

EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNANCE CODE FOR MEMBERS

Report of the

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report outlines the content of the recently updated National Housing Federation (NHF) publication Excellence in Governance a Code for Board Members.

2. RECOMMENDATION

To consider the Code at future meetings as proposed in paragraph 3.4 of this report.

3. MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The National Housing Federation has recently updated its publication Competence and Accountability (2004). Excellence in Governance provides guidance for Board Members to achieve the highest standards of governance, accountability and probity. The Code, acclaimed as an example of best practice by the Housing Corporation (now Tenant Services Authority), incorporates the key principles of the Combined Code on Corporate Governance and the Good Governance Standard for Public Services.
- 3.2 The NFA has consulted its members on the Code through focus groups consisting of Chief Executives, Company Secretaries and Board Members of Housing Associations and other interested parties. Although aimed mainly at the Housing Association sector, the Code in most parts is also applicable to ALMOs.
- 3.3 The Code aims to assist Board Members put into practice 11 principles which the NHF believes Boards should uphold
- Standards
 - Accountability
 - Customer First
 - Openness
 - Equality and Diversity
 - Review and Renewal
 - Clarity
 - Control
 - Information
 - Structures
 - Audit.

- 3.4 The Code contains 13 sections with recommendations and useful resources. It is proposed to examine each section over the next three meetings and use the recommendations in the Code to measure our own effectiveness in governance.

June	Preamble Constitution and composition of the board Board recruitment, renewal and review
July	Essential functions of the board Responsibilities of the chair Conduct of the board's business
August	The chief executive Committees of the board Openness and transparency
September	Accountability Equality and diversity Audit and risk Conduct and probity.

- 3.5 Copies of the Code will be obtained for members of the Committee in time for the next meeting.

4. FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS PLAN IMPLICATIONS

The cost of a copy of the Code is £5.95 for member organisations.

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

- Consultation
- Legal and Confidentiality
- Personnel
- Environmental
- Equalities Impact Assessment
- Health & Safety
- Risk

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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Background Information: None

Supporting Information: None