



homing in

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/council-housing

Spring 2026



Work to reduce the repairs backlog and improve the safety and quality of council homes is making a difference. Find out more on page 5.

In this issue

- Positive feedback in latest tenant and resident survey
- Join our repairs scrutiny panel
- Action to take back abandoned homes
- Win Volk's Railway tickets



Brighton & Hove
City Council

Welcome to the spring issue of Homing In

We're working hard to improve council homes and housing services and are pleased to report we're making progress across the board.

I'm very happy that the feedback to the annual Survey of Tenants and Residents reflects this progress, with a general increase in resident satisfaction in how the council maintains your homes and delivers key housing services.

You can see the results on page 3. Thank you to everyone who took part in the survey in the autumn.

We've also brought the repairs backlog down substantially and are making progress in 4 key areas to improve the safety of your homes – fire, water, electrical and smoke detection. Find out more on page 5.

It's good to see progress being made, but we're not complacent and there's still a lot more to do to meet tenant expectations.

As part of this, we're setting up a repairs scrutiny panel to get tenants' views on improving our repairs service. Find out how you can get involved below.

Other news in this issue includes information about developments in Hove, Whitehawk and Portslade which will provide more council homes. Plus an update on action to take back abandoned properties.



Councillor Gill Williams

There's also a round-up of events taking place this spring and a chance to win tickets for Volk's Railway.

Councillor Gill Williams
Cabinet Member for Housing

Have your say – join our repairs scrutiny panel

Our repairs service is setting up a repairs scrutiny panel and would like tenants to get involved.



The panel will look at how our repairs service is working and help us identify where we can improve. No experience is needed – just your views as a tenant.

The panel will meet every 6 to 8 weeks, for around 1.5 to 2 hours, and will be a mix of in person and online sessions – your choice.

Interested? Please contact our Repairs Helpdesk Team.

Email repairs.helpdesk@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Call 01273 294409

We'd love to hear from you.

Important reminder emergency repairs available 24/7

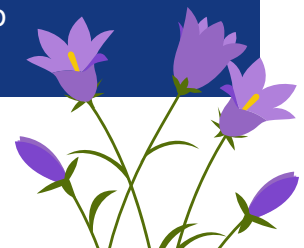
We want to remind all residents that emergency repairs are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

If you experience an emergency repair issue – such as a major leak, loss of power, dangerous electrics, or anything that puts you or your home at risk – please report it immediately, even outside normal working hours.

Some tenants have been waiting until the next working day to report emergencies, which can be dangerous and may cause further damage to your home. Our out of hours team is here specifically to help in these situations.

If it's an emergency, please call our Repairs Helpdesk straight away on 01273 294409

Thank you for helping us keep you and your home safe.



Survey results – thank you for giving us your views

A big thank you to everyone who took part in the Survey of Tenants and Residents (STAR) in the autumn.

A total of 1,002 residents gave their views in the 2025/26 survey, which was carried out by an independent market research company.



71% of tenants said they were ‘very satisfied’ or ‘fairly satisfied’ with **housing services overall, up** from 67% the year before.

Satisfaction has increased for all the measures in the survey, apart from the handling of anti-social behaviour (ASB), where satisfaction has fallen slightly.

The biggest areas of improvement are the repairs service and tenants being given a say in how services are managed.

The lowest area of satisfaction remains complaints handling. While our satisfaction levels for ASB and complaints are consistent with the satisfaction levels reported in data for local authority landlords nationally in 2024/25 (the latest national figures available), we are using this feedback to ensure we prioritise these areas for improvement.

Here’s the breakdown for questions about different aspects of the service, showing the percentage of surveyed residents who were ‘very satisfied’ or ‘fairly satisfied’, as opposed to those who were ‘neither satisfied nor dissatisfied’, ‘fairly dissatisfied’ or ‘very dissatisfied’.

