

Information paper for all Area Panels May 2022

Tenant and Leaseholder Engagement – Formal groups and meetings

The council Community Engagement team support a range of work to talk to council tenants and leaseholders. One element of this is our formal groups where we meet to focus on specific subjects and work with tenants and leaseholders to improve services. These groups create opportunities for tenants and leaseholders to come together to share their issues and ideas to improve the quality of housing services and enhance the quality of life for people living in council accommodation. We publicise the dates of all meetings on the council website <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/housing/council-housing/resident-involvement-meeting-diary#>

Area Panels

There are 4 Area Panels in the City, East, West, North and Central.

Area Panels are forums to bring together local council tenants and leaseholders, housing staff, councillors and local groups. The Area Panels consider issues relating to their local areas and reports relating to the council's role as landlord, including performance, services, budgets, major repairs programme development and delivery, policy issues and service development.

The Area Panels are led by an elected councillor and a resident representative who work together to agree agendas, promote resident involvement in the Panel and develop its role in overseeing service delivery and performance. The members of the Area Panel are ward councillors, representatives of resident associations, a representative of the Leaseholder Action Group. All council tenants are warmly welcomed. There are 5 meetings in each area per year. Please see meeting dates in the resident involvement diary <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/housing/council-housing/resident-involvement-meeting-diary#>

Involvement & Empowerment

The involvement and Empowerment Group looks at the best ways of listening to and hearing what tenants and leaseholders have to say. Residents work with council officers to look at the best ways of communicating with tenants and leaseholders. This includes how to support the development of tenant and resident associations, developing resident training and learning, supporting the councils Homing In magazine, and developing new ways of reaching and supporting tenants to ensure that a diverse range of voices of residents and leaseholders are heard. The group meets 6 times per year and is led by a resident with the support of the Community Engagement Team. If you would like to join a meeting either in person or online please contact us at community.engagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Leaseholder Action Group

The Leaseholder Action Group (LAG) works to represent the interests of leaseholders within council housing. The LAG committee is elected annually by leaseholders and works with the Housing Leaseholder Team to raise issues of concern from within the Leaseholder community.

The LAG Committee can be contacted by telephone 01273 605225

Estate Development Budget

The Estate Development Budget is a pot of money set aside from tenant's rents to be spent on improving residents' estates and quality of life. Projects the money is spent on are created by residents and must clearly be for the benefit of tenants and leaseholders. It could be a new noticeboard for community news, a parent and toddler group for an estate or gardening equipment to help residents to grow food. Each project is voted on by a panel of residents who check that the project has the backing of the local community and will be of benefit to them. To apply please contact lucy.beasley@brighton-hove.gov.uk

City Wide Conference

If you live in council housing, the Citywide Conference is a yearly meeting for you to talk about changes or improvements you'd like to see in the housing service. The conference theme is decided by residents of the Involvement and Empowerment Group. Each year there are far ranging topics with guest speakers a chance to meet with other residents from across the city, you can also talk to our senior housing managers directly about any housing concerns or ideas you may have.

The conference has been run for several years and has been successful in linking residents with council staff, it has prioritised things that matter for residents and made a real difference to residents across the city. All tenants of council homes are welcome. For more information contact rebbecca.mann@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Tenant disability network

The Tenant Disability Network (TDN) is a resident led group that is support by the Community Engagement Team. The group aims to engage with disabled council tenants & leaseholders, carers and Personal Assistants(PA) and to gather their views and support them to improve their experience of living in council homes. TDN focuses on housing services, linking in with the council housing managers to work collaboratively to help in improving services. TDN also gathers information about issues and projects that effect disabled people and works to distribute this

so more tenants and leaseholders are informed about the services and support within the city. For more information or to attend a meeting in person or online please contact Richard.wheeler@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Home Group

The Home Group is a forum where tenants and leaseholders can get involved in decisions that affect their homes. The purpose is to focus on the parts of the Housing service relating to buildings; for example, windows and roof replacement, repairs called in by tenants, lifts in blocks and other mechanical or electrical services. Residents set the agenda, chair the meetings and work closely with different Housing staff to look at topics of interest. The Community Engagement Team help residents to keep track of topics, actions, including minuting the meeting and ensuring they are welcoming for new people too. For more information or to attend a meeting in person or online please contact Hannah.barker@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Resident inspectors

The Resident Inspector project is open to any tenant or leaseholder who is interested to take a practical look at Council Housing buildings or projects being completed. They take part in a variety of activities, visiting various parts of the city to look at repairs or maintenance taking place, or looking at works shortly after completed. This includes looking at newly built or renovated properties, or empty properties before they are let. Resident Inspectors might interview other tenants or workers, complete short questionnaires to gather information that feeds back to Housing teams. The Inspectors meet regularly to review what they have found and plan further studies. For more information or to become a resident inspector please contact Hannah.barker@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Estate Development Budget Task and Finish Group

This group has been created to finish the review of the Estate Development Budget process. Its purpose is to make recommendations to ensure its straightforward to apply, that decision making is consistent and transparent and that decisions on how the money is spent is led by residents. Task and Finish Groups are created to tackle a single issue, once this group's work is complete and the recommendations have been presented at the Area Panel meetings, this group will be closed. For more information or to attend a meeting in person or online please contact Keely.mcdonald@brighton-hove.gov.uk

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