

	Report to: Northwards Housing Board 15 th January 2007	Item No: <h1>7c</h1>
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Title:	Board Champions		
Date:	10 th December 2007		
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Confidential:	No		
For: (Please tick action required)	NOTING ✓	DISCUSSION	APPROVAL

PURPOSE OF REPORT

In reflecting on how we might create better links between certain activities and initiatives, and the Board, Managers have discussed the idea of asking all Board Members to be a “Champion” of a particular area.

This would be an extension of what we have at the moment with two “Champions”, for Equality & Diversity and the Respect Standard.

RECOMMENDATION

The Board are asked to consider the idea and approve its implementation in April with the new Business and Delivery Plan.

IMPLICATIONS	
Equality & Diversity:	It is a key part of the Governance arrangements that Equality and Diversity is embedded throughout
Financial:	None directly although there would be a Champion for Value for Money
Staffing:	None directly
Decency Target:	None directly although there would be a Champion for Asset Management
Governance:	The review of performance is a key part of the overall Governance framework
Risk Assessment:	Not a primary risk area

Equality & Diversity Implications (Please tick where relevant):

BME	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Parents	<input type="checkbox"/>
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	Domestic Violence	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alcohol / Drug Mis-use	<input type="checkbox"/>

Consultation/Consideration:

	Yes, No or N/A:	Name:	Date:
Sub-Committee:	No		
Area Panels:	N/A		
Task Groups	N/A		
Ward Councillors:	N/A		

The Idea

1. The Board currently has two positions of “Champions”; one for Equality & Diversity and one for the Respect Standard. The two are currently both carried out by Councillor June Hitchen.
2. It is recognised that all the Board have a role to play in promoting all activities and initiatives of the organisation but following some discussions with the Senior Management Team the idea came up of giving each Board Member an area of “interest” to act as a Champion in that area.
3. The role of a Champion would be to ask questions and promote the activity or initiative where appropriate. In addition we would see the Champion as a direct link for members of Senior Management who are leading in particular areas and would hope to involve the Champion in the generation of future ideas, time permitting.

The Role

4. We don’t see the role as being anything more than the individual Board Member is able to give in terms of time although participation in specific meetings might be useful if possible. What is more important is raising issues up the structure so issues don’t get lost or forgotten at the Board.
5. We do believe that we will need to find a balance for the Champion between providing input and getting drawn into operational matters. The role of Champion is seen as at a high level with advocacy and promotion being the key rather than raising issues.

Champions

6. So the “Golden Thread” flows through the Organisation the proposed list of “Champions” is linked to Objectives and Strategies that are in place to deliver them. In some cases, like the Equality & Diversity and the Respect Standard Champions, this is where the original proposals came from.
7. Ignoring the Chair and Vice Chair, there are ten Board Members. Therefore a possible list of Champions would be as follows:
 - Performance – links with the Performance Improvement Group
 - Health and Safety – links with the Health and Safety Group
 - Equality & Diversity – links with the Equality & Diversity Group
 - Resident Involvement
 - Access and Customer Care
 - Respect Standard

- Value for Money
- Environmental
- Financial Inclusion
- Asset Management

8. The list shown here is not exclusive and other ideas would be welcome.

Recommendation

9. The Board are asked to consider the idea and approve its implementation in April with the new Business and Delivery Plan.

The “Golden Thread”

Representation of the links and flows between the Board, the Business and Delivery Plan, the Strategies and the Champions, and the Team Improvement Plans

