

Area Panels: September 2015

Briefing Paper: Resident Involvement

City Assembly

Attendance at the City Assembly has been falling since November 2013.

| Venue | Date | Residents |
|------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Hove Town Hall | May 2013 | 74 |
| Housing Centre | November 2013 | 99 |
| Housing Centre | May 2014 | 82 |
| Clarendon Villas | November 2014 | 59 |
| Housing Centre | May 2015 | 53 |

Residents on the City Assembly sub group of the Involvement & Empowerment Service Improvement Group have been reviewing the history of the City Assembly and discussing ways to improve attendance. They have looked at feedback from tenant representatives, and have visited the housing offices to speak to other residents.

The majority of people who have not attended the City Assembly have not heard of the City Assembly and were focused on their own concerns, although some said they would prefer a shorter event and suggested practical workshops.

Involved residents have fed back that all day is too long, they would prefer a central venue, and while the themed assemblies have been useful there could be more of a focus on housing matters.

From this they hope there might be better attendance if the event was held during the week as it had been when set up in 2008 rather than a Saturday.

The sub group decided at its meeting last week that the next City Assembly would therefore be as follows:

Date: Wednesday 16 December 2015
 Venue: Friends Meeting House, Ship Street, Brighton
 Time: 4pm – 8pm
 Theme: “Vision for Housing for the next 30 years”

The sub group feel that the name City Assembly may be difficult for people who have not been to the event to understand and would like the views of the Area Panel’s on the suggested name change to the Citywide Conference?

Elections

Elections to the Service Improvement Groups (SIGs) are taking place at this round of Area Panels along with the elections to the Tenant Disability Network (TDN). Each Area Panel

has two representatives and deputies on each group. TDN representatives have to be Area Panel representatives, but SIG representatives can be association committee members.

Below is a brief description of the five service Improvement Groups

- Home: the quality of our homes
- Neighbourhood & Community: safer, cleaner and greener estates
- Tenancy: ensuring tenants have the right support
- Involvement & Empowerment: promoting more active and confident participation
- Business & Value for Money: encouraging residents to have their say on investments that effect their area

A reminder that representatives can sit on Involvement & Empowerment, and Business & Value for Money but can only also sit one of the following groups – Home, Neighbourhood & Community, and Tenancy.

The council would like the views of the Area Panels that the same representative should only be able to Chair one SIG? Elections of Chair and Vice Chair of the SIGs take place at the first meeting following the Area Panels.

Estates Development Budget

A remainder that the deadline for next year's Estates Development Budget bids is Friday 13 November. Please do get in touch with your RIO if you require any help with the consultation process. The Resident Involvement Team are still chasing some receipts mainly from quick bids, if they are outstanding please do endeavour to get them in or it may affect your EDB application process.

An update on the EDB programme will be emailed and some paper copies will be available at the meeting.

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