

South Cambridgeshire Housing Futures Member Involvement Questionnaire

Two years ago the Council consulted with its tenants and leaseholders on options for the future ownership and management of its Council housing and at that time decided to retain ownership of its affordable homes.

Since then, the Council has continued to look at the cost of maintaining and managing these homes into the future and:

- Financial forecasts show that within a few years the annual spending on Council housing will exceed income.
- It is likely that, within the next few years, the Council will have approximately half the money it currently spends available to maintain properties to the Decent Homes Standard and carry out other planned works.

The Council therefore needs to reconsider its position because it has to be able to balance the books and this is where your involvement and views matter. There are two possible options for the future of housing in South Cambridgeshire:

1. The Council keeps ownership and management of its 5,900 homes and finds funds within its own budgets, for example, by reducing expenditure on housing improvements and some services to meet the Government's Decent Homes Standard.
2. The Council transfers its homes to an existing or newly created housing association. This association would be a not-for-profit Registered Social Landlord (RSL)

The Council wants all elected Members to be fully involved in the consideration of the two possible housing futures for South Cambridgeshire. We are therefore happy to arrange a number of ways to make it as easy as possible for you to get more involved or receive information, ask questions, and let us know what you think as well as provide us with local intelligence about how well the communications strategy with residents and other stakeholders is working on the ground.

Please choose from the list below which communication method(s) would best suit you, and return this form to a member of the project team through the internal post or electronically by downloading a copy of the questionnaire from the intranet – follow the link on the home page to 'Housing Futures' - **by no later than Friday 20 July 2007**.

Name	
Ward Represented:	

Preferred Consultation Choice(s):
Please tick Box(es)

Q1.	Using the options below please indicate how you would prefer the project team to communicate with you.	
a.	Group Meetings/Briefings	<input type="checkbox"/>
b.	Briefings/updates at Full Council meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>
c.	Briefings/updates at Scrutiny & Overview Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>
d.	Attend the Member/Tenant Working Group meetings as a non-voting observer?	<input type="checkbox"/>
e.	Discussion Group (one off)	<input type="checkbox"/>
f.	Member Forum (regular)	<input type="checkbox"/>
g.	Individual meetings with Senior Management Team and/or the Project Team	<input type="checkbox"/>
h.	Questionnaire	<input type="checkbox"/>
i.	Email	<input type="checkbox"/>
j.	Housing Futures Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/>
k.	Members Bulletin	<input type="checkbox"/>
l.	Intranet/website	<input type="checkbox"/>
m.	Other (Please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q2.	Do you feel that you understand the two options and the implications of each for all key stakeholders including residents, staff and the Council?	
a.	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
b.	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q3.	Do you have any specific questions that we can help you with? Please give details below.

Getting More Involved
Please tick Box(es)

Q4.	Would you like to visit another organisation that has recent experience of a housing transfer to a not-for-profit Registered Social Landlord?	
a.	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
b.	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q5.	Would you like to help with planned communication events with residents across the district during the period August to October?	
a.	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
b.	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q6.	Would you like to join an elected Member forum which could be set up to enable a wider information exchange with all interested Members?	
a.	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
b.	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q7.	Do you have any other ideas about how we can communicate effectively with elected Members?	
a.	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
b.	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

If yes please provides details below:

Q8.	Do you have any direct experience or knowledge of the previous housing stock options appraisal completed in July 2005?	
a.	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
b.	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

If yes please can you help us learn the lessons of the previous process by providing the following information:

Please can you describe what went well, went badly or was lacking from your point of view or from feedback received from residents and other stakeholders

Do you have any specific recommendations or ideas for the Housing Futures project:

Thank you for taking the time to complete this important questionnaire – we genuinely want and need to know how best to communicate with you about the possible housing futures for South Cambridgeshire in order that we can provide you with the information you need to deal with any requests for information from residents and make an informed decision at the end of the year. We also want to know your views and how the two options can meet your aspirations for the future of our affordable homes and those of our local communities as well as the residents of those homes.



Steve Hampson
Executive Director

Housing Futures Project Team – Contact Details

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