Neighbourhood Offices

Service Standards

Birmingham City Council

Our commitment to you…

We are committed to providing a caring, open, responsive and effective service. We aim to provide access for everyone, whether you live or work in Birmingham or are a visitor to the city.

We can help with:

- Maximising your income through Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit and other welfare benefits
- Council tax enquiries
- Housing and accommodation enquiries
- Rent arrears and other financial issues
- Access to other council services and voluntary organisations.

About these service standards

This leaflet tells you what you can expect from us when you are using this service – our service standards.

There are two types of service standards:

- Our general service standards. They cover the standards you can expect from all Birmingham City Council housing services, including this one.
- The service standards for neighbourhood offices.

These service standards have been developed in consultation with customers. We will monitor our performance against these service standards and share the results with the users of this service. We will review the service standards annually.

General customer service standards

Our general customer service standards are to:

- Answer all phone calls within six rings. The person who answers the phone will give their name and service area.
- Deal with phone calls immediately or, where this is not possible, call you back within one working day or at an agreed time (if we transfer your call, we will tell the other member of staff your name and why you are calling).
- Acknowledge your letters or emails within three working days, and reply within 10 working days (if we need to follow with a more detailed reply, we will let you know when to expect it).
- Send forms or information leaflets you ask for within five working days.
- Provide you with clear and relevant advice and information in response to any query.

We will provide all of our service users with equal access to services. We will not discriminate against anyone because of their age, disability, gender, race, religion or sexual orientation.

We will:

- Treat you with respect and deliver our service in a way that meets your needs.
- Train all our staff in equality and diversity issues.
- Ensure that no one receives less favourable treatment than anyone else.
- Act quickly and firmly against any kind of discrimination.
- Make sure our offices are accessible.
- Provide induction loops and sign language facilities if you need them.
- Use written and spoken language that is clear and easy to understand.
- Provide you with written documents that are easy to read and offer them in large print, Braille or on audio CD if required.
- Arrange to translate documents or for an interpreter to explain written documents to you if you are a non-English speaker.

- Collect and monitor information about customer satisfaction and the profile of our service users and use this information to improve our services.
- Assess the impact of our policies and services and make changes if they are found to be treating any group unfairly.

Neighbourhood office service standards

We will:

- Provide you with comfortable, modern surroundings.
- Provide a private area for your interview if you would prefer.
- Leave a calling card when we visit you at home and you are not in.
- Check that your benefit claim is correct and pass it to the organisation that will deal with your claim within one working day.
- Offer a choice of whether you are interviewed by a male or female member of staff.

Accessing our services

When you visit our service, we will:

- Offer you an appointment within 10 working days of your request.
- See you within five minutes of your appointment time when you visit our offices.
- See you within 15 minutes of arriving at the office if you visit us without an appointment.
- Visit you at home within 10 working days, or at a time convenient to you, if you can't visit our offices because you are ill or disabled, or if you are a carer.

Our facilities

All of our neighbourhood offices will provide:

- Disabled access toilets
- Facilities for baby changing and breast feeding.

Can you work with us to make our service better?

We carry out surveys from time to time and use the feedback you provide to improve our service.

We are also keen to hear from you at any time with suggestions and ideas.
We welcome your comments, complaints and feedback.

Contact us

Telephone: 0121 303 1111 for general advice regarding the council's services.

Visit us at your local neighbourhood office.

Email: adviceline@birmingham.gov.uk

Details of all our neighbourhood offices can be found on **www.birmingham.gov.uk/neighbourhoodoffices**

Neighbourhood Offices

This is an important document about NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICES and about the service standards we have to meet. If you do not understand this document then please ask a friend or relative, who speaks English, to contact your local neighbourhood office or housing team on your behalf. We will then arrange to meet with you with an interpreter.

ARABIC

هذه وثيقة مهمة حول **مكاتب الخدمات الاجتماعية (نيبرهود أوفس)** ومعايير الخدمة التي يتوجب علينا الإلتزام بها. إذا لم تفهم هذه الوثيقة، نرجو أن تطلب من صديق أو قريب لك يتحدث الإنجليزية أن يتصل بمكتب الخدمات الاجتماعية "نيبرهود أوفس" الخاص بمنطقتكم أو فريق الإسكان نيابة عنك. ثم سنقوم بترتيب لقاء معك بمساعدة مترجم فوري.

BENGALI

নেবারহুড অফিসসমূহ এবং আমাদের সেবার মানের ব্যাপারে এই তথ্যপত্রটি অত্যাবশ্যক। আপনি এই তথ্যপত্রটি বুঝতে না পারলে দয়া করে ইংরেজীতে কথা বলতে পারেন, আপনার এমন একজন বন্ধু-বান্ধব বা আত্মীয়কে আপনার পক্ষ হয়ে আপনার স্থানীয় নেবারহুড অফিস বা হাউজিং টিমের সঙ্গে যোগাযোগ করতে বলুন। আমরা তাহলে একজন দোভাষী সঙ্গে নিয়ে আপনার সঙ্গে সাক্ষাৎ করার ব্যবস্থা করব।

CHINESE

這是一份有關**街坊辦事處**（Neighbourhood Offices）的重要文件，內容還關明我們提供這項服務需達到的標準。請找一位會講英語的親戚朋友代您聯係當地的街坊辦事處。我們將會安排傳譯員一起來見您。

FARSI

این مدرک مهمی است درباره دفاترمحله واستانداردهای خدماتی که ما باید برآورده بسازیم. اگرشما این مدرک را نمی فهمید لطفاً ازیک دوست یا خویشاوند تان که به زبان انگلیسی صحبت کرده می تواند، خواهش کنید که ازجانب شما با دفترمحله (نیبرهودآفس) تان یا گروه تهیه مسکن تماس بگیرند. سپس ما قرار خواهیم گذاشت وهمراه با مترجم با شما ملاقات خواهیم کرد.

