

BPF Committee Membership



An open call pilot



Programme Prospectus

We help the UK real estate
industry grow and thrive

WHAT'S CHANGING?

As part of our efforts to increase diversity in our policy work and provide more opportunities for all members to engage, we are piloting an open call for new committee members.

During this pilot phase there will be opportunities for members to submit their expressions of interest to join three committees:

Build-to-Rent

Planning

VAT

We are seeking to recruit up to a quarter of new members for each of these committees.

If the pilot is successful, as determined by our Board, then most other committees will be added to this list, so if your interest or expertise is not in the three committees listed, please look out for further opportunities to apply.



OUR POLICY WORK



A major part of our work is policy. We are advocates for the industry with a range of external stakeholders, which include the Government, Parliament, local and mayor-run authorities, and a wide range of other stakeholder bodies. We also seek to promote and protect the image of the sector with opinion-formers and the public.

Our policy work relies heavily on the expertise and energy we can draw on within our membership. Committees are our window to the sector, helping us understand what is going on, changes taking place, what might help or hinder the sector, and what the future might look like?

ABOUT OUR COMMITTEE WORK

Committees meet regularly. Typically, quarterly, and in normal times meetings would be at BPF or members' premises in London, but during the pandemic have been online. Occasionally, some of our committees will host meetings in other parts of England, and often combined it with a site visit to a development of interest. By joining a committee, you would be making a **commitment** to attend most committee meetings.

A lot of committee work, however, also takes place between meetings. Committees act as a sounding board for consultation, formal and informal, with us and Government. Committees are also our eyes and ears, flagging important changes we may want to explore further or raise with Government. We use our committees to also help shape our more proactive work too – projects that might centre around specific research, or campaigns. Sometimes we will set up a sub-group of committee members to focus on a specific project.



OUR PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

Becoming a committee member brings expectations that you will act as an ambassador for the sector, abide by our [Statement of Principles](#), and promote our values:

A positive work environment
Collaboration and teamwork
Creativity and curiosity

Excellence and professionalism
Integrity and honesty

GOOD
VIBES
ONLY

Our approach to policymaking is very much to be seen as a partner, working with the Government and other stakeholders, to affect positive change. Our work is apolitical, so we do not promote one political party over others – we seek to get on with all of them. That does not mean we will always agree with politicians or other stakeholders, but our job is to ensure they make the best decisions that impact our sector through the education, information, and evidence we can provide.

There is therefore an expectation that Committee members will keep sometimes very sensitive information gleaned through BPF confidential, and reflecting our apolitical stance, not use it for political purposes.

WHAT HAPPENS AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS?

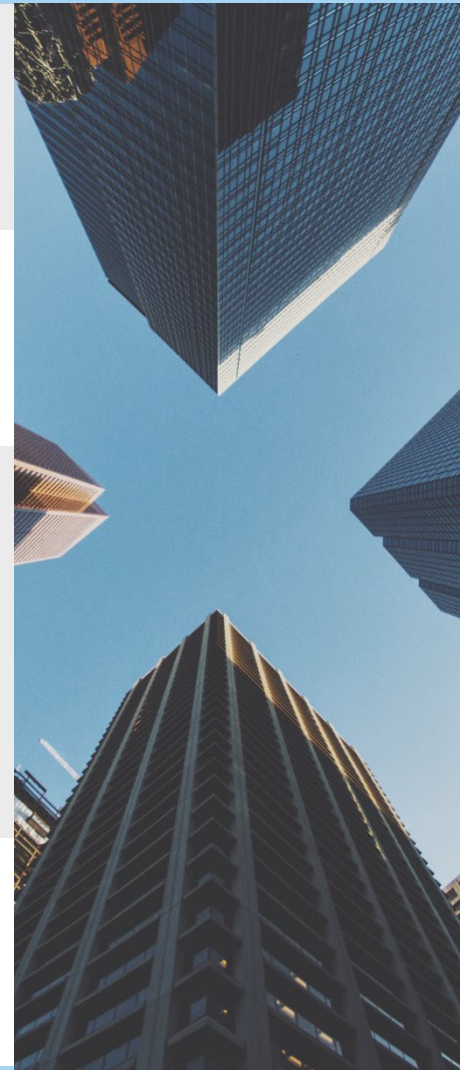
The key people who arrange our committee work are BPF staff, and the specific committee Chair and Vice-Chair. A member of staff will act as secretary to the committee and arrange its administration. Committee papers and other information are distributed via the MyBPF portal.

