

Housing Management Consultative Sub Committee

Agenda Item 26

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Action plan for suggestions from Innovation Group report on resident involvement		
Date of Meeting:	23 October 2012		
Report of:	Strategic Director – Place		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Emma Gilbert	Tel: 291704
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Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report shares with Housing Management Consultative Sub Committee the action plan for the suggestions of the Innovation Group, as requested at the previous HMCSC meeting on 4 September 2012 in order to clarify some of the proposals.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Housing Management Consultative Sub Committee note the action plan.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 This report follows a report to Housing Management Consultative Sub Committee on 4 September 2012 which presented the final report of the Innovation Group 'Everyone Counts'. At that meeting, the committee requested that an action plan be prepared to address the points of clarification it had made, and be presented to the sub committee.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The action plan is appended to this report, and is in response to consultation at the previous HMCSC meeting.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

5.1

The costs of widening resident involvement and achieving the suggested improvements will be managed from existing resources within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget during 2012/13. This budget already includes £15,000 for establishing and supporting the tenant scrutiny function. The current draft budget for 2013/14 currently allows £17,000 for tenant scrutiny. Other one-off costs associated with widening resident involvement will need to be met from any underspends within resident involvement and other areas of the HRA budget during 2013/14. This expenditure will be monitored and any variances will be reported as part of the monthly (TBM) budget monitoring process.

Finance Officer Consulted: Monica Brooks

Date 10.10.12

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 There are no significant legal or Human Rights Act implications arising from the report to draw to Members' attention. Most of the measures proposed in the Action Plan fall within the Strategic Director of Place's very wide delegated housing powers. Area Panels' terms of reference are subject to review by the Policy & Resources Committee.

Lawyer Consulted: Liz Woodley

Date: 09.10.12

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 The Innovation Group has considered equalities aspects of resident involvement throughout its work, and the actions contained in the action plan will help to increase the ability for all residents who wish to, to be involved in ways that are suitable to them.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 The action plan seeks to modernise the framework and practice of resident involvement, putting it on a more sustainable footing, and the suggestions contribute to supporting and strengthening sustainable communities. The proposed improvements, for example regarding communications, use of social media, using videos to counterbalance our over-reliance on the printed word, and reduced administration of Area Panels, all contribute to more environmentally sustainable working practices too.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 Successful resident involvement can help reduce perceptions of fear of crime, and reduce antisocial behaviour within neighbourhoods.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 The proposal for a new resident involvement framework creates the opportunity for higher levels of resident satisfaction with their landlord. It also minimises the risk of resident involvement (while having its successes) being perceived as the being the premise of a small minority of residents and providing poor value for money.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 Any improvements to our resident involvement framework will be in line with the councils Community Engagement Framework, and will contribute to the development of neighbourhood councils.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendix:

1. Housing & Social Inclusion – Innovation Group Action Plan

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. None

Background Documents

1. None

