

## ASSEMBLY

22 FEBRUARY 2012

<b>Title:</b> Membership of Housing Forums	
<b>Report of the Cabinet Member for Housing</b>	
Open report	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Wards Affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> No
<b>Report Author:</b> Sue Devitt, Group Manager, Housing Services	<b>Contact Details:</b> Tel: 020 227 5702 E-mail: susan.devitt@lbbd.gov.uk
<b>Accountable Divisional Director:</b> Ken Jones, Divisional Director of Housing	
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Darren Henaghan, Corporate Director of Housing and Environment	
<b>Summary:</b>  The Assembly is asked to consider making councillor appointments to the newly established Housing Forums on the basis as set out in the report.	
<b>Recommendation(s)</b>  Assembly is recommended to appoint all Councillors to their respective Forum and nominate those listed in the tables as the Council's formal Board members with voting rights.	
<b>Reason(s)</b>  The appointment of councillors on to 'outside bodies' is the responsibility of the Assembly.	

### 1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 At its meeting on 10 May 2011, the Cabinet agreed the implementation of a new tenant involvement framework designed to promote new and improved opportunities for Borough residents to participate in activities which generated pride and ownership of the area where they lived and to contribute to the development of community capacity and empowerment. This new framework replaced the former Community Housing Partnership structure.

### 2. Proposal

- 2.1 Over the following six months the detailed arrangements for the new framework were developed and the inaugural meetings of the Barking Housing Forum and the Dagenham Housing Forum were held in the week beginning 30 January 2012 to

consider, amongst other things, the terms of reference and membership details. The formal Board membership (i.e. those with voting rights) of each forum consists of 2 x Tenant representatives via the Tenants Federation, 1 x Leaseholder via the Leasehold Forum, 7 x Active tenant representatives of local organisations (not necessarily members of the Tenant Federation) plus 1 Councillor from each Ward within the Forum area.

- 2.2 For the purposes of ‘approved duties’ all Councillors shall be members of their respective Forum. The Councillors listed below are proposed as the formal Board Member (with voting rights) for each ward:

### **Barking**

Cllr Laila Butt	Abbey
Cllr Rob Douglas	Becontree
Cllr Jim McDermott	Eastbury
Cllr Chris Rice	Parsloes
Cllr Nirmal Gill	Longbridge
Cllr Dee Hunt	Mayesbrook
Cllr Barry Poulton	Thames
Cllr Emmanuel Obasohan	Valence
Cllr Dominic Twomey	Gascoigne

### **Dagenham**

Cllr John Davis	Alibon
Cllr Jeff Wade	Chadwell Heath
Cllr Tony Ramsay	Eastbrook
Cllr Graham Letchford	Goresbrook
Cllr Dave Miles	Heath
Cllr Eileen Keller	River
Cllr Margaret Mullane	Village
Cllr Tony Perry	Whalebone

## **3. Options Appraisal**

- 3.1 Not applicable to this report

## **4. Consultation**

- 4.1 Consultation workshops have previously been held with residents and subsequent presentations to the former Community Housing Partnership Meetings have informed the final framework put forward.

## **5. Financial Implications**

Implications completed by: David Abbott, Principal Accountant  
Telephone and email: 020 8227 2261 [david.abbott@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:david.abbott@lbbd.gov.uk)

- 5.1 As an “approved duty” councillors will be entitled to claim reasonable expenses for attendance at Housing Forum meetings, the costs of which can be contained within existing budget provisions.

## **6. Legal Implications**

Implications completed by: Paul Feild, Senior Lawyer  
Telephone and email: 020 8227 3133 [paul.feild@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:paul.feild@lbbd.gov.uk)

- 6.1 The proposals to establish two new Housing Forums support the objective of improving arrangements for both community consultation and involvement in the light of the Localism agenda and the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 which has placed increased emphasis on providing all tenants with the opportunity to influence the way in which their homes are managed.

## **7. Other implications**

- 7.1 Not applicable to this report

## **Background Papers:**

- Report and Minute entitled “Housing Resident Involvement and Empowerment”, Cabinet 10 May 2011

## **List of appendices:**

None