

REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE		Report No. 7
Date of Meeting	1 st November 2007	
Title of Report	Member Representation on the Board of Westlea Housing Association	
Portfolio	Housing	
Link to Corporate Priorities	Housing	
Key Decision	No	
Executive Workplan Ref	B362	
Public Report	Yes	

Summary of Report

To consider whether the Council wishes to continue to nominate a representative to Westlea Housing Association's Board.

Officer Recommendations

1. **Members agree to relinquish the Council's entitlement to nominate a Member to the Westlea Board.**
2. **Members agree to the dissolution of the Forum in January 2008 to be replaced by more informal meetings between the Council and Westlea Housing Association to include:**
 - (i) **Twice-yearly Members evenings held by Westlea**
 - (ii) **Appoint a representative to be a lead contact with Members of all the local authorities Westlea works with**
 - (iii) **Informal meetings between the Housing Portfolio holder and Chair of the Board, Executive and Directors of Westlea as required**
 - (iv) **Twice yearly meeting with Members from all the Local Authority partners they work with to discuss common issues**

Other than those implications agreed with the relevant Officers and referred to below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications	Legal Implications	Community & Environmental Implications	Human Resources Implications	Equality & Diversity Implications
No	Yes	No	No	No

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The report seeks Members' agreement to relinquish the right to nominate a Member to Westlea Housing Association's Board and to waive the requirement for the Forum to continue to operate.

2. Options and Options Appraisal

- 2.1 To relinquish the right to nominate a Member to Westlea Housing Association's Board and to agree to the dissolution of the Forum.
- 2.2 To continue to nominate a Member to Westlea Housing Association's Board and to continue to operate the Forum.

3. Background Information

- 3.1 There have been two previous reports to Executive regarding the nomination of Council Members to the Board of Westlea Housing Association.

- 3.2 On 4th November 2004 Executive resolved;

- 1) That the Council's entitlement to nominate Members to the Westlea Board be reduced from three nominations to one nomination subject to the following conditions;
 - a) a partnership arrangement satisfactory to the Executive being entered into with Westlea Housing Association
 - b) Westlea consulting their tenants with regard to the proposed Board changes and the results of that consultation being reported to and considered by the Executive
- 2) That the Member nominated by the Council be appointed for a minimum period of two consecutive years, such appointment to terminate automatically if the nominated Member ceases to be a Member of the Council.
- 3) That appointment to the two current vacancies be deferred until after the consideration of the partnership agreement and
- 4) That Westlea be asked to consider the appropriateness of the time commitment expected of Board members in the light of Council workloads.

- 3.3 On 19th July 2005 a further report was presented to Executive and the following action was resolved;

- 1) The establishment of a new Forum with representation from Westlea Housing Association and the Council, with Terms of Reference as proposed at Appendix 1 to Report No. 13 (copy attached at **Appendix 1** to this report), be approved as a satisfactory partnership arrangement and;
- 2) It be agreed that the conditions prescribed by the Executive as detailed in paragraph 4.1 of Report No. 13 have now been met and paragraph 1) of that resolution can now be acted upon, conditional upon the establishment and continuing operation of the Forum in accordance with its Terms of Reference or any agreed variation thereof.

- 3.4 The first meeting of the Forum took place in October 2005 and there have in total been 6 meetings of the Forum, the most recent one taking place on Thursday 27th September 2007.
- 3.5 The nominated Member on Westlea's Board is currently Councillor Mrs Allison Bucknell.
- 3.6 At the meeting of the Forum on 27th September 2007 the current arrangements including the nomination of a Member to the Board and the continued operation of the Forum were discussed.
- 3.7 It was proposed that there is no longer a need to have a nominated Member on Westlea's Board and that the Forum be disbanded for the following reasons;
- (i) There is already a great deal of communication both at officer and member level which invalidates the need for a separate forum
 - (ii) Westlea, whilst predominantly operating within the North Wiltshire District Council area is also working with other local authorities who are not represented at Board level
- 3.8 It was suggested that Westlea should put alternative provisions in place to include;
- (i) Twice-yearly Members evenings held by Westlea
 - (ii) Appoint a representative to be a lead contact with Members of all the local authorities Westlea works with
 - (iii) Informal meetings between the Housing Portfolio holder and Chair of the Board, Executive and Directors of Westlea as required
 - (iv) Twice yearly meeting with Members from all the Local Authority partners they work with to discuss common issues

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The Council's formal consent to a change in local authority representation on Westlea's Board is required under the terms of the Large Scale Voluntary Transfer (LSVT) contract.

5. Risk Analysis

- 5.1 It is not considered that this proposal has significant strategic, policy or operational implications and therefore a risk assessment has not been completed.

Appendices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 1: Forum Terms of Reference
Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report to Executive 4.11.04 • Report to Executive 19.7.05

Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

Report	Committee & Date	Minute Reference
Member Representation on the Board of Westlea Housing Association	Executive 4.11.04 and Executive 19.7.05	E.118 and E.40