

Additions to the Formal Consultation Document

Tenants were recently invited to comment on the Formal Consultation Document about the Council's proposal to transfer ownership of its housing to a new local housing association. This leaflet describes the changes and improvements we have made to our proposal as a result of listening to tenants' comments and requests.

1. Kitchen improvement programme

The newsletters that went out with the Formal Consultation Document listed roads where kitchens need improving in the first 5 years. This is because the Council knows the age of the houses in those roads and that their kitchens have not yet been replaced. Some tenants have asked why their homes were not listed. Roddons Housing Association is therefore promising to do a review of the kitchen improvement programme. This will mean more homes than previously stated in the newsletter in more roads will receive new kitchens in the first 5 years following transfer. Also, the kitchen improvement programme will continue to be delivered to maintain homes at the Fenland Standard after the first 5 years.

2. Within the first 100 days of transfer

Some tenants have asked how long it will take before they can see the results of a decision to transfer to Roddons Housing Association. Early delivery of promises is important so within the first 100 days of transfer Roddons will:

- Following tenant workshops; announce the first programme of Fenland projects that will benefit from the £1m community fund.
- Give the Tenants Associations and Fenland Tenant's Forum increased budgets
- Appoint the new anti-social behaviour staff and provide the new evidence-gathering equipment
- Commence work on the new front-of-house parking areas, fences and security lights
- Start operating the new decorating, gardening and handyman services
- Start building the first new affordable rented homes to be provided for local people.
- Complete the first stage of the kitchen and bathroom replacement programme with greater tenants' choice.

3. Gardening Service

Tenants who are carers for disabled family members asked whether they could qualify to receive the £1 per week gardening service even though they themselves might be under 60 years of age and not themselves disabled. Roddons Housing Association recognises that the responsibilities of full-time carers can often leave little time for gardening and therefore promises to extend the criteria for qualification to include those under 60 who are carers for a disabled family member living in the home.

4. Sheltered housing social fund

Tenants in sheltered housing schemes elsewhere in the Circle Anglia group benefit from a social fund to pay for outings, entertainment and other activities that they want to enjoy. Tenants have said that nothing like that is provided by the Council so Roddons Housing Association promises to contribute to the social fund in each sheltered housing scheme if transfer goes ahead. The amount depends on the number of homes in the scheme and is in addition to the £10,000 already promised for communal facilities at each of the sheltered housing schemes.

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Gloria Culyer

Finally, we would also like to take this opportunity to introduce **Gloria Culyer** who has just been appointed as the fourth Independent member of Roddons' Shadow Board. Gloria lives in Wisbech St-Mary and is currently Chief Executive of Age Concern Cambridgeshire. With over 18 years experience working in older people's service she feels she is well equipped to support Roddons in its quest to improve and develop affordable housing. As Gloria says, "I am delighted to join the shadow board of Roddons and to be able to contribute to an exciting new future for housing in Fenland. I am particularly pleased to be able to support the Association's commitment to delivering excellent services, not just for older people but across all sections of the community."

