essex Place	Completion of Stairwell Decoration x 9 Stairwells	Poss section 20 / spoke to Any Tuck 24/6 would like to wait until major works are completed	TBC
Central	14-15/C34	Essex Place	Lobby entrances deep cleaned and redecorated	Poss section 20 / spoke to Any Tuck 24/6 would like to wait until major works are completed	TBC
West QB	14-15/W101_03	Evelyn Court	New curtains in lounge 3-4		NOV
North	12-13/NE114	Four Blocks	Joint project between Holmstead and Parkmead to replace steps at back of Holmstead to provide new pathway on flatter part of garden to join up with Parkmead Work to be completed over two years.		TBC
North	12-13/NE119	Four Blocks	Work to the front of Holmstead	ON HOLD / AWAITING MORE INFO	TBC
North	13-14/NE112	Four Blocks	Continuation of project to build steps to rear of Holmstead	ON HOLD AWAITING MORE INFO	TBC
North	13-14/NE115	Four Blocks	Create plant border at front of Parkmead	Mears to contact TA and agree works /Becca to confirm requirements 29/7/14	TBC
North	13-14/NE116	Four Blocks	£3,000 towards 3rd year of project to remove coal bunkers	More info required	TBC
North QB	14-15/NE101_12	Gathering Place	Relocate existing notice board / supply and install free standing notice board	RELOCATED NOTICE BOARD Awaiting new	OCT
Central	14-15/C35	Hampshire Court	Communal Windows Washing (internal and external)	ONYX / TWO VISITS ONE SEPT AND ONE FEB / MARCH	SEPT / MARCH
Central QB	14-15/C10_30	Hampshire Court	Replace vinyl in small bin areas	CONTRACT HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TPCT	NOV
West	13-14/W115	Hangelton	Refurbishment of bike lockers at Harmsworth Crescent	Spoke to RIO still required MI to visit site	TBC
West	14-15/W8	Hangelton	Fencing behind Block 1-18 Harmsworth Crescent	KP to visit site and measure	JAN
West QB	14-15/W101_11	Hangelton	materials for payback team to paint the railings behind blocks 85-94 Harmsworth Crescent	Awaiting more info	MARCH
West QB	14-15/W101_12	Hangelton	Materials for the payback team - front elevation of block 65-74 Harmsworth Crescent needs to be jet washed or repainted	Awaiting more info	MARCH
West QB	14-15/W101_15	Hangelton	Materials for payback team - Painting the outside of the common stairwell of block 85-94 Harmsworth Crescent	Awaiting more info	MARCH
West QB	14-15/W101_16	Hangelton	Materials for payback team - 18 Harmsworth Crescent moss clean up	Awaiting more info	MARCH
West QB	13-14/W101_05	Harmsworth Cres	Tree surgery behind 1-18 Harmsworth Crescent	Awaiting response from MG re tree preservation	
Central QB	14-15/C10_31	Hereford court community association	Erect signs on all 4 gates		JAN

Area	Bid ref	Ten Ass	Description of Works	Mears Update Update	Anticipated Start date
Central	14-15/C53	Highcroft Lodge	Complete new flooring around communal areas	Awaiting price	JAN
Central QB	14-15/C10_11	Highcroft Lodge	Metal locking post (3) required for refuse bin at Highcroft lodge.	Going to use up and over hoops and chain / ordered 24/9/14	NOV
North QB	13-14/NE101_11	Highden, Westmount and Crown Hill	Replacement of tree	Mex to contact ta and agree works	MARCH
North QB	13-14/NE101_13	Highden, Westmount and Crown Hill	Pampass grass plant	Mex to contact ta and agree works	MARCH
North QB	13-14/NE101_14	Highden, Westmount and Crown Hill	new communal bin and locks	Mex to contact ta and agree works	DEC
North QB	13-14/NE101_24	Highden, Westmount and Crown Hill	500 for painting materials	Possible cheque request	DEC
East	13-14/EB120	Hodshrove Woods friends	A project working with voluntary groups including young people to help make Hodshrove Woods a space usable by the local community / 5 Feb 14, Hannah Barker requested funds carried forward	KD to price after site visit / steps and clearance / OVERBUDGET TA WOULD LIKE STEPS DONE	DEC
North	12-13/NE123	HOLLINGBURY RA	Bike Shed Conversions, Stanmer Heights		
West	14-15/W19	Ingram Crescent	2 more old bin areas to bike sheds; rear of Orchid view, between that road and Chelwood Close	Mears to contact TA and agree works	JAN
West	14-15/W28	Ingram Crescent	Continue with out line planning for community hall	KD to discuss with BHCC	FEB
West QB	14-15/W101_35	Ingram Crescent	To attach down pipes to drainage spouts in those flats where balconies are flush with the external walls		DEC
North	11-12/NE121	Jasmine Court	2 post boxes to be placed near main notice boards so that residents can respond to surveys and contact the committee		JAN
North	13-14/NE118	Jasmine Court	Door openers for existing lift (4) This work will be carried out by Stannah I have not been able to ascertain if this is possible. Stand door opener is £1,800 per door. Contacted Stannah (Will Green) 01202 476781 . 21/6/11 called again. Jan 14 - BHCC managing project waiting for asbestos removal	KD to ensure all works completed	TBC
North	14-15/N5	Jasmine Court	Funds to complete EDB project to install lift door openers / Nov, work in progress by BHCC	KD to ensure all works completed	TBC
North QB	13-14/NE101_25	Jasmine Court	Entrance from Car Park - New entrance door with over head, electric door closer operated by push door system / change over entrance bell push and install entrance / entry phone to each flat	Awaiting price	FEB
North QB	13-14/NE101_20	Jasmine Court	Refurbish lounge furniture	Awaiting price Onyx	DEC
North QB	14-15/NE101_20	Jasmine Court	Purchase and install new plastic cream / light colour blinds		DEC
East QB	14-15/EB101_07	Jubilee Court	Purchase patio set	Jubilee have put this on hold until next spring	MARCH
West	13-14/W125	Kingston Close	Flowering tree/ bush	Mears to contact ta and agree works	MARCH
North	14-15/N6	Kipling, Woodingdean	Upgrade of security door	Awaiting price	JAN
West QB	14-15/W101_24	Knoll Residents Association	Paint ledge and windowsills		NOV
North	14-15/N18	Laburnum Grove TA	Replacement vinyl (part of the same bid as the carpet)	Is this required KD to speak to TA	DEC
Central	14-15/C14	Lavender House	New carpeting	KP has assigned contractor	NOV
Central	14-15/C26	Lavender House	Paving in front of flowerbed	PROPOSAL APPROVED	NOV
Central QB	14-15/C10_22	Lavender House	Fencing for against the bins / wall		NOV

Area	Bid ref	Ten Ass	Description of Works	Mears Update Update	Anticipated Start date
Central	14-15/C3	Leach Court	Curtains for Community Room	Chase price 9/10/14	DEC
Central QB	14-15/C10_32	Leach Court	£500 for Garden supplies		DEC
East	14-15/E9	Lewes Road Consortium	Improvements to look of LRC area – Continuation of previous Clean Up project	AWAITING LISTS OF ELIGIBLE PROPERTIES	TBC
North	14-15/N19	Lindfield Court & Burwash Lodge	To provide floor covering and fit as per plan	Site visit by contractor 27/10/14	DEC
North	12-13/NE143	Mayflower Square	Resurfacing of car park, work to be match funded by Carparks and Garages team		NOV
North	12-13/NE144	Mayflower Square	Removal of poles and paving slabs to make a 5th bay Left hand side of ambulance bay to include visitors bay. This will then require tarmacing		NOV
North	12-13/NE138	Milner and Kingswood	Larger bin storage area, bins sheds need to be expanded to hold more bins. City clean to approve prior to undertaking this work Possible alterations to existing layout to increase number of recycling bins Sept 12 survey with City clean, no additional bins needed. Passed back through EDB panel	KD to discuss with TA and RIO	DEC
North	13-14/NE125	Milner and Kingswood	£5000 contribution towards playground renovations / Feb 14, Tony Silsby requested money is carried forward	KD to discuss with TA and RIO	FEB
North	13-14/NE127	Milner and Kingswood	Create buggy storage area	KD to discuss with TA and RIO	FEB
North	14-15/N10	Milner and Kingswood	Replacement / upgrade to the refuse area outside Kingswood flats and Milner	KD to discuss with TA and RIO	DEC
North	14-15/N34	Milner and Kingswood	Entry gate at the Northern end of Kingswood Block. Relocation of existing fencing and gates		DEC
North	14-15/N36	Milner and Kingswood	New flooring in the northern most turret of the Kingswood block	KD to discuss with TA and RIO	FEB
North	14-15/N37	Milner and Kingswood	Improved lighting both at Kingswood and Milner	Contractor has been instructed	OCT
North QB	14-15/NE101_24	Milner and Kingswood	Signs - Design and print for alternative dog walking routes		DEC
Central	14-15/C4	Mount Pleasant RA	Landscaping Tyson Place	Works agreed on site awaiting price	NOV
Central	14-15/C42	Mount Pleasant RA	CCTV Upgrade Tyson Place and St John's Mount	Details passed to jamie smith 12/08/14	MARCH
Central	14-15/C46	Mount Pleasant RA	Rear Tyson Place bespoke-built enclosure fencing and chicken wire to catch rubbish	Works agreed on site awaiting price KD to discuss with Anne / H&S issues doing this	NOV
Central	14-15/C50	Mount Pleasant RA	Front porch sign		TBC
Central QB	14-15/C10_33	Mount Pleasant RA	Sign to say "St Johns mount"		JAN
Central QB	14-15/C10_34	Mount Pleasant RA	Sign to say "Tyson place"		JAN
Central QB	14-15/C10_35	Mount Pleasant RA	To designate and adapt the fire door at the rear of the building on west side as an alternative entrance plus a security light		JAN
West	14-15/W35	Muriel House	Water supply changes /	KD to visit site with BHCC H&S Plumbers	JAN
West QB	13-14/W101_09	Muriel House	Fit spikes to hoppers & downpipes	Beta pest control	DEC
West QB	14-15/W101_25	Muriel House	Get the current tap capped and add a new tap	Plumbers	DEC
West QB	14-15/W101_26	Muriel House	Two flip seat chairs with arms in the lobby between main door and inner door		FEB
West QB	14-15/W101_33	Muriel House			FEB

