

# Achieving Long -Term Value in Co-living Investments (valuer's perspective)

**Ewa Scott MRICS** 

September 2025



# Agenda

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Investment Market Context
- 3. Investment value valuer's perspective
- 4. Q & A



## Co-Living@ Knight Frank



- Dedicated Multidisciplinary Co-living Group established (valuation, agency, planning, land agency and research) to collaborate and provide market facing client advice.
- Market Leading Valuation Team we valued over £685 millions in 2024 and c £770 million so far in 2025 – mainly development assets for secured lending.
- Agency Team the only agency to successfully forward fund multiple co-living schemes.
- Our Research and Planning Teams provides demand studies for planning, supports acquisition and support valuation team with data and thought leadership

Co-living Valuations



Ewa Scott Associate



Dave Shapland Head of Residential Investment Valuations

Co-living Research



Irene Pastor
Senior Analyst
Lizzie Breckner
Head of Build to Rent
Research

Hotel Valuations



Alex Bradbeer Partner

#### Co-living Funding



Charlotte Leahy-Jones Associate



Jack Hutchinson
Partner - BTR Funding Partner
Partner

PBSA Valuations & Agency



Megan Holley Partner Valuations



Matt Bicknell Senior Surveyor Agency

Planning Land Agency



**Chris Benham** Partner

**Orlando Lloyd** Partner



# Co-living — Investment Context

## Co-living Investment Volumes



80%

70%

60%

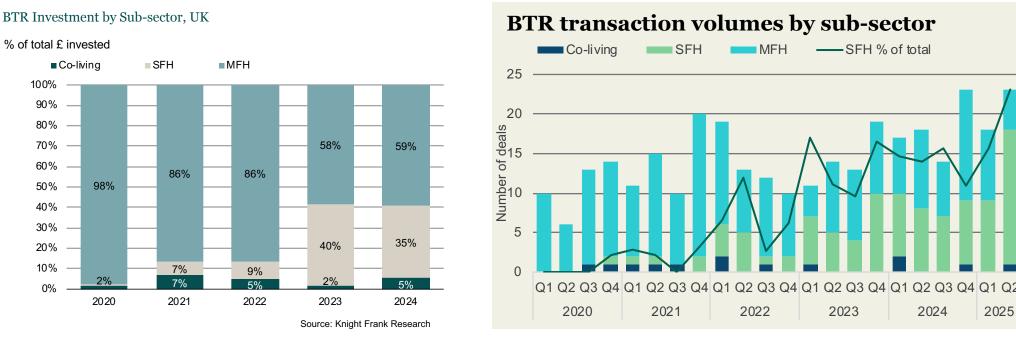
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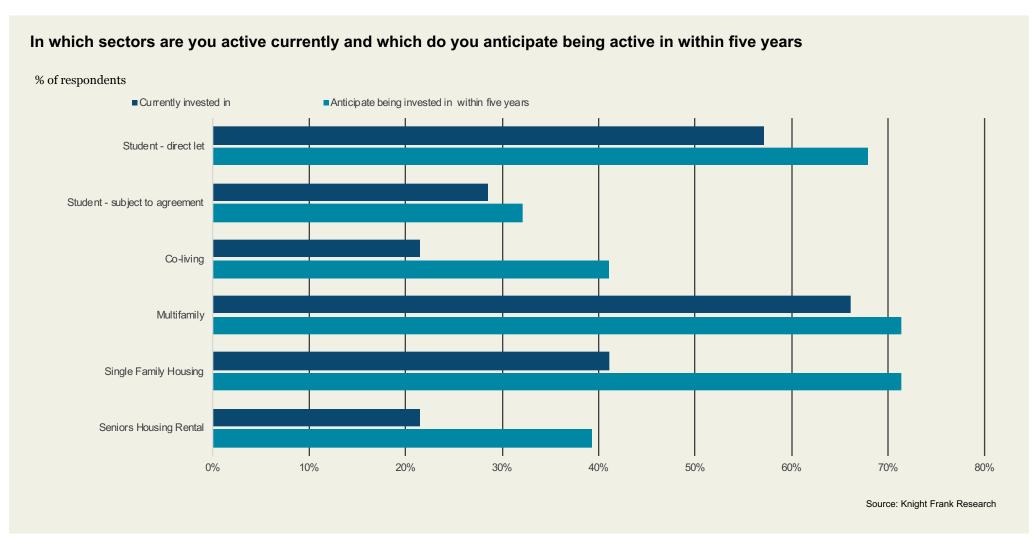


