

GOVERNANCE SERVICES COMMITTEE 30 JANUARY 2009

ITEM 6

USE OF BOARD MEMBERS SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

Report of the Chief Executive of Derby Homes

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report sets out the skills and experience of current members of the Board.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

To note and comment on the content of the report and make any relevant recommendations.

3. MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Board Members are expected to provide information on their skills and experience, personal and professional. The information is collected annually and the most up to date information is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The information is used when recruiting new Independent Board Members, for training and development purposes and for making appointments to some Committees.
- 3.3 Examples of work that BMs do/ and areas they add value and apply their skills

ALL

- Chairing roles at Board and Committees
- Strategic aims lead
- HRASWP and awayday
- Links to DCPartnership
- Relations with Councillors, and senior officers
- Links to staff in a formal and informal setting
- Networks outside of Derby Home
- Media and reputational feedback

Champions

- Health and Safety
- Equalities
- Green agenda
- Bright Ideas

Tenants

- DACP
- Housing Focus Groups
- PITs and other specialist groups
- Links to national groups , such as TAROE and TPAS
- Local issues and feedback, for example on estate pride spend and walkabouts

Independents

- Review of complex performance and other reports
- Experience from other Boards
- Experience from other organisations and the private sector

Councillors

- Liaison link with Council political groups and councillors
- Issues from constituencies
- Strategic issues
- 3.4 The Board needs to be seen as independent from the Council and the Senior Managers of Derby Homes. I think a serious weakness in some ALMOs is that the Board is seen as too much under the control of the Council, and so isn't Arms Length enough, or too much under the lead of the Chief Executive and others in SMT. To help establish this more clearly its useful for Board members to
 - attend staff events, such as staff conferences and talk to staff
 - be quoted in press releases
 - appear in publications such as DH News
 - attend tenant conferences and other events
 - attend council meetings such as HRASWP and other events
 - use AGM to explain their role.

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

- Consultation
- Financial and Business Plan
- Legal and Confidentiality
- Personnel
- Environmental
- Equalities Impact Assessment
- Health & Safety

If Board members or others would like to discuss this report ahead of the meeting please contact the author, or the Chief Executive, phil.davies@derbyhomes.org - Tel 01332 711010

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