

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL11 SEPTEMBER 2019Report by Deputy Chief ExecutiveBARRHEAD HOUSING ASSOCIATION – NOMINATION OF REPLACEMENT CO-OPTED MEMBER**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the nomination of a replacement for Councillor Ireland as a co-opted board member of the Board of Barrhead Housing Association.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Council consider the nomination of a replacement for Councillor Ireland as a co-opted member of the Board of Barrhead Housing Association.

REPORT

3. Due to other commitments Councillor Ireland has had to tender her resignation as a co-opted member on the Board of Barrhead Housing Association.

4. Set up as a registered social landlord in 1986, the initial aim of the Association was to improve the tenemental properties in the centre of Barrhead and soon thereafter the Association started a programme of building new properties for rent. Now the majority of the Association's housing stock is new build. In 2004 the Association became a registered Scottish charity and they are now a key locally controlled housing association owning nearly 920 properties through East Renfrewshire, although mainly in Barrhead, Neilston, Newton Mearns and Thornliebank. This includes 15 new affordable homes that were built in 2016 in Darnley Road, Barrhead.

5. The Association is run by a Governing Board made up of local tenants and residents, housing professionals and local business people. The Council also has a co-opted place on the Governing Board.

6. As a co-opted member of the Governing Board, the Council's nominee needs to meet a series of criteria/requirements as set out in the Association's Co-opted Governing Board Members Policy, a copy of which is attached (Appendix 1)

7. The Governing Board meets on the last Thursday of the month with meetings scheduled from now until March 2020 as follows:-

- 26 September
- 31 October
- 28 November
- 30 January
- 27 February
- 26 March

RECOMMENDATION

7. That the Council consider the nomination of a replacement for Councillor Ireland as a co-opted member of the Board of Barrhead Housing Association.

Report Author

Eamonn Daly, Democratic Services Manager

eamonn.daly@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

0141 577 3023



Policy on :	Co-opted Governing Board Members Policy
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Compliant with Regulatory Standards:	6. "The governing body and senior officers have the skills and knowledge they need to be effective". Standards 6.1 to 6.3 make reference to the skills and composition of the Governing Board
Compliant with Tenant Participation Strategy :	n/a
Compliant with Equal Opportunities :	Taken into account in the development of the policy
Compliant with Budget/Business Plan :	Yes

Date of Approval :	December 2018
Date for review :	December 2021

Responsible Officer :	Corporate Services Manager
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1. Co-Options

In accordance with the Rules of the Association, the Governing Board is empowered to co-opt, or remove co-opted members. Co-opted places will be generally used to address the lack of skills and knowledge or experience in particular areas. Any decision to use co-optee places will be made by the Governing Board and they need not be a member of the Association. However, membership will be encouraged. The Association will aim to set aside one co-opted place for use by an elected member from East Renfrewshire Council.

A co-option to the Governing Board shall run until the last meeting before the Annual General Meeting, or until removed by the Governing Board.

Co-opted persons shall not comprise more than one-third of the elected Governing Board Members at any one time and the attendance of such persons at meetings of the Governing Board or Sub-Groups shall not count towards determining a quorum as defined under Rule 48.

A co-optee will have to be an eligible person under the Association's Rules and should preferably bring a specialist expertise or knowledge of the area to the Governing Board. A co-optee shall undertake the role of Governing Board member and accordingly will be subject to the duties and responsibilities of a Governing Board member.

Co-optees can take part in discussions at governing board or sub-groups and vote at Board and Sub-Groups meetings on all matters except those directly affecting the Rules, the membership of the Association, or the election of Office Bearers. Co-optees may not stand for election, nor be elected as one of the Office Bearers of the Governing Board.

2. Sub-Groups

A co-optee can also serve on any sub-Group. The Governing board will consider additional co-opted places for the Audit and Risk sub-group to strengthen the need for financial experience and skills required for this Group. Such appointments will be approved by the governing Board annually following the AGM.

3. Involvement in Association's Business

Co-opted Governing Board Members can take part in all discussions regarding the Association's business and can vote on the decisions to be made.

A Co-opted Member cannot however participate in decisions of membership, or in the election of Office Bearers, or be elected as an Office Bearer. Co-optees may not stand for election, nor be elected as one of the office bearers of the Governing Board.

4. Responsibilities

All co-optees will be required to complete induction and training as part of their role on either the full Board or Sub-Group. The co-optee will commence induction by meeting the Chief Executive and Chairperson. Each co-optee will be required to complete the following information:

- Membership application – for Board approval including eligibility under Rule 43 specifically in relation to bankruptcy/sequestration, convictions of an offence involving dishonesty or offence under the Charities and Trustee legislation, party to legal proceedings against the Association, removal from another RSL within the last 5 years, etc.
- Code of Conduct compliance – at first induction and annual commitment
- Declaration of interest – annual declaration and at each Board meeting
- Equalities monitoring form – annually
- Board appraisal – annually
- Commitment to ongoing training and development
- Declaration for receipt and operation of IPad for receiving electronic communication and Board papers

5. Documentation

Each co-optee as a governing board member will as part of the induction process be provided with the following documentation:

- A copy of our Group Governance Handbook
- A copy of our latest business plan
- A copy of our latest Governance Assurance Statement (from 2019)
- A copy of our annual budget
- A copy of our latest Performance Report
- A copy of our last three Newsletters
- A copy of our subsidiary business plan

6. Board attendance

All co-optees will be invited to join the Governing board and they may also decide to join a sub-group. The commitment to the Board includes attendance of 9 Board meetings of approximately 2 hours per meeting and co-optees are required to submit apologies or request leave of absence should this be required – leave of absence is generally reviewed every three months.

Co-optees will commit to the same responsibilities for Board responsibilities including collective decision making, confidentiality, declarations of interest, and attendance. Specifically, co-optees as Board members are subject to the following rules:

- He/she misses four Governing board meetings in a row without special leave of absence previously being granted by the Board either at his/her request or by exercise of the Board's discretion
- He/she becomes ineligible as a Governing Board members in terms of Rule 43
- He/she is a co-optee whose period of office is ended in accordance with rules 39.1 or 42.2

Co-optees will not be considered where he/she is the spouse, partner, child (including adopted or step child), parent, parent-in-law, grandparent, grandchild or sibling of a governing Board member or a governing body member of any other organisation in the Group

7. Scottish Housing Regulator

The Regulator can, where required, encourage the Governing board to consider appointing co-optees with particular skills and experience in circumstances where the Governing Board has been deemed to require support to meet the Regulatory Standards for Registered social Landlords, this can also mean the Regulator using its powers of intervention to make appointments onto the board of a registered social landlord. Such appointments will be assessed by the Regulator.