

TENANTS PANEL

Subject: Rent Consultation

Date: 12 December 2019

Attendees:

Sharon Flynn
Caroline Meiklejohn
Marisa McCarthy
Robert Coulter
Andrew Loen

Discussion Points

The meeting was held with the tenants panel to allow for feedback prior to the consultation being issued to all tenants. Sharon Flynn explained that, every year the Co-operative has to consider its budget and recommend the rent required to ensure we can continue to offer services and maintain our properties. We review the 5-year plan and 30-year business plan. An explanation of the two inflation rates of CPI at 1.5% and RPI at 2.1% was provided and how the Board came to the decision on the proposed increase and options to be given to tenants for consultation.

The difference in options and what can be attained by the higher increase i.e. money set aside for further improvements or to help keep down future increases.

Discussion took place on the format of the information being provided to tenants and all agreed that the newsletter article was appropriate and whether a Prize Draw should be offered as incentive for tenants to complete a survey form (within newsletter), text survey and possible Facebook poll; it was agreed that two supermarket vouchers would be a good incentive as money is tight in January. Roberta Coulter (RC) also donated a free food delivery from Sims Garden Chinese Take Away.

Tenants agreed that it was good to offer options as some tenants may feel that it was important to try have some money built up over the years to maintain future increases and to consider new house building. Equally, there were concerns that money is very tight for some tenants and that this may mean others opt for the lower option as every penny is accounted for.

It was agreed that the format and content of the consultation should be issued to tenants.