Area	Bid ref	Ten Ass	Description of Works	Mears Update Update	Anticipated Start date
West QB	14-15/W101_34	Muriel House	Wood like to purchase 25 cushions for the armchairs in the communal lounge		JAN
North	14-15N11	Nettleton and Dudney	Carpet to area in front of lifts between the two fire doors, 14 floors	NETTLEDON FEB / DUDNEY AFTER LIFT REFURB AUGUST NEXT YEAR	'2015
North	14-15N29	Nettleton and Dudney	Upgrade of signage around the exterior of both blocks	Dee to order	DEC
North QB	14-15/NE101_22	Nettleton and Dudney	Fencing at front of Dudney	KP TO VISIT SITE TO MEASURE	DEC
East QB	12-13/EB101_10	North Whitehawk TA	Cost of fitting sink	Mex to contact ta and agree works	DEC
West	14-15/W2	Northerlea	New front and back doors	KD to visit site with Rio	JAN
West	14-15/W11	Northerlea	Modifications to be made to the front entrance walkway which has a protracted ramp and high walls.	KD to visit site with Rio	FEB
West	14-15/W20	Northerlea	Carpet in hall ways and stairs	KD to visit site with Rio	JAN
North	14-15/N12	Norwood	Upgrade all front security doors to blocks (4)	Awaiting price	MARCH
North	14-15/N22	Norwood	Safe play area for the children who live at Norwood. Fenced off with a gate	To be measured	DEC
North	14-15/N30	Norwood	x2 benches and bases	Location to be agreed	DEC
North	14-15/N35	Norwood	Install railings outside all 4 blocks (handrails)	Materials ordered	DEC
West QB	14-15/W101_29	Philip Court	EDB quick bid north area , approved at EBD board meeting 24/9/14	KP to procure	DEC
West QB	14-15/W101_30	Philip Court	2 x beech effect book cases Argos Cat ref 610/9531 £44.99	Onyx awaiting price	DEC
Central	13-14/C146	Queens Park CA	Cleaning of lounge carpet 10 x 10M	Awaiting more info from RIO / Spoke to BM 9/9/14 she is going to speak to TA	TBC
Central	13-14/C147	Queens Park CA	Estate clean up	Awaiting more info from RIO / Spoke to BM 9/9/14 she is going to speak to TA	TBC
North QB	14-15/NE101_13	Rose Hill Court	Community art project with young people on the estate		
West QB	14-15/W101_27	Sanders House	Purchase raised planters & parasols & parasol base	Beta pest control	JAN
Central	14-15/C37	Sloane Court	Put netting on 2 balconies	Quote received / contractor instructed 8/10/14	JAN
Central QB	14-15/C10_06	Sloane Court	New Carpet Level 7		
Central QB	14-15/C10_16	Sloane Court	Dummy CCTV Cameras in Laundry Room	Details passed to jamie smith 12/08/14	
Central QB	14-15/C10_17	Somerset point	Procure barbeque	Out of stock 27/10/14	NOV / DEC
Central QB	14-15/C10_28	Somerset point	Purchase plants	Possible cheque request	NOV / DEC
Central QB	14-15/C10_28	Somerset point	Deliver a pine/beach colour table (sturdy with gloss finish)		TBC
East	13-14/EB130	South Hawk TA	Community clear up day	Requires clear and tidy poss planting / Martin 07817992619 / SHARON TERRY	DEC
East	13-14/EB132	Southeast and East Whitehawk Lowrises	NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM TA		
East QB	14-15/EB101_02	Southeast and East Whitehawk Lowrises	Continuation of fencing around Sanderstead and Kingsfold	Awaiting list	
East QB	14-15/EB101_02	Southeast and East Whitehawk Lowrises	Feasibility study – closing several coal bunkers		FEB

Area	Bid ref	Ten Ass	Description of Works	Mears Update Update	Anticipated Start date
Central QB	14-15/C10_37	St James House	Modify the locking mechanism so that it is at a suitable for all (approx 1 metre above floor level)		JAN
Central	14-15/C5	St James House & Ardingly Court	Resurface and Recover Community Room Flooring	To be completed after new door installed	JAN
Central	14-15/C18	St James House & Ardingly Court	New Door for Community Room	Awaiting price from Thomas doors 15/9/14 / contractor instructed end Nov	NOV / DEC
West	14-15/W15	Stanley Court	Door entry system / block only has 3 flats	details passed to jamie smith 12/08/14	TBC
West	14-15/W24	Stanley Court	Non slip vinyl flooring in hall ways and stairs	awaiting price	JAN
West QB	13-14/W101_08	Stanley court	3 pieces of metal wall art	MORE INFO REQUIRED	JAN
North	12-13/NE147	Sylvan Hall	Continuation of redecoration programme / WORK ON HOLD WAITING FOR WINDOW REPLACEMENT Continuation of redecoration programme Firbank,Chestnuts,Willows, Poplars	ON HOLD MAJOR PLANNED WORKS BEING DISCUSSED	TBC
North	14-15/N14	Sylvan Hall	Redecs to the Pines Block communal areas and 4 stairwells	ON HOLD MAJOR PLANNED WORKS BEING DISCUSSED	
North	14-15/N31	Sylvan Hall	Improvements to communal areas Holly Bank, Rowan House	ON HOLD MAJOR PLANNED WORKS BEING DISCUSSED	
Central	13-14/C156	Theobald House	New carpet and lower ceiling of the community office / carpet has been done (paid of by tenant) / ceiling urgent (plaster or false) / stuart tel 07879006741 / Mr dee to contact / hardcheese11@gmail.com	RM has met on site and works are being programmed	NOV / DEC
East QB	14-15/EB101_12	Walter May Sheltered Scheme	Cheque payment - garden furniture from IKEA (the same table as the one they had previously + 2 arm chairs + Bench seats £355) Code:49898478)		DEC
East QB	14-15/EB101_13	Walter May Sheltered Scheme	Cheque payment - 12 stackable chairs	Sent email to Elaine with proposed chair 9/10/14	DEC
Central	14-15/C7	Warwick Mount RA	Door Entry Phones with Mute Switch	Details passed to Jamie Smith 12/08/14 / poss section 20 / Quotation received passed to Gary Gurr for section 20 review 22/9/14	TBC
Central QB	14-15/C10_23	Warwick Mount RA	Replace the dead box plants with two new pitosporum tenuifolium plants	Awaiting costs	NOV / DEC
North QB	14-15/NE101_03	Wellington Road	Buy and plant bush outside 1-6 Morley Lodge		MARCH
North	14-15/N25	Wellington Road	Create Level disabled paved access around the Estate. Incl Upvc door	Awaiting RIO info	NOV
North	14-15/N32	Wellington Road	Securely built bike racks.	Awaiting RIO info	NOV
West	14-15/W6	Wickhurst Rise	Enclose the entrances to blocks 41-63 and 65-83 and fit intercoms	Details passed to Jamie Smith 12/08/14	TBC
West	14-15/W25	Wickhurst Rise	Install a natural play area on the green between the first block and the wildflower planting	KD to discuss with BHCC / Plans Approved by TA / follow up meeting planned Nov 14	FEB
West QB	14-15/W101_08	Wickhurst Rise	Install security light on block 41-63	GIVEN TO JAMES PAULEY 22/10/14	NOV

Area	Bid ref	Ten Ass	Description of Works	Mears Update Update	Anticipated Start date
Central	14-15/C8	Wiltshire House RA	CCTV Upgrade Wiltshire House	Details passed to Jamie Mmith 12/08/14 / poss section 20	TBC
Central	14-15/C22	Wiltshire House RA	Bike Racks	WORKS AGREED TO BE STARTED IN NOV	NOV
North	12-13/NE152	Woodingdean TRA	Continuation of the door replacement programme at Kipling and Lockwood flats	Awaiting price	MARCH
North	13-14/NE134	Woodingdean TRA	Allow £3,800 per door	In progress	OCT
North	13-14/NE135	Woodingdean TRA	Funds for fencing and handrails	Awaiting info	TBC
North	14-15/N15	Woodingdean TRA	Funds to target areas for clear ups and bulk refuse collection		OCT / DEC
West QB	12-13/W101_08	Woods House	Budget for fencing / plus additional for handrails		FEB
West QB	14-15/W101_32	Woods House	Entrance carpet in main entrance / email sent to Buxtons 30/01/14	Is this required KD to speak to TA	JAN
			New tv and 16' ariel lead		

Items from the East Tenant Only meeting held on 9/10/14

1. Security doors and postal deliveries

In Craven Vale around half the blocks have security doors. They have a Trade button which stays on until 11am. The postal delivery is often later than this, so the postal workers have to ring all the doors in the blocks to get in. The same can happen when couriers are delivering parcels. This can be very disruptive for residents.

In one instance, a resident didn't receive their post for 3 days, and missed a hospital appointment as a result.

The meeting discussed several solutions to this problem:

- a. To have a secure key box outside each block, and give the code to Royal Mail and couriers. It was felt that the keys may get lost, so this wouldn't be a good option.*
- b. Ask the Post Office to do their deliveries earlier.*
- c. To change the Trade Button timer, so Royal Mail and other couriers could access the blocks until 1pm. It was agreed that this would be best option.*

The Post Office have asked Craven Vale Community Association to adjust the Trade Button timer to 1pm, but they have been advised by the RIO that they must carry out a survey first. Alan raised this proposal at the last Area Panel and was advised that Laura Turner is carrying out a pilot study into this issue.

It was agreed that this should be raised at the Area Panel again.

Clarification will be requested on the progress of the pilot study, and how soon a solution will be found for this problem at Craven Vale.

Response from Laura Turner- Performance & Improvement Officer- tel:- 01273 293997

The usual timings for trades' button access across the city is from 6am – 1pm. The delivery service provided by Royal Mail has undergone many changes in recent years and increasingly postal deliveries are being made during the afternoon up until 4pm. As a landlord we only have a duty to provide access for Royal Mail to make postal deliveries. Other services such as private couriers, district nurse visits and other services are not included in this provision and residents need to make their own arrangements to be at home.

Laura Turner, Performance & Improvement Officer, is leading on a wider project to trial closing off the trades' buttons permanently and providing Royal Mail with appropriate keys or fobs to continue with postal deliveries at a time that suits them. Laura was present for the East Area Panel meeting and provided some background information and solutions to the issues at Craven Vale.

In order to resolve the delivery problems contact has been with the Royal Mail delivery manager responsible for the Craven Vale area who reported a faulty trades button and the same access issues reported by residents. The solution has been to provide two fobs which allow access to all blocks on Craven Road - 25 to 35, 37 to 47, 61 to 71, 109 to 119, 121 to 131, 140 to 150, and 152 to 162.

By taking this action we have managed to make savings on the resources involved with consultation, not had to pay the call out charge associated with changing the timer and reduced the length of time the blocks are vulnerable to unwanted access.

The three month pilot study at Warwick Mount has been very successful; the residents association have decided to make this arrangement permanent. Essex Place is the next block to have a trial switch off of the trades' button. We hope that the above steps resolve the problems with delivering mail on the Craven Vale estate.

2. Estate Development Budget

The deadline for submitting bids for 2015-16 is 14th November 2014.

a. Work for current year

For the current year, all the work has been completed in Manor Farm, but none has been started in Craven Vale.

It was agreed to raise this at the Area Panel, and ask how EDB work is progressing under the new management.

b. Leaseholder contributions for work

The meeting discussed the Section 20 notices that are served on leaseholders when work is proposed for their building, to ask if they are prepared to pay their contribution. However, some issues around this weren't clear.

It was agreed to raise this at the Area Panel and ask the following questions:

- Are leaseholders asked to pay a contribution for all works, or are some small jobs exempt from leaseholder contributions? If this is the case, what is the threshold?*

c. EDB guidelines

The meeting felt it would be useful to know what guidelines are applied to EDB bids, to determine which are successful, and which aren't.

It was agreed to raise this at the Area Panel, and ask if the EDB guidelines could be made available to Associations, or published online?

Response a. from Keith Dadswell - EDB Projects Manager – tel:- 01273 574356

Regarding works being completed at Manor Farm and not Craven Vale. We have been attempting to resolve a large amount of EDB historical and new jobs and have found that one of the best approaches has been to batch the works by Tenants' or Residents' Association.

Craven Vale is programmed to have all of their work addressed soon and Richard Mckenzie has been in touch with the association to ensure that all the outstanding work is accounted for.

Below is a list of outstanding work and I will endeavour to supply actual start dates over the next week or so where applicable.

