



## Report to:

Northwards Housing Board

10 November 2009

## Item No:

# 10b

<b>Title:</b>	Membership of Sub Committee, Co-optees and Champion Review		
<b>Date:</b>	30 October 2009		
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<b>Confidential:</b>			
<b>For:</b> (Please tick action required)	<b>NOTING</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>APPROVAL</b> ✓

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present to the Board a recommendation to review Sub-Committee membership, to confirm Co-optees and to consider the Champion area proposal.

### RECOMMENDATION

That the Board approves the recommendations

- a) that the Sub-Committee Membership is reviewed in accordance with the process proposed
- b) that Joan FitzGerald is requested to serve as Co-optee to Customers and Communities Sub-Committee
- c) that current Co-optee's are confirmed to serve on the relevant committees.
- d) that the Champion Review proposal is implemented in accordance with the process proposed.

### IMPLICATIONS

<b>Equality &amp; Diversity:</b>	None directly
<b>Financial:</b>	None directly
<b>Staffing:</b>	None directly
<b>Decency Target:</b>	None directly
<b>Governance:</b>	Equality of representation should be maintained across the Sub-Committees
<b>Risk Assessment:</b>	Good decision making and delegation must be maintained

### Equality Impact Assessment **Not applicable**

When a new policy, procedure or initiative is being submitted for approval an Equality Impact Assessment must have been completed. Please give details below.

Function being assessed	
Section	

Date of assessment	
Person Responsible for assessment	
Is this a new or existing policy?	
If there are significant implications in terms of equality please append a summary report.	

**Consultation/Consideration:**

	Yes, No or N/A:	Name:	Date:
<b>Sub-Committee:</b>			
<b>Area Panel:</b>			
<b>Task Groups:</b>			
<b>Ward Councillors:</b>			

**1. Sub-Committee Membership Review**

It is good practice to review membership on an annual basis to allow current members to review their choice, and for members to develop new interest and skills.

In order to give our new Tenant Board Member a choice, it is suggested that the review takes place during the next month with membership being confirmed in early January. The Sub-Committees will elect their Chair and Vice Chair at these meetings.

Following last years Governance Review not all Board Members are required to sit on two sub-committees.

It is proposed that all Board members indicate their preference of Sub-Committee by ranking 1 to 4. Whilst the first one or two choices (as appropriate) will be offered where possible, it may, in fairness to others mean that a few third choices will be offered. The Governance Support Manager will arrange this after the meeting by email if this proposal is agreed. The Board are requested to delegate the final decision to the Chair and Chief Executive.

**2. Co-optee Review**

Work is in progress to recruit further Co-optees to Sub-Committees as approved at September Board Meeting.

The Board are asked to consider co-opting Joan FitzGerald to Customers and Communities Sub-Committee. Joan has confirmed that she would like to continue to serve on this Sub-Committee as Co-optee.

Both the current Board Chair and Director of Neighbourhood Services support this recommendation.

The Board are also requested to confirm that the following continue to serve as Co-optees:  
Michelle Blakeley (Board)  
Pat Glazebrook (Asset Mangement),  
Karen Blakeley (Customers and Communities)

The Board are asked to note that Sue Pemberton has resigned as Co-optee (Resources). She is willing to act as advisor on appropriate disability matters as required.

### 3. Champion Review

It is proposed that the new Champion areas are in accordance with the Tenant Services Authority (TSA) Regulatory Framework. The TSA have announced that they intend that Board's will take a major role in regulation under the new regime. This proposal would give the Board a strong leadership role in regulation and assist in the preparation for Northwards first regulatory inspection. The following are the proposed areas of regulation. The TSA have completed their second phase of consultation and will begin formal consultation in November. It is not anticipated that the themes below will change.

<b>THEME</b>	<b>National standards to apply</b>
<b>A. The Service Offer to Tenants</b>	Quality of accommodation (Decent Homes)
	Tenant choice and customer service
	Repairs and maintenance
	Neighbourhood and estate management
	Anti-social behaviour and security
<b>B. Tenant Empowerment and Involvement</b>	Empowerment
	Complaints
	Local area co-operation
<b>C. The Tenancy Agreement</b>	Rents
	Tenure
	Allocations
<b>D. Governance</b>	Governance
<b>E. Viability</b>	Viability
<b>F. Value for money</b>	Efficiency and value for money

It is proposed that Governance, Viability and Value for money are a combined area. Legally the TSA is reporting that they cannot regulate ALMO's and Local Authorities in the areas of Governance and Viability, however in practice these areas will be difficult to divorce from the overall regulatory judgement.

Northwards has a strong commitment to Equality and Diversity and in order that the Board continues to play a key part in this area it is proposed to retain this Champion area. The TSA will include Equality and Diversity as a cross-cutting standard therefore all Champion areas will take Equality and Diversity into consideration.

This would result in five Champion areas. The Board may wish to consider how best to distribute the workload. It is proposed that Champions should serve on at least one monthly committee and that those remaining members serve on at least two Sub-Committees. As the Audit Sub-Committee meets quarterly this may be reasonable for Champions to sit on this committee if required.

The areas are not directly related to Sub-Committees so it is not proposed that there is a link between Sub-Committee members and Champion areas.

The role remit would be simply to ensure that Northwards Housing is meeting the TSA National and Local (where appropriate) Standards for their Champion area.

Champions will be involved in developing Northwards strategy for regulation. As this strategy develops this will help to define the role and remit for Champions.

It is recommended that Board Members consider which regulatory area they would like to develop. More information can be found on the TSA website [www.tenantservicesauthority.org](http://www.tenantservicesauthority.org)

If the Board agree this proposal the Governance Support Manager will contact Board Members to discuss their preferences for Champion areas.

#### **4. Recommendation**

That the Board approves the recommendations

- a) that the Sub-Committee Membership is reviewed in accordance with the process proposed
- b) that Joan FitzGerald is requested to serve as Co-optee to Customers and Communities Sub-Committee
- c) that current Co-optee's are confirmed to serve on the relevant committees.
- d) that the Champion Review proposal is implemented in accordance with the process proposed.