



## PRESS RELEASE

Friday, 15 February 2013

Contact: Lucy Tuson 07720 946403/[lucy.tuson@eastkenthousing.org.uk](mailto:lucy.tuson@eastkenthousing.org.uk)

### **New tenant Vice Chair will ensure tenants' needs remain at the heart of EKH**

A local tenant representative has been elected as Vice Chair for East Kent Housing's Board for the second time and will ensure tenants' needs remain at the heart of the organisation.

Chris Hanagan, the tenant Board member for Dover, was elected unanimously by East Kent Housing's Board to take on this important role.

The East Kent Housing Board, which is made up of tenants, councillors, and independent members, meets regularly to discuss and keep an eye on how East Kent Housing is performing on behalf of tenants living in over 17,500 council homes across Canterbury, Dover, Thanet and Shepway. The Board also looks at and responds to information provided from the local Area Boards as well as receiving regular reports about repairs, complaints and spending.

Chris Hanagan, who has experience of volunteering in a range of community and tenant roles, said: "I am really pleased that a tenant has been chosen again to be Board Vice Chair and I'm looking forward to taking on this new role. Many local tenants are going to feel the pinch financially come April as the welfare reforms start to be introduced and I am particularly supportive of all the work East Kent Housing is doing to support tenants through this. I recognise the pressures to drive costs down but I am keen to make sure that the services tenants receive continue to meet the high standards which have been set for East Kent Housing."

"With all the pressures facing tenants nationally, I feel it's really important that tenants get involved in what is happening in their community and with the services that they receive. Not only is it personally rewarding as you learn new skills and gain confidence, but you do actually get the chance to make a difference and change things for the better. There are lots of small ways for tenants to get involved locally and once you get started, you do find that it's really worth doing. I would strongly recommend that any tenant, who wants to see things improve, gets in contact with East Kent Housing to find out what they can do locally."

The previous Vice Chair, Lynne Sims, stepped down from the role due to ill health after serving on the Board for nearly two years. Lynne will continue to represent the needs of local tenants on the Area Board and Shepway Tenants' and Leaseholders' Board.

Lynne's departure leaves a vacant seat for a tenant Board member for the Shepway area and anyone interested in taking on this new role is encouraged to get in touch with East Kent Housing. Lynne, who enjoyed her role as Vice Chair and wants to encourage others to get involved, said: "I've really enjoyed being able to keep a close eye on how East Kent Housing

is performing and working with the other Board members. I also got the chance to represent East Kent Housing at conferences and events across the country. I would advise anyone thinking of applying to become a Board member to go for it! You will be given lots of help and support from your fellow Board members and staff at East Kent Housing.”

To find out more about East Kent Housing and the local opportunities for tenants to get involved visit [www.eastkenthousing.org.uk](http://www.eastkenthousing.org.uk) or [www.facebook.com/eastkenthousing](https://www.facebook.com/eastkenthousing)

To find out more about the Shepway tenant Board member vacancy contact Rebecca on 01303 853 782 or email [rebecca.mcguinness@eastkenthousing.org.uk](mailto:rebecca.mcguinness@eastkenthousing.org.uk) for details.

**ENDS**

**Notes to editors**

Photo provided: New Vice Chair Chris Hanagan.