



## **Northwards Housing Observation of board meeting, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

The board meeting was attended by John Evans from enlighten consultancy, to observe how the board meeting was run, how board members contributed and to constructively feedback from the meeting.

The meeting started promptly and an agenda and papers were available. Papers are well written and presented, with appropriate support from senior staff who provided additional explanation of items. Confidential items are colour coded and were presented separately on the night.

The pace and tone of the meeting was well managed through the chair. Board members contributed effectively and it was clear there was no individual or representative group who dominated proceedings.

The content of the papers included a range of reports which spanned strategic issues such as corporate performance to operational issues, such as the regeneration tour feedback and involvement panels.

A report on corporate performance was emailed the day before the meeting to board members. This was disappointing as board members may have had to distil information presented to them on the night and perhaps were not in a position to challenge information effectively.

Positively, Northwards board was not represented by anyone on the Board from the Riverways Panel and agreed to co-opt a tenant from the Riverways Panel with voting rights to ensure there was a voice from the area.

Overall, Northwards Board demonstrated it is well balanced and effective in the manner it conducts its business. There is appropriate support from senior staff, from the production of papers to presentation of items. The board appeared confident in the way it made decisions, was inclusive of all board members and ensured an appropriate level of questions and challenge during proceedings.

June 2009

[www.enlighten-consultancy.co.uk](http://www.enlighten-consultancy.co.uk)