

Rent Review 2020/21 - Tenant Consultation

Officers from Northampton Partnership Homes presented details of the proposed April 2020 rent increase to its Residents Forum on 20th January 2020.

The Residents Forum meets bi-monthly and is open to all Tenants and Leaseholders of Northampton Borough Council. The forum presents an opportunity for Northampton Partnership Homes to provide information and updates about the services it provides and to receive feedback from residents.

Twenty-eight residents attended the forum on 20th January. The residents were given a presentation outlining the proposed rent increase of 2.7% together with some context around the recent policy on rent setting. The presentation also included further information about the new requirement for Local Housing Authorities to comply with the Regulator of Social Housings, Rent Standard.

Following the presentation, the majority of residents in attendance who provided comment, felt the proposed rent increase was fair.

Other comments made by residents at the Forum are summarised below:

- The increase will affect people on low incomes, my concern is the negative impact on low income families
- As someone on Housing Benefit the increase will make no difference but for others on basic wage it could make a huge difference
- Can't the increase be means tested
- It is not fair to raise rents at the moment. So many families are struggling. This could be done in the future
- Hopefully with increased income, will come better services
- The rent increase is fair but service charges are not value for money
- The increase is not over the top, but you should keep a tight rein on what is spent