FRENCH

Le présent document est important. Il concerne NOS BUREAUX DU QUARTIER et les normes de prestations du service que nous devons satisfaire. Si vous ne comprenez pas ce document, veuillez demander à un ami ou un parent qui parle anglais, de contacter en votre nom votre bureau Neighbourhood local, ou l'équipe du logement. Nous prendrons alors des dispositions pour vous rencontrer avec un(e) interprète.

KURDISH

ئەمە بەڵگەنامەیەکی گرنگە دەربارەی (نەیبەرهود ئۆفیس – ئۆفیسی کانسل بۆ ئاموژگاری) و دەربارەی پێوانەی ئاستی خزمەت کەوا پێویستە لەسەرمان پێشکەشی بکەین و ئەنجامی بدەین. ئەگەر تۆ لەم بەڵگەنامەیە تێناگەیەت ئیتر تکایە داوا بکە لە برادەرێک یان خزمێک کەوا زمانی ئینگلیزی قسە بکات بۆ ئەوەی لە جیاتی تۆ پەیوەندی بکات بە (نەیبەرهود ئۆفیس – ئۆفیسی کانسل بۆ ئاموژگاری) یاخود تیمی خانوو. ئینجا ئەو کاتە ئێمە وەرگێر (موتەرجم) دابین دەکەین بۆ چاوپێکەوتنی تۆ

POLISH

Jest to ważny dokument dot. SĄSIEDZKICH BIUR i poziomu usług, jaki zobowiązani jesteśmy osiągnąć. Jeśli dokument ten jest niezrozumiały, prosimy, aby Państwa znajomi lub krewni znający język angielski, skontaktowali się w Państwa imieniu z najbliższym oddziałem „sąsiedzkiego biura” lub z zespołem ds. zakwaterowania, a my zaaranżujemy Państwa spotkanie z tłumaczem.

PUNJABI

ਇਹ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਪਰਚਾ **ਨੇਬਰਹੁੱਡ ਔਫ਼ਿਸਾਂ** ਬਾਰੇ ਅਤੇ ਇਸ ਸੰਬੰਧੀ ਸਾਡੀ ਸੇਵਾ ਦੇ ਮਿਆਰਾਂ ਬਾਰੇ ਹੈ ਜਿਹੜੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਪੂਰੇ ਕਰਨੇ ਪੈਣੇ ਹਨ। ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਨਹੀਂ ਸਮਝ ਸਕਦੇ ਤਾਂ ਆਪਣੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ ਬੋਲਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਦੋਸਤ ਜਾਂ ਰਿਸ਼ਤੇਦਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਕਹੋ ਕਿ ਉਹ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਵਾਸਤੇ ਸਥਾਨਕ ਨੇਬਰਹੁੱਡ ਔਫ਼ਿਸ ਜਾਂ ਹਾਊਸਿੰਗ ਟੀਮ ਨੂੰ ਫ਼ੋਨ ਕਰੇ। ਫ਼ੇਰ ਅਸੀਂ ਇੱਕ ਤਰਜਮਾਕਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਕੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਮਿਲਾਂਗੇ।

PUSHTO

دامهم سندد ګاونډی دفترونه اودخدمتونوستندردپه باره کی دي چه مونږبایدهغه ترسره کړو. که تاسی په دي سند نه پوهیږی، نودخپل یوملګری یا خپلوی نه چه په انګلیسی ژبه خبری کولی شی، غوښتنه وکړی چه ستاسی له خواستاسی دسیمی ګاونډی دفتر(نیبرهودآفس) یا دکورېرابرونی ډلی سره تماس ونیسی. بیا مونږبه وخت وټاکواویوترجمان به هم وغواړوچه تاسی سره کتنه وکړو

SOMALI

Kani waa qoraal rasmi ah oo ku saabsan XAFIISYADA GURIYENTA XAAFADAHA iyo heerarka adeega loo baahanyahay inaan gaarno. Haddii aadan fahmin qoraalkan rasmiga ah fadlan waydii saaxiib ama qaraabo, ku hadla luuqada Ingriiska, inuu la soo xiriiro xafiiska xaafadaada ama kooxda guriyenta isagoo magacaaga ku hadlaaya.. Ka dib anagaa diyaarin doona inaan kuula kulano iyadoo turjumaana la keeno.

URDU

یہ نیبر ہڈ آفیز اور اس کے لیئے ہمارے مقرر کردہ میعار کے بارے میں ایک اہم دستاویز ہے۔ اگر آپ اس کو سمجھ نہیں سکتے تو برائے مہربانی اپنے کسی ایسے دوست یا رشتہ دار جو انگریزی بول سکتے ہوں کو کہیں کہ وُہ آپ کی طرف سے آپ کے مقامی نیبر ہڈ آفس یا ہاؤسنگ ٹیم سے رابطہ کریں۔ ہم پھر ایک ترجمان کی موجودگی میں آپ سے ملاقات کا انتظام کریں گے۔

If you would like this leaflet in large print, Braille, on audio cd or tape, please call 0121 303 1111.