EDB ref		Description of works	update
13-14/C112	Craven Vale	Electricity and plumbing work to enable community room kitchen improvements	Works programme to commence 25/11/14
14-15/C24	Craven Vale	Play area feasibility Study	December
14-15/C28	Craven Vale	Additional external lighting for badly lit, darkened stairways and access to buildings	Contractor assigned awaiting start date chasing
14-15/C33	Craven Vale	Replace carpeting Craven Vale Community Centre	Awaiting third price before allocating contractor
14-15/C41	Craven Vale	Bench (concrete and wood)	December
14-15/C45	Craven Vale	Repainting stairwell Hadlow Close	RM will arrange start date with TA within the next week
14-15/C10_07	Craven Vale	Masonry paint for painting steps by Community Payback Team	More information required do the TA require a Cheque or materials?

Response b. from Dave Arthur – Leasehold Manager – tel:- 01273 293072

The cost of works is passed on to leaseholders in their service charge in the same way as any other works.

- However, leaseholders contribute only to costs incurred at their building
- They are protected by the fact that the lease must allow for the charge
- The law says that the costs must be reasonably incurred

This means that works to keep the building in repair such as flooring, painting or improvements like exterior lighting are normally passed on, but works to improve community facilities or the local environment are not likely to be levied.

The cost to leaseholders is limited to £250 unless the consultation requirements have been complied with.

Response c. from Becky Purnell – Resident Involvement Manager – tel:- 01273 293022

Please refer to the Housing Estates Development Budget (EDB) report that was discussed at the East Area Panel on 28 July. This included the EDB guidance and processes.

Residents at the EDB Area Panels or EDB Panel decide which bids are successful. Bids are run past housing teams where relevant to see if they are possible eg a light couldn't be installed due to lack of a power source, it is against human rights to install CCTV in a communal lounge unless there is on-going criminal activity.

Bids are considered on a case by case basis and there is no further guidance on this resident led budget apart from it can't benefit an individual (unless it is an associations' fencing scheme) and now the project needs to be delivered within a year.

These guidelines are already on the council website.

<http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/sites/brighton-hove.gov.uk/files/EDB%20guidance%202015-2016.pdf>

3. Internet access in communal rooms

Patrick proposed that the council look into supplying internet access points, with a computer and Wifi hub, in all communal rooms. People are increasingly being expected to use the internet to pay bills and access services, and this can be a problem for those on low incomes or elderly people.

It was agreed to raise this proposal at the Area Panel for consideration by the council.

Response from Ododo Dafé - Head of Income, Inclusion & Improvement – tel:- 01273 293201

Thank you for raising this proposal. Housing has been working with council and external colleagues, as well as with British Telecom (BT) and other service providers to start to look at a variety of issues relating to internet access, broadband and wi-fi connectivity across the city and for residents in the greatest need living in Brighton and Hove.

I think you are right to mention that people are increasingly expected to use the internet to access services and pay bills. And while this is true for a range of government, public and private services, and can be a problem for those on low incomes or for elderly people, it is not a council or Housing responsibility to provide free internet access where people live.

The council, other public sector and third sector partners are doing a lot of work currently to support access to the internet for residents in the city as part of the Universal Support Framework, for example by providing free access and training support in libraries across the city, and working with the voluntary sector to provide training and access at places like the Whitehawk Inn, The Bridge, Brighton Unemployed Families Centre, and the Hangleton and Knoll Project; and it will continue to explore cost effective options to increase this. There is also free public access at all housing offices and a wide range of community locations across the city.

If any residents would like support to get online, the Housing Inclusion Team can signpost individuals to the nearest free provision/training in their area, or provide 121 support for those residents who have access but need support to build their skills or get online for the first time. The team can be contacted on 01273 292549 or email housinginclusionteam@brighton-hove.gov.uk.

If any vulnerable tenants are having issues with claiming benefits or need the assisted bidding service for Homemove, please contact the Housing Customer Services Team on 01273 293030 or ask at reception in any of the Housing Offices.

Some sheltered schemes and tenant associations do have online access, having used EDB bids previously to purchase equipment in the past. If an association is considering submitting an EDB bid then this should include all software/hardware costs, maintenance/ICT support,

licenses and broadband costs for the lifetime of the equipment, funding any tutor/support time that would be needed for residents, and related costs such as paper, printer cartridges etc. The Association would also be entirely responsible for the equipment and its' use, any broadband contract entered into, and any costs relating to that contract including line rental.

However, we would always encourage residents to investigate the free provision within their area first, and this would be taken into consideration when looking at the viability of a bid.

Residents at Clarendon House successfully bid last year for EDB funding to provide community Broadband for residents in the block of flats. However, this project has not yet been realised, but may be considered for being a pilot project within the work the council and other partners are doing with BT. There are significant cost and other factors that need to be considered within this project, and we will be able to provide updates to Area Panels perhaps in the spring when more detail will be known.

If residents associations have further thoughts on this, or ideas that can be looked into, please do contact Becky Purnell - Resident Involvement Manager – tel:- 01273 293022

4. Parking on grass verges

There are problems with people parking on grass verges throughout the area. In the winter this causes the grass to be destroyed and turned to mud. Some of this parking is local residents, but it is also vans from Mears and other contractors or utility companies.

Sometimes this happens where there are yellow lines on the road next to the grass verge.

It was agreed to raise this at the Area Panel and ask what parking enforcement is taking place to reduce this problem.

Response from Owen McElroy - Transport Programme Manager – tel:- 01273 293693

On 7 October 2014 Environment, Transport and Sustainability Committee made policy recommendations on verge and pavement parking and driving. As part of these approved policies the council has decided to focus resources on managing parking on pavements/footways where the greatest road safety hazard occurs although it will continue to enforce the two zonal verge parking bans, in Withdean and Mile Oak.

In summary the council does not condone parking on verges or pavements/footways. It is accepted that parking on verges can be hazardous to pedestrians and other road users particularly at junctions.

However the powers available to the council to deal with parking on verges and pavements/footways are limited.

If parking is behind yellow lines then these are effective to the back of the verge or pavement/footway. In this event a resident can report it to parking enforcement on 08456 035469 option 3 and a mobile council Civil Enforcement Officer (CEO) will be dispatched within 2 hours.

If there are no yellow lines then parking cannot be enforced by CEOs and it becomes a matter for Sussex Police who can issue a fine if there is obstruction e.g. a buggy or wheelchair cannot pass. The police can also issue a penalty for driving on the verge or pavement, but only if the driving is observed by them. Residents can report anti-social parking or driving to Sussex Police on telephone number 101 or to operation crackdown on www.OperationCrackdown.org

The council can advertise traffic orders for new yellow lines on the road to prevent parking in the street, including the highway verge or pavement/footway. Due to budget constraints the council is prioritising requests for amendments to parking restrictions in resident parking zones.

The main lever for controlling parking in residential areas is through resident parking schemes. I am not sure of the exact geographical area covered by the East Area Panel but there are no new schemes or consultations proposed for East Brighton. Requests for schemes can be made through local Councillors or by the presentation of a residents' petition.

Residents can request that wooden bollards are installed on grass verges outside their property. The cost of this to the resident is £60 per bollard but the council maintains them thereafter. There is no general Highways budget for the council to install bollards on highway verges.

The council has no legal obligation to maintain verges other than to preserve “line of sight” at junctions by ensuring that the grass or other vegetation is cut back. If the verge is so undermined that it is causing substantial damage to the adjoining pavement/footway or road such as to cause danger to road users then the council can investigate and repair. Some verges will be under the control of the Housing department and it is in their discretion to repair them or prevent access through use of bollards etc.

Perhaps clauses can be written into contracts or tenders with council contractors that they undertake not to park or drive on verges or pavements/footways and that they will pay the council for any damage so caused. There have also been complaints from ward councillors about Mears in Hove and Portslade.

Response from Property & Investment Team – tel:- 01273 293427

Mears operatives are fully aware that parking on grass verges is prohibited and this is discussed with them at their regular ‘Toolbox’ talks meetings held with Mears staff.

If anyone witnesses a Mears van parked on a grass verge at any time, we would encourage residents to report this immediately to the repairs helpdesk team who will escalate this to repairs managers. Where possible please give the vehicle registration number, time and date where the offence occurred which will help us to identify the persons in question.



High Rise Action Group



Annual General Meeting, 7pm Thursday, 4 September 2014 Friendship Club, Essex Place

Present:

S. Bartlett (SB), Carl Boardman (CB), Clare Bononno (CB) Dave Croydon (DC), Ann Ewings (AE), Alan Hale (AH), Linda King (LK), Rita King (RK), John Lanceley (JL), R Magee (RM), Lawrence McAllister (LA) Mike McRory-Wilson (MM-W), John Melson (JM), Margaret Nash (MN), Valarie Paynter (VP), Pauline Pike (PP), Glynis Shipley (GS), Bernie Sullivan (BS), Andy Tuck (Chair) (AT), Jason Williams (JW),

Officers:

Sharon Terry (Resident Involvement Officer), Hannah Barker (Resident Involvement Officer), Rosie Wakley (Mechanical & Electrical Manager) and James Deamer (Lift Consultant).

Apologies: Adebisi Adebayo, Ted Chapman, Antony Gunn, James Hamilton, Ian Rigby, Maria Rigby & Tony Worsfold.

Rita King

1. Welcome and introductions

1.1 AT - welcomed those present and opened the meeting.

2 Minutes from 2013 AGM & Matters Arising.

2.1 Page 2 Action Point 1. VP –the wording of the first action point is incorrect. It reads 'investigate whether the four lifts at Conway Court have CCTV cabling' but, should say 'is there room behind the four lifts at Conway Court to take the trunking needed to house CCTV cabling.'

She then asked if the investigation had taken place.

RW –no, not yet

Action: James Deamer will contact VP to arrange a time and date for a site visit.

- 2.2 AE – proposed the minutes of the 2013 HRAG AGM be agreed. JM –seconded the proposal.

A vote was taken and the minutes were agreed.

3 Chair's Report - Andrew Tuck

- 3.1 AT – it has been a difficult year for HRAG. With changes to the Area Panels coming into force from September and the loss of HMCSC being responsible. The loss of HMCSC in particular has removed one of our main routes by which we could voice our concerns on issues effecting residents living in high rise properties. It was also a valuable means by which we could speak to councillors. He then gave an overview of the work the committee had been doing during the past twelve months.

- 3.2 AT – then mentioned HRAG have been working closely with the council's ASB team on providing better security, ASB issues and how best to deal with the problem of rough sleepers. The work is ongoing.

- 3.3 AT – other issues HRAG have been working on include communal aerial service charges, re-wiring homes and the maintenance of communal ways, balconies and windows.

- 3.4 AT – there are a number of other issues outstanding. The outgoing committee will be passing these onto the incoming committee for them to pursue.

- 3.5 MM-W – asked what tenants could expect post re-wiring of their property.

AT – a Mears visit probably from James Pauley.

- 3.6 RK – what are the council intending to do about trade buttons in blocks where residents want the timings changed.

RW – we have spoken to Housing Customer Services. The policy on trade buttons is that when a request is received asking to change the timing all residents living in the block will be consulted and the decision will be based on the wishes of the majority.

- 3.7 VP – how are costings for communal aerals affected if the equipment is stolen as was the case at Clarendon House.

JM –the council's insurance doesn't cover items under the value of £10000 so it is the resident's responsibility.

- 3.8 AH – raised a point of order and asked that the meeting kept to the agenda.

- 3.9 For a full version of the chairs report please see appendix 1.

4 Treasurer's Report - Linda King

4.1 LK – said that as the AGM was being held at the beginning of September this year. She has been advised by the Resource Centre who are holding the books at present that HRAG year is not complete until the end of September so the books would not be closed for this AGM. When the Resource Centre returns the books they will be handed over to the new treasurer.