The Committee Chair and Vice Chair are appointed by the BPF. They chair committee meetings and play an important role in deciding in collaboration with the committee secretary the meeting agendas and overall work programme for their committee.

Meetings will normally start with a reminder of competition policy, and members must be wary of sharing market information in our committees. There will then be a short review of the previous meetings, its minutes, follow up actions, and any matters arising.

The substantive part of the meeting will generally look at two or three burning issues. These can be covered in papers, presentations, or by inviting guest speakers.

The meeting will generally end with an opportunity for members to raise any other business. Some committees will then simply depart. Others arrange networking opportunities to mix with fellow committee members more informally.



WHY BECOME A COMMITTEE MEMBER?



Our committees are an excellent way to deepen your understanding of the sector you work in. They offer great networking opportunities. Membership often means you are also getting access to information, from the likes of Government, long before your peers. It can also be a good way to raise your personal profile and be seen as an industry expert and leader.

Moving beyond the personal you are also helping to shape the sector we all work in, how it goes about its business, and making its voice heard.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD COMMITTEE MEMBER?

Committee members must take considered views about how to achieve outcomes. They therefore need to think tactically, and sometimes it requires compromise and consensus-building. It also means sometimes being innovative and thinking outside the box.

Our work requires very clear communication of what can be complex issues. We want people who are therefore knowledgeable about their part of the sector and subject of the committee. People who are also prepared to see through the lens of those outside the sector. We want people who will bring energy and curiosity to our policy work. Our committee members will often have strong views, but they must also be respectful of others.



HOW DO I EXPRESS MY INTEREST?

We are seeking to make this open call as easy as possible and therefore administratively light.

Step 1 – Your organisation must be a member of the BPF.

Step 2 – Check that your organisation is not already represented on the Committee of interest to you? Demand for places means we can only accept one person per organisation on any committee. You can find a current list of all committees and their members here: <https://bpf.org.uk/committees-and-working-groups/>

Step 3 – If you are supervised, check with your line-manager that they are supportive of you applying. Remember that it will involve a time-commitment of around four meetings a year and some time consumed reading papers and participating between meetings. You may have colleagues who participate in our committees, and it may worth speaking to them about their experiences.

Step 4 – Complete the expression of interest proforma [online](#). As you will see we require basic contact details, a no-more-than 300-word explanation of why you want to join a committee and what you think you will bring? We also ask for your LinkedIn profile address, so please make sure it is up-to-date.

NEXT STEPS



We have far more demand for committee places than we are able to offer. If you are unsuccessful, please do not take it personally. It won't be!

Our committees need to reflect our commitment to diversity, and in that context, we are putting in place a 40:40:20 policy, with at least 40 per cent male and female participation and flexibility on the residual 20 per cent.

We also have to take account of the breadth of our sector. We generally aim for a majority of principals on committees as the representative body for the property investment sector. We also want to get a good mix of expertise and skills drawing from the various sectors that support our sector. The secretary will lead the process of considering expressions of interest in dialogue with their committee chair and vice-chair.