Well maintained home
71% (up from 65% in 2024/25)

Safe home **74%** (up from 69%)

Communal areas clean and well maintained **71%**
(up from 66%)

Overall repairs service over the last 12 months **77%**
(up from 68%)

Time taken to complete last repair **71%** (up from 63%)

Listening to and acting upon views **63%** (up from 53%)

Keeping you informed
72% (up from 67%)

Treating you fairly and with respect **77%** (up from 76%)

Positive contribution to neighbourhood **64%**
(up from 58%)

Handling of anti-social behaviour **55%** (down from 56%)

Complaints handling **28%**
(up from 26%)

Giving you a say in service management **62%** (up from 56%)

Your feedback is important and the responses to the survey helps us to plan services and highlight where we need to improve.

We aim to be a great landlord by putting residents at the heart of our improvement plans and responding to what you tell us.

Get involved

If you are interested in finding out more about the ways in which you can get involved as a resident, please contact the Community Engagement Team. Please email **communityengagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk** or call **01273 291518**

For more information about our performance, visit **www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/housing-performance**



New Director of Estates Renewal

Chantelle Barker will be joining Brighton & Hove City Council as the Director of Estates Renewal in April.

Chantelle has a substantial track record of delivering major housing programmes across a number of organisations and her 'blend of technical knowledge, proven delivery, and exemplary resident engagement' came across strongly during the recruitment process.

Residents who took part in the recruitment described Chantelle as 'genuine and approachable', strong on 'accountability' and committed to 'breaking down barriers' between the council and communities.

The future of the large panel system buildings

A report to the council's Cabinet on Thursday 19 March recommends the formal decision to proceed with the redevelopment of the council's 8 large panel system (LPS) buildings.

We're continuing to hold regular drop-in sessions to update residents on the next steps. We recognise the buildings are people's homes and our priority is to support all residents through each step of the process.

The report outlines the feedback from the consultation with residents and leaseholders on the future plans for the buildings – Dudeney Lodge and Nettleton Court in Hollingdean, Falcon Court, Heron Court, Kestrel Court, Kingfisher Court and Swallow Court in north Whitehawk; and St James's House in Kemp Town.

The report also recommends the Cabinet approves the Rehousing Policy and Local Lettings Plan (LLP), with some changes informed by the results of the consultation.

The Rehousing Policy outlines the rehousing process and support available to secure tenants, residents in temporary accommodation and tenants of leaseholders in the building.

The LLP outlines the allocation process and rehousing options for secure tenants who will lose their homes due to the redevelopment programme. This will give greater priority in rehousing our secure LPS tenants.

If agreed, the rehousing programme will be phased over several years – beginning with St James's House, followed by Nettleton and Dudeney, and then the north Whitehawk buildings.

Have your say on the interim scheme using empty council homes as temporary accommodation

In January, the council introduced a short-term scheme to use some vacant council homes as temporary accommodation for homeless households, rather than let them to people on the city's housing register. This scheme began in January and runs until 1 May.

The aim is to improve support for families with children in temporary accommodation and reduce the numbers of households needing to be placed outside of the city.

We want to hear residents' feedback on the scheme and the potential to extend the use of empty council homes as temporary accommodation when the interim scheme ends.

The proposal being looked at is the option of continuing the use of vacant council homes as temporary accommodation for up to a maximum of 100 additional properties over a further 12 months. We estimate that would involve around 20% of the council homes that become available for letting over a year.

Please share your views through our online consultation at **yourvoice.brighton-hove.gov.uk/projects/interim-temporary-accommodation-scheme**

The survey is open until 11.59pm on Wednesday 1 April.



Improving building safety in council homes

We're making progress on improving the safety and quality of our council homes.

The number of overdue repairs across the city's council homes has decreased by more than 7,000 since 2024.

The figure fell from 9,653 routine repairs (outstanding after 28 days) in June 2024 to 2,479 in October 2025.

We're also making progress in 4 key areas of safety compliance.

Fire safety

More than 5,000 fire safety tasks were carried out between December 2024 and October 2025.

As a result, the number of fire-risk-assessment actions outstanding fell from 8,268 in December 2024 to 2,918 by October 2025.

