



Halton
Housing

Board Meeting Summary



Halton Housing Board Meeting Summary – 29th March 2023

Customer Forum

The Chair of the Customer Forum attended the meeting to provide an update on the work of the Forum over the past 12 months.

The Chair commented the Forum feels respected and valued and is working well. Changes introduced during the year have been positively received by members. Members are being encouraged to suggest agenda items for meetings to help design and shape services. There is also an appetite from members to improve their visibility such as through attendance at community events.

Board members welcomed the update and positive comments from the Chair.

Better Social Housing Review

Following a number of high-profile media reports on the social housing sector, the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) and the National Housing Federation (NHF) jointly commissioned a review of the sector; the Better Social Housing Review (BSHR). The review was undertaken by an independent panel, chaired by Helen Baker. The Panel's report was published in December 2022 and outlined seven recommendations for the sector.

Board received a self-assessment against the recommendations which demonstrated that we are partially meeting all recommendations and have plans in place to fully meet most recommendations. There are a few areas that require more detailed consideration or further clarity on the 'ask.'

The CIH and NHF are still to develop the report into a detailed action plan so expectations may change as this work progresses.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy

The EDI strategy is business wide and will be delivered through a range of strategies and plans in place across the business. A plan of action has been developed to clearly identify where each element of the strategy will be delivered and responsibility for this.

The strategy comprises three strategic themes which each identify a number of strategic objectives. These are:

1. Customers and Communities

- Understanding, respecting and listening to our customers
- Addressing inequality

2. People and Culture

- Knowing our colleagues and representing our communities
- Providing an inclusive environment
- Equipping colleagues to embed EDI in our culture.

3. Working in Partnership

- We will run our business with a social heart, maximising our social and economic impact to benefit customers and neighbourhoods.

Budget 2023/24

Board approved the budget and key performance measures for 2023/24. The budget satisfies our financial requirements for the next financial year.

Other issues

Board approved the annual risk management review, rent policies, assets & liabilities register and strategy & policy framework.