

# **Estate Renewal Forum - Lakes Estate**

## **Terms of Reference**

### **Purpose of the Estate Renewal Forum**

The Lakes Estate Renewal Forum (LERF) will contribute to a strong community that takes pride in where they live. A place that is clean & green, safe & secure, inclusive & welcoming. We aim to create a space for stakeholders to work in partnership and ensure that regeneration and renewal is in line with the themes set out in the Community Led Regeneration and Estate Renewal Strategy (housing, communities, environmental sustainability, health and wellbeing, community safety, better jobs and skills).

### **Objectives of the Estate Renewal Forum**

Milton Keynes Council will give information to the estate forum to enable them to fully understand the background to regeneration and estate renewal options, enabling the forum to:

- Consult with the community and Milton Keynes Council to make an informed decision on which priorities (usually up to three) the estate needs to address, in line with the themes set out within the Community Led Regeneration and Estate Renewal Strategy. Other priorities can be addressed once the initial objectives have been achieved.
- Collaborate with other local stakeholder groups to lead and report on these themed programmes of work, with LERF providing support where needed to progress development and implementation of action plans.
- Empower residents and community members to have their say throughout the process.
- Provide documented feedback within LERF meeting minutes regarding any proposals and engagement activities the Council raises as part of the LERF agenda.
- Question the Council on its proposals, analysing all relevant documents and testing whether courses of action have been explored, providing new ideas, alternatives, plans and projects that could be considered.
- Advise on how best to engage with residents, resident groups and other community stakeholders.
- Ensure that the needs and rights of different groups of residents on the estate (council tenants, private tenants, leaseholders and homeowners) and more vulnerable residents, are considered.
- LERF will provide a positive environment which encourages attendance and participation at meetings. Discussions (particularly controversial ones) will be conducted in a manner which welcomes differing views.

### **Membership and roles**

The majority of members should be residents of the estate and further membership should ideally consist of the following:

- A representative from the estate-based resident's association
- Key community stakeholders e.g. education, health, business

- A representative from the local parish or town council
- The ward councillor will be a member of the forum.
- Membership should be representative of the different groups living on an estate (council tenants, private tenants, resident leaseholders and homeowners) and, where applicable, any other major group of residents.

### **Accountability**

- The forums are an important avenue for resident and community engagement and will inform decision making for renewal activity on their estate.
- The forum will be attended by relevant Council officers, including officers from the Housing and Regeneration team and a Community Engagement Officer.
- Information to be considered by LERF and responses to any issues raised should be provided to the forum in a timely fashion to ensure meetings are productive and forum members have the information and advice they need to operate effectively.
- The forum provides a space to work in partnership with Milton Keynes Council and collaborate on complex issues.
- Any concerns about the forum can be taken up with the Council via the Community Engagement Officer to be addressed as appropriate.
- Local stakeholder groups that are members of LERF are independent of the forum and will have their own terms of reference. They will decide with the LERF chair which issues should be reported into the forum for information or further support.
- Forum member will report back to any relevant networks or groups they are part of.

### **Meeting and Ways of Working**

- The Chair and a Deputy Chair will be elected by the Members of the Lakes Estate Renewal Forum by secret ballot, conducted by a Council officer on an bi-annual basis. Any forum member can stand as Chair or Deputy Chair, so long as they have a recognisable interest in the local area.
- Meetings will be organised by the chair and notes with agreed actions will be issued in adequate time prior to the next meeting.
- Members have equal rights, responsibility and opportunity to suggest agenda items that support the work of the LERF
- Other attendees may be invited to participate in forums, including consultants working for the Council, other local stakeholders and external advisors. Invitations for other attendees should be agreed with the forum members.
- Members are able to nominate a deputy (preferably in advance) to attend the meetings in cases of absence/unavailability.
- We will ensure conduct of the forum and its members are based on the following principles - equality & anti-discrimination; social justice; collective action; community empowerment; working & learning together.