We're on track to complete all outstanding fire safety actions in the next few months.

Water safety

We've carried out water safety assessments on more than 90% of our buildings and, as of September 2025, 2,695 overdue actions were identified. Improving oversight and performance in this area remains a key priority.

Electrical safety

93% of our homes had been inspected within a compliant 5-year domestic testing programme by October 2025, compared to just over 50% in June 2024.



Smoke detection

As at October 2025, 99.4% of homes were confirmed as having working smoke alarms, with the remaining homes currently being completed. We have introduced an annual testing process across all homes.



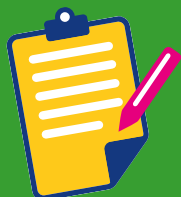
We've been taking action to improve our council homes following a critical report from the Regulator of Social Housing in August 2024.

We know there is still a lot more to do and we're committed to continuing to improve our housing to make sure we're providing homes you are proud to live in.

Survey of council homes

We are going to be carrying out surveys on the condition of all our council homes over the next 2 years.

Surveyors will be visiting homes to look at kitchens and bathrooms and check on their general condition, including roofs, windows, doors, brickwork and any issues with damp and mould.



This will provide detailed information to help us plan for current and future repairs, maintenance, improvements and investment needed on our homes.

The surveys will be carried out by in-house staff and external surveyors, and they are expected to begin in June.

When it is time to arrange an appointment for your property, we will write to you directly with full details.



Annual rent increase

Why your rent changes each year

Each year social housing rents are reviewed and adjusted in line with national government rules.

Social housing rent increases are linked to the Consumer Price Index, published in September. This sets the limit on rent increases for the following financial year.

This increase will contribute to the continued safety and maintenance of your home, Net Zero sustainability, and services such as the Neighbourhood Officer Team.

Letters were sent out in early March with your new rent and any updated service charges for the year ahead. These come into effect on April 6. This year's rent increase is 4.8%.



If you receive Universal Credit

If you receive Universal Credit (UC) and get help with housing costs, you must inform UC of your new rent on 6 April.

It is important to do it on that day, which is the date your rent changes. You should not report this early, as doing so can delay or reduce your payment.

If you report the change late, you may lose part of your housing cost entitlement for that month.

If you receive Housing Benefit

If you are on Housing Benefit rather than Universal Credit, you don't need to do anything.

We will automatically adjust your entitlement based on the new rent and write to you with the updated amount.

- For more information, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/council-housing-rent-increases
- If you're struggling to pay your rent, please contact the Housing Income Management team for advice and support. Email housing.income@brighton-hove.gov.uk or call **01273 293224**.



Benefit changes

A couple of changes to benefits are being introduced in April.

The 2-child limit will be abolished on 6 April. Families who are exempt from the Benefit Cap from April will receive a child element for all children in their household. Those who are not exempt from the benefit cap may not see an increase in their Universal Credit. Contact benefitcapsupport@brighton-hove.gov.uk

The other change is that the health element of Universal Credit is being reduced for most new claimants. Those already getting the health element will remain on the same rate.

For more information about these changes and other benefits, contact the Welfare Rights Team.

- Call **01273 291116** Monday to Wednesday from 10am to 1pm
- Email welfarerights@brighton-hove.gov.uk



New homes update

Work to start on 306 homes in Hove

Construction work will start this spring on 306 new homes at Sackville Road in Hove.

The development is the latest from Homes for Brighton & Hove, a partnership between the council and the Hyde Group.

The homes will include 183 council-rented homes for people on the city's housing register.

These will be a mix of one, 2, 3 and 4 bedroom flats, including 15 wheelchair accessible homes.

There will also be 123 homes available to buy as shared ownership from Hyde.

The development will be built on part of the former Sackville Road Trading Estate and is due to be completed in 2029.

It will include landscaped courtyards with play equipment, seating and community growing space.

All the homes will be highly energy efficient, using solar panels to reduce energy costs for residents.

