



Report to:

Northwards Housing Board

12 January 2009

Item No:

10c

Title: Membership of Sub Committee and Champion Review

Date: 23 December 2009

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Confidential:

For: (Please tick action required)	NOTING	DISCUSSION	APPROVAL
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present to the Board with recommendations to on Sub-Committee membership, and to approve the responsibility for Champion areas.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board approves the recommendations for

- a) Sub-Committee Membership
- b) responsibility for Champion areas

IMPLICATIONS

Equality & Diversity:	The Board Champion will assist in the embedding of equality and diversity through the Board Equality and Diversity Champion
Financial:	The Board Champion will ensure the Value for Money and Financial Viability is considered.
Staffing:	None directly
Decency Target:	The Board Champion will ensure that the TSA's proposed Home Standard is adhered to.
Governance:	Equality of representation should be maintained across the Sub-Committees. The Board Champion will ensure that the TSA's proposed Governance Standard is adhered to.
Risk Assessment:	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:
Sub-Committee:			
Area Panel:			
Task Groups:			
Ward Councillors:			

1. Introduction

The Board agreed at 10 November Board Meeting to review Sub-Committee Membership and Champion Areas. Board Members were asked to give their preferences. The following recommendation is based on the responses received and has been agreed with the Chair of the Board and the Chief Executive.

2. Sub-Committee Membership Review

Attached is the proposed arrangements for Sub-Committees from January 2010.

3. Champion Review

The TSA re-defined their national standards after the 10 November Board Meeting. Board Members were asked to give their preference based on these proposed new standards.

1. Tenant involvement and empowerment standard

Customer service and choice

Registered Providers must design and deliver housing services that tenants can access easily. Tenants must be offered choices over the services they receive, and be treated with fairness and respect.

In relation to all the standards, registered Providers must consider equality issues and the diversity of their tenants, including tenants with additional support needs.

Registered Providers must understand their tenants' needs and use this information to:

- Design and deliver housing services
- Communicate with tenants

Involvement and empowerment

Registered Providers will offer all tenants opportunities to be involved in the management of their housing. This must include opportunities to:

- Influence housing related policies and how housing related services are delivered

- Be involved in scrutinising performance in delivering housing-related services

Registered Providers must offer tenants support so they are more able to be effectively engaged, involved and empowered.

Responding to complaints

Registered Providers must have a clear and accessible policy. They must deal with tenant's complaints and any other feedback promptly, politely and fairly.

The policy must include how they use complaints and other feedback to:

- Change how they do things
- Improve services

2. Home Standard

Quality of accommodation

Registered Providers must ensure that all homes are warm, weatherproof and have more facilities.

Repairs and Maintenance

Registered Providers must provide a cost-effective repairs and maintenance service that responds to the needs of, and offers choice to, all tenants.

They must meet all applicable statutory requirements that provide for the health and safety of tenants in their homes.

3. Tenancy Standard

Allocations

Registered Providers must let their homes in a fair, transparent and efficient way. They must take into account the housing needs and aspirations of tenants and potential tenants. They should demonstrate how their allocations processes:

- Make the best use of available housing
- Contribute to local authorities' strategic housing function and sustainable communities

There should be clear decision making and appeals processes.

Rents

Registered Providers will charge rents in accordance to with the objectives and framework set out in the Government's direction to the TSA of November 2009.

Tenure

Registered Providers must offer and issue the most secure form of tenure compatible with:

- The purpose of the housing
- The sustainability of the community

They must meet all applicable statutory and legal requirements in relation to the form and use of tenancy agreements.

4. Neighbourhood and community standard

Neighbourhood management

Registered Providers will keep the common areas associated with the homes that they own clean and safe. To achieve this they will work in partnership with:

- Their tenants
- Other Providers and public bodies, where this is the most effective way of achieving this standard.

Local Area co-operation

Registered Providers will co-operative with relevant partners to help promote social, environmental and economic well being in the areas where their properties are.

Anti-social behaviour

Registered Providers must work in partnership with other public agencies to prevent and tackle anti-social behaviour in the neighbourhoods where they own homes.

5. Value for money standard

Value for Money

In meeting all national standards and their local standards, registered Providers have a comprehensive approach to managing their resources to provide cost –effective , efficient, quality services and homes to meet tenants and potential tenants needs.

6. Governance and financial viability standard

Governance

Registered Providers have effective governance arrangements that they have structures , systems and processes to deliver their aims, objectives and intended outcome for tenants and potential tenants in an effective, transparent and accountable manner. Governance arrangements ensure they:

- Adhere to all relevant legislation.
- Comply with the governing documents and all regulators requirements
- Are accountable to tenants, the TSA and relevant stakeholders
- Safeguard taxpayers interests and the reputation of the sector

Financial Viability

Registered Providers must manage their resources effectively to ensure their viability is maintained.

The Board agreed to combine Standards 5 and 6 as Governance and Financial Viability do not apply to ALMO's.

The Board further agreed to continue with Equality and Diversity Champion area.

Below is the proposed allocation of Champion Areas.

Champion Area	Board Champion	Staff Contact
Tenant Involvement and Empowerment	Michelle Blakeley	Claire Tyrrell
Home	David Leah	Claire Hopkins and Andy Wood
Tenancy	Marjan Bazargan	Anne Duffield
Neighbourhoods and Community	Martin McKeivitt	Julie Wilson
VFM and Governance and Viability -	Anna Trotman	Diane Roberts and Alison Foster
Equality and Diversity	Sue Ratchford	Tara Kelly

4. Recommendation

That the Board approves the recommendations for

- a) Sub-Committee Membership
- b) responsibility for Champion areas



Draft Sub-Committee Membership December 2009

Quorum 3 – from 2 different groups

Asset Management	Resources	Audit	Customers & Communities
Pat Glazebrook (Chair) (co-optee) Anna Trotman (Vice Chair) Mark Hackett Michelle Carmichael David Leah Sue Ratchford	Martin McKeivitt (Chair) Mark Hackett Fatima Adamjee Majan Bazargan Naeem Al Hassan Sue Pemberton (advisor)	Fatima Adamjee Michelle Carmichael (Chair) Martin McKeivitt Sue Ratchford Naeem Al Hassan	Joan FitzGerald (Chair / Co-optee) Anna Trotman Sue Ratchford Rachel Christie Karen Blakeley (Co-optee)
Lead Officer: Larry Patrick	Lead Officer: Stephen Brown	Lead Officer: Stephen Brown	Lead Officer: Mike Stevens

Make-up of Members including Co-optees

Tenant /Leaseholder 3	Tenant 1	Tenant 2	Tenant 3
Council 2	Council 2	Council 1	Council 2
Independent 1	Independent 2	Independent 2	Independent 0
Total 6	Total 5	Total 5	Total 5

Papers

Larry, Andy, Paul, Steve K, Robin, David, Claire, Greig, Diane, Steve F	Stephen Brown, Diane, Steve F, Robin, Lisa McB, Alison	Stephen Brown, Diane, Steve F, Robin, Alison	Mike, Diane, Steve F, Robin
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NB Independent vacancy to be allocated to Sub-Committees once appointed. Pat Thorpe to make informed decision after further discussions about Sub-Committees remits.