

Housing Management Consultative Committee

Agenda Item 31

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Sheltered Housing Focus Group update
Date of Meeting: 23rd September 2008
Report of: Director of Adult Social Care & Housing
Contact Officer: Name: Martin Reid Tel: 29-3321
E-mail: Martin.reid@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Housing Management Consultative Committee on the work of the Sheltered Housing Focus Group looking at issues raised by tenants concerning council owned sheltered housing in the City.
- 1.2 Housing Management Consultative Committee on 22 July considered an initial report updating on the work of the Sheltered Housing Focus Group. At this time the scheme based consultation events requested by tenant representatives on the Focus Group were still underway.
- 1.3 The Focus Group and tenants representatives presented their work to the Cabinet Member for Housing, at a meeting that took place on 20th August 2008. This meeting also considered the outcomes of the scheme based consultation events.
- 1.4 This report includes a paper on the outcomes of the summer scheme based consultation 'roadshows' undertaken by Supporting People and Housing Management and the presentation to Cabinet Member for Housing on 10 August.
- 1.5 A further series of autumn roadshows are taking place from September 8 to October 14 to which all residents of sheltered housing will receive an invitation. These events will repeat the format previously used and will focus on reviewing how we deliver our service. Resident views will be summarised as part of a future report to Housing Management Consultative Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Housing Management Consultative Committee notes the progress of the Sheltered Housing Focus Group to date.
- 2.2 That the Housing Management Consultative Committee notes the report on the outcomes of the initial scheme based consultation events report. (appendix two)
- 2.3 That the Housing Management Consultative Committee (HMCC) notes further consultation events with sheltered housing schemes and Housing Management officers.
- 2.4 That the Housing Management Consultative Committee (HMCC) notes that officers will arrange visits to the sheltered housing schemes with shared facilities for the Cabinet Member for Housing.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 Housing Management Sub Committee 15th January 2008 considered reports from the initial Chairman's Working Groups. At the Housing Management Sub-Committee on 11 March 2008 the Chairman announced the creation of a Working Group for Sheltered Housing to operate in a similar way to those already reviewing other areas.
- 3.2 Following this meeting, a focus group consisting tenant representatives and officers was set up to work with the Head of Housing Strategy to undertake a review of issues arising concerning council owned sheltered housing in the City.
- 3.3 In line with other previous groups the Sheltered Housing Focus Group consists of members (and deputies) drawn from each Area Panel, the High Rise Action Group and the Sheltered Housing Action Group.
- 3.4 The Focus Group used the points arising from the Sheltered Housing Action Group Tenants only meeting on 13 February 2008 to frame meeting topics and the Group's Work Plan.
- 3.5 The first meeting of the Focus Group took place on 11 April 2008. There have now been five subsequent meetings.
- 3.6 A number of key themes emerged from the meetings which tenant representatives wish to see addressed. These are captured in the attached presentation to Cabinet Member for Housing that has been appended to this update report by way of illustration of what the Group has been looking at to date.

- 3.7 Tenants on the Focus Group have also suggested that the Cabinet Member for Housing visit individual sheltered schemes which still have shared facilities. Officers have undertaken to arrange this as part of the ongoing work of the Focus Group and to report back to a future meeting.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 As part of the work of the Sheltered Housing Focus Group and at the request of tenant representatives on the Group, informal tenant consultation events organised by Supporting People and Housing Management have taken place across all the sheltered housing schemes owned by Brighton & Hove City Council.
- 4.2 A report on the outcomes of the scheme based consultation events is also attached to this report.
- 4.3 The smaller group discussion format of the summer roadshows was welcomed by many residents, especially those who do not usually attend more formal consultation events or meetings. This format is to be repeated in further roadshows to be undertaken in the autumn focusing on review of how we deliver our service to sheltered housing.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

There are no direct financial implications from the recommendations in this report, however most issues raised in this report and earlier reports will have financial implications. When the final work plan is presented to the Housing Management Consultative Committee the financial implications of each issue will be considered and reported as part of the plan.

5.1

Finance Officer Consulted: Susie Allen Date: 11/9/08

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 As the report is for noting there are no significant legal implications. Further, no individual's human rights are adversely affected.

Lawyer Consulted: Deborah Jones Date: 11/9/08

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 Any policy or strategy development arising from the work reported above will be subject to a full Equalities Impact Assessment.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 There are no sustainability implications arising directly from this report. Housing is one of the 12 key objectives in the Council's Sustainability Strategy which aims 'to ensure that everyone has access to decent affordable housing that meets their needs'.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 Any policy or strategy development work arising from the work of the Focus Group will be undertaken with due regard to appropriate risk assessment requirements.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 The work of this Focus Group reflects the priorities and aims of the 2020 Community Strategy and Council's strategic goals of improving housing in the City and ensuring that residents have a healthy living environment.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. (Presentation) Key themes that have emerged from the focus group meetings, which tenant representatives wish to see addressed.
2. Supporting People and Housing Management road shows.