4.2 LK – at the time of the AGM in 2013 the HRAG account held £195.93. At present there is £159.95 in the account. The £35.98 spent for 2013-14 was for stationary costs. A photo copy of the books and bank statement is available on request for anyone wishing to see them.

JM – proposed and VP seconded the proposal that the treasurer's report be accepted.

A vote was taken and the treasurer's report was agreed.

5 Lift Programme - Rosie Wakley

5.1 RW – circulated copies of a hand out of the proposed lift replacement programme for 2015-16 and gave an overview of where the council is with the programme at present. Giving details of current works and those for the rest of the financial year 2014-15 and for the financial year 2015-16.

5.2 RW – to date 29 of the 92 lifts identified as being in need of replacement have been replaced. This is a milestone as we are now almost a third of the way to completing the replacement programme.

5.3 RW –we are currently replacing lifts at:

- Leach Court - 4 lifts in blocks 2 and 3
- Hereford Court – 2 lifts
- Nettleton Court – 2 lifts
- Dudeney Lodge – 2 lifts
- St. James House – 2 lifts
- Wiltshire House – 2 lifts

As an addition to this year's programme work is due to start on replacing the lifts at Highcroft Lodge and Philip Court after Christmas.

5.4 RW – due to the success to date of the programme which started in 2012 and was scheduled to take ten years to complete it has been truncated into a 7 year programme. This means the programme for the financial year 2015 –16 differs from that first published and now will be:

- Bristol Estate –(7 Flower Blocks)

- North Whitehawk – (Kestrel Court - 2 lifts, Kingfisher Court - 2 lifts and Swallow Court - 2 lifts)

- 5.5 RW – criteria used to decide the order the lifts are replaced include age of equipment combined with the number of breakdowns reported within a given time. The 2015-16 programme is dependent on budget approval and leaseholder consultation being passed unchallenged. If additional funding for financial year 2015-16 is provided the remaining 4 lifts in North Whitehawk (Heron Court & Falcon Court) will be added to that year's programme. The budget decision and updated programme once agreed will be available to view on the council's website. The programme is reviewed annually and may be subject to alteration.
- 5.6 RW – since Liftech started to replace lifts in 2012 the old lifts have been working better. This is because we now have spares from the lifts being replaced.
- 5.7 RW – we have been asked to look into ways of further reducing the time span of the programme and it is hoped to make it a 5 year programme which will then end late 2017 or early 2018. If this is to happen the yearly budget will need to be increased and the schedule of works revised. The proposal needs Housing Committee approval to be adopted.
- 5.8 VP –has a date been set for Housing Committee consent?
RW – no, not yet.
- 5.9 VP – are Brighton and Hove lifts the same?
JD – there are similarities but, not in all cases.
- 5.10 RW – we are harvesting parts where possible.
VP – where are the parts being stored?
JD – some in the lift room at Hereford Court and other lift rooms across the city. Liftech have a warehouse in Dartford but, it means a half day delay in getting parts.
- 5.11 RK – asked it be minuted that RW and JD be thanked for their work in getting the lifts replaced at Nettleton Court and Dudeney Lodge.

6 Elections

- 6.1 JM – thanked AT and LK for their work on behalf of HRAG during the last year.
- 6.2 The chair and committee stood down and handed the meeting over to ST (Resident Involvement Officer) to conduct the elections.
- 6.3 ST – explained the process to those present and then asked for nominations to the following posts:
- Chairman – there were none offered.
 - Secretary – there were none put forward

- Treasurer – Mike McRory-Wilson put himself forward and was seconded by Jason Williams

No further nominations were offered so a vote was taken and MM-W was elected treasurer.

- 6.4 ST – then asked for nominations for committee members saying that seven committee members were needed.

Nomination for committee:

- Ann Ewings put herself forward and was seconded by Jason Williams
- Jason Williams put himself forward and was seconded by Ann Ewings

No further nominations were received so votes were taken and AE and JW were elected to the HRAG committee.

- 6.5 ST – HRAG needed to elect a representative to a new task and finish group being set up to look at ways to strengthen the Area Panels. She then asked for nominations for a representative to represent HRAG on the new task and finish group.

- 6.6 JM – said as there had not been enough people elected to form a committee then no further elections could be held at this time.

- 6.7 At this point MM-W asked that a city wide meeting be called to elect the HRAG committee.

- 6.8 VP – believed there had been confusion over the meeting and that there needed to be a letter sent to all high rise residents explaining the role of HRAG and to invite them to the next meeting. A HRAG newsletter would also be of benefit.

BS – agreed and felt people didn't know what is involved in running HRAG.

- 6.9 JM – proposed the AGM be adjourned and reconvened in six weeks.

VP – seconded the proposal.

A vote was taken and the majority voted in favour of agreeing the proposal.

- 6.10 JM – at the next meeting we need to decide if there is a need for HRAG to continue.

- 6.11 HB – said HRAG is guided by its own Terms of Reference and that it didn't need to elect a chair and secretary to continue; it is a resident led group.

JM – asked HB if she had read the Recognition Policy and felt that if she hadn't she should before making any further suggestions.

- 6.12 VP – HRAG meetings used to be held at different venues maybe always holding them at Essex Place has affected attendances?

LK – attendances at Essex Place are higher than at other venues.

6.13 AT – it has been difficult chairing HRAG. I have felt alone as there is little support for HRAG from residents.

VP – the changes are responsible for a split between tenants and the council.

6.14 AH – asked that at the next meeting the roles of HRAG officers be explained to those who attend.

6.15 VP – the previous chairman set up a HRAG website but, it can't be edited as the password has been lost.

AT – the website still exists and can be edited as the password has been re-set. I was shut out of Facebook and didn't receive much of a handover from the previous chairman. However, the information is now stored on a memory stick and can be handed over to the new committee.

6.16 MM-W – we need to get as much assistance as possible from the council before the next meeting to ensure it is a success. The meeting needs to be before the last week in October as the clocks go back and dark nights and bad weather effect attendances.

ST – will liaise with the council and Bernie Sullivan, John Lanceley, Alan Hale, Ann Ewings, Jason Williams and Mike McRory-Wilson over the arrangements for the next meeting,

CB – proposed Thursday 23 October as the date for the reconvened AGM.

6.17 RK – felt tonight's meeting had been a waste of time and that at future meetings councillors and other guests should be invited to sit on the top table.

MM-W -disagreed

6.18 Meeting closed.

Leaseholder Action Group (LAG) 'Working for Council Leaseholders across the city'

Minutes of LAG Committee Meeting

Monday 8 September 2014, 6.00pm to 8:00pm
Hampshire Lodge

1. Present: Linda Shaw, Tony Worsfold, Muriel Briault & Dee Howland

Officers: Dave Arthur (BHCC), Simon Pickles (BHCC), Hilary Edgar (BHCC) and Becky Purnell (BHCC)

2. Apologies: Were offered from Keely McDonald and Becca Mann

Introductions were given and the chair opened the meeting.

3. Update on Resident Involvement –How do leaseholders fit into the new arrangements? (Hilary Edgar & Becky Purnell)

3.1 HE –gave an overview on the changes to Area Panels that take affect from September 2014. She has written a paper on Changes to Area Panels (copies were circulated) that went to the last round of Area Panels.

The Area Panels now follow ward boundaries and as a result some of the Tenant Associations are now members of different Area Panels. The biggest change being to the East Area Panel which now has 7 Tenant Associations. Central has 20 Tenant Associations, North 16 Tenant Associations and West 13 Tenant Associations.

3.2 HE – the changes will have an effect on the membership of the Service Improvement Groups (SIGs) as representatives elected from Area Panel to these groups may now be in a different area to the one they were elected originally to represent. They will stay as members of the group as they were elected to serve for two years. We will try to fill vacancies on the SIG's through elections at September's Area Panel's.

3.3 HE- the Area Panels are currently chaired by a councillor from the Wards, they held an internal election. After the local elections they will be chaired by a member of the Housing Committee.

3.4 HE – the changes also affects the Estates Development Budget, and at the start of the next financial year 2015-16 each of the four areas budgets will be re-calculated based on the number of homes in the areas.

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3.5 HE –we are setting up a task and finish group to meet 3 or 4 times to look at ways to strengthen Area Panels and would like a representative from each of the four city wide groups together with one member from each of the Area Panels to join the two members (Chris El-Shabba & Ann Ewings) already selected from the Involvement & Empowerment SIG to make up the group.

Agreed: After a discussion it was decided Tony Worsfold would be LAG's representative on the group and that Linda Shaw the deputy and attend if he was unavailable.

The group will be looking at whether the city wide groups should have representation at the Area Panels. The Tenant Disability Network is elected from the Area Panels and high rise and sheltered are present through associations; but leaseholders could be under-represented.

3.6 TW –asked if HE's paper was going to any other groups for discussion. HE –no but, the recommendations from the group may go to Housing Committee for consideration.

3.7 TW – does LAG need representation on all four area panels?

HE –this is an issue for LAG.

LS –having a representative on all four panels would make it easier to report back to LAG.

DA – these are issues for the working group. Maybe LAG should consider changing their Terms of Reference.

3.8 BP –the Task and Finish group will be considering the merits of having one city wide Area Panel looking at policies with the others being local Area Panels.

TW – a city wide Area Panel could almost be another City Assembly.

3.9 TW – thought it would be easier if the city wide group's constitutions were the same as Tenant Associations.

BP – The city wide groups are tenant led and it is for them to agree their constitution.

3.10 TW- has there been any feedback from the other city wide groups.

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HE – not yet but, it is an agenda item for Wednesday's Sheltered Housing Action Group meeting.

3.11 BP –on 18 November (to be confirmed) there will be free social media training available (for Facebook & Twitter) at Jubilee Library if anyone was interested.

LS will attend for LAG.

Action: BP will email LS details for the training.

3.12 BP- does LAG want voting rights at Area Panel.

Agreed: The group agreed that they did.

3.13 BP – Tenant Only or Resident Only meetings are facilitated by the Resource Centre. Each Area Panel has its own TO or RO meeting where residents raise items for the blue pages for officers to respond to; however it is always quicker to make a complaint or enquiry rather than wait for a meeting..

3.14 BP –the minutes from the last LAG meeting ask that a copy of the Resident Involvement Officer's job description be made available. She then went through their roles as set out in the job description.

LS –this was asked for so we know which issues they can help us with.

Action: A copy of the RIO job description will go out with the minutes.

3.15 HE –asked how often LAG met?

LS –six times a year.

4. Consultation on the new Asset Management Strategy -Simon Pickles (Housing Stock Review Manager).

4.1 SP –provided those present with a hand out that gave an outline of the major issues for leaseholders from the 75 page report that went to Housing Leadership on the proposed new Asset Management Strategy. The aim of the strategy is to make the best use of the housing stock and identify opportunities for new builds on HRA land.

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4.2 SP – there are three key objectives and these are:

- Make best use of housing assets –properties, residents and staff
- Step up engagement –to gain a shared understanding of what is important to residents and encourage people to get involved
- Raise the standard of both external and internal communal areas – by making them tenure neutral

The Property and Investment Team is determined to be outward looking and it is now time for the council to decide what they want their estates to look like in future. Ultimately, in the next 20 years, we would like them to be 'tenure neutral' so it is difficult to differentiate between council and private sector estates.

The new structure of the strategy is broken down into 4 sections: Buildings, Places, Land and People.

Buildings

4.3 SP – there are 3 leasehold related strategic principles for buildings those being:

- Investment will be guided by the results of the stock review survey (10 to 15% of the stock), unless there are good local and business management reasons for investing in other properties
- Future programmes to be transparent –delivering efficiencies for client and contractor
- Continue the cost effective strategy of targeting medium and high rise blocks for refurbishment and thermal efficiency upgrades.

