



Report to:

Northwards Housing Board
16 May 2006

Item No:

7b

Title:	Establishment of Standards Panel		
Date:	8 May 2006		
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Confidential:	No		
For: (Please tick action required)	NOTING	DISCUSSION	APPROVAL √

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The Board previously agreed the establishment of a Standards Panel with terms of reference as set out in Appendix A. To establish the Panel, a change to the Articles of Association was proposed but following legal review, the wording of that amendment has been reviewed and consequently the matter is brought back to the Board for their approval.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board approve the establishment of a Standards Panel and request the Secretary to obtain Members agreement to a change in the Articles of Association and file the revised Articles with Companies House.

IMPLICATIONS

Equality & Diversity:	None Directly
Financial:	None Directly
Staffing:	None Directly
Decency Target:	None Directly
Governance:	Yes - It will enable Northwards Housing to demonstrate good governance arrangements.

Equality & Diversity Implications (Please tick where relevant):

BME	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elderly	<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Parents	<input type="checkbox"/>
Young	<input type="checkbox"/>	Domestic Violence	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alcohol / Drug Mis-users	<input type="checkbox"/>

Consultation/Consideration:

	Yes, No or N/A:	Name:	Date:
Sub-Committee:	Yes	Resource & Governance Sub-Committee	29 March 2006
Area Panel:	N/A		
Ward Councillors:	N/A		

1. The proposed change to the Articles of Association is to add the following clause at 22 (2):

“The Board shall establish a committee called a Standards Panel comprising three Board Members (being the Chair and one Board Member from each of the other categories of Board Member such that the Panel comprises one Council Board Member, one Independent Board Member and one Tenant Board Member) with such terms of reference as determined by the Board from time to time including the implementation and review of compliance against the Code of Conduct for Board Members.”

2. The previously proposed clause included the terms of reference within the Articles but it is felt that this limits the Board's ability to change the Panel's remit over time.
3. The Panel's authority within the governance structure of the company is no less strong with powers delegated to it by the Board set out in a Board resolution rather than in the Articles of Association.