- £970 millions invested in co-living since 2020 (excluding refinance and land)
- 30% of the total invested in Co-living was invested in 2024 (£278.5m). In 2024 it reflected 5% of total BTR investment in the UK and 22% invested in BTR in London
- In 2025, a portfolio of three assets (354 beds) in Newcastle upon Tyne was sold for c£40million (c 5.25%- 5.50%).
- H1 2025 total BTR investment was £1.05bn (so Co-living less than 4% of the total in H1 2025)



#### Positive Investors' Sentiment

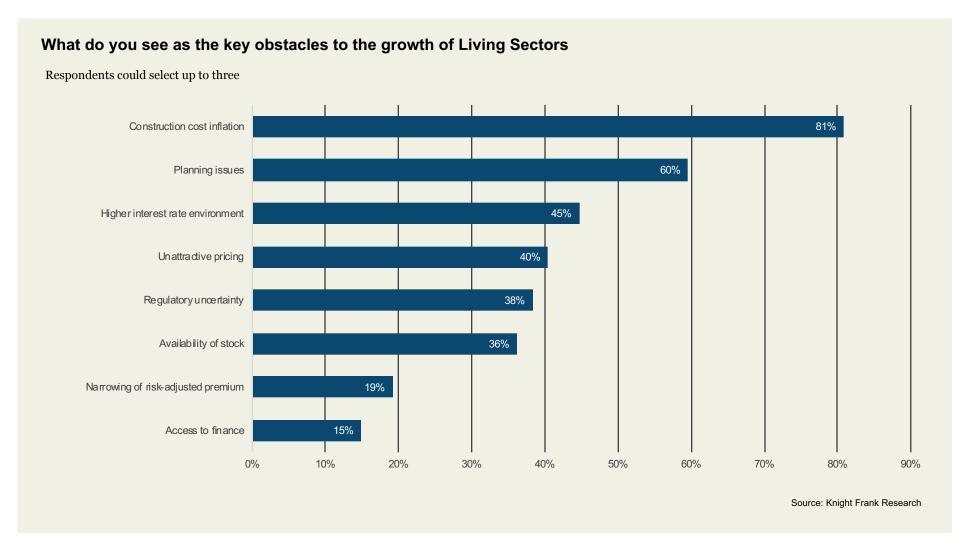






# Key Obstacles to Living Sectors Investment Growth



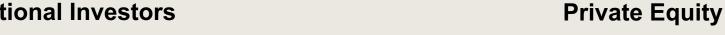




### **Current Co-living Investors**



#### **Institutional Investors**







# BLACKROCK















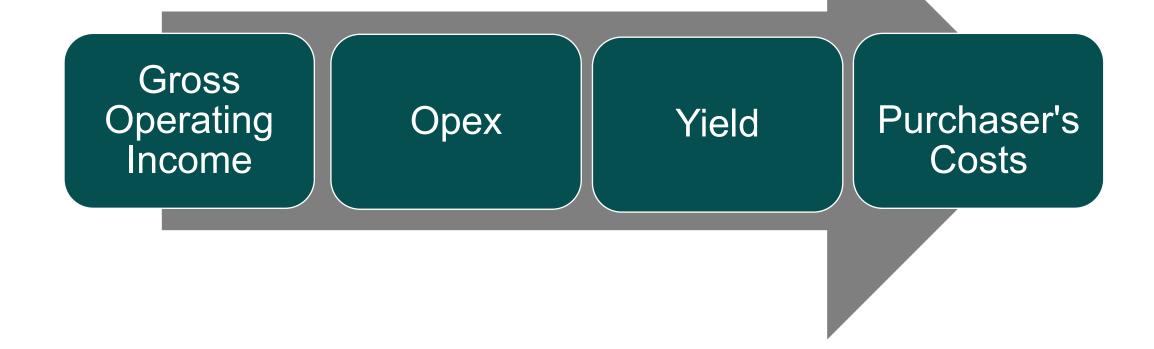
# 'Value' in Co-living Investment

# Valuer's Perspective



# Methodology – at a glance







### Co-living Valuation – Gross Rental Income



Room rents benchmarked against Co-liv, PBSA, BTR and PRS Consider what is included in the rents (Council Tax, what amenities included?)

Review of tenancy lengths and premiums for shorter lets – discuss!

Analyse what are the void periods, especially for shorter lets