If scaffolding has been erected we will look to carry out as many scheduled works as possible at the same time to affect a cost saving.

4.4 DH –asked if this was in operation at present as the railings at Chates Farm Court were not painted when the scaffolding was up.

SP- were you given a timescale for the painting of the railings?

DH –no.

LS –forward planning has always been contentious.

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4.5 TW –mentioned he lived in Warwick Mount and had received a planning application.

DA – a planning application is needed for buildings being cladded (change of appearance). Mears architect arranges planning consent before the council consult leaseholders.

Places

4.6 SP- again there are 3 leasehold related strategic principles for places. They are:

- Raise the standard for external and internal communal areas –making them tenure neutral
- Design in community safety and design out crime and ASB
- Adopt a maintenance free component replacement policy –use UPVC where and whenever possible to prevent the need for painting

4.7 SP –planned actions are to be put in place to help achieve the strategic principles. Cyclical redecoration, lighting and flooring programmes for blocks will be introduced. Major works -community and corporate colleagues will be consulted on hard and soft landscaping and opportunities to improve bike storage.

4.8 LS – cyclical maintenance programmes used to be carried out every 7 years. The reality is that they are not being done and there are some internal communal decoration works that have not been done for 40 years.

SP – Mears are now doing the cyclical redecoration programme but it won't be every 7 years. We are now looking at every 10 years.

DA – external works normally need doing more often than internal works.

Land

4.9 SP – 4 leasehold related strategic principles have been identified for land:

- The potential to create accommodation within existing buildings –e.g. proposals to convert the unused communal kitchen at St. James House into 3 flats, and elsewhere we are considering converting bin stores to flats

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SP- this could have a positive impact for leaseholders –additional tenants in a block could mean lower service charges.

LS – having bins outside will make estates untidy.

SP –we will ensure there is proper containment. The aim is to convert 5 bin rooms a year.

- Create accommodation within an expended envelope –by building outward and upward –building 3 or 4 extra floors on medium rise blocks
- Rank estates for regeneration based on; asset data, deprivation statistics, development potential and neighbouring regeneration projects
- Consider disposal of land and buildings –if it is in the council's best interest as the asset has become a financial liability

There are planned actions –we will propose to members the disposal of the freehold of blocks where we have no tenants as we still have management and maintenance liabilities but, only cover our costs. A review is planned of the current policy of selling loft spaces to top floor leaseholders.

4.12 MB – what will happen to the new Asset Management Strategy if there is a change in administration after next year's council elections?

SP –said it would depend on the new administration and what their policies and priorities were'.

4.13 SP – mentioned developers had asked to buy the land between Warwick Mount and The Stag but we are advising against it. We are looking to buy general fund sites to develop and the NHS has sites we may be able to buy to develop.

4.14 SP – we will only dispose of HRA buildings in exceptional circumstances.

People

4.15 SP – we will put people at the centre of Asset Management by improving our feedback data gathered from residents, giving us a better understanding of the long-term needs of tenants and leaseholders in different property types and geographic areas.

4.16 SP –there are two leasehold related strategic principles for people:

- To justify maintenance costs to leaseholders

Contact: [Linda Shaw \(Chair\)](#) 07807 560711 / 01273 819312
[Keely McDonald \(Resident Involvement Officer\)](#) 01273 293870

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- Ensure Property and Investment team has necessary skills to reduce the need to use external consultants and speed progress.

4.17 SP- planned actions for the above strategic principles include:

- Supplying technical and financial advice to leaseholders to help facilitate the efficient collection of charges
- Use leaseholder feedback to amend specifications or methods of operation on site
- Support leaseholders concerns when proposing environmental improvements
- Use urban designers and landscaping specialists on major works projects –giving them a less municipal feel

4.18 TW – asked when it was hoped the new Asset Management Strategy would be approved?

SP – housing committee will not approve unless we have consulted widely. It will need to go to the Housing Leadership team again and then housing committee for approval, but hopefully by March 2015.

5. Minutes from the AGM and matters arising.

Page 1 Point 4.5 DA – has checked and the LAG minutes are on the council's leaseholder web page. He made changes as some of the information was out of date. He also proposed that the committee may wish to look, at the next meeting, at what was actually up on the website, and propose any changes of amendments they might want to see.

LS agreed.

Page 2 Point 5.6 LS – there are some outstanding issues following meeting with Eve Hitchens over the role of Neighbourhood Officers and their participation with estate inspections.

DA –if you have specific questions we can get you the answer.

LS –could we ask Robert Keelan for a copy of the Neighbourhood Officers job description and could he let us know who is responsible for ensuring the actions identified on estate inspections get done.

DA – Yes. However, we have a one stop shop now. So if there are actual issues like cleaning not being done, for instance, or disrepair, if you call Housing Customer Services they will take up the case and forward it to

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whoever is responsible for dealing with it. In that way, leaseholders shouldn't have to be bothered with having to track down the team that actually does it.

BP –dates of estate inspections can be found on the council website.

Page 4 Point 4.8 DA –it is LAG's web page so you can post what you like on it.

Page 5 Point 5.7 LS – one of the leaseholders at Sylvan Hall received a letter from the council regarding her not replacing her front door with a fire safety door and I have spoken to a solicitor on her behalf.

DA – the fire safety door replacement programme has been ongoing for a number of years. Leaseholders were given 12 months to get their doors replaced otherwise legal enforcement action is taken. She will have received the letter being one of the next batch of leaseholders identified who have not complied.

LS –can payment be staggered for people on a low income?

DA – No, because the council aren't providing the service. The council have arranged for Mears to provide quotes but, leaseholders can get them fitted cheaper if they can. It is entirely the leaseholders responsibility. In Hove, you will need to apply to the council for consent if you wish to fit your own door. This can be done by contacting the Leasehold Team.

Minutes – Agreed as a true record

6. Update on providing information or repairs costs billed in the Certificates of Expenditure -DA

DA - thanked the committee for its input and good ideas at the previous meeting. He has worked up some examples of what a Certificate would look like with a note to say that further information about repairs, if desired, were available on request from the Leasehold Team. Also a revised breakdown of repairs, ordered by completion date and also with a note to say that original job summaries on which payment is demanded from BHCC for any individual jobs were also available on request.

The Committee expressed satisfaction that progress had been made on this issue.

7. Reports and Feedback from LAG representatives on committees or consultative groups

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7.1 DH – has been to two Tenancy SIG meetings. At the first meeting there was a speaker who spoke about ASB. His main message was to keep reporting ASB, get crime numbers and don't give up.

At the last meeting we began a project to look at making improvements in other areas and paid a visit to Buckley Close in Mile Oak.

8. Any Other Business

8.1 MB –the next City Assembly is on 15 November from 9.30am until 3.30pm and will be held at Clarendon Villas in Hove. It will cost £400 to hire but, this includes a PA system and they will set the rooms up for us.

BP- the venue was a school but is now a church.

9. Next Meeting.

9.1 3 November 2014, 6pm -8pm at Hampshire Lodge

Minutes of the Sheltered Housing Action Group Annual General Meeting

Held on Wednesday 10 September 2014 10.00am-12.30pm
Leach Court, Park Street, Brighton.

Present: Roy Crowhurst (Chair) (RC), Paul Agius (Evelyn Court, West) (PA), Joyce Bean (Elwyn Jones Court, North) (JB), Peter Bentley (Lindfield Court, North) (PB), Tony Brown (Evelyn Court, West) (TB), Jean Carter (Evelyn Court, West) (JC), Alan Davies (Rose Hill Court, North) (AD), Jean Davis (Leach Court, Central) (JD), Kath Davis (Broadfields, North) (KD), Tony Ferguson-Cutler (Lavender House, Central) (TFC), Bette Lewis (Jasmine Court, North) (BL), Peter Lloyd (Pensioner Action) (PL), Ron Lunn (Broadfields, North) (RL), Mary Moore (Muriel House, West) (MM), Tomm Nyhuus (Somerset Point, Central) (TN), Charles Penrose (Sloane Court, Central) (CP), Walter Sargison (Broadfields, East) (WS), Ernie Tidy (Churchill House) (ET), Elizabeth Tinkler (Laburnum Grove, North)(ETi), Colin Vincent (Brighton And Hove Older People's Council)(CV), Marian Walker (Leach Court, Central) (MW), Jonathan Woolven (Jubilee Court, East) (JW)

Officers: Hannah Barker (Resident Involvement Officer) (RIO) (HB) Chantel Cooper (Resident Involvement Assistant – Minute Taker) (RIA) (CC), Peter Huntbach (Older Persons Housing Manager) (PH)

Councillors:

Apologies: Cllr Bill Randall (Chair of Housing BHCC), Cllr Jarrett, Rachel Chasseaud (Head of Tenancy Services), Beryl Snelling (Sloane Court, Central), Tom Whiting (Observer).

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Minutes of the last meeting

- 2.1 Chair queried that, since this was an AGM, shouldn't the group have a copy of the minutes from the previous AGM?

HB: Yes, she apologised, this was an oversight on her part

(HB printed off copies of the previous AGM during the meeting and distributed to the group).

- 2.2 Matters Arising from Minutes of the last AGM on 11 September 2013

- 2.2.1 (p8) Muriel House. Regarding batteries for entry fobs

It was asked whether this issue was ever resolved.

A – PH: There is no supply of these kept in the Scheme Managers' offices as far as he knows.

Action: PH to check in the Scheme Manager's office here at Leach Court during the break.

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One of the group commented how his Scheme Manager changed the battery in his on the one occasion that it's needed it.

Another member of the group advised yes, some people's Scheme Managers have changed theirs but charged them £0.60p for the battery.

Action: PH to clarify whether tenants should be charged for replacement entry-fob batteries where these have been supplied by their Scheme Manager.

Post-break Up-date: PH rang the Repairs Desk. It's the tenant's responsibility to replace entry-fob batteries. The whole issue however, became a moot one when one of the group advised that Mears service the doors annually and, when they do, they issue tenants with a new fob which has a new battery in it and these batteries should last a year, taking them up to the next annual service and issue of new fobs. Another member of the group advised that everyone gets given two fobs so, if the batteries of one fob run out within the year, the tenant can use the other fob as a spare. So the problem is solved.

However, if, in the rare instance, the batteries of both fobs a tenant was supplied with run out within the year between services and fob renewal, it *is* the *tenant's responsibility* to replace them.

2.3 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Last Meeting 9 July 2014

- 2.3.1 (p7 5.4) Further to under-the-counter fridges: the same group member who advised that her fridge-freezer was difficult to defrost because the plugs were located underneath the work surface and you had to pull the whole thing out in a limited space to get at them, added that this is *after* a new kitchen had been fitted at the beginning of 2013.

Chair commented that he had spoken to Mears about this previously and understood that plug sockets would be *above* the work surface in all replacement kitchens.

So how do we now get this issue sorted?

A – **Action:** PH will refer it to Mears to get it sorted out.

Minutes – both sets of minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Chair's Communications

- 3.1 Chair advised that Rose Haines, former S.H.A.G rep for Sanders House and S.H.A.G. stalwart has died. She will be sadly missed. The group held a one minute silence for Rose.

4. Elections

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4.1 Group agreed to swap this item with Peter's update as HB, the presiding officer at this election needed to leave today's meeting early.

