

New homes for neighbourhoods video

Voiceover explains that Brighton & Hove City Council's new homes for neighbourhoods programme is building new homes on council land on semi-derelict, boarded up and underused garages and cleared sites.

A site is shown under construction where it is hoped that 45 extra care flats will be built. Pictures are shown of the two new homes that have been built and the 77 under construction at six sites in Brighton, Hove and Portslade. The programme is hoping to build 500 across the city.

The Chair of Housing & New Homes Committee, Councillor Anne Meadows, explains that with over 22,000 people on the housing register, creative ways are needed to look at how to use the infill sites available.

The estate regeneration team is project managing the sites, liaising with stakeholders and testing how best to bring forward developments to ensure value for money, quality and speed. One way this is being achieved is by using in-house architects.

Senior council architect Catherine Whitby outlines the benefits of working collaboratively across different departments, ensuring processes can be streamlined, costs kept down and allowing work to start sooner on site.

Project manager Sam Smith explains that the programme is called 'New homes for neighbourhoods' because it's not just about building homes but improving neighbourhoods. Residents are involved right from the start and the team regularly attend residents' association meetings to keep them up to date with progress, help minimise disruption to their lives and engage with them to improve things such as their garden areas.

Another construction site is shown where the site manager explains how weekly newsletters and open door policy are used to update residents.

A model of another development site is shown and Chris El Shabba, Chair of Due South Neighbourhood council for Whitehawk, explains how the planning for real consultation event engaged with residents' needs.

Developments benefit the local economy by creating apprenticeships. Local apprentice explains his two year apprenticeship. Local employment officer says they hope to have more trade apprentices on site later on. Other benefits of developments are the extra income it brings to the city through the New Homes Bonus, Affordable Housing payments and council tax.

Finally, residents' lives can be transformed. Residents of the new bungalows in Preston Road explain how moving into the new home has improved their lives.