Apply an allowance for voids and bad debts (typically 3% to 5% for 12 months lets, higher for shorter lets)

#### Other income:

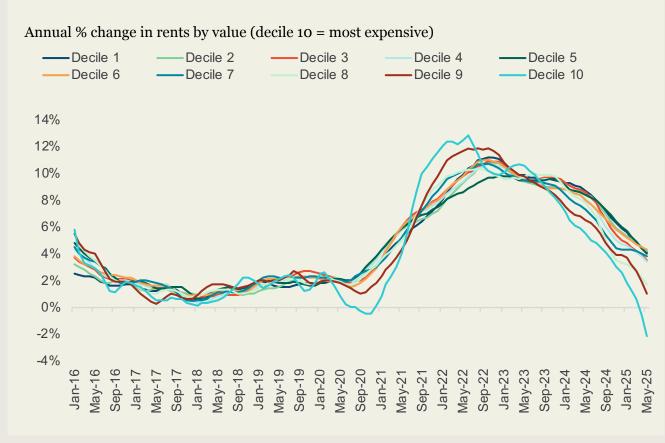
- •Laundry and vending income typically £2 pw per unit
- Double occupancy
- •F&B, co-working, commercial units – these are valued separately



#### **Rental Growth Moderates**



# More moderation at the top end of the rental market



# **Knight Frank Rental Market Forecasts, May 2025**

	UK	London
2025	4.0%	3.5%
2026	3.5%	3.0%
2027	3.5%	3.0%
2028	3.0%	3.0%
2029	3.5%	3.5%
5 year cumulative	18.8%	17.1%
5 year CAGR	3.5%	3.2%

Source: Knight Frank Research, Rightmove, Oxford Economics



## Co-living Valuation – Outgoings



Review budget from operators

Identify the core items such as Staffing, Utilities, Council Tax, Maintenance, Management fee

We benchmark opex against BTR and PBSA schemes on *per bed* basis. We have reference how the scheme is operated, especially lengths of stay, services provided, scale and others.

Generally co-living opex is higher than BTR and PBSA due to Council Tax, events, extensive amenities, short stay management.

We benchmark also in terms of costs leakage (GOI v NOI)

