

## Consultation by Worthing Homes - reduction in Council Membership of the Board

### Report by the Executive Head of Corporate and Cultural Services

#### 1.0 Summary

- 1.1 To consider a request from Worthing Homes to reduce the Council's representation on the Management Board from 3 to 2.
- 1.2 To note the resignation of a current representative.

#### 2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Council appoints a number of representatives to various outside bodies, most recently at the Annual Meeting on 18 May 2012.
- 2.2 The roles expected of the Council representative are varied, from directorships or membership with voting rights to observer status. Some appointments are for one year, some over a fix term of years.
- 2.3 Some organisations have specific constitutions offering a position to the Council, some are less formal just seeking council representation.
- 2.4 Council representation can be an elected member or council officer. A number of organisations are closely linked to Cabinet Member portfolios.
- 2.5 The Council does not have to take up every request for a representative and should be mindful of the role required, time required for the role, travelling - time and costs as well as the benefit to each party (the organisation and the council). Ultimately, the Council should consider if there is a benefit to the residents of the Authority's area in the taking up of a request for a representative to attend meetings.
- 2.6 Worthing Homes currently request the Council to appoint 3 representatives for a 3 year term.
- 2.7 The Council appointed 3 representatives in May 2011, Councillors Howard and Chapman together with the late Reg Green.
- 2.8 Councillor Vaughan took the vacant position in May 2012 but has subsequently resigned due to work commitments. Formal notification of this resignation is awaited by officers.

2.9 The Leader has received an email request from Worthing Homes to consider the number of Council representatives for the reasons explained in 3.1 below.

### **3.0 Proposal**

3.1 Worthing Homes are undertaking a review of the size of its Board, aiming to move from the establishment of 12 to a target of 9. The purpose of this move is to focus on its activities and to improve the quality of debate at Board Meetings. The intention is to reduce each 'category' of director (Council/Tenant/Independent) by 1 ensuring that it retains the necessary skills to run the organisation.

3.2 The review followed from the Board's recent Strategy day.

3.3 The Leader may wish to ensure that any reduction in the number of Council representatives should also be matched by an equivalent reduction in the other categories of Board representatives to ensure that the Membership remains balanced to all parties.

### **4.0 Legal**

4.1 Involvement in Outside Bodies is part of the key role and duties of a Borough Councillor, as set out in Article 2 of the Constitution.

4.2 No consideration has been given to any changes that may be necessary to the Transfer Agreement which would be part of a formal request from Worthing Homes.

### **5.0 Financial implications**

5.1 There are no revenue implications from this consultation.

### **6.0 Recommendation**

6.1 The Leader is requested to consider and respond to the consultation request from Worthing Homes to reduce the number of Council representatives

6.2 The resignation of Councillor Vaughan from the Board of Worthing Homes be noted.

## **Local Government Act 1972**

### **Background Papers:**

Email from Worthing Homes dated 3 December 2012

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## **Schedule of Other Matters**

### **1.0 Council Priority**

1.1 This report relates to two of the Corporate Visions:

Continuing to work together in partnership to deliver cost effective services whilst retaining separate identities

Working more closely with and commissioning our communities, the voluntary sector, public organisations, business and commercial sectors to develop and deliver services

### **2.0 Specific Action Plans**

2.1 This report does not relate to any specific Action Plans.

### **3.0 Sustainability Issues**

3.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **4.0 Equality Issues**

4.1 Matter considered and raised at 3.3

### **5.0 Community Safety issues (Section 17)**

5.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **6.0 Human Rights Issues**

6.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **7.0 Reputation**

7.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **8.0 Consultations**

8.1 Matter considered, this is a response to a consultation request from a partner organisation

### **9.0 Risk assessment**

9.1 Matter considered and raised at 3.3

### **10.0 Health & Safety Issues**

10.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **11.0 Procurement Strategy**

11.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

### **12.0 Partnership working**

12.1 The report relates to working in partnership with Worthing Homes