The Sackville Road development is Homes for Brighton & Hove's third scheme. The partnership has already built 242 homes at Denman Place in Coldean and 104 homes at Clarendon Place in Portslade.

For more information, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/hfbh



New homes to be built in Sackville Road



New homes planned for Swanborough Drive

Go ahead for new homes

Plans for 36 new council homes in Swanborough Drive in Whitehawk were given the go ahead in February.

The homes will be a mix of one, 2 and 3 bedroom flats, including 4 fully wheelchair accessible properties.

The development is part of our New Homes for Neighbourhoods programme which is building much-needed new council homes on council-owned sites across the city.

It includes a community space designed for use by a range of local community groups and for a variety of activities.

Local residents took part in a Planning for Real consultation to help shape the proposals for the development.

A main contractor will now be appointed and work carried out to prepare the site for construction. Building work is expected to start in January 2027 and the new homes completed late 2028.

More than 250 new homes have been built through our New Homes for Neighbourhoods programme since it started in 2013 and many more are in the pipeline.

These include the Portslade Village Centre development which will deliver 28 council-rented homes, a new community centre and an outdoor play area. Work has started on the development and the new homes are due for completion in spring 2028.

For more information, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/nhfn



PRIDE IN PLACE
LED BY YOU – BACKED BY UK GOVERNMENT

£20 million Pride in Place programme for Whitehawk

Whitehawk has been chosen for the government’s new Pride in Place programme, which will bring £20million of investment into the area over the next decade.

This is a long-term, community-led investment that will give residents a real say in how funding is used and what improvements happen locally.

The Pride in Place programme will support projects that matter to local people — from public spaces and community facilities to opportunities for young people, green spaces and neighbourhood improvements.

To lead this work, a new Whitehawk Neighbourhood Board will be set up, made up of residents and community representatives who will guide decisions and oversee progress.

An independent chair is being recruited to lead the board and local stakeholders, councillors, council staff and MP Chris Ward will be involved in the selection process.

We will also shortly be giving residents the opportunity to apply to join the neighbourhood board.

Together, the board will shape priorities and decide how the funding should be used to improve both the physical environment and the social infrastructure of the community.

For more information about how to get involved, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/pride-in-place or email prideinplace@brighton-hove.gov.uk

For more information about Pride in Place, visit www.gov.uk/government/publications/pride-in-place-programme-prospectus/

Bringing homes back into use

We’re taking action to make sure council homes abandoned by tenants are available for people who really need them.

Since April 2025 we’ve taken back 7 homes left unoccupied after tenants moved out without telling the council they no longer needed the property.

The tenants voluntarily gave up their tenancies following investigations by council staff and the properties are now providing much needed homes for new tenants.

A one bedroom flat in Brighton was left unoccupied by a tenant who was living in a private property elsewhere.

Following an investigation, the tenant gave up the tenancy, which meant a new tenant could move in.

The new tenant was downsizing and moved out of a council house, which will help to free up a 3 bedroom home for a family in need of housing.

If you think someone isn’t living in their council home or is sub-letting it, you can let us know in confidence. Please email anti-fraud@brighton-hove.gov.uk visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/tenancy-fraud and fill in the online form, or call 01273 291847.

If you tell us, we’ll investigate, and we’ll take action.



Do you have an idea for improving your community?

Our Estate Development Budget (EDB) provides money for ideas from residents that make a positive difference to local neighbourhoods on our council estates.

A total of 80 bids for funding from 56 different resident and community groups across the city have been given the go ahead since April 2025, and more are in the pipeline.

A wide variety of different projects have benefited, ranging from community gardens and community room improvements to craft sessions and self-defence classes.



Eyes down for bingo!

In Coldean, a weekly bingo night is flourishing, with new equipment funded by the Estate Development Budget.

Residents who organise Coldean Village Bingo bid for funds for a new microphone, speaker and machine to select bingo numbers.

Bingo caller, Mark Brown, said: "Our old equipment was over 25 years old and didn't always work properly. The new equipment is much better and has made everything much more enjoyable."

