

3 star items

from the EAST AREA Residents meeting 5/10/17

1. Shortage of housing and allocations

Major concerns were raised about allocations and the shortage of council housing.

It is increasingly difficult for people to get housed. The private market is really expensive and wages low, creating an extremely difficult situation for many people. It leads to overcrowding as children are unable to move out, or return to live with their parents after marriage break-ups or other changes in their circumstances. In the past, there would have been the possibility of a council house eventually, but now there is no hope. This leads to frustration, demoralisation and anger.

In this situation, the question of who the limited properties available are allocated to becomes a significant one. It can seem that if you are local, in work, with no particular problem other than the lack of housing, you do not stand any chance at all and are low down the allocations priorities.

This problem is made worse when Council staff are dismissive, patronising and rude when people make enquiries about housing. One resident said that her daughter was so upset after talking to a council officer that she wanted to withdraw from the process altogether.

The meeting advised her to make an official complaint about this.

The meeting asked for the issue of housing shortages and allocations to be discussed at the Area Panel and for responses on the following:

- What are the allocation priorities?
- What is the Council doing to tackle the shortage of truly affordable housing in Brighton and Hove?

Action (3 star):** for discussion at agenda setting meeting/Area Panel

