

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

21 OCTOBER 2021

Report Title	Tenant Representatives on Housing Committee			
Purpose of Report	To advise that two new tenant representatives and two new deputy representatives have been nominated to sit on Housing Committee (with non-voting status).			
Decision(s)	The Council RESOLVES to: a. Approve the two new tenant reps – Becky Adams and Mike Richter and b. Approve the two new deputy tenant reps – Trish Betteley and Carol Wise			
Consultation and Feedback	A taster evening with tenants identified the nominated tenants above, this was additionally discussed and agreed by members at Housing Committee on 8 June 2021.			
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Options	N/A			
Background Papers	N/A			
Appendices	N/A			
Implications (further details at the end of the report)	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	Yes/No	Yes/No	No	No

1.0. Background

- 1.1. The sitting of tenant representatives on Housing Committee has been written into the Constitution of the Council for a number of years (since 2016) enabling two tenants to sit on the Committee and have a voice in decision making (but have no voting rights).
- 1.2. The ability for tenants to be involved in the decision making and influencing process of matters that affect them is a fundamental part of The Charter for Social Housing Tenants: Social Housing White Paper (2020) and is required by the sector's governance body, the Regulator of Social Housing in its consumer standard (Tenant Involvement and Empowerment).

1. INTRODUCTION

A Tenants' Voice Taster Event took place earlier this year (2021) supported by the Tenant Participation Advisory Service (TPAS) where we had 9 candidates; three on

each table together with two volunteer tenant observers, ward members including the Chair and Vice Chair of Housing Committee, officers from Tenant Services and a facilitator. The candidates were given a number of housing related topics to discuss and observers marked them on how well they interacted with each other. Salient comments were recorded by facilitators to help participants see what had been said in case there were any difficulties with hearing. Comments recorded by the facilitators (about our housing services) will be used to inform a follow-up tenant event so that more in-depth intelligence can be gleaned and used to help to close identified gaps and make improvements in service delivery.

The tenants who were successful have already begun working closely with the council, including both members and officers attending committees, and newly arranged cross party task and finish groups covering Resident Involvement and Empowerment, Repairs and Voids and Energy/Retrofit.

2. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The recruitment process has delivered opportunities for more than two tenant reps to be involved with Housing Committee and this has bolstered the resilience in attendance should there be any absences from the two primary reps for things like holidays and sickness. Additionally, having two reserve representatives opens up the ability of the reps to be involved in more areas without undue pressure on the permanent representatives. Housing Committee have agreed that this approach is a step forward for the council in terms of transparency and engagement with tenants and affords the opportunity for greater involvement.

4. IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial Implications

There are no financial implication arising directly from this report.

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4.2 Legal Implications

The Regulator of Social Housing Regulatory Framework for Social Housing in England requires the Council (as a Registered Provider of Social Housing) to ensure tenants are given a wide range of opportunities to influence and be involved in the management of their homes, the formulation of policies and the making of decisions about how housing landlord services are delivered.

In accordance with the constitution: "The two co-opted members act as representatives of the Council tenants and are entitled to speak (but not vote) on matters concerning Council housing."

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4.3 Equality Implications

An EqIA has been carried out by Officers in relation to the decision made in this report and no equality implications arise.

4.4 Environmental Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.