


Individual Mayoral Decision Proforma	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Aman Dalvi (Corporate Director Place)	Classification: [Unrestricted]
Tower Hamlets Homes Board Governance	

Lead Member	Mayor John Biggs
Originating Officer(s)	Mark Baigent – Service Head Strategy, Regeneration, Sustainability & Housing Options (Place)
Author/s	John Kiwanuka - Housing Partnerships Manager Strategic Housing (Place) Ext:2616 John Coker – Acting Divisional Manager Regeneration & ALMO Client Management (Place) Ext: 3782
Wards affected	All
Community Plan Theme	Great Place to Live
Key Decision?	No

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Following an Executive Decision in December 2011, the Mayor has responsibility for appointing to the Tower Hamlets Homes (THH) Board.
- 1.2 There are currently vacancies in the following positions -
- Resident Board member
 - Tenant Board member

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Mayor is recommended to appoint:
- Helen Charles as Resident Board member
- 2.2 Helen Charles is a Senior Policy Advisor at the BBC. As the BBC's infrastructure policy specialist, Helen provides advice on regulatory issues, advocacy, and policy development in relation to radio spectrum and telecoms issues.
- 2.3 Helen has previously worked as a senior policy advisor for the UK communications regulator Ofcom and prior to that worked as a parliamentary

assistant and head of constituency office for Harriet Harman MP, then Deputy Leader of the Labour Party.

- 2.4 As a Tower Hamlets Homes resident leaseholder Helen has a personal interest in the effective operation of Tower Hamlets Homes (THH) and would like to apply her professional skills to contribute to the continuous improvement of THH for the benefit of residents and the community.

3. **REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

- 3.1 Currently not all THH's Board appointments are filled in line with the organisations Articles of Association.

4. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1 The Mayor could decide not to make any appointments to the Board, however it is prudent to strengthen a key partner and Councillor appointments have been recently made to the Board by the Mayor (Executive Decision Log 102 - July 2015).

5. **DETAILS OF REPORT**

- 5.1 The 2012 revision of THH's Articles of Association (Appendix 1) enshrined the 2011 Mayoral Executive Decision. Articles 14-18 vested power of appointment of Council Board Members, Tenant Board Members Independent Board Members and any Casual Vacancies arising in the Council Executive.

- 5.2 The December 2011 Executive Decision sought to ensure that the governance structure of the ALMO was best equipped to face future challenges by:

- Strengthening the relationship between the ALMO Board and the Council
- Making improvements to the recruitment process to the ALMO Board
- Strengthening the focus of the ALMO Board by reducing the size.

- 5.3 In order to achieve those aims the Board changed from a 5/5/5 split to:

- **Three** Resident Board members (2 Tenant, 1 Leaseholder)
- **Four** Council Board members.
- **Three** Independent Board members (including an Independent Chairperson).

6. **COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

- 6.1 This report seeks to appoint one member to fill a vacant position on the Tower Hamlets Homes board.

- 6.2 There are **no** direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report, however it should be noted that the THH board undertakes an

essential role in relation to the management of the Council's housing stock, including ensuring that the business operates effectively. It also provides a probity role. THH receives a management fee (£35.11 million in 2015-16) to fund the delivery of the services that it provides on behalf of the Borough and also manages various significant revenue and capital budgets on the Council's behalf, including the delivery of the Decent Homes programme.

7. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 7.1 Tower Hamlets Homes Ltd (THH) is a company limited by guarantee, established by the Council to exercise some of its housing management functions. The functions exercised by THH are identified in a management agreement made pursuant to section 27 of the Housing Act 1985 and approved by the Secretary of State.
- 7.2 The number of Board Members and the arrangements for the appointment of Board Members are specified in THH's Articles of Association. Article 13 provides for a Board comprising 10 Members of which four shall be Council Board Members and be Councillors appointed by the Council's Executive; three shall be Tenant Board Members of which not less than one shall be Independent Board Members.
- 7.3 The Articles provide that Tenant Board Members and Independent Members shall be appointed pursuant to a procedure determined by the Council and Appendix 1 to this report recommends such a procedure.
- 7.4 When considering appointments or the approach to be taken to appointments, the Council must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality Act 2010, the need to advance equality of opportunity and the need to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who don't (the public sector equality duty). It is important to be satisfied that any process followed is supportive of equal opportunity.
- 7.5 Strict adherence to the recruitment procedure and Articles 13-18 of the Articles of Association should deliver equality of opportunity and help to minimise any risk of challenge to the appointment of Board Members.
- 7.6 Pursuant to section 9D(2) of the Local Government Act 2000, any function of the Council which is not specified in regulations is to be the responsibility of the Council's executive under executive arrangements. The relevant regulations which specify non-executive functions are the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 ("the Functions Regulations").
- 7.7 The housing management functions which the Council has delegated to THH are not specified in the Functions Regulations and consequently are executive functions by virtue of the default provision in section 9D(2) of the Local Government Act 2000.
- 7.8 The Functions Regulations specify a category of functions which may be (but need not be) the responsibility of a local authority's executive. These are sometimes referred to as local choice functions. Included in the category of

local choice functions is the appointment of any individual to anybody, other than the Council or a joint committee, and the revocation of any such appointment. The Council's Constitution (part 3.2.2) specifies that responsibility for such appointments lies with the Mayor if the appointment is made in relation to or in support of an executive function. As THH is concerned with exercising housing management functions which are executive functions, appointments to THH's board are considered to be made in relation to or in support of executive functions and thus within the responsibility of the Mayor.

8. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 Appointing representatives to outside bodies increases the Council's engagement with local communities and improves its potential to offer guidance and leadership in relation to activities taking place in the borough.

9. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 9.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report

10. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Where appropriate it is important that any training needs and / or support needs of new board members is identified quickly and adequate measures put in place.

11. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report

12. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

- 12.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report

Linked Reports Appendices And Background Papers

LINKED REPORTS

- None

APPENDICES

- Tower Hamlet Homes Resident and Independent Board Member Recruitment Procedure

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None

OFFICER CONTACT DETAILS FOR DOCUMENTS

- N/A

Appendix 1:

Resident and Independent Board Member Recruitment Procedure

July 2014

- Upon being notified of a vacancy, Tower Hamlets Homes will agree a recruitment timetable with the Board Chair;
- An advertisement will be placed in the relevant media: these are likely to include local and BME media for resident vacancies, and the trade press for independent vacancies;
- A panel consisting of no fewer than two Board members and one member of the Tower Hamlets Homes Residents Panel will be convened. On occasion, the Board may co-opt THH or LBTH officers to the panel in an advisory capacity.
- They will agree a shortlist of candidates to meet, and an appropriate selection method to test candidates (e.g. interview questions, presentation);
- The panel will interview the short-listed candidates, and agree a recommendation candidate for the Board vacancy;
- The panel will pass this recommendation to the Mayor for his endorsement, which will be received within four weeks;
- On receipt of the Mayor's endorsement, the Chair will notify the successful candidate on behalf of the Board.