

About the changes

What is a Community Benefit Society?

A Community Benefit Society is a special type of organisation. They are designed to support and improve the lives of the people and communities they serve.

Groups like Two Rivers Housing use this structure to make things work better and protect money for housing services. It will also help us give tenants better value for their rent.

Community Benefit Societies are registered with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). The FCA works to ensure that everything a Community Benefit Society does is for the benefit of the community it serves.

When will the proposal take effect?

If the changes are agreed, we will start the process straight away. We hope to have everything done early next year. We'll let you know when this has been completed.



What are the costs associated with the proposal?

Switching to a Community Benefit Society will take some time and money in this year (2024/2025), but there will be no additional costs in future years..

Will your offices be affected?

No. We will still be based at our offices in Newent. Rivers Meet, Cleeve Mill Lane, Newent, Gloucester, GL18 1DS.

Share your thoughts

If you have any questions about the proposed changes or want to know more, please get in touch with our team.

Email: customerservices@2rh.org.uk

Telephone: 0800 316 0897

Write to: Two Rivers Housing
Rivers Meet, Cleeve Mill Lane,
Newent, Gloucestershire, GL18 1DS



 /TwoRiversHousing  /TRHousing



Becoming a Community Benefit Society: Frequently asked questions

We know you might have some questions about what will happen if the Board decides to go ahead with the proposed changes.

So, we've answered some of the most common questions in this leaflet.

If you want to ask us anything else or tell us what you think, please get in touch with our team.



Why do you want to make these changes?

Many other social housing groups have already become Community Benefit Societies.

Community Benefit Societies are special organisations that focus on helping people and their communities. Like registered charities, they are not focussed on making profits but on delivering services to their communities.

Being a registered charity has strict rules that can make it hard to spend or invest money and creates a lot of extra paperwork. This takes time and resources away from helping our tenants or improving our services.

The government has made the rules for Community Benefit Societies simpler. This means they can spend less time on paperwork and more time helping their communities.

We will still be checked by the Regulator of Social Housing, but we think becoming a Community Benefit Society fits better with what we do.



You and your home

Will this change who can live in your homes?

No. We will still be a charitable organisation. Our Lettings Policy ensures that we provide homes for people and families in genuine housing need. This would not change if we became a Community Benefit Society.

Will I need a new Tenancy Agreement or lease?

No, tenants and leaseholders won't need to sign a new agreement. Everything will stay the same, and all the rules and rights will carry over.

Will my rent or service charge be affected?

No, this change won't change your rent or service charge. We will still review these each year, just like we do now, based on your current Tenancy Agreement or lease. For tenants, rent will still follow the rules set by the Regulator of Social Housing.

Will it affect repairs and maintenance to my home?

No. We will continue to repair and maintain your home.

Will there be a change to how I pay my rent?

No. We will continue to collect your rent in the usual way.

What about the preserved 'Right to Buy' and 'Right to Acquire'?

If you already have the 'Right to Buy' or 'Right to Acquire' your home, you won't lose it because of this change. You can still purchase your home and take advantage of these discounts.

If you're a leaseholder, you'll still have the right to ask for a longer lease or to join others in buying the building's freehold.