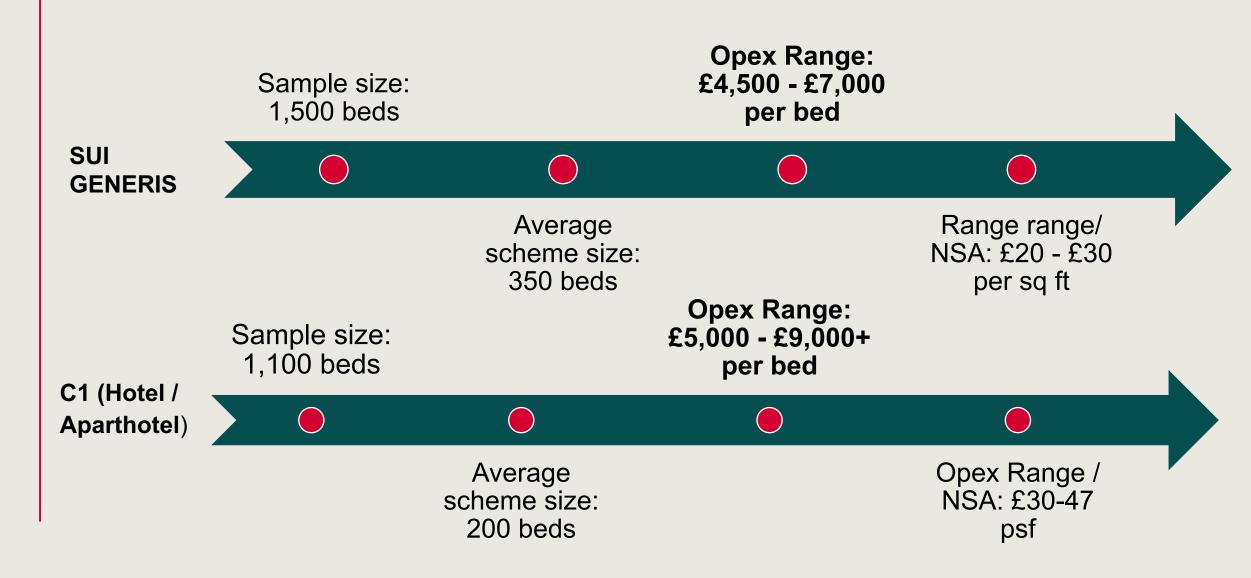
VAT implications of a Class C1 Use permission on opex (and rents)

Currently large spread in opex per bed seen in budgets for co-living schemes



## Operational Costs – quick overview







## Co-living Valuation – Capitalisation Rate



We capitalise net income using a NIY benchmarked from investment evidence (Coliving, BTR, PBSA)

Benchmark value per bed against comparable coliving evidence

Deduct Purchaser's costs

#### **Stabilisation Period**

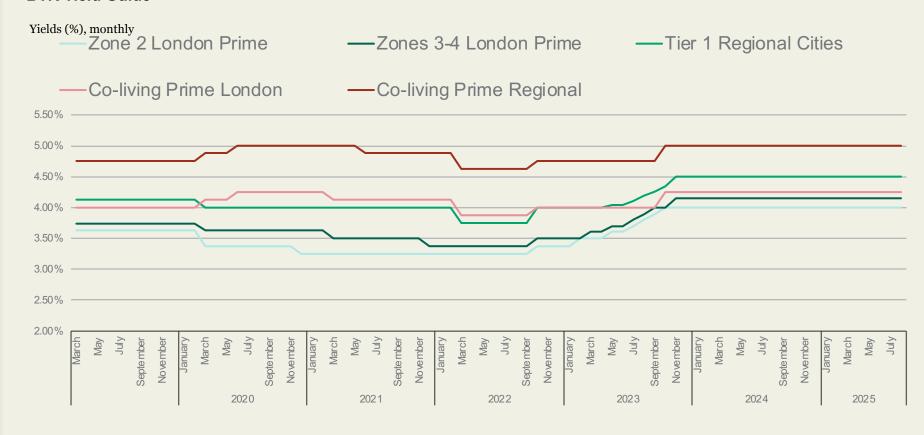
Reflected as a yield discount to account of risk and cost of stabilisation



#### **Investment Yields**



#### **BTR Yield Guide**



 It is allowed image cannot be displayed. The tree may have been moved, renamed, or deleted. Verify that the link points to the correct file and location. This yield guide is for indicative purposes only and was prepared on the 29th August 2025 fields are reflective of income-focussed transactions of prime, stabilised institutional-grade assets. Yields are provided on a Net Initial Yield (NIY) basis assuming a rack rented property. The frequency of the yield guide's publication has changed over time from quarterly to monthly. Where monthly values are missing, we have filled these in using the previously recorded value.

