

FEDERATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CORE BRIEF

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF WHAT THE FED DOES

The Federation is the national organisation of tenants, residents, leaseholders and service users (referred to as tenants) in Riverside. The Executive Committee is the body which represents all Riverside tenants at a national level. Members are selected by their Riverside Divisions to serve on the Executive for a three year term of office.

The Executive acts as Riverside's "critical friend" – independent but working in partnership with Riverside and strives to ensure tenants' views and concerns are properly heard and taken into account at all levels of the organisation, from neighbourhood shop to Riverside's Group board. It is part of the decision making process for Riverside and its tenants and residents on policy, service delivery and strategy.

DATE OF LAST MEETING.

Thursday 23 June 2016

WHAT WAS DISCUSSED (list of agenda items)

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting held 14 April February 2016
4. Matters Arising
5. Declaration of Interests
6. Digital Strategy (for consultation)
7. Draft Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy (for decision)
8. Update on Riverside's TOM (for information)
9. Update on the Review of Local Governance (for information)
 - Unapproved Draft Terms of Reference for the Proposed Neighbourhood Services Committee (for information)
10. Update on Voluntary Right to Buy Project (for information)
11. Update on Budget 2016/17 (for information)
12. Updated Riverside Tenants & Residents Expenses Policy (for decision)

13. Update on Federation Workplan (for information)
 - Federation Representation Working Group
 - Update on Chin Wag
 - PR & Promotion
 - Fundraising
14. Feedback on joint meeting with National Scrutiny Committee held 19 May 2016 (for discussion)
15. Minutes from the National Scrutiny Committee meeting held 2 March 2016 (for information)
16. Feedback on Federation sponsored LGBT event held 2 June 2016 (for information)
17. Report from Group Board meetings 21 April 2016 and 9 June 2016 (v)
 - a. Group Board Headlines 21 April 2016 – (p) (for information)
18. Housing Services Committee Update 14 April 2016 (for information)
 - a. HSC Highlights – Report to Group Board 21 April 2016 (for information)
19. Completion of Core Brief
20. Any Other Business
21. Date and Time of Next Meeting:
 - Federation Executive Committee & AGM at 1pm on Thursday, 15 September 2016

WHAT WAS AGREED

- Digital Strategy – noted that Riverside have commissioned specialists to review the strategy with the aim of ensuring that the customers' digital experience is improved. Agreed that four members of the Federation would join the working group to create ten personas with a back history to be consulted on how they would like to access services and communicate with Riverside.
- Draft Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy – noted the wide consultation process on the draft policy including a Mystery Shopping exercise undertaken by Tenant Inspectors. Riverside's new Equality and Diversity Manager to run E&D training for all staff starting with Executive Directors. Agreed that training would be provided for Federation members.

Suggested amendment to paragraph 3 of the policy was agreed (The characteristics **currently** protected by the Equality Action 2010).

Noted that tenant feedback on the policy had been positive however tenants want to see what Riverside do and outcomes from the action plan. Suggested that a scrutiny exercise be undertaken in 12 months.

Agreed the draft policy and noted it would be considered by Group Board in July.

- Update on Voluntary Right to Buy Project – noted that Right to Buy was a opportunity for 1.3m Housing Association tenants to own their own home. Discounts are up to £77,900 outside London and £103,900 within London and capped at 70% of the property value. 2% discount for flats for each year of tenancy and 1% for houses. Noted eligibility criteria agreed for the pilot included no breaches of tenancy, no rent arrears and a minimum tenancy of 10 years.

Noted that Riverside had 247 live applications for RTB. Concern expressed about the effect this would have on Riverside's business. Noted that this depended on replacing properties and the Government paying compensation. Noted that predominant interest was in 3 bedroom houses and that properties which had undergone major adaptations were not included in the pilot.

Federation asked to be kept fully informed of progress on the RTB Project and noted that a report was due in September.

WHAT ELSE THE FED IS WORKING ON AT THE MOMENT

- Federation Representation Working Group – Working Group comprising five Fed members and two NSC members met 26 May and will meet again 29 June. The Terms of Reference and Statement of intent has been agreed.
- External Funding opportunities for Federation Activities – Riverside's Fund Raising Manager ran a fund raising training session for members on 22 June. Federation Officers to discuss feedback from the session at their next meeting and decide way forward.
- Federation 2016 Annual Report to Tenants - it was agreed at the meeting held 14 April 2016 that the Federation would continue to produce their Annual Report independently from Riverside. Recruitment to begin from the Federation and NSC for membership of the working group which will hold its first meeting in September 2016.