4.2 Group were offered the option of a secret ballot but chose to have an open ballot.

4.3 **S.H.A.G AGM Election Results 10 September 2014**

Position	Nominee (s)	Nominator	Seconded by	Elected
Chair	Roy Crowhurst	Jonathan Woolven	Kath Davis	Roy Crowhurst
Vice-Chair	Charles Penrose	Jean Davis	Roy Crowhurst	Charles Penrose
North Area Representative	Kath Davis	Roy Crowhurst	Jean Davis	Kath Davis
East Area Representative	None			VACANT
Central Area Representative	Jean Davis	Charles Penrose	Roy Crowhurst	Jean Davis
West Area Representative	Jean Carter	Mary Moore	Jean Davis	Jean Carter
Area Panel Task and Finish Review Group Representative	Roy Crowhurst	Charles Penrose	Jean Davis	Roy Crowhurst
Home Service Improvement Group Representative	Tomm Nyhuus	Self	Charles Penrose	Tomm Nyhuus
Home Service Improvement Group Deputy	Elizabeth Tinkler	Self	Roy Crowhurst	Elizabeth Tinkler
Neighbourhood & Community Service Improvement Group Representative	Jean Davis	Self	Jonathan Woolven	Jean Davis
Neighbourhood & Community Service Improvement Group Deputy	None			VACANT
Tenancy Service Improvement Group Representative	Jean Carter	Mary Moore	Charles Penrose	Jean Carter
Tenancy Service	Mary Moore	Jean Carter	Charles Penrose	Mary Moore

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Improvement Group Deputy				
Involvement & Empowerment Service Improvement Group Representative	Charles Penrose	Self	Jean Davis	Charles Penrose
Involvement & Empowerment Service Improvement Deputy	Allan Davies	Self	Charles Penrose	Allan Davies
Business & Value for Money Service Improvement Representative	Roy Crowhurst	Jonathan Woolven	Charles Penrose	Roy Crowhurst
Business & Value for Money Service Improvement Deputy	None			VACANT

5. Update from Peter Huntbach on Policy

- 5.1 Thanked this group's reps for their work over the last year.
- 5.2 Updated the group on where we were this time last year and where we are now.
- 5.3 We now have a draft policy.
- 5.4 Scheme Managers

CP interviewed two last week, one of which was offered the job and is just going through routine employment checks.

We have gone from staff putting in 777 hours per week (equating to 21 Scheme Managers) overall last year to 829 hours per week overall.

2 more Scheme Managers are being recruited.

However, even with these 3 new members of staff, we will still be 59 hours per week under par (the equivalent of 1.5 Scheme Manager posts' worth).

So, although more Scheme Manager hours are being put in than before, we will still be 59 hours per week short.

Group suggested that the new members of staff should be invited along to a SHAG meeting. PH was happy with this.

5.5 Lettings

Project plan been agreed by leadership.

Senior Manager is Sylvia Peckham.

Project Manager is Satti Sidhu – she would like to re-visit a SHAG meeting to give lettings input as soon as possible.

The aim of the project is to make the lettings process better for tenants - to make it more 'human' - and to simplify it for BHCC staff.

700 have currently expressed an interest in Sheltered Housing – all in A, B, C or D priority bandings (with Band A being the highest priority). However, still too many are bidding for properties but not accepting those offered – this incurs costs, not least lost rent monies, and involves administration.

There's a trade-off between getting places re-let quickly and getting them re-let to the right person.

120-150 sheltered properties become vacant a year.

5.6 Questions and Comments

Q – Theoretically-speaking, is it possible to move from Sheltered Housing to Patching Lodge?

A – PH: Yes. Moves from Sheltered Housing to nursing or residential homes where extra care is available do happen. PH is working in association with the NHS, looking at how to support the most frail.

The 'Better Care Strategy' – PH is considering inviting the Better Care Strategy along to a SHAG meeting.

5.7 Stock Review Report

Chair is disappointed that the Stock Review report has not yet been published or seen. It's been far too long.

The review is an important part of what we're doing in SHAG. It's a *vital* component of everything which this group wants to do. The delay in its publication makes it feel like it's being 'kept' from the group.

PH apologised for this delay. He has chased this with Rachel Chasseaud and management, stressing SHAG's keenness to see the report and the fact that it's not been seen yet leads to rumour and speculation.

Chair will chase Rachel Chasseaud himself.

A group-member suggested that if the delay is due to problems, it should be sent to the group as group 'has the heads' which could help solve these problems.

Q – CV to PH: Would it be helpful if Brighton and Hove Older People's Council raised the issue of the delay in the Stock Review Report at their business meetings and public meetings?

A – Chair: Yes, it would be worth looking at using this forum.

Interval

6. Change of Name

- 6.1 Feedback from 13 August's Tenant Only meeting regarding the proposed name change of the Sheltered Housing Service and of this group re-ignited discussion on the subject.
- 6.2 Majority preferred 'Seniors Independent Living' in some shape or form or 'Seniors Housing Independent Living'.
- 6.3 CP: Is keen that the new name should be something which retains the acronym 'S.H.A.G.' because it is an acronym which gets people's attention.
- 6.4 Chair is keen somehow to include the 'Independent Living' element and stress this aspect of the service because this is key.
- 6.5 PH: 'Senior Housing' has a different 'feel' to it to 'Older Person's Housing'. The word 'senior' has a positive connotation when talking about age whereas the phrase 'Older Persons' does not, and is more in keeping with the ethos of the new Draft Service Offer.
- 6.6 CP: What about 'Senior Housing Action Group', so the 'S.H.A.G.' acronym is retained, with 'Independent Living' underneath as a strap-line?

(This suggestion provoked some discussion as to whether 'Independent Living' was a bit of a misnomer because the schemes have scheme managers, which in turn prompted some discussion as to whether the job title was a bit of a misnomer too – the Scheme Manager is there to support and advise, not manage.

Chair: Yes, but there are two ways of looking at it: the Scheme Manager manages the building.

CP: But not the people.

Chair: The Scheme Manager is there if you need them, like a GP, so effectively you *are* living independently. Besides, one would query whether someone was suitable for 'Sheltered Housing' if they couldn't live independently – this is why face to face interviews with potential sheltered housing residents would be useful, to ascertain whether they might be better off going into a residential or a nursing

home instead.

PH: Originally, sheltered housing was for those who could live independently and make plans for themselves (with some low level, preventative support) but, over time, lines have got blurred and sheltered housing has begun to be seen more as supportive housing – hence the confusion. Name therefore needs to reflect where we're going policy-wise as a service i.e towards more independent living.

6.7 PL: We need somehow to get the community aspect of sheltered housing in there – either in the name or the strap-line – there're a lot of older people living independently in the city who live alone and don't see anyone one day to the next and so are lonely. With sheltered housing, you get a community, so community is an important aspect of sheltered housing too.

6.8 PH: We need a name and a strap-line.

CP proposed dropping 'Sheltered' from the service's name and replacing it with 'Senior' so that the group becomes the 'Senior Housing Action Group' and retains the acronym 'S.H.A.G.' JD seconded this.

The group **agreed**.

RC proposed 'Independent Community Living' as a description of the service and its strap-line.

The group **agreed**.

So the service is now 'Senior Housing – Independent Community Living'.

6.9 Final comment

PH: Eligibility for the newly re-named Senior Housing service (i.e via age) still needs to be looked at.

7. Guest Room Bids

7.1 Sloane Court: approximate cost £100. 3x twin bedding sets, 6x single sheets.
Agreed.

7.2 Elwyn Jones Court : approximate cost £375 (revised down from £780.00):

3x Lamp-shades
3x touch lamps
3x electric kettles
6x mugs

3x chairs
3x pictures
3x bathroom bins
3x notice boards

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3x desk fans

Notice-boards were queried/ declined. The council supplies notice-boards.

Mugs were queried – couldn't these be borrowed from the kitchen at Elwyn Jones Court?

Pictures were queried - PH suggested that these could be supplied by Fabrica.

Desk fans were queried – are these really required? A – JB: Yes! The guest-rooms at Elwyn Jones Court are like saunas and they get a lot of use. One fan is required per room (There are 3 rooms).

Deferred: to be revised and re-submitted. Revised bid, without the notice-boards, pictures and mugs to be resubmitted next round. Elwyn Jones Court to seek assistance from Jayne Halls and Peter Huntbach in the Sheltered Housing Team if required.

PH: With these bids, value for money is always foremost in one's mind. As the group pointed out, sometimes there's better ways to get hold of some of this stuff e.g pictures could be supplied by Fabrica etc.

It was suggested that the guidance on what the Guest Room Bid budget was for should be dug out for Elwyn Jones Court to refer to.

Action: PH will do this.

7.3 Elwyn Jones Court: approximate cost £431 (revised down from £1066.00):

12x duvet sets

12x fitted sheets

12x mattress protectors

6x pillow protectors

8x single headboards

It was queried why so many sets of bed-linen were required. Existing bed-linen is faded due to wear and tear and doesn't go with the new colour scheme.

It was asked whether all 3 of Elwyn Jones Court's guest rooms needed to be updated at once?

A – PH: The guest-rooms at Elwyn Jones Court *are* heavily used. But it *is* up to the group whether they are all renovated at once.

Deferred: bid to be resubmitted, split into three, one bid per room, just in case.

JB: The residents of Elwyn Jones Court had wanted all the guest-rooms done at once, particularly as they've all just been painted.

JW: It would be daft to renovate them one at a time if they've all just been painted. Should do all three together. If you are going to have a guest room, you should make it nice.

PH: Suggested that guest-rooms should be discussed at a future meeting.

8. Round Robin

8.1 MM: Muriel House – garden is all overgrown and out of hand. Would like to get a gardener in to tidy it up, will pay out of TA funds. She has a man coming today to make an estimate.

PH: Is happy, in principle, for additional gardening work to be done however, the following should be done first:

- Ensure that BHCC grounds maintenance staff are doing what they are supposed to be doing at Muriel House.
- Should speak to the Scheme Manager about their intentions

Action: PH will speak to Nina Elderfield, the Scheme Manager at Muriel House.

Once this has all been checked into, MM will need to take the estimate she has obtained to her committee so she can request funds.

8.2 ET: Is there an update regarding the installation of solar panels at Churchill House?

A – PH: Solar panels are being put in. Programme is going to the Scheme Managers.

8.3 CV: The Older Person's Council (OPC) has a public AGM on 23 September 2014, 10am, Jubilee St Library. 2 senior officers from the Care Unit will there giving a presentation on the new Care Act. There will be an update on the changes in the provision of care which are due to take place in the city.

8.4 WS: Possible for a shrub-shredder to be purchased for Broadfields via EDB? Is worried this might not be permitted on the grounds of Health and Safety.

A – PH: This is a local decision for Broadfields, not a decision for the central Sheltered Housing Team. Advised WS to talk to his SM about how this might be done safely.

8.5 BL: The Payback Team have taken to leaving sacks of garden rubbish at the back of Elwyn Jones Court, where they are piling up whereas before they used to take the rubbish away.

A – PH: Go back to the Payback Team or Chris, the Scheme Manager at Elwyn Jones Court.

A – BL: Chris has been told.

Action: PH to follow up on and resolve behind the scenes.

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- 8.6 PH: Promoted a free event at Fabrica Art on 11 September 2014
- 0. **Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 12 November 2014, 10am-12.30pm, Leach Court, Park Street, Brighton.**



Minutes of Tenant Disability Network Meeting

Held on Monday 11 August 2014 2pm-4pm
Hampshire Lodge, Hampshire Court, Brighton

Present: Alison Gray (Chair) (AG), Muriel Briault (MB), Joe MacRae (JM), Jason Williams (JW).

