

## **USING THE CHAIR'S STATUS**

Report of the Chief Executive of Derby Homes

### **1. SUMMARY OF REPORT**

This report sets out some of the work carried out locally and nationally by Dennis Rees, Chair of Derby Homes.

### **2. RECOMMENDATION**

To note the report and consider the suggestions outlined in paragraph

### **3. MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 Dennis Rees is probably the best known Council tenant activist in the country. I am frequently asked about him by other ALMO Board members, staff and Government officials. Often they ask how he manages to do what he does. I say 'I don't know'.
- 3.2 Dennis' role at Derby Homes is very intensive. Apart from Board and Committee meetings, this includes attendance at
  - Monday Chair's Briefing
  - Maintenance Core Group
  - Building on Excellence Group
  - Housing Focus and Leaseholder Groups
  - HRA Strategic Working Party
  - political party briefings
  - and numerous other events such as staff conference, training sessions and other one off events.
- 3.3 At the DACP Dennis is an active treasurer and tenant volunteer. His role includes attendance at the DACP Management Committee and other meetings at the Tenants Resource Centre.
- 3.4 He represents tenants on numerous bodies and he has great influence on government policies on tenant empowerment. It does Derby Homes good that Dennis is able to quote Derby Homes practices to others. He also brings back to us best practices (and worst) he sees from elsewhere.
- 3.5 Dennis is also involved with numerous other bodies, such as
  - National Federation of ALMOs
  - TAROE
  - TPAS
  - Midland ALMO Board Group
  - and on working parties such as the HRA Review Working Party.

- 3.6 As part of this work Dennis makes speeches at briefings, conferences and seminars. Again this puts Derby Homes at the forefront of meetings and discussions on future housing.
- 3.7 I am aware that Dennis may be appointed to the board of the new regulator The Tenant Services Agency. If so, this will require him working 2 days a month and give him new responsibilities.
- 3.8 It is hard to see what more Dennis can do to promote Derby Homes at the different levels. Dennis has family commitments and Derby Homes has a duty of care towards him as we do towards all staff. I do frequently ask him to consider whether he is doing too much and whether he could reduce or delegate some of his roles to others.
- 3.9 However the Committee may wish to consider ways Derby Homes could help him carry out his various roles. Such as
- provide increased secretarial and diary support
  - office accommodation in Cardinal Square
  - help prepare draft speeches and presentations
  - improve his ICT support and equipment
  - encourage and support increased delegation of his work to others, such as other Board Members, reducing his workload in Derby Homes, and discussing similar measures with the DACP Management Committee.

**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](mailto:phil.davies@derbyhomes.org) - Tel 01332 711010**

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**Background Information:** None

**Supporting Information:** None