The bingo sessions are on Fridays at 7pm at New Larchwood in Waldron Avenue and open to all.



Boost for local activities

At St George's Hall in Moulsecomb, the EDB is helping to provide new equipment and fund a range of activities for residents including IT sessions, an older people's lunch club, and seasonal events.

New plants and compost have been provided for the hall's community garden and residents are planting herbs, vegetables and fruit for local people to enjoy.



How to apply

Residents, tenant groups or community organisations can make a 'Quick Bid' for EDB funds for smaller projects or a 'Main Bid' for bigger projects. To find out more about the EDB and how to apply for funds, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/EDB email communityengagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk or call the Community Engagement Team on **01273 291518**.

Get involved

Our Community Engagement Team works with tenants and local groups, empowering them to get involved, access support and funding, and have their say in shaping and improving council services across Brighton & Hove.

Find out more

Follow the team on Facebook and Instagram by searching for **bhcommunityengagement**

Visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/community-engagement

Email communityengagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk or call **01273 291518**.



Be alert for scams

Please be alert for nuisance and scam calls – and be cautious if you receive a call from a number you don't recognise.

We've recently had more reports of scammers working across the city. We want to help you recognise who they are and how to deal with them.

For example:

- **Housing scams** – the scammer will claim to be a housing officer or from the repairs team and ask about reported issues like damp or recent work

- **Accident/legal scams** – claims about a recent accident or legal aid related to a workplace mishap
- **General fraud** – quick hang-ups, silence, or an automated dial tone are common signs of mass-dialling scam operations

If you think a call is a scam, hang up immediately. Don't press any keys or confirm any personal information.

For advice and information about scams and how to report them, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/consumer-advice or call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on **0808 223 1133**.



Beware of cold callers

Be wary if anyone calls at your home claiming to be from the council when you're not expecting a visit.

Visits by our staff are usually arranged in advance and all council staff carry photo ID.

If you have any concerns about anyone calling about repairs, please contact our Repairs Helpdesk on **01273 294409** to check if someone is working for us.

News from the Leaseholders Action Group



The Leaseholders Action Group (LAG) represents leaseholders' interests and works to ensure your views are heard.

We focus LAG's efforts on leaseholder specific issues, complementing the work of Area Panels and resident associations.

Our Annual General Meeting took place in March, after Homing In went to print, and we will have an update from the meeting in the next issue.

Topics for discussion included:

- Leaseholder and freeholder responsibilities
- Certificates of Expenditure and dispute resolution
- Cleaning services
- Insurance, major works, and fire safety
- Planned preventative maintenance
- Housing Revenue Account budget
- Stock condition survey
- Development of Asset Management Plan
- Home Purchase Policy

Chris Vine and Keith Marston, LAG Co-Chairs

To contact LAG: email Lag@maillist.cloud visit [facebook.com/groups/bhlag](https://www.facebook.com/groups/bhlag) or call **01273 605225**.

Take part in this year's Stay Strong, Steady and Independent campaign

Building your strength and balance helps you stay strong, steady and independent as you age.



Join an activity session



This year's falls prevention campaign offers residents aged 50 and over a chance to try simple strength and balance activities from 27 April to 2 May.

Strength and balance activities can be fun and sociable, and include yoga, tai chi, bowls, dance, racket sports and many others.

To join free or low-cost taster sessions and find regular activities, visit www.ageingwellbh.org/strength-and-balance or call 0808 175 3234.

Fundraising for charity

Residents at Hazelholt seniors housing scheme in Portslade raised £550 for charity last year by putting their unwanted items to good use.

A regular 'bring and buy' table was set up in the communal lounge for residents, with proceeds going to the Sussex Heart Charity and Cancer Research.

The fundraising was the idea of resident Chris Badger, who also organised a 'Pimms and Pies' Christmas party and raffle with prizes donated by local businesses.

Chris said: "We've done really well with the support of everybody at Hazelholt. It's been lovely and we're definitely going to carry on fundraising."