Officers: Chantel Cooper (Resident Involvement Assistant (RIA) – Minute Taker) (CC), Darrel Clews (Local Authority Designated Officer) (DC), Hilary Edgar (Housing Service Operations Manager) (HE) Keely McDonald (Resident Involvement Officer (RIO) – Observer) (KM). Rebecca Mann (Resident Involvement Officer (RIO) (RM), Robert Nayan (Housing Strategy and Performance Officer) (RN), Sarah Posey (Head of Collections, Interpretation and Learning)(SP)

Observers: Barry Kent (BK), Arlene MacRae (AM)

Apologies: Sue Andrew (Adaptions Technical Team Admin), Trish Barnard (Observer), Jean Davis, Sarah Potter (Operational Manager, Housing Adaptions).

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Minutes of the last meeting

- 2.1 (p1 2.1) AG spoken to Welfare Rights: they are awaiting a response from TDN regarding the group's requirements.

Action: RM to chase Welfare Rights regarding a tailor-made training session for AG.

- 2.2 (p2 2.2) Monica Brooks' e-mail regarding mobility scooter charges

AG again queried why there was a flat rate for these charges, not varying, individual charge rates based on the differing build/conversion costs of the storage units concerned as a result of differing needs.

A – HE: Finance calculated the mobility scooter charges on the following basis:

The 4 scooter stores across the city were built between 2010 and 2013 as part of a project set up to address the issue of fire risk caused by scooters being stored in the communal areas of flats.

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The cost to build the 4 different stores varied depending on whether they were purpose built or the conversion of an existing facility.

In setting service charges for the stores BHCC has considered the project costs as a whole, rather than basing them on the actual cost of developing and maintaining each store.

This is the same method of setting charges that the council uses for other services, especially where the level of service being given is the same wherever you live. We calculate individual service charges per block for those services where the level of service varies from block to block such as grounds maintenance, cleaning and common ways electricity.

In the case of mobility scooters the total costs of build, borrowing costs, maintenance, electricity and administration are pooled together. This ensures there is consistency of charges and that each store is offered at a reasonable rate. If costs were set per store, the charge for the purpose built stores would be higher than the converted stores and this was deemed to be unfair given that all sites offer the same service – a store for the mobility scooter.

The variation in charges for car park and garage spaces is due to their location in the city rather than cost of construction – those that are close to the town centre where demand for spaces is higher, are more expensive than spaces towards the fringes of the city and are linked to the market rates in the City.

Councillor Randall has made a commitment to review the charge for mobility scooter stores after 6 months and this will happen in the autumn. This will look at the electricity consumption and assess whether the charge needs to be varied based on costs to date.

Action: HE to go back to Monica Brooks to check Robert Keelan's points.

- 2.3 (p3/4/5) The Chair gave a brief resume of Carelink's visit to the previous TDN meeting for the benefit of those group-members who were unable to attend, describing some of the 'gadgets' Carelink had talked about and how the Carelink system works.
- 2.4 (p6 3.18) **Action:** RM to chase Joel Caines, Carelink Plus regarding contacting Paula Harte, Operations Manager of Adult Social Services about possibility of Adult Social Care fund being used to fund Carelink for certain individuals who had been assessed, as part of BHCC's 'duty of care'.
- 2.5 (p7 3.18) **Action:** RM to chase Joel Caines for his promised article for the TDN newsletter
- 2.6 (p10 9.1) The Chair clarified that actually a survey had been conducted at Essex Place regarding mobility scooter storage and there was found to be no demand for it: there is no point in building something if there is no demand for it.

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2.7 (p10 9.2) JW still awaiting response from his RIO re mobility scooter storage at Hereford Court. Chair advised that he could address this with Robert Nayan, one of today's guests, who is the Project Manager for mobility scooter storage, instead. Robert's contact details will be provided later in these minutes.

2.8 (p11 3) Anti-scam booklets.

Action: RM to ask the Police to send some of these to TDN for distribution.

Minutes – agreed as an accurate record.

3. Scooter Storage (Robert Nayan)

3.1 RN is BHCC's Project Manager for the mobility scooter storage project.

3.2 RN has a list of areas where a risk assessment has identified that a mobility scooter storage area is required. He then meets and consults with the Tenants' and Residents' Association concerned. After this, he will either seek planning permission for a new build or contact individuals affected if the collective view is that some garage space should be converted to mobility scooter storage.

3.3 Chair stressed the importance of making that initial contact with people and consulting with them regarding mobility scooter storage. She cited a fellow group member's experience where the first she heard about the intended conversion of what had been 'her' garage to mobility scooter storage was the 'notice to quit' she received. Understandably, said group-member was quite upset about this.

RN: Apologised for the above. It was not intentional. Mistake was taking the collective view. Next time will consult with the individual concerned, after the collective view has been determined (ideally before said individual receives their 'notice to quit').

3.4 Chair is aware that BHCC's funds 'pot' set aside for the mobility scooter storage project has not been all used-up. So, it's about alerting people to the existence of this 'pot of money' and sign-posting people to it.

3.5 Robert's contact details are as follows:

Robert Nayan, Project Manager Mobility Scooter Storage

Tel: 01273 293021

Mobile: 07771 389430

E-mail: Robert.nayan@brighton-hove.gov.uk

4. Darrel Clews and Sarah Posey, guest managers

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- 4.1 DC explained why he and Sarah were visiting TDN today. It is a response to the results of a BHCC staff survey, where it was felt that senior management needed to get more in touch with the grass-roots of the organisation, how it works in partnership with other bodies, how it engages with residents and how it 'lives' and applies its values. It is BHCC looking forward to changing how senior management operate. BHCC has directed that some senior managers should attend community group meetings like TDN to see how people work in partnership with one another and discover what senior management might learn from this in terms of devising policies etc. To this end, they would like to ask the group a few questions and get some feedback from it.

There are 2 other senior managers in their group. Plan is to write up feedback received, present it to the other two managers and then take two of the topics raised to work on.

- 4.2 DC introduced himself and gave the group a brief background of himself. His is a statutory role in safeguarding children. Basically, he helps BHCC deal with child protection allegations made against adult workers within the city eg within local schools, playgroups etc and works in conjunction with Ofsted and the local Safeguarding Children board etc. His colleague and 'opposite number' for safeguarding (vulnerable) adults is Michelle Jenkins, the Head of Adult Safeguarding.

- 4.3 SP introduced herself and gave the group a brief background of herself. She is the Head of Collections, Interpretation and Learning. She oversees the Royal Pavilion, the city's museums and art galleries (Preston Manor, the Booth Museum, Brighton's Art Gallery and Hove's Art Gallery) and local museum services. She is looking at reaching out to the local community via creative projects, hosted within the various venues and improving accessibility in venues to those with disabilities via consultation of advisory groups. Consultation like this has recently resulted in improved venue access for blind and deaf visitors. This is where TDN could come in....

Chair keen for TDN to get involved with this. Was involved in the Housing Adaptions Framework. Chair herself has been able-bodied and now is not so she can see things from both perspectives. As a disabled person she looks at things with different eyes to an able-bodied council officer so can spot things which they can't.

Echoed by another group-member who observed that when she was in a wheelchair for a short time as a result of a foot operation, suddenly everyday things which an able-bodied person takes for granted became difficult and people looked at her in a whole different light – some people just don't (or pretend not to) see you and some cut-across you as if you weren't there.

- 4.4 Question 1a) What is working well where collaborating with other partners (e.g. BHCC, Mears etc) is concerned?

- 4.4.1 Chair gave examples of where collaboration/partnership has worked well:

- The Adaptions Framework
- The Adaptions Leaflet

TDN have had someone from Allocations come in to talk to them. She would like to see properties which are suitable for conversion to accommodate a disabled person (e.g. ground floor flats) first advertised to people with disabilities when they become available.

Conversely, Home Move says that the Bristol Estate is disabled-friendly, it is *not*. It's up a steep hill and your mobility scooter batteries pack up before you get to the top. Moreover, the buses only run every 30 minutes.

4.4.2 Question 1b) What bits work well? The information received? Being listened to?

A – Chair: Being listened to. Being able to put one's own spin on things. Cited an example where BHCC was having trouble contacting a particular elderly tenant. This was because the elderly tenant concerned doesn't answer her phone and doesn't 'do' e-mail. Chair became this tenant's contact.

4.4.3 Question 1c) What is working well with this meeting/group?

A – Chair: Group started about 10 years ago. In past it looked at things like trying to get drop – kerbs put in etc but these things were outside its control because it had no control over planning laws, so now the group focuses on things it can change.

It's about 'opening the eyes' of the able-bodied in the council and influencing them.

RM: role of the group is to help shape/influence housing from the perspective of the disabled.

Chair would like TDN newsletter to go out to all those listed as disabled on the Housing database, OHMS.

Chair advocated a 'buddy system'.

4.4.4 Question 1d) What is this group's relationship with councillors like?

A – Chair: Not good.

4.4.5 Question 1e) Issues which TDN reps have encountered?

Issue 1: BK is a Resident Assessor. He inspects void properties and the work done on them before they are re-let. Several times he has seen instances where carers or social services could've reported back to BHCC things they've spotted in people they've visited's flats which might be indicative of some kind of problem e.g. empty bottles lying around, a tenant's flat steadily filling with rubbish - a potential health and fire hazard – and not having done so. So BHCC is often unaware that these things are an issue until the property becomes void and is visited.

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Issue 2: Chair advised that has been known for BHCC to go in and ‘un-adapt’ a property which had been adapted for the use of a disabled tenant on said tenant’s death. This is crazy! Considering the cost, first of adaption and then of ‘un-adaption’ – a waste of money. Would make more sense to re-allocate the property to another disabled person.

4.5 Question 2: SP: What are the top 3 challenges to progressing this group’s aims?

A – Chair/BK: Communication, communication and communication. For example telling TDN/ disabled tenants when properties which are suitable for adaption e.g. ground floor flats become available. TDN are happy to help BHCC identify such properties.

MB: added that BHCC needs to get the word out to disabled tenants that there are areas/ways in which they can get involved with things e.g. via Homing In.

Chair: suggested setting up a ‘buddy system’, particularly in high-rises whereby a vulnerable or disabled person’s ‘buddy’ phones their charge once a week to check in on them and helps them with practical things e.g. helping them with their rubbish – getting them to leave their rubbish out for their ‘buddy’ to collect and take down to the bins for them. JM has done this for a neighbour and received a ‘thank-you’ card from her.

4.6 Question 3: DC: What do you think BHCC could do better in this current climate to improve for the future?

A – Chair: would like to see a more pro-active and speedier response from Adult Social Care. She cited an example where she acted as a ‘Dignity Champion’ on behalf of a vulnerable, elderly resident who was being taken advantage of by an unscrupulous person over a sustained period of time. She reported it to Adult Social Care on several occasions but didn’t feel that they were taking it seriously.

She also cited another example, where it had taken Adult Social Care *two weeks* to come back to her about a potential problem with her medication, during which time she resolved the issue herself (meanwhile something could’ve happened in the interim...).

Action: DC and SP to send group their presentation once it is finished and to invite themselves back, perhaps with their two colleagues, to feed back their findings to the group.

5. Chair’s feedback from Trafford Hall training

5.1 Chair was very enthusiastic about her recent tenant-training experience at Trafford Hall, Cheshire. This was her first experience of Trafford Hall and she can’t speak highly enough of it.

5.2 What is Trafford Hall?

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Trafford Hall is a government and national lottery funded institution, located in Chester, set-up to provide training to tenants and community groups.

5.3

The Resident Involvement Team has a 'pot of money' assigned to funding these residential courses and travel to/from them. Chair urged her fellow tenants to sign up for a course 1) because they are very good and useful and 2) over the previous 2-3 years, the budget set aside for this purpose has not been used. This is because it has not been well publicised, except at meetings and people tend to forget about it after the meeting. It needs to be publicised better.

