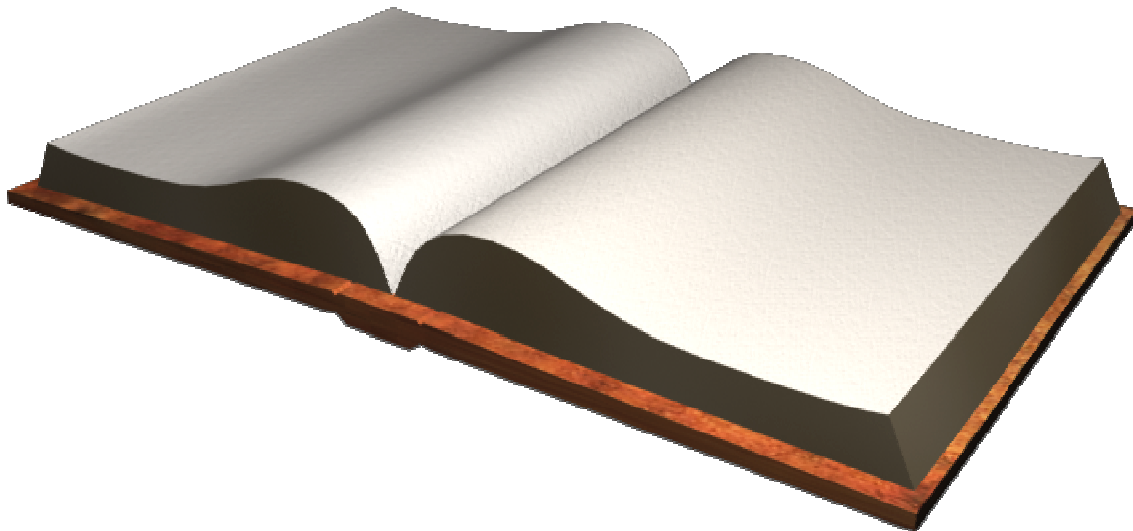


**Sandwell Black**  
**Asian & Ethnic Minority**  
**Consultation Group**

**CONSTITUTION**



# Mission Statement

- To safeguarded and promote the interests of the Black Asian Ethnic Minority Tenants in Sandwell on matters concerning housing and the environment but also around the social and cultural issues.
- To enable and assist tenants to have greater control over issues and activities that affects their homes and community.
- To promote and develop liaison between the groups, the Housing Department and any other appropriate bodies.
- Above all to uphold and promote equality of opportunity to work towards the elimination of all forms of racism and discrimination and to strive for good relations amongst all members of the community.

# **CONSTITUTION**

## **1. Name of the group.**

The name of the group shall be the Sandwell Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority Consultation Group”.

## **2. Aims of the Group.**

**A.** To safe guard and promote the interest of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic tenants within the borough of Sandwell , on matters concerning housing and the environment, but also around the social and cultural issues.

**B.** To enable and assist tenants to have a greater control over issues and activities that affects their homes.

**C.** To promote and develop liaison between the groups, the Housing Department and any other appropriate bodies.

**D.** Above all to uphold and promote equality of opportunity to work towards the elimination of all forms of racism and discrimination, and to strive for good relations amongst all members of the community.

## **3. Membership.**

**A)** Membership to the Sandwell BEAM Consultation Group is open to all BEAM (Black Minority Ethnic) council tenants regardless of gender, nationality, race, sexuality, disability or religious/ political opinion.

**B)** In addition to the general membership category, membership will be further defined by three categories.

### **Silent Membership.**

- 1.** Will consist of the 2000 BME (Black, Minority Ethnic) council tenants that Sandwell BEAM sends information to on a quarterly basis, to keep members informed and offer opportunities to participate.

## **2. Semi- Active Membership.**

Will consist of BME (Black, Minority Ethnic) tenants who have expressed an interest, or have been part of the steering group, in the past attended events and meetings but whatever reason cannot commit to regular attendance at the Steering Group meetings.

## **3. Steering Group Membership.**

This is a small core of active BME (Black Minority Ethnic) tenants that meet on a regular basis to carry out the business of the group. One representative from this category of membership will be elected to sit on the board of directors of STRF (Sandwell Tenants & Residents Federation Ltd)

- c. Movement between the categories of membership is permitted to assist with the flexibility and sustainability of the group.
- d. It shall be a condition of membership, where relevant that members conduct themselves at all times in a reasonable manner at meetings and events or in premises used by the group or whilst conducting business for the group.

Any member may be excluded for breach of these conditions or for any code of conduct contravening the aims and objectives of the group by a majority of those present and voting at any meeting.

## **4. The Steering Group Membership.**

- a. The committee will carry out the business of the group.
- b. The steering Group must be made up of a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 14 members must include a Spokesperson and a Vice- Spokesperson is optional.
- c. The committee shall be elected at the Annual General meeting of the group.
- d. The committee shall meet at least every 6 weeks at a time and a place convenient to the committee.

- e. The officers and committee members as well as carrying out the usual duties of a constituted committee will be responsible for members negotiating the direction and priorities of Sandwell BEAB Consultation Group and directing the workload / work programme of the BEAM staff. Within the usual constraints and restrictions, and in consultation with the wider membership where relevant and appropriate.
- f. The spokesperson shall have the casting vote in the event of a tie.

#### 5. **Annual General Meeting**

A There shall be an Annual General meeting each year.

THIS SECTION IS UNDER REVIEW AND WILL BE UPDATED SHORTLY

#### **6 Other Meetings.**

**A)** All votes shall be decided by a simple majority of the members present who are eligible to vote.

**B)** A special meeting shall be held if requested in writing by members of Sandwell BEAM Consultation Group and a meeting arranged within 14 days of a request being received.

#### **7 Changes to the Constitution.**

**A)** The Constitution may Only be altered at the AGM (Annual General Meeting) or at a special meeting.

**B)** All proposed changes to the constitution must be submitted in writing to the secretary at least 14 days before the meeting. A copy of the proposed changes to go out with invitations to the meetings.

**C)** Any changes to the constitution must be agreed by at least two thirds of the members present at the meeting and eligible to vote.

### **8 Quorum.**

**A)** No Annual General Meeting shall take place if there are less than 5 members present.

**B)** No vote or decision is valid if taken with less than one third of the committee is present (or 5 steering group members)

Any decisions taken under these circumstances will need to be ratified at the next committee meeting where one third or more of the committee are present.

The BEAM Group would like SCIPS to hold finances in its name and that these should go through BEAM members.

### **10 Dissolution of the Group.**

**A** For as long as the Sandwell BEAM Consultation Group is in receipt of public funding. The committee need to be retained throughout the funded life of the BEAM project.

Therefore, the Sandwell BEAM Consultation Group is not subject to dissolution in the same way as other registered groups.

**B** It shall be a central role of the BEAM workers to recruit to and maintain the minimum number of committee members, throughout the life of the project.

**C** The future of the committee will be negotiated at a point when core funding is no longer available.