

---

# Resident Engagement - Residents' Associations

A residents' association is an organisation which is set up by residents so that they can work together to become more involved in and improve the estate they live in. Associations are a good way to foster community spirit and resolve issues that are of common concern to all residents on an estate. They allow residents to have a greater voice when talking to Hanover and other organisations. They help keep everyone on the estate informed and involved in estate and local issues. As residents' associations have a formal constitution, they may be more successful than an informal group of residents in applying for grant funding from external organisations e.g. their local council.

All resident groups that have a bank account, whether a recognised residents' association or not are able to apply to Hanover's Greenshoots small grant scheme for funding for projects to help them improve their estate or perhaps for day trips and events.

Hanover is committed to supporting any residents' association that meets our recognition criteria and will provide the following:

- Advice and support in setting up the association
- A start up grant of £50 to help with set up and administration costs
- Public liability insurance and insurance for possessions if gifted to Hanover

- 
- The option to put articles in estate newsletters and information on estate notice boards
  - Information about vacancies on our strategic residents' groups

We keep associations informed about issues affecting estates and will work together with associations to seek solutions to their concerns. However, as we need to protect the rights of all our residents, we need to ensure that the residents' associations we are working with are operating in an open, accountable and democratic way.

## **Recognition of Residents' Associations**

When an association is first set up and each year afterwards, we will write to the secretary asking for information to ensure the association meets our recognition criteria and has an acceptable constitution (a constitution is a document laying out the rules and principles by which the association is governed). You can find details of our recognition criteria in our [Residents' Association Handbook](#).

If we find that the association is not being run in line with their own constitution or our criteria, we will give the association six months' notice to meet our criteria. If the running of the association has not improved during that time, we will unfortunately no longer be able to recognise it.

For more information about setting up a Residents' Association, or Greenshoots contact your estate manager or the Service Development Team on 07717 714105 or [engagement@hanover.org.uk](mailto:engagement@hanover.org.uk).