

Update on Tenant Engagement Consultation

Background

The council is currently in a consultation process on its tenant engagement structure with a deadline for responses of 11 October 2012.

The consultation is seeking views on:

1. How tenants will be involved with decision making through District Committees following the localisation of housing management in April 2012;

This follows the commitment of the incoming administration to place tenants centre-stage of the new devolved arrangements with co-opted rights for representatives from newly created District Housing Panels to sit on each District Committee advising on a range of issues such as priority setting, performance, commissioning and housing management policy.

2. How tenants will be involved with the scrutiny of the housing service, to comply with the national framework for regulating housing services.

This follows the introduction of new national standards on 1 April 2012 requiring that local authorities comply with the national regulators' standards on co-regulation of housing management.

The consultation also seeks views on a range of other points and these are detailed in the full consultation document (www.birmingham.gov.uk/engage).

Progress

To date there has been strong feedback and interest expressed through a variety of channels open to tenants and others and this will continue over the next three weeks.

Already it is clear that there is a **significant body of opinion around maintaining and building on the Housing Liaison Board (HLB) structure and the retention of City Housing Liaison Board (CHLB).**

In response to this feedback the Leader of the Council **has asked that opportunity be given to tenants and others to set out their views on the potential retention of these two engagement structures (i.e. HLBs and CHLB) alongside other options in the consultation paper at the Xistrict and beighbourhood level.**

Tenants have been consulted face to face, by telephone, by using the web and engaging with tenants who are not currently engaged, targeting young tenants in the process.

Other stakeholders we are seeking views from are our repairs contractors, Birmingham Social Housing Partnership, Birmingham Public Health and Birmingham Voluntary Services.

The analysis of the consultation feedback will be validated by an independent third party with experience in this field, and will include the feedback on HLBs and CHLB.

If you have already made a response and wish to add to that, taking the above into account, please contact **Talbinder Kaur on 0121 303 5160** or by email (talbinder.kaur@birmingham.gov.uk) and arrangements will be made to facilitate this.

To enable tenants and others to have more time to respond to the HLB/CHLB issue the **consultation timetable has been extended by two weeks until 24 October 2012**. It should be noted that the implementation of the final structure will be subject to a Cabinet decision and that the scheme will not be implemented until after this.

The indicative timetable is as follows:

- Close of consultation 24 October 2012
- Evaluation of consultation responses including independent validation 21 November 2012
- Cabinet decision 10 December 2012
- Live tenant engagement structure 2 January 2013

Ifor Jones
Tracey Radford

Service Director Homes & Neighbourhoods
Service Integration Head, Landlord Services