

Estate Renewal Forum - Lakes Estate Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct

Purpose of the Estate Renewal Forum

Estate renewal forums are an important part of how Milton Keynes Council will engage with residents affected by the Community-Led Estate Regeneration and Renewal programme. Each estate forum will be different depending on the estate; however, there are common factors that apply to all which are set out below. The specific details for the estate in the above title are set out on Page 9.

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:

- Decide 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 (housing, communities, environmental sustainability, health and wellbeing, community safety, better jobs and skills) having consulted with the community and Milton Keynes Council to make an informed decision on the most important areas of focus. Other priorities can be addressed once the initial objectives have been achieved.
- Develop sub-groups to lead these themed programmes of work, with all interests represented, and invite other residents and community members to participate in such sub-groups, as agreed with forum members. Sub-groups will require their own terms of reference to be agreed by the forum, will have a Chair which must not be the Chair of the forum and are likely to be smaller in number than the forum.
- Monitor the progress of the development and implementation of action plans from the sub-groups and presenting/feeding this back to the community.
- Provide information about which measures should be used as the baseline indicators to measure change on the estate over an agreed period of time e.g. social, environmental, health, crime, housing.
- Make proposals about the methods to be used for collecting information and data for the baseline; this could be qualitative or quantitative.
- Make proposals about the methods for gathering and recording data and information to measure the change over time in a way that is easy to understand by all the community.
- Empower residents and community members to have their say at every step of the process.
- Act as a sounding board for Council Officers and Council Members so they can understand issues from a resident and community perspective.
- Provide feedback, and where possible documented feedback, from a resident perspective regarding the Council's proposals and engagement activities.

- 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 and resident groups, and other community stakeholders, and encourage involvement from those who would not usually get involved.
- 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.
- Highlight issues and sensitivities arising from a resident's perspective.
- Highlight issues and sensitivities arising from the perspective of other community stakeholders such as local businesses, schools and health providers.
- Help to identify how residents and community members can influence processes and proposals.
- Plan and review the work programme, including those of the subgroups.

Forums should provide a positive environment which encourages attendance and participation at meetings and promotes discussion by all its members. This does not preclude members from disagreeing on issues, but it does require that discussions (particularly controversial ones) be conducted in a manner so that members feel comfortable presenting a different view to the group.

Accountability

The forums are not decision-making bodies within the Council structure. Nevertheless, they are the main avenue for resident and community engagement and will make recommendations for renewal activity on their estate.

While individual members of the forums may not always agree with formal Council decisions to regenerate or renew an estate, the role of the forum is to consider how those decisions have been reached and how they will be executed in the best interests of current and future residents and community members.

The forums will be accountable to Milton Keynes Council; any concerns about the forum can be taken up with the Council via the Community Engagement Officer to be addressed as appropriate.