

# **CHIPPENHAM HOUSING COOPERATIVE**

## **MEMBERSHIP POLICY**

1. Membership is open to anyone over the age of 18, irrespective of race, colour, ethnic or national origin, or because of their religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, appearance, marital status, or political beliefs.
2. Membership is individual. There is no joint membership. Children of members resident within the Co-op can become members at age 18 (provided that they have been resident for a 5 years period.)
3. All tenants of permanent housing must be co-op members.
4. Members should be committed to the Co-op ideal, namely:
  - a) Should use the premises for residential purposes as the tenant's only or principal home (living in Co-op property for the majority of the year)
  - b) Should not sub-let Co-op accommodation. (See also tenancy agreement)
  - c) Should accept the principle of self-help, that is, should be aware that active participation is necessary, and be prepared to take on work within the Co-op according to their abilities. Members should join at least one subcommittee.
  - d) Should accept that membership is reviewed annually at the AGM and should attend a minimum of 4 general or committee meetings a year.
5. Members should agree to abide by Co-op rules, policies and standing orders (which can be changed by a majority decision of the Co-op) and pay rent when due.
6. A provision is made for the expulsion of members who do not comply with the above points.

### **Procedure for taking on new members**

New members (apart from children of Co-op members - see item 2 above) will be taken from the waiting list.

**New members from the children of Co-op members will be expected to have attended three meetings before they are issued a share.**

Membership will remain closed unless housing becomes available except in the case of children of Co-op members - see item 2 above. If housing does become available then the allocation of the tenant property will be determined as per the allocations policy.

***Reviewed and approved by Management Committee August 2025***