

BPF Committee Membership

Open call 2024



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 conducting our fourth open call for new committee members.

There will be opportunities for members to submit their expressions of interest to join the following committees and working groups:

Affordable Housing

Living Sectors Council

Student Accommodation

Privacy and Data Protection

Insurance

Insolvency

Regulatory

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

We will come forward with open call opportunities each year, so if your interest or expertise is not in the seven committees listed, please look out for further opportunities to apply.



THE COMMITTEES YOU CAN APPLY FOR

Affordable Housing – Involves some not-for-profit partners. Its meetings are quarterly and mainly face-to-face. It promotes the for-profit sector. It has an important agenda to promote a greater number of affordable homes.

Insolvency – Comprising landlords and advisors, the focus is on the impact of tenant insolvencies on the property industry. It advocates for improved insolvency processes, particularly, CVAs and Restructuring Plans. Meeting four times a year, it engages with stakeholders such as the Insolvency Service and insolvency practitioners

Insurance – The Committee meets twice per year and brings together landlords, brokers, insurers and advisors. The Committee is a forum to consider all insurance related issues across the property industry.

Living Sectors Council – Our Living Sectors Council oversees all our living sectors work. It is a large Committee and works closely with our Living Sectors Board. It meets three times a year. It has an important role to also engage with external stakeholders, and so its meetings usually involve a guest speaker.

Privacy and Data Protection – The group considers data protection legislation affecting the sector and will be spearheading our work on the new Digital Information and Smart Data Bill when it's published.

Regulatory – This committee considers financial regulation that applies to investors in UK real estate. We regularly consider relevant regulations developed by the FCA and are also interested in anti-money laundering (AML) regs.

Student Accommodation – The Committee promotes the Purpose-Built Student Accommodation sector. It works in partnership with the University sector, who are represented on the Committee. It engages on policy issues affecting the sector, and plays a role also in spreading best practice, for example on student wellbeing.

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 this can be online, or face to face at BPF or members' premises in London, or a hybrid. 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 than 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 the BPF confidential, and reflecting our apolitical stance, not use it for political purposes.

WHAT HAPPENS AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS?

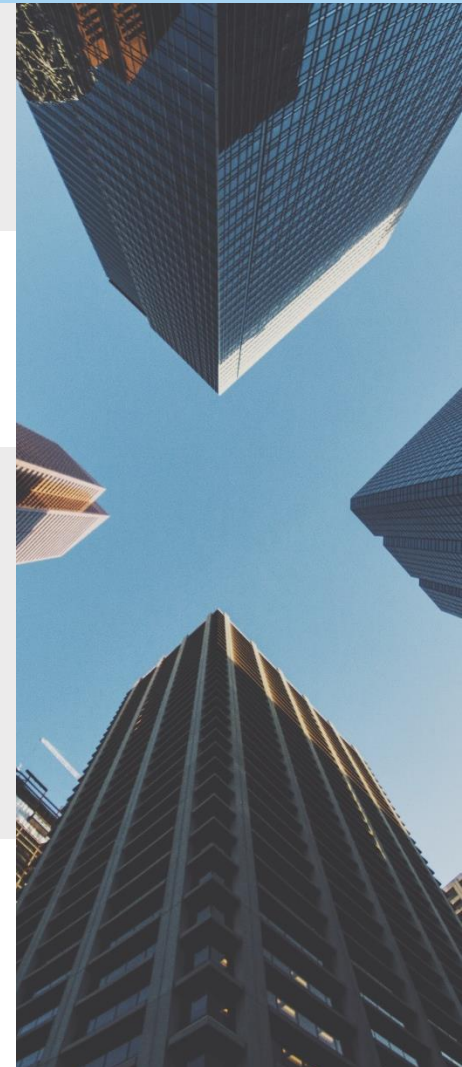
The key people who arrange our committee work are BPF staff, and the specific committee Chair and Vice-Chair. A member of staff will act as secretary to the committee and arrange its administration. Committee papers and other information are distributed via the MyBPF portal.

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.

We also want people that are going to be in the room, or online, and therefore it is important that having made the commitment, members are able to devote the time to committee meetings, and actively participate in them.



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 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 application form via SurveyMonkey,** providing basic contact details (name, contact tel. number, position, and organisation), 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 if you have one, 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 have 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 during the spring of 2025.

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 members of the Affordable Housing Committee, Living Sectors Council, Regulatory Committee, and Student Accommodation Committee, the open call process will therefore involve reapplying to remain on a committee. This will involve completing the **SurveyMonkey form** and simply indicating whether you wish to remain involved or not.

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 four 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
- **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

14 th October 2024	Call for new and existing members opens.
16 th December 2024	Expressions of interest deadline.
End of January 2025	Candidates informed.
By 1 st April 2025	Successful candidates join the seven committees



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