

## ASSEMBLY

5 October 2016

<b>Title:</b> Councillor Membership on Housing Forums	
<b>Report of the Chief Executive</b>	
<b>Open Report</b>	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Wards Affected:</b> All wards	<b>Key Decision:</b> No
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<b>Accountable Director:</b> Fiona Taylor, Director of Law and Governance	
<b>Accountable Strategic Director:</b> Chris Naylor, Chief Executive	
<b>Summary</b> <p>At the annual meeting of the Assembly on 18 May 2016, it was agreed that the councillor representation on Housing Forums would remain unchanged from the 2015/16 municipal year while a comprehensive review of the Housing Forums was undertaken over the summer period. It was anticipated at that time that proposals on a wide range of issues, including membership and voting rights, would be presented to the Housing Forums and the Assembly towards the end of 2016.</p> <p>Although work on the review is progressing, the main proposals are still being developed and there will need to be a period of consultation. In the meantime, it is suggested that the Assembly considers revisions to the councillor representation that would support the involvement of all ward councillors in the work of the Forums, rather than the current arrangement whereby only one councillor per ward is appointed.</p> <p>The new arrangement would involve all ward councillors receiving formal invitations and papers for their respective Forum (<b>Barking Forum</b> – Abbey, Becontree, Eastbury, Gascoigne, Goresbrook, Longbridge, Mayesbrook and Thames; <b>Dagenham Forum</b> – Alibon, Chadwell Heath, Eastbrook, Heath, Parsloes, River, Valence, Village and Whalebone). This would also mean that councillors are no longer formally appointed to the Forums. To accord with the voting arrangements under the Forum’s Constitution, one councillor per ward would be entitled to vote.</p>	
<b>Recommendation(s)</b> <p>The Assembly is asked to agree that all ward councillors be invited to their respective Housing Forum and that, for the purposes of voting and to accord with the Forum’s Constitution, there shall be one voting right per ward.</p>	

**Reason(s)**

To support the involvement of all ward councillors in the work of the Forums.

**1. Financial Implications**

Implications completed by: Kathy Freeman, Finance Director

1.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

**2. Legal Implications**

Implications completed by: Fiona Taylor, Director of Law and Governance

2.1 The voting rights at Housing Forums are as follows:

- 2 x representatives appointed via the Tenant Federation;
- 1 x representative appointed via the Leasehold Forum;
- 7 x Independent tenants/leaseholders who have an active interest in housing issues in the borough;
- 1 x Councillors per ward.

2.2 The variation of the membership status of councillors on the Forums does not alter the voting rights, therefore the Assembly may approve the proposals without having to formally consult via the Housing Forums.

**Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:**

- Report and Minute entitled "Housing Resident Involvement and Empowerment", Cabinet 10 May 2011 (<http://moderngov.barking-dagenham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=180&MId=5122&Ver=4>)

**List of appendices:** None