Could seniors housing be for you?



If you are aged 55 or over, our seniors housing schemes could be of interest to you.

We have 23 seniors schemes across the city, ranging from small schemes with around 30 residents to the largest with over 100.

Residents have their own flats and independence. Advice is available from a scheme manager during the day and a 24-hour emergency alarm system provides round the clock reassurance.

Our Brooke Mead extra care scheme in Albion Street, Brighton, also has on-site care staff who provide home care and is more suitable for those with greater needs.

Each scheme has a communal lounge and garden and some schemes have regular activities such as art groups, fitness classes, music sessions and coffee mornings.

If you're interested in moving to seniors housing, there's help and advice available.

For more information, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/seniors-housing email seniorshousing@brighton-hove.gov.uk or ring 01273 293030 and ask for a call back from a member of the Seniors Housing Team.

How we've been doing

Here are some key performance results over the last quarter...

October to December 2025



Rent collection

Our rent collection rate was 92%, slightly down from 92.8% the previous quarter.

Repairs and improvements

The Repairs Helpdesk answered an average of 279 phone calls per working day, up from 232 the previous quarter. We completed 162 repairs per working day, slightly up from 160 the previous quarter.

We completed 10,221 repairs in total, 3,363 emergency and 6,858 routine repairs.



Customer services

Housing Customer Services handled an average of 73 phone calls and 107 emails per working day, compared with 78 phone calls and 101 emails the previous quarter.

The most common queries were about resident parking and tenancy issues including anti-social behaviour.



Moving home

We let 122 homes, slightly down from 126 the previous quarter. The number of empty homes at the end of the quarter was 144, up from 129 at the start.



Anti-social behaviour

Our officers responded to 216 new reports of anti-social behaviour from victims and witnesses, up from 207 the previous quarter.



Tenancy management

We've worked on 131 new cases to support vulnerable tenants, compared with 149 the previous quarter, including help with arranging benefit claims, repairs, and care packages.



Feedback about housing services

We want to know what you think about the service you receive so we can build on our successes and make improvements where they are most needed.

Please send your feedback to CustomerFeedback@brighton-hove.gov.uk or call **01273 291229**.

Whether you make a compliment or a complaint, your right to receive a good quality service will not be affected.

For information about the council's complaints procedure, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/complaints

Housing Ombudsman

You can also contact the Housing Ombudsman for independent advice and mediation. If your complaint has not been resolved via the council's complaints procedure, the Ombudsman will then liaise with you and the council to seek satisfaction.

For details, visit www.housing-ombudsman.org.uk, email info@housing-ombudsman.org.uk or call **0300 1113000**.

East Brighton Health Hub

East Brighton Health Hub offers local residents easy access to free health and wellbeing support every Friday.



The health hub is located at Robert Lodge Community Space in Manor Place, Whitehawk and is open on Fridays from 10am to 1pm.

The hub runs a drop-in service where both NHS and non-NHS staff and experts work together to help people with their health and wellbeing, all in one place, with no appointment needed.

The team includes nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, pharmacy professionals, social prescribers, mental health workers, health coaches and benefits and housing advisors. The hub is run by East & Central Brighton Primary Care Network.

Visit www.brightonhealthhub.org.uk

Get moving!



Move more

Live more

A new campaign is encouraging people to build a little more movement into daily life in simple, enjoyable ways.

The 'Move more – Live more' campaign is focussing on everyday activities which can help people feel better and connect with others.

This can include short walks, stretching, standing up more often, or moving together with friends, family or neighbours. The campaign is aimed at people of all ages and abilities, including those who are short on time, living with a long-term health condition or unsure where to start.

To get involved and find local activities, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/move-more-live-more or call the council's Healthy Lifestyles Team on 01273 294589.

New youth centre opening



A new youth centre for the west of the city opens in April.

The Weller Youth Centre in Knoll Park, Stapley Road, Hove will be officially opened on **10 April at 11.15am.**

Afterwards there will be refreshments and a chance to look around – everyone is welcome.