Courses are £15 for tenants, including accommodation and meals, breakfast, lunch and dinner.

If you are travelling up the day before (which she did and which you would need to do if you were travelling long distance e.g. from Brighton to Chester) an extra night's bed and breakfast is available at £20 per person. They also make you a sandwich lunch. (She went up on the Sunday before her course and came back on the Tuesday).

Chair took her carer with her (carer had to pay £15.00 too, to cover accommodation and food).

Getting there: Train Brighton to London Victoria, Virgin train Euston to Chester, taxi Chester railway station to Trafford Hall. She booked her train tickets 3 months in advance to get as cheap a rate as possible – it cost £133.00 for two return tickets for her and her carer, Brighton-Chester.

5.4

Her report on Trafford Hall:

5.5

- It was very good.
- It was very disabled-friendly. There are two wet-rooms there which are allocated on a needs basis.
- Courses run 9am-5pm.
- There is wi-fi.
- She met other tenants from all over the country there and found out what tenants/local authorities are doing elsewhere.
- Seating is 'cabaret-style' so you can mix with and meet other people.
- She learned how to use 'Survey Monkey' as a tool to get feed-back from tenants who want to get involved but don't want to attend meetings. It's easy to set up.
- She also learned how to set up a web-site and how to set-up a Facebook page.
- At the end of a course, you receive a small grant application form for up to £500.00 which must be used for the course specified on the form and can only be used once by each group.

Trafford Hall also does courses on the following subjects, amidst others:

- Money mentoring

- Energy Saving
- Gardening
- Courses for young people – suggested the group encourage younger tenants in their respective areas to sign up to one of these courses to recruit some ‘young blood’ to the tenant movement’s cause and reinvigorate it.

5.6 She is doing another course with them in September, on anti-social behaviour (ASB).

RM suggested that she should speak to November’s City Assembly about ASB after attending this course.

She is also doing a course on ‘Engaging Your Local Community with them in September.

She has booked another member of this group, AP, on to a course there.

She urged the group to have a look at Trafford Hall’s web-site (details below) and ‘go’.

5.7 Trafford Hall’s contact details:

Web-site: www.traffordhall.com

Telephone: 01244 300246

E-mail: info@traffordhall.com

6. Newsletter

6.1 Chair reiterated that she is no longer prepared to produce it on her own. This means either:

- People help
- Or, newsletter is scrapped
- Or, have an editorial sub-group, perhaps including BK and AP (Ann Packham) amongst others.

Basically she needs people to do articles, she can’t do it all herself.

6.2 RM: For the benefit of visiting senior managers, DC and SP: this newsletter exemplifies how Resident Involvement have empowered BHCC residents. This newsletter is tenant-led. There is no officer involvement. The Resource Centre print it for them. (The Resource Centre is a voluntary body, which BHCC pay to print of this newsletter on behalf of their residents).

6.3 RM: Suggested that JM, who has a wealth of nursing knowledge and a nursing background which could be drawn on (e.g. observations, and anecdotes, stories from his experience) could have a column.

JM: Trouble is, has too much on plate already.

BK: A small article?

JM: Sorry, no time. Too much on. Doesn't want to let people down.

Chair: This is the whole problem. People say they don't have time.

6.4 Chair: Just need the information, the copy to put in the newsletter.

MB: Advised that when she is out and about, she tends to size the places she visits up from a TDN perspective and gather information about them.

RM: Asked MB whether prepared to write an article in that case.

MB: Yes. Will write an article and pass on to Chair.

6.5 Chair reminded the group that generic contact details for TDN are provided on the newsletter. An answerphone picks up messages left on the group's mobile which 'pings' an e-mail across to the group's generic g-mail account to notify the group about said message. She advised that everyone in the group needed to get themselves set up with a g-mail account. With generic contact details, it doesn't matter whether individual group-members for whatever reason are unable to respond to messages or move-on, others within the group can pick them up and action them.

6.6 Chair asked what the group thought of the idea of having an editorial sub-group for the TDN newsletter.

The group supported this idea. BK, JW and MB volunteered to be on this group. It was suggested that AP (who was absent from today's meeting) should join them. Group will self-facilitate via the Resource Centre.

6.7 Newsletter meanwhile will be on the agenda of each meeting.

8. Any other business

8.1 Repairs

Further to the action on p11 (11.1.2) of the previous meeting's minutes, James Cryer, Mears could not be present at this meeting. Tracy Horner, Mears, however has provided the following statement: there is no policy on repairs for the disabled, each case is assessed on its own merit.

8.2 Light-bulb replacement

A hand-out on light bulb replacement was distributed to the group. To summarise it:

- As per p7 of the Tenant's Guide to Repairs, replacement light bulbs are, and always have been the tenant's responsibility.

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- Agreed that Mears will install new 2D bulbs in kitchens and bathrooms where a bulb is under warranty (less than a year old).
- Estates Services will supply and fit a new bulb for residents identified as living in sheltered housing, elderly, vulnerable or disabled (there may be a minimal charge of £5 for the cost of the bulb for this if the resident doesn't have a spare bulb).

You therefore need to let Mears know that you are disabled so that they can put it on your record.

- Communal lighting bulbs are still replaced by Mears and BHCC (unless they are individual security lights which tenants themselves have had fitted, in which case it is the tenant's responsibility).

8.3 TDN Web-site

Action: RM to set up a meeting one Friday between Chair and Alex Allsworth, BHCC's Social Media Officer to help her set up TDN web-site

0. **Next meeting will be held on Monday 6 October 2014 at Hampshire Lodge, Hampshire Court, Brighton between 2pm & 4pm**

Home Service Improvement Group 12 August 2014

- discussed the New Design Guide Workshop where residents contributed ideas on improving the building of future homes
- added lift maintenance and encased bathroom fittings (2D lights) to action plan
- request to be involved in upcoming procurement process for low voltage electrical works contract
- discussed how Mears manage multi trade repairs and how they are aiming for greater cohesion and improved communication
- updates from Estate Development Budget (EDB) Panel reps
- visit to the repairs desk visits for Home Group members arranged
- looked at the 'Tenant representative's repairs reporting procedure'

Neighbourhood & Community Service Improvement Group 18 Sept 2014

- Recharges Policy; how Housing currently charges tenants for property damage/ changes/ neglect
- discussed current processes and considered possible changes into the future, through a number of scenarios.
- Scenarios – the costs implications of:
 1. electrician turned away from pre booked rewire
 2. parking on grass verges due to lack available space
 3. tree damaging pavement is not maintained in 20 years vs 1 year
 4. contractors unable to conduct annual boiler service due to state of kitchen
- tenants made aware of potential recharges through the tenant welcome pack
- group felt recharges should be made case by case, but because of time this takes there needs to be a standard approach
- suggestion to have a standard rule, allowing for extenuating circumstances
- staff time before or after a tenant alters a property should be rechargeable
- Do vulnerable people get special dispensation? Housing would have to pay the costs therefore less money available for other tenants

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- What warnings, if any, should tenants receive before a fine? Support to find alternative solution should be offered where necessary, but repeat offenders should be sent one warning letter, then re-charged.

Tenancy Service Improvement Group 24 September 2014

- project to address fly tipping continues
- recap following site visit in August
- Resident Involvement Officer & Neighbourhood Officer feedback from door knocking – positive community feel, support for Estate Development Budget (EDB) bid ideas
- planning leafleting / door knock to advertise a local meeting for Buckley Close residents to float idea of amnesty day (Community Clean Up day) and to discuss EDB
- suggestion to publicise the Estate Services furniture recycling service in Homing In
- discussed positive ways to discourage people from fly tipping
- began to think about the upcoming City Assembly breakout group about anti-social behaviour that they will be running

Involvement & Empowerment Service Improvement Group 2 Oct 2014

- Model Constitution and Recognition Policy agreed by Housing Committee's September meeting. Both now sent to Chairs and Secretaries of TRAs.
- City Assembly Sub-Group have been working on City Assembly being held on 15 November. Posters advertising the City Assembly with the agenda now sent.
- working with Resident Involvement Team to use Homing-in, Facebook, @BHCtenants #resident involvement Twitter account, TRA contacts, leaflets, posters etc to launch recruitment campaign, inviting residents to get involved in Service Improvement Groups
- working on calendar of city events to raise profile of resident involvement - will work with PCSOs, community development workers, community and voluntary sector organisations to identify key dates
- working with the Black and Minority Ethnic Community Partnership to tag resident involvement information session onto their Friday drop-ins

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- gathering case studies of 'what works, what doesn't work' in resident involvement from residents attending I&E breakout session at City Assembly – use this information to market 'ideas that work' to encourage further involvement
- recruiting residents at the City Assembly to join the I&E group to work on a new 'resident involvement hand book'
- Agreed meeting dates for the year ahead: Monday 8 December 2014, Thursday 12 March 2015, Thursday 11 June, Thursday 10 September. All 10am - 12noon at the Housing Centre.

Business & Value for Money Service Improvement Group 29 October 2014

- received an update on the budget workshop held on 1 September.
- report on Resident's Associations Newsletters was given and the group was given the opportunity to present possible suggestions to improve the operation of newsletters in the future.
- an example of the Council's 'Standard Letter' format was discussed, the group gave views on content, style and tone.
- discussed the Council's Quarter 1 Performance Report
- discussed the upcoming City Assembly and topics to discuss at the breakout group.



Brighton & Hove Seaside Community Homes

Latest Information – 13th November 2014

Since Seaside Homes went live in November 2011, we have leased a total of 416 properties and the partnership has now generated just over £21.5 m for the HRA to continue the decent homes work.

Having completed the batch 8 transfer in March, there are no further transfers scheduled to take place until the 1st of September 2015.

Property Details

Property Type	Batch 1 1 st Nov 2011	Batch 2 1 st Feb 2012	Batch 3 30 th Mar 2012	Batch 4 1 st June 2012	Batch 5 1 st Aug 2012	Batch 6 1 st Oct 2012	Batch 7 27 th Mar 2013	Batch 8 17 th Mar 2014	Total
Studio	5	1	5	3	6	8	11	4	43
1 Bedroom	19	21	20	12	27	23	32	29	183
2 Bedroom	20	17	12	18	16	18	13	27	141
3 Bedroom	14	9	3	2	6	3	2	5	44
4 Bedroom	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	5
Total Properties	61	48	41	35	56	52	58	65	416

The following tables provide a breakdown of the number of refurbished and un-refurbished properties received in each batch and progress made on refurbishment works.

Table 1	Refurbished Properties	Un-refurbished Properties
Batch 1	44	17
Batch 2	8	40
Batch 3	0	41
Batch 4	0	35
Batch 5	3	53
Batch 6	0	52
Batch 7	2	56
Batch 8	43	22
Total	100	316

Table 1 - the breakdown of properties leased to date:

At the time of handover Seaside Homes receives a mix of properties some of which have already undergone refurbishment and are ready to be tenanted and others for which refurbishment is about to commence.

Refurbishment – Progress to date:

Table 2	Refurbishment Works COMPLETED	Refurbishment Works Incomplete
Batch 1	17	0
Batch 2	40	0
Batch 3	41	0
Batch 4	35	0
Batch 5	53	0
Batch 6	52	0
Batch 7	56	0
Batch 8	22	0
Total	316	0

Table 2 – 316 properties were transferred to Seaside as un-refurbished.

The refurbishment programme for batch 8 was completed on the 13th August with the final three properties being handed over almost a month ahead of schedule.

All 416 Seaside properties are now complete and tenanted.