

How many meetings will I have to attend?

As a member of the Board you will be expected to attend at least 10 Board meetings annually, usually held in the evening at Cardinal Square. In addition there will be some sub-committee meetings. Currently the Board meets on the last Thursday in every month (except December). If a member misses six consecutive meetings without giving their apologies or more than 60% of the meetings in any 12 month period they will cease to be a member of the board.

How does the Board operate?

Derby Homes has agreed Memorandum and Articles of Association setting out its purposes and how it operates as a company. This includes arrangements for the appointment of tenants and leaseholders to the board.

The Board has also agreed detailed governance arrangements. These arrangements include the need for board members to avoid conflicts of interest. There is a procedure for the registration and declaration of interests. These arrangements enable tenants and leaseholders on the board to participate fully in decisions on matters that apply widely to all tenants or leaseholders or a large group of people whilst precluding them from decisions specific to themselves or a very small group of tenants or leaseholders including themselves.

How is Derby Homes staffed?

Staff transferred from Derby City Council to Derby Homes in April 2002. Staff carry out similar jobs to those they previously carried out as Council employees. The Board receives advice from the Director of Derby Homes, his staff and, in certain specialist areas, external consultants or Council Officers. The Board is working closely with staff and their trade unions in order to manage change effectively, maximise the positive effects and reduce to a minimum negative effects that can arise from uncertainty. The Board has agreed a staffing structure, terms and conditions and agreed consultation, negotiation and trade union recognition arrangements.

How are Derby Homes services being developed?

The services agreement negotiated between the Council and Derby Homes commenced in April 2002. It sets out the services Derby Homes will provide. It reflects the need for there to be continuity of services. At the same time the Council and Derby Homes will agree future changes that should be made to services to be delivered. The Best Value Review of Front Line Housing Management, completed in March 2002 has resulted in an extensive Improvement Action Plan. Initial changes have been fairly minimal but over time Derby Homes will wish to review how services are provided and consult and involve tenants and staff in this. Any changes will need to be consistent with the terms of the agreement between the Council and the new organisation and affordable within its resources. In order to ensure continuity parts of the Council are providing services

to the new organisation for an agreed period. This will enable the organisation to review these arrangements and apply best value principles in making decisions about future arrangements for the provision of services.

Will I be paid?

No however usually legitimate expenses incurred in undertaking official duties are reimbursed such as the cost of transport to and from meetings and baby-sitting.

Will I be personally liable?

The Services Agreement sets out the resources to be made available to Derby Homes in order to ensure that it does not enter into liabilities that it cannot meet. Insurance cover is in place to protect board members against personal liability for matters arising from their role as board members.

Will I make a difference?

At this stage in its development board members play a crucial role in setting the direction of the organisation. The core priority is to improve the quality of service to existing tenants and to successfully complete a comprehensive programme of works agreed by 2006. New initiatives will be developed by Derby Homes that are consistent with these core priorities. If you get on board and help to run the organisation then you will share a strong sense of achievement with your board colleagues, tenants, leaseholders and staff.

How many places are there?

There are four tenants elected to the board covering

North West Area
North East Area
South West Area
South East Area

In addition there is one place elected by leaseholders across the city

How do I find out more?

You can attend an information session for prospective members. These are being held as follows

16 July 2002 10am – 1pm Grove House

3 September 2002 1.30 – 4.30pm Grove House

Contact DACP to book a place on this session by phoning 01332 201724.