The partnership youth centre will provide a dedicated space for services for young people, doubling the existing capacity in the area.

Local young people have been at the heart of shaping plans for the centre and will be involved in how it's run and what happens there.

The centre will offer a range of activities where they can have fun, try new things and make friends as well as access support and advice.

The development was funded through the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Youth Investment Fund, following a successful bid from The Hangleton & Knoll Project and the council.

Young people chose the name for the centre in honour of local resident Pat Weller MBE, the founder and chair of The Hangleton & Knoll Project.

For more information, visit www.hkproject.org.uk/what-we-do/youth-work email joanna.martindale@hkproject.org.uk or call 01273 706469.

Photo: David Bracey/Brighton Festival



Children's Parade



Photo: Same Sky/Brighton Festival

Dates for your diary

Area Panels

Area Panel meetings are a chance for residents to meet council officers and councillors to ask questions, share their views, and work with the council to improve housing services.

The next round of Area Panels will be:

North

2pm Tuesday 9 June

Housing Centre conference room, Unit 1, Fairway Trading Estate, Eastergate Road, Brighton BN2 4QL

East

6pm Wednesday 10 June

Whitehawk Hub, Whitehawk Road, BN2 5FL

Central

2pm Tuesday 16 June, Venue to be confirmed.

West

6pm Wednesday 17 June

Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, Hove BN3 4AH

For more information contact the Community Engagement Team, email communityengagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk or call **01273 291518** or **07717 302986**.

Agendas and minutes of meetings are available at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/area-panel-meetings

City events

Brighton Marathon
12 April

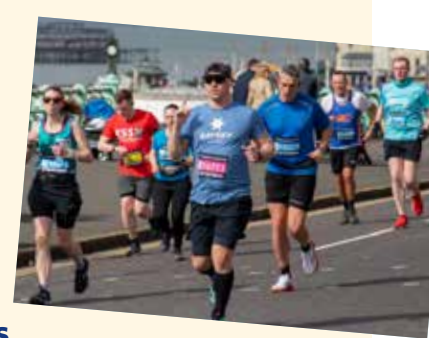
Brighton Fringe
1 to 31 May,
various locations

Artists Open Houses
2 to 25 May (weekends)

London to Brighton Bike Ride
21 June

Find out about forthcoming events in the city at www.visitbrighton.com/whats-on

If you have an event you'd like us to promote, email homingin@brighton-hove.gov.uk or call Housing Customer Services on **01273 293030**.



Festival time!

This year marks the **60th edition of Brighton Festival** and from **1 to 25 May** more than **100 events** will be taking place across the city and beyond, with artists from around the globe.

The line-up includes dance, theatre, circus, music, comedy and visual art, with something for everyone.

The popular Children's Parade marks the official opening of the festival on 2 May, starting at 10.30am in New Road.

Local schoolchildren will be displaying large-scale artworks and colourful costumes created for the parade's theme of 'Read all about it!', inspired by 2026 as the National Year of Reading.

This year is also the 10th edition of Our Place, a community celebration held as part of the festival.

This will include Artist in Residence community projects in East Brighton and Mousecomb, and a free Family Fun Day at Brighton Dome on 4 May.

For more information about the festival, visit www.brightonfestival.org or call **01273 709709**.





Win Volk's Railway tickets



Enter our free draw for a chance to win a family ticket for Volk's Electric Railway.

We have 2 family tickets for a return journey on the seafront railway between the aquarium and Black Rock stations. Each ticket is valid for 2 adults and 2 children.

The railway is the world's oldest operating electric railway and has been transporting passengers since 1883 when it was opened by Magnus Volk. It won the Heritage Railway of the Year Award in 2024.

Simply answer the following questions, based on information in this issue:

- How many new council homes are going to be built in Swanborough Drive, Whitehawk?
- What is the name of the new youth centre opening in Knoll Park in April?
- Which year did the Volk's Electric Railway open?

