



ARCH Annual Tenants' Conference 2011

19th May, Milton Keynes



Workshop:
Open Discussion Forum



Workshop presenters:

Jim Nicholl, Birmingham City Council

Alison Moore, Exeter City Council

Marlene Price, London Borough of Wandsworth

Peter Kirkpatrick, Great Yarmouth Council

Update on ARCH

- Set up 2006
- Advocacy, networking, events, best practice, tenant involvement
- Now 56 members
- Campaigns for a level playing field for councils and their tenants
- Fed into HRA review and welcomes self-financing
- Tenants' Group set up in 2008

ARCH activities

- Advocacy on HRA, house-building and tenants' standards
- Representation with key bodies
- Briefings
- Events for members
- Newsletter and information
- Performance Improvement
- Research
- Tenant involvement
- Publications

What ARCH wants

- Tenants at the heart of council housing
- A better deal for residents in stock retained councils
- A transparent, fair and sustainable finance system
- Local control of assets
- Ability for long-term business planning
- Opportunities to build new homes
- Recognition of importance of housing in local communities
- Recognition of importance of housing in local economies
- A level playing field for stock retainers with other models

ARCH Tenants' Group

- Set up in 2008
- Includes leaseholders and tenants but called 'Tenants' Group'
- Ensures tenants' views are reflected
- Eighteen tenant representatives from ARCH member councils
- Website has a tenants' area and a members' area

Facilitated by Gayle Gibson of APSE. Email: ggibson@apse.org.uk

ARCH Tenants' Group

- Format of meetings
- Topics discussed
- Election of Chair
- Preparation for today's conference

What's next for the group?

- Election of vice-chair
- Revised Terms of Reference
- Responding to consultation
- What do you think??

What do tenants want?

One million tenants have chosen their council as their landlord. What are the most important issues for tenants in stock retained authorities in 2011?

Key issues?

- Housing finance
- Security of tenure
- Standard of accommodation
- Rent levels
- Homelessness and overcrowding
- Need for new homes to be built
- Tenant engagement
- Inspection
- Recognition of the value of council housing
- Community safety

- What other issues are important at present?

A vision for better communities?

- A long term, holistic approach to funding
- Local freedom and control
- Councils able to maintain existing homes
- Councils able to build new homes
- Councils able to link housing with wider priorities
- Council housing contributing to the economy
- Council housing at forefront of green technologies
- Beyond Decent homes and towards:

local environment, community safety, green space, energy efficiency, tackling fuel poverty, climate change, lighting, alternative power, jobs and training....

Arch

The Association of Retained Council Housing

Open discussion form

Your views?

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The Association of Retained Council Housing

Thank you

Contact: ggibson@apse.org.uk

For further information on ARCH visit:

www.arch-housing.org.uk

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