



Board 26 May 2009

Board Membership

Report by the Chair

Decision

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Board that due to the increasing conflict of interest caused by his role as Chair of the Quality Places Overview and Scrutiny Panel at the City Council, George Allison has decided to resign from the Board.

2. Background

- 2.1 George Allison (council nominee) has been a member of the Board since 2004 and before that he was one of the City Council members who supported the establishment of an Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMO) to deliver decent homes to tenants and leaseholders of Newcastle. For a number of years, George was Chair of the Housing Committee at the City Council.
- 2.2 Since his appointment as Chair of the Quality Places Overview and Scrutiny Panel, George has had to increasingly declare a conflict of interest at Panel meetings and has therefore decided that it is appropriate for him to resign from the Board to avoid further conflict of interest.
- 2.3 George has a great knowledge of council housing in Newcastle and the loss of this breadth of knowledge and the contributions George has made to Board discussions and decisions will be a huge miss to the organisation.

3. Board Membership

- 3.1 George will stand down from the Board at the meeting on 26 May 2009 and his replacement will be confirmed by the City Council at the Annual Meeting on 27 May. The new nominee will take up their position on the Board at the

June meeting. The resignation of George has the following implications:

(a) Vice Chair

George Allison's resignation means that the Board will lose one of the Vice Chairs.

In accordance with the Articles of Association, Board has the power to appoint up to two Vice Chairs and since 2004, these positions have been filled by George Allison and Margaret O'Callaghan.

I propose that Margaret O'Callaghan continues as Vice Chair to support me as required and that the other position of Vice Chair remains unfilled until the first meeting of Board after the Annual General Meeting on 22 September 2009.

There will be a further report to Board in July about the process for appointment of Vice Chair(s) and Board will be invited to consider whether they wish to continue the practice of appointing two vice chairs.

(b) Committee Membership

George Allison is Chair of Property Committee. I propose that Margaret O'Callaghan, Vice Chair of Property Committee, be appointed as Chair of the Committee until the Annual General Meeting.

Vacancies on Audit, Finance and Property Committees created by George's resignation will remain unfilled until committee membership is agreed by Board at the first meeting after the Annual General Meeting.

George is also a member of the Outer West & North Area Board. In view of the proposals to dissolve the area boards in their current form, I do not propose to ask another board member to fill this vacancy.

4. How the proposal relates to YHN's Strategic Objectives

- 4.1 The running of the Board contributes to all of our strategic objectives. It is Board's responsibility to provide strategic direction and it is important that there is a balance of skills, knowledge and experience on the board to ensure effective decision making. It is anticipated that George's replacement will take up post in June so the composition of Board will not be affected.

5. Key Implications

- 5.1 Value for Money/Efficiencies – There are no value for money implications associated with this resignation.
- 5.2 Resources (financial, property, technological or human) - In the short term, George's resignation means that there will be a loss of knowledge and breadth of experience of council housing in Newcastle.
- 5.3 Impact on Services/Performance – There will be no adverse impact on the services we provide to customers of YHN as a result of a change in board membership.

- 5.4 Outcomes for tenants/leaseholders – The new council nominee will bring other skills and knowledge to decision making. Tenants and leaseholders will continue to be at the heart of the decisions made by Board.
- 5.5 Risk (reputation, relationship) – No implications. The City Council has recognised that the position of Chair of the Quality Places Overview and Scrutiny Panel is not compatible with being a board member of Your Homes Newcastle.
- 5.6 Environmental – no implications.
- 5.7 Legal Implications – the resignation and replacement of a council nominee is in accordance with the Articles of Association.
- 5.8 Equality and Diversity – Newcastle City Council have been reminded that Board is under represented by women and younger people and have been asked to consider this when appointing council nominees to the Board.
- 5.9 Consultation – Discussions have been held between Newcastle City Council and Your Homes Newcastle.

6. Recommendations

6.1 Board is asked to :

- note the resignation of George Allison;
- agree that Board continues with one Vice Chair until the first meeting after the Annual General Meeting;
- agree that Margaret O’Callaghan is appointed Chair of Property Committee;
- agree that the vacancies on Audit, Finance and Property Committee created by this resignation remain unfilled until board membership is confirmed at the first meeting of Board after the Annual General Meeting;
- note that there will be a further report to Board on the process for appointment of Vice Chairs.

7. Next Steps

7.1 George Allison will stand down from the Board at the meeting on 26 May 2009. His successor will be appointed by the City Council at the Annual Meeting on 27 May 2009 and take up appointment on 23 June 2009.

Background Papers : Articles of Association

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