Send your answers by email to homingin@brighton-hove.gov.uk or by post to **Homing In draw, Performance & Improvement, Housing Centre, Unit 1, Fairway Trading Estate, Eastergate Road, Brighton BN2 4QL.** Please include your name, full address, postcode and phone number.



The closing date for entries is **20 April 2026**. The winner will be notified and their name published in next issue of Homing In. The draw is open to all households who receive Homing In by email or post.



Further information

Volk's Electric Railway is open daily from 28 March until 30 September. For more information, visit www.volksrailway.org.uk or call **01273 292718**.

Congratulations



Thanks to everyone who entered our winter draw to win a year's membership to enjoy activities at local leisure centres. The winner was Rachael Price from Whitehawk.



Food waste collections extended

Weekly food waste recycling collections are now available to residents in all parts of the city.

Collections began in many areas last year and in March they started in Whitehawk, Queens Park, Hanover, Kemp Town, central Brighton, central Hove, Seven Dials, and Round Hill.

All cooked and uncooked food can be recycled, including fruit and vegetable peelings, meat and bones, fish, cheese, bread, pasta, eggshells, tea bags and coffee grounds.



Please don't put liquids, plastic bags or packaging of any kind in your food waste caddy.

You can buy additional caddy liners from most supermarkets or online. Make sure they are compostable liners, not biodegradable, with this seedling logo.



The food waste collected is turned into compost and soil improver for farms.

For more information or to check your collection day, visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/foodwaste

Useful contacts

Housing Customer Services

housing.customerservices@brighton-hove.gov.uk
01273 293030

Repairs Helpdesk

Report online at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/repairs
01273 294409

Housing Income Management Team

Housing.Income@brighton-hove.gov.uk
01273 293224

Housing Benefit

housing.benefits@brighton-hove.gov.uk
01273 292000 or 01273 290333 for people
with speech or hearing difficulties

Community Engagement Team

For information about tenant and leaseholder groups
communityengagement@brighton-hove.gov.uk
07717 302986 or 01273 291518

Access Point for adult social care

AccessPoint@brighton-hove.gov.uk
01273 295555

Noise Nuisance

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/noise
01273 294266 or 01273 293541 for out of hours

Other useful contacts

Citizens Advice Bureau

www.cabrightonhove.org
08082 787815

Help with domestic violence and abuse

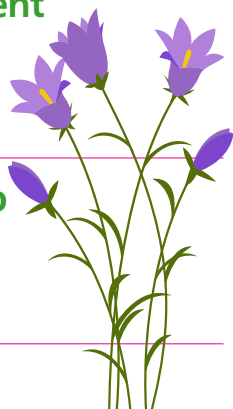
www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/domestic-abuse-help
Freephone 0300 323 9985

Brighton & Hove Independent Mediation Service

www.bhims.org.uk
01273 700812

Leaseholders Action Group

lag@maillist.cloud
01273 605225
www.facebook.com/groups/bhlag



Online services

Visit the council housing website to check out
all housing services at
www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/council-housing

Pay online at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/pay

Go to the Housing Online system at
www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/housingonline

Information about money matters, tax,
benefits and more at www.gov.uk

 Follow us on x.com/BHHousing

 Like us on facebook.com/BHHousing

Council meetings

Brighton & Hove City Council has a Leader & Cabinet
decision-making system. The Cabinet is responsible
for day-to-day decision making on most council
services, including housing.

The Cabinet meets monthly, with a break in August.
Meetings take place in the Council Chamber, Hove
Town Hall, Norton Road, Hove BN3 4AH.

All council meetings are open to the public, and you
can submit public questions. Agendas, minutes and
webcasts of council meetings are available at
www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/council-meetings

You can find your local councillors at
www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/councillors

If you have any comments or suggestions for
future articles, please email
homingin@brighton-hove.gov.uk or write to
Homing In, Performance & Improvement,
Housing Centre, Unit 1, Fairway Trading
Estate, Eastergate Road, Brighton BN2 4QL or
call 01273 293030.

Homing In is produced by Brighton & Hove
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email you when it is available on our website.