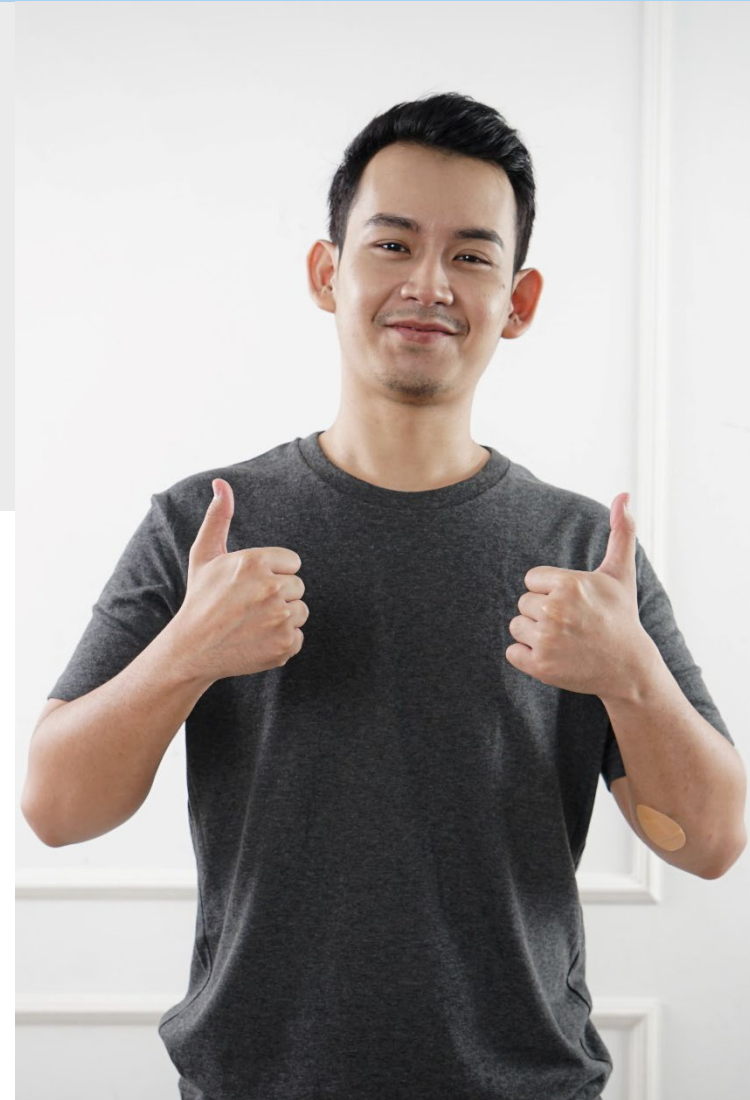
If your expression of interest is successful, our aim is to ensure you are invited to join your chosen committee no later than the start of April 2022.

EXISTING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We seek to strike a balance between the benefits of continuity that our existing committee members so kindly and ably provide, and ensuring we give sufficient opportunities to involve other members.

For existing committee members the open call process will therefore involve reapplying to remain on a committee. This will also involve **completing the expression of interest proforma [online](#)**.

Our intentions are to turnover about 25 per cent of a committee's membership at any open call, and to conduct an open call for most committees every three years. That will be done in consultation with each committee chair and VC. Factors we will take into consideration include committee members' past attendance and contribution, our objectives to promote and accelerate diversity on our committees, and ensuring we have a mix of different constituencies within our membership represented.



OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED



If your expression of interest is unsuccessful, you will be added to a reserve list from which we will draw first, if any existing committee members resign in the relevant period. Regardless of whether your expression of interest is successful or not there are other ways to get involved in our work:

- **Why not join our monthly policy pulse meetings?** These provide an opportunity to hear about our priority areas of policy and communications work. Contact Rob Wall if you would like to participate: rwall@bpf.org.uk
- **Look out for our open meetings.** As part of our efforts to get more members involved in our work, we are seeking to ensure each committee has at least one meeting a year where any member can join, either in person or virtually.
- **Are you signed up to MyBPF?** And to our weekly newsletter? The former will allow you to set up a dashboard of preferences and therefore tailor your membership to your needs. The newsletter is a handy weekly summary of our work and more generally what is impacting the policy world of our sector.

TIMELINE

1 st November 2021	Call for new and existing members opens.
13 th December 2021	Expressions of interest deadline.
End of January 2022	Candidates informed.
By 1 st April 2022	Successful candidates join the three committees



For more information, please contact Ian Fletcher, email: ifletcher@bpf.org.uk, tel: 020 7802 0112