

REVIEW OF DERBY HOMES' COMMITTEES

Report of the Chief Executive

1. SUMMARY

As part of Derby Homes business transformation programme the Board agreed in September 2010 to reduce the number of its meetings by combining the two Local Housing Boards into one City Board, deleting the Performance Management Committee and spreading this role amongst the Chairs meeting, the Board and the Committees, and reducing the Governance Committee to two meetings per year.

This report reviews the operation of the revised committee structure .

2. RECOMMENDATION

To discuss, decide and, if relevant, recommend to the Committees any actions required.

3. MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

City Board

- 3.1 There have been five meetings of the new City Board. These have been very well attended as shown in the table below

Meeting Date	No of attendees			Apologies
	Main Board	City Board	Total	
091210	7	8	15	3
240211	6	9	15	6
280411	8	5	13	3
250811	9	7	16	1

- 3.2 Since June 2011, the City Board has held its meetings at London Road training room which is larger than the Cardinal Square Board room and has proven to be a successful location. The feedback from staff has been that the change to the City Board and the London Road venue has worked well.
- 3.3 The agendas have been manageable, and business has been dealt with in a very similar manner to the previous Local Boards. It has meant that presentations by outside organisations have been more easily arranged, such as by Tim Clegg Director of Street Pride, Vale grounds maintenance contractor and by Enthusiasm, who displayed the double-decker mobile youth centre at the last meeting.

- 3.4 The decision was made to co-opt a former member of staff, Wendy Jessop, onto the City Board to give the City Board the benefit of her advice and experience. Given the size of the meeting (up to 26 members) there is a need for good Chairmanship, and this is provided, by Dennis Rees as Chair and Paul Bayliss as Vice Chair.
- 3.5 A satisfaction survey (see attached) has been sent out to all attendees of the City Board and the results will be tabled at this Committee.
- 3.6 This change was the most sensitive one we introduced. Overall I am very pleased with how the change has been implemented. My recommendation is that the Committee agrees that the City Board is operating very well, to consider whether or not there is a sensible way of reducing the size of the City Board, however any such change should be discussed with the City Board and agreed by the Board. This issue is also covered in the Governance Review, item 7 on this meeting's agenda.

Deletion of Performance Management Committee

- 3.7 Performance monitoring information is regularly reviewed by the Executive and Senior Management team. It is also reviewed at the fortnightly Chair's meeting, at the Board, the City Board and the Resources Remuneration and Regeneration Committee.
- 3.8 The Chair's meeting has identified a concern this year about rent arrears and ensured that the Executive team has given this a high priority. The regular nature of the Chair's meeting does mean that trends can be picked up and discussed with the most senior Board members at an early stage.
- 3.9 The deletion of the Performance Management Committee has coincided with the creation of the tenant led Review Panel of tenants; their role is to monitor the performance of Derby Homes against the 22 Local Offers agreed with tenants in 2010. There is a need for the Review Panel role to bed down, and options to support and develop its role will be considered later this year.
- 3.10 Overall I am very pleased with how the change has been implemented and believe that the current system very well monitors Derby Homes' performance. My recommendation is that the Committee agrees to continue with the current system

Governance Committee meetings

- 3.11 It is very early days to judge how well the new arrangement is working, as today's meeting is only the second six-monthly Governance Committee. The aim is to engage with a wider group of interested Board members, and to keep the process of reviewing governance as a continuous improvement process. Attendance at the last meeting was 4 Board members.
- 3.12 The new way of holding the meetings could be changed to include attendance by an outside consultant, such as Ita Cooke from the Board Development Agency or a solicitor. This might ensure the arguments for change and best practice are well presented.

4. CONSULTATION IMPLICATIONS

Committees would need to be consulted on any proposed changes to the current structure and would require approval by the Board.

5. LEGAL AND CONFIDENTIALITY IMPLICATIONS

Approving changes to the composition, terms of reference and membership of committees is a matter reserved to the Board.

The areas listed below have no implications directly arising from this report:

- Financial and Business Plan
- Personnel
- Environmental
- Equalities Impact Assessment
- Health & Safety
- Risk
- Policy Review

If Board members or others would like to discuss this report ahead of the meeting please contact the author, or Phil Davies, Chief Executive, phil.davies@derbyhomes.org – Phone: 01332 888528

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Background Information: None

Supporting Information: Report to Board September 2010

September 2011



Dear City Board Member

In November the City Board celebrates its first birthday and we would like your feedback on how well you think it has done so far. Please help us to gauge opinion by completing and returning this form by **Wednesday 14 September** in the prepaid envelope enclosed. Your feedback will be reported (anonymously) to the Governance Services Committee on the 15 September.

Name _____

Please circle one

1. The merging of two Local Boards into one City Board	Better	Worse	Don't know
2. There are 26 members on the City Board	Just right	Too many	Don't know
3. The length of meetings	Just right	Too long	Don't know
4. The number of reports on the agenda	Just right	Too many	Don't know
5. Is there enough time to discuss each report?	Yes	No	Dont' know
6. Please comment on any of the above questions:			
7. How well, or otherwise, do you think the City Board is operating? Is there anything that you would like to see improved or done differently?			

Thank you for completing the survey. Jackie Mitchell | Governance Services Manager | Derby Homes Limited, South Point, Cardinal Square, 10 Nottingham Road, Derby DE1 3QT | Telephone 01332 888527 | www.derbyhomes.org