

## County Council

21 September 2016



### **Appointments to the Operations Committee of the County Durham Housing Group Board**

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### **Joint Report of Ian Thompson, Corporate Director, Regeneration and Local Services, and Colette Longbottom, Head of Legal and Democratic Services**

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#### **Purpose of the Report**

- 1 To advise Council of the conclusions of the governance review of the County Durham Housing Group Board, and to ask Council to nominate members to the Operations Committee of the County Durham Housing Group Board.

#### **Appointments Process**

- 2 At the Annual Council meeting on 25 May 2016 nominations of membership to the County Durham Housing Group Board were made. Council had been advised that there was a governance review taking place, and that as there was a vacancy to one of the three positions on the Board nominations would only be sought for the two positions until the outcome of a governance review of the Board was clear.
- 3 Council had previously determined that political balance would not apply to these appointments, and that only members from the relevant housing areas which were Durham City Homes, Dale and Valley Homes, and East Durham Homes should be eligible to vote on the nominations. Nominations were therefore sought for the two members to the Board, and Councillors E Tomlinson and D Boyes were nominated then appointed to the Board.
- 4 Following a consultation exercise conducted between June and August, 2016 by the County Durham Housing Group customers and stakeholders were consulted, as was the Council, on the proposed options in relation to the governance re-structure at the Housing Group.
- 5 Responses to the consultation were considered by each Board across the Group in August, and a common board together with its supporting governance structure of committees was recommended for approval by each Board to their shareholders in late August. Shareholder approval from the Council was given to the re-structure in late August following consideration of the consultation exercise which was undertaken in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio Holder.

- 6 The governance review is now complete and there are no changes to be made to the Board therefore the two appointments made to the Board remain.
- 7 As part of the review it has been agreed by the County Durham Housing Group Board that Durham City Homes, Dale and Valley Homes, and East Durham Homes will continue to exist as subsidiaries within the Group but the common Board structure will see one new Group Board represent all. A new Operations Committee will be established to support the work of the County Durham Housing Group Board.
- 8 The Boards are expected to become one common board from 15 September once the Group and its subsidiaries have received Regulatory consent to the constitutional changes required. The Operations Committee is expected to be a live part of the formal governance structure of the Group from 15 September, although it is planned that the first meeting of the Operations Committee will take place around 22 November to allow time for the Council to nominate members and for the interview process to be concluded.
- 9 The Council will have three seats on the Operations Committee. The Group Chief Executive Officer of the County Durham Housing Group has expressed the wish that the Council will nominate one member from each of the geographies of the previous Boards. This would require a nomination of one member from each of the areas of Durham City Homes, Dale and Valley Homes, and East Durham Homes. In order to provide the skills and experience that a committee member would require, it is suggested that nominations are forthcoming from the council membership of the existing boards, where there were currently three/ four members on each.
- 10 In the interests of consistency now that there are only two nominations to the Board, and a new Committee, Council may wish to consider a more straight forward manner of electing representatives to both bodies going forward. It is proposed that the same criteria that had been used for nominating appointments to the Board, amended to include that all members of council be eligible to vote, be used for making nominations to the Operations Committee. The criteria would be that political balance would not apply, and that only members from the relevant housing areas which are Durham City Homes, Dale and Valley Homes, and East Durham Homes should be eligible for the nominations. Appendix 2 lists the members from the relevant housing areas and Appendix 3 sets out the new CDHG governance framework.

### **Recommendations and reasons**

- 11 Council is asked to:-
  - (i) Agree the revised criteria for making nominations to the Parent Board as set out in paragraph 10 above, and the same criteria be used for making nominations to the Operations Committee of the County Durham Housing Group Board.
  - (ii) Nominate the three members to the Operations Committee.

(iii) Note that the Boards of Durham City Homes, Dale and Valley Homes, and East Durham Homes will be represented by one common Board.

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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**Finance** – None specific in this report

**Staffing** – None specific in this report

**Risk** – None specific in this report

**Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty** - None specific in this report

**Accommodation** – None specific in this report

**Crime and Disorder** – None specific in this report

**Human Rights** – None specific in this report

**Consultation** – None specific in this report

**Procurement** – None specific in this report

**Disability Issues** – None specific in this report

**Legal Implications** – None specific in this report

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**Appendix 2: Relevant Housing Group Areas**

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**Durham City Homes****Labour**

Armstrong, B  
Armstrong, J  
Bell, D  
Blakey, J  
Bonner, A  
Chaplow, J  
Conway, P  
Corrigan, K  
Hall D  
Kellett, W  
Moir, B  
Plews, M  
Taylor, P  
Turnbull, J  
Williams, A M

**Dale and Valley Homes**

Allen, J  
Gunn, O  
Hart, J  
Kay, C  
Lee, J  
Lethbridge, J  
Nicholson, H  
Patterson, A  
Pemberton, T  
Stanton, M  
Stephens, B  
Tinsley, F J  
Tomlinson, E  
Wilson, C  
Yorke, R

**East Durham Homes**

Alvey, J  
Bell, E  
Bell, J  
Bennett, H  
Bleasdale, H  
Boyes, D  
Brookes, P  
Clark, J  
Crute, R  
Forster, S  
Hovvels, L  
Huntington, E  
Laing, A  
Liversidge, A  
Maitland, J  
Measor, J  
Morrison, S  
Napier, A  
Nicholls, M  
Pounder, L  
Shaw, K  
Stradling, P  
Surtees, A  
Taylor, L

**Durham Independent Group**

Zair, S

Maslin, J

**Liberal Democrat**

Freeman, D  
Holland, G  
Hopgood, A  
Martin, N  
Ormerod, R  
Simmons, M  
Stoker, D  
Wilkes, M

**DCC Independent Group**

Savory, A  
Shuttleworth, J

# Appendix 3

