

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
CABINET – 4 JUNE 2019
REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR (HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES)

LOCAL HOUSING COMPANY

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 Following on from Cabinet approval in January 2019 to create a local housing company, this report recommends to Cabinet the appointment of a non-Executive Director to sit on the Board of the new housing company. This was agreed as a function of Cabinet in January 2019.

2 Recommendations

- 1.2 That Cabinet Members agree to the appointment of a non-Executive Director of the housing company, on a voluntary, non-remunerated basis. The proposed appointee has extensive skills and experience which will greatly benefit the company and help it fulfil its objectives.

2 Explanation

- 2.1 In January 2019 Cabinet approved the creation of a new local housing company with the objectives of:
- Providing good quality, well managed homes for residents in the borough of Welwyn Hatfield which people can afford to live in and which complement the council's existing and planned housing provision.
 - Supporting the growing local demand for a mix of housing tenures by providing intermediate, low cost home ownership or open market homes and letting sub-market and market rented homes;
 - Being a financially robust company, generating a profit to be used for the purpose of providing more affordable housing and delivering financial returns to the shareholder;
 - Stimulating local housing regeneration and partnership working

Cabinet also approved governance arrangements for the new company, which includes a Board of management responsible for overseeing operational implementation of the company business plan. (The business plan is in development and will be presented to Members later this year). As agreed with Cabinet the Board will comprise senior officers within the Housing and Communities Team and a non-Executive Director, drawn from the housing sector and with demonstrable skills and experience in delivering a range of housing tenures.

- 2.2 The proposed appointee has had many years' experience working in social housing at Director and now at Chief Executive level for social landlords. The proposed appointee resides in the county but does not operate locally, therefore providing the benefit of understanding local issues whilst avoiding a conflict of interest in housing operations.

Implications

3 Legal Implication(s)

- 3.1 The council has powers to establish a local housing company and trade under its general powers of competence (Localism Act 2011).
- 3.2 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

4 Financial Implication(s)

- 4.1.1 There are no financial implications to the housing company because the post of non-Executive Director is not remunerated and any travel expenses will be minimal, given the local residency.

5 Security and Terrorism Implication(s)

- 5.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

6 Procurement Implication(s)

- 6.1 There are no procurement implications for the council.

7 Climate Change Implication(s)

- 7.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

8 Human Resources Implication(s)

There are no direct implications to the council, however the skills and experience offered will make a great contribution to company and help meet its objectives.

9 Health and Wellbeing Implication(s)

- 9.1 There are no direct health and wellbeing implications attributed to this report.

10 Communication and Engagement Implication(s)

- 10.1 A communications plan will be developed to publicise the establishment of the company and the names of company Directors will be made available at that time.

11 Link to Corporate Priorities

- 11.1 The subject of this report is linked to the council's Corporate Priority 'Our Housing' and relates to all the objectives within this, including, being a quality landlord, meeting housing need, providing affordable homes and driving up housing quality in the borough

12 Equality and Diversity

14.1 An EqIA was not completed because this report does not propose changes to existing service-related policies or the development of new service-related policies.

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