

Useful Organisations and Training

Each Resident Management Organisation (RMO) and Co-operative receives a training allowance every year. This allowance is to be spent on training for Board members that will enable you to confidently carry out your role. Each Board member is expected to attend at least two or three training classes a year.

Below are a number of organisations that offer training for Board members as well as useful guides and information that will help you better understand your role as a new Board member for an RMO/Co-operative.

In the Driving Seat (ItDS)

RMO and Co-operative training provided through a partnership between Wandsworth Council, Southwark Council, City West Homes and the Confederation of Co-operative Housing.

Sessions include:

- Essentials for New Committee Members
- Governance
- TMOs and the Law
- Procurement
- Financial Management
- Business Planning
- Staffing
- Involving Residents
- Housing Management and Risk Management

The training venue is easily accessible at Westminster City Hall in Victoria; a taxi can be organised if necessary. There are a number of free training spaces for WBC board members. Once these are allocated the fee is £85 plus VAT. The training day includes refreshments and lunch.

The National Federation of Tenant Management Organisations (NFTMO)

<http://www.nftmo.com>

National organisation representing TMO/RMOs and Co-operatives in England. Website provides resources, news and opportunities for communication with other TMOs/RMOs. Offers a Kite Mark and benchmarking against other similar organisations. WPC is a member.

Wandsworth Council (WC)

<http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk>

WC works with 12 Co-operatives and TMOs/RMOs. The Council's website, Resident Participation Officers (RPOs) and in-house training sessions can all offer advice and guidance.

- Policies and Procedures – you can contact your Resident Participation Officer (RPO) for examples of guide policies that you can use for your RMO/Co-operative.
- Board Members are invited to in-house training. Recent sessions have included subjects such as Newsletters and Communication and Understanding Committee Roles.
- RMO and Co-operative staff members are also invited to WC in-house training. Recent sessions have included Tenancy Management and Legal training and Leasehold training.
- On the 'Get Involved' page you can find information about all the different ways in which residents can be involved in the housing service:
http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/info/200027/council_housing/246/get_involved
- You can also evaluate the Council and your Co-operative's performance by looking at the Area Housing Panel Reports found here:
http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/info/10091/council_housing-information_and_advice/964/how_is_the_housing_department_performing/3

Local Authority Co-operative Officers Group (LACOG)

<http://www.lacog.org.uk>

LACOG is the representative body of local authority officers who work with RMOs/TMOs.

- LACOG are heavily involved in the *ItDS* training mentioned above and update their website with training opportunities for RMO/TMO Board members.

Inside Housing Magazine

<http://www.insidehousing.co.uk>

Weekly magazine with up-to-date housing news and debates.

Confederation of Co-operative Housing (CCH)

<http://www.cch.coop>

Long-established organisation representing housing co-operatives. Website includes useful section about policy documents and policy advice and guidance:

http://www.cch.coop/docus/policy_advice.html

- CCH Newsletter – keeps you up to date with Co-op developments
- CCH Annual Conference: CCH member organisations can take advantage of reduced fees for our annual conference
- CCH Knowledgebase: The CCH can provide support to members to tackle governance, management and regulatory problems.
- Legal Advice: CCH offer members access to the legal expertise of Co-operatives UK
- Events: Discounted fees for conferences and events organised by the CCH, Co-operatives UK and others.

Department of Communities and Local Government

<http://www.communities.gov.uk>

Government department that sets policy on supporting local government; communities and neighbourhoods and housing. Useful website for general overview of the implementation of localism and proposed changes in how social housing is delivered.

- Housing information:
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/>

Homes and Communities Agency:

<http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk>

The Homes and Communities Agency is the national housing and regeneration agency for England.

- Useful website for general information regarding initiatives to increase housing and employment opportunities.

Access-Funds

<http://www.access-funds.co.uk>

The Access-funds website includes news of new grant funding and directories of funding programmes including National Lottery, government, EU and charitable sources. They charge a membership fee.

Priority Estates Project

<http://www.pep.org.uk/etc.html>

Priority Estates Project and ETC Partners offer an independent, confidential, non-biased support to help build communication and leadership, tackle difficult issues and work on areas of contention between and within groups.

Tenant Participation Advisory Service

<http://www.tpas.org.uk>

A not-for-profit membership organisation that provides information, consultancy, training and conferences about involving tenants in their housing management.

- Training brochure:
http://www.tpas.org.uk/FileUploads/Training_Booklet_Jan_2011_Single_Pages.pdf

National Arbitration and Training Website

<http://www.acas.org.uk>

Useful information for organisations who employ staff and need advice and training information about managing people, staff retention, performance management, dismissals and disciplinary matters.

- Training list:
<http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=2002>

Association for Tenant Involvement and Control

<http://www.atic.org.uk>

An association open to people interested in and committed to tenant involvement and control in social housing. Enables and encourage debate and campaign for positive change in housing policy and legislation.

- Training information:
<http://www.atic.org.uk/page.php?id=2>

Joseph Rowntree Foundation

<http://www.jrf.org.uk>

National charity that funds a large, UK-wide research and development programme looking at social issues including housing.

- Tenant Participation research can be found here:
<http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/browse/category/t#tenant-participation>

National Tenants Resource Centre

<http://www.traffordhall.com>

Charity offering training and support to all those living and working in low-income areas. Training sessions offered cover sustainable communities, social enterprise schemes and tenant specific workshops. Although based in Chester, they offer training on site as well.

- Training information:
<http://www.traffordhall.com/training.aspx>