Source: Knight Frank Research



#### Sui Generis v C1 Use Class



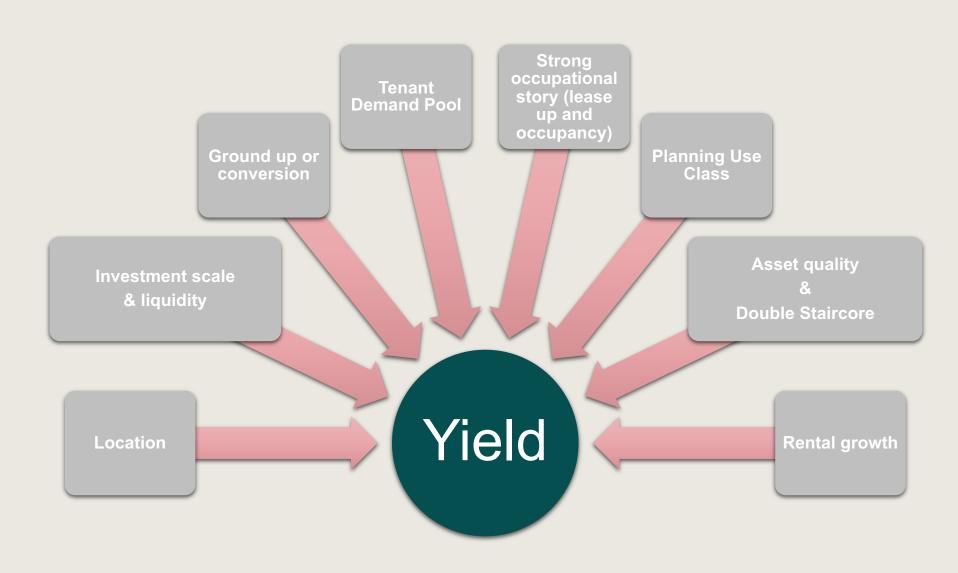
Use class under which a co-living scheme is delivered will inform its operational model

	Sui Generis	C1 Use Class
Length of tenancy	In London 3 months +	No formal restriction (unless
		stipulated in S106 A or Planning
		Conditions). Usually c20% of rooms
		on short stays (less 90 days).
Tenancy format	ASTs or licences	Predominately licences
VAT Implications	N/A	VAT charged on rents but claimable
		on opex and capex
Building Safety Act —	Applies to HRBs	Does not apply
Gateway regime		
Local Taxation	Assessed for CT	Usually assessed for Business Rates
Affordable Housing requirement (during planning)	Yes	No



#### Yield considerations







## Co-living Transactions & Under Offers (selection)





#### Yardhouse, Wood Lane (TfL 2)

- Sold Q1 2024 / FF
- V: Hub P: CDL
- 209 beds / Sui Generis
- £88m / 4.35% (F)



#### The Castle, North Acton (TfL 2/3)

- Sold Q1 2024 / FF
- V:Tide P:BlackRock/Outpost
- 462 beds / Sui Generis
- £170m / 5.25%(F) / 4.25%-4.50%(S)



#### **ARK Canary Wharf (TfL 2)**

- Sold Q4 2022 / Operational
- V:The Collective P:Crosstree
- 705 beds / Use Class C1
- £192m /£272K/bed / 4.40% blended



#### Node Brixton, London (TfL 3)

- Sold Q4 24 / Operational
- V: Node P: confidential
- 63 beds / Use Class C3
- c£20.5m / £325K/bed / 5% +



#### Elva, Woking, Surrey

- Under Offer / FF
- V: JRL & Halcyon
- 329 beds / Sui Generis



#### Old Oak Common (TfL 3)

- **Under Offer / Operational**
- 551 beds / Sui Generis
- First gen stock. Large capex required (inc fire safety)





# Any questions?



# Thank you



**EWA SCOTT MRICS** 

Associate
RICS Registered Valuer

ewa.scott@knightfrank.com
Mobile 07974 398 332

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