

## **REVIEW OF LOCAL HOUSING BOARDS**

Report of the Director & Company Secretary

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

The purpose of this report is to address the anomaly that exists in the Governance Arrangements for the appointment of tenant and leaseholder representatives to the Local Housing Boards.

### **2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That the Board approves the proposals for the election of tenant and leaseholder Local Housing Board Members as outlined in paragraphs 3.4 – 3.8
- 2.2 That the Board agrees:
  1. only one family member can be on a Local Housing Board
  2. to delete the position of Local Housing Board Deputies
  3. to waive paragraph 2.1 of the Local Housing Board Constitution, within Derby Homes Governance Arrangements, and extend existing Local Housing Board Members' tenure of office until an election is carried out in the relevant area and appointment is made at the AGM, as set out in Appendix 1.
  4. the term of office for elected Local Housing Board Members to be 3 years, as for tenant and leaseholder Board Members.

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

- 3.1 In March 2008, the Board approved a proposal to co-opt Housing Focus Group representatives to the Local Housing Boards on the dissolution of Community Panels.
- 3.2 Currently each Local Board is made up of representatives of the main Board, Housing Focus Groups (HFG) and Derby Leaseholder Association (DLA). The five HFGs are entitled to nominate 15 tenant representatives, 6 for the North Board and nine for the South Board. The DLA is entitled to nominate 2 representatives, one for the North and one for the South Board. The HFGs and DLA are also entitled to nominate a deputy for each of the 17 representatives.
- 3.3 This arrangement now needs to be reviewed and a process established for the appointment of tenant and leaseholder representatives onto the Local Housing Boards.

## Proposals

- 3.4 It is proposed that tenants and leaseholders should be elected directly to the Local Housing Boards, replacing the current method of nomination from the HFGs and DLA. The process should mirror the procedures for the election of tenant and leaseholder Board Members. The number of Local Housing Board places available to tenants and leaseholders will remain unchanged:
- 3 tenants will be elected to represent the North East of the City
  - 3 tenants will be elected to represent the North West of the City
  - 3 tenants will be elected to represent the South West of the City
  - 6 tenants will be elected to represent the South East of the City
  - 1 leaseholder will be elected to represent the North of the City
  - 1 leaseholder will be elected to represent the South of the City.
- 3.5 The post of deputy representative will be deleted.
- 3.6 Elections for each area will be held in rotation over 3 years, commencing with the first elections in 2010. Proposed retirement dates are shown in Appendix 1. These co-incide with the election cycle for tenant and leaseholder Board Members. The Local Housing Board members will be elected by the tenants and leaseholders of each area prior to Derby Homes AGM and ballots for the election will be conducted by the same external organisation appointed to carry out the ballot for main Board Member elections.
- 3.7 The term of office is currently 1 year. It is proposed the term of office will be for 3 years, in line with the term for tenant and leaseholder Board Members. Therefore it will be necessary to waive paragraph 2.1 of the Local Housing Board Constitution, to extend the existing Members tenure of office until an election is carried out in the relevant area and appointment is made at the AGM.
- 3.8 It is proposed to use the same election rules, procedures and timetable as for Tenant and Leaseholder Board Members. Details are set out in Appendix 2 - draft Information Pack for Prospective Local Housing Board Members, and Appendix 3 – Draft Timetable for the Election of Local Housing Board Members. [Please note Appendix 2 will be emailed to Board Members in order to reduce paper and postage costs.]
- 3.9 There is no proposal to change the appointment of main Board Members to the Local Housing Boards.

## 4. CONSULTATION IMPLICATIONS

The Local Housing Boards and Housing Focus Groups will be consulted on these proposals.

## 5. FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS PLAN IMPLICATIONS

The cost of using the external ballot service for Local Housing Board elections is unknown at the time of writing but will be budgeted for 2010/11 onwards.

## 6. LEGAL AND CONFIDENTIALITY IMPLICATIONS

Amendment to Governance Arrangements and appointments to Committees are matters reserved to the Board.

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

- Consultation
- Personnel
- Equalities Impact Assessment
- Environmental
- 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