



Eastern Community Homes

Further information for potential Board members

This short introduction to Eastern Community Homes provides more information to those considering making an application for the role of Board Member. If you would like an informal chat to discuss the role further or need clarification on any aspect of the role, please email Kirsten Bennett, Chief Executive, Cambridgeshire ACRE, kirsten.bennett@camsacre.org.uk.

About us

Established in 2020, Eastern Community Homes is the community-led housing hub for the Eastern Region covering the counties of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. We provide support with the development of all forms of community-led housing and work alongside our members - community groups; local authorities; housing associations and technical advisors - to increase the number of community-led homes built to meet local housing needs.

We can support groups with the following types of community-led housing scheme:

- Cohousing
- Community Land Trust
- Housing Co-operatives
- Self-Build
- Self-Help

Our Housing Enablers are trained through the Community Led Homes Training & Accreditation Programme, to support all community-led housing approaches, giving guidance to groups from set-up stage through to finding a site, creating a business plan, building, and living in the homes. Since 2019, we have developed a pipeline of community-led housing projects driven by self-organised community-led housing groups, the majority of which are for affordable homes or homes built for specific communities.

We work closely with Locality (the national membership network supporting local community organisations) and have a network of other technical advisors who are part of our membership and who bring specialist skills such as architecture, legal services and surveying to our team.

Cambridgeshire ACRE acts as the accountable body for Eastern Community Homes undertaking its legal and financial management and employing a part-time Hub Co-ordinator. Our ambition is for



Eastern Community Homes to become a standalone organisation with its own governance arrangements by 2026. The Board currently operates in line with a Terms of Reference and will move towards incorporation at a later date.

What type of person do we wish to recruit to our Board?

Since Eastern Community Homes was first established, the Board has been made up of representatives from its founding members, the six ACRE Network members across the Eastern Region. As our networks, connections and community-led housing projects have developed, we are now entering a new phase of Eastern Community Homes development, where we wish to recruit a more diverse range of board members to provide the governance for taking forward our new [strategy](#).

We are looking for people with housing expertise and experience such as housing policy, technical knowledge and development skills. We wish our Board to be representative of all our members, including those who have lived experience of developing their own community-led housing.

We have a network of 18 local authority members from across the region. This enables knowledge-sharing through online events, as well as encouraging strategic policies and procedures to be put in place to support community-led housing projects in both rural and urban locations. We wish to recruit board members who represent the voice of local authorities to strengthen our working with them across the region.

To be truly representative, we wish to see the following membership on our Board:

Representation type	Board membership
Representation from those delivering community-led housing enabling and advice.	3 ACRE Network members
Representation from those delivering housing expertise and support for community-led development outside local authorities.	3 Technical Experts
Representation from local authorities.	2 Local Authority positions (linked to Local Authority network).
Representation from those that have delivered community-led housing themselves.	2 board members who have delivered community-led housing.



More information

Our website <https://easterncommunityhomes.com/> contains further information about our work. You can also find us on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

Our affiliations

We are an active member of the [Community Land Trust Network](#) and also regularly take advice from [Cohousing UK](#) and the [Confederation of Cooperative Housing](#). These national partners support us in achieving our work by providing specialised technical support and increasing the awareness of community-led housing.

Still interested in becoming a Board Member?

Please complete the application form and return to Alison Brown, Head of Business Services at Cambridgeshire ACRE by email alison.brown@cambsacre.org.uk before 3 March 2023.