

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

**AGENDA
ITEM NO**

COUNCIL

21 FEBRUARY 2019

6b

Housing Committee report – 5 February 2019 – Agenda Item 8

Report Title	TENANT REPRESENTATIVES ON HOUSING COMMITTEE
Purpose of Report	Feedback to Housing Committee to provide an update from the Independent Tenant Assessor and assessments undertaken by tenants.
Decisions	Committee RESOLVES: To approve the Tenant Representatives elected for Housing Committee and recommend the appointment to full Council.
Consultation and Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair & Vice Chair of Housing Committee • Neighbourhood Ambassadors • Tenant Representatives on Housing Committee
Financial Implications and Risk Assessment	<p>There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. All proposals are within the existing budget.</p> <p>Lucy Clothier, Principal Accountant Tel: 01453 754343 Email: lucy.clothier@stroud.gov.uk</p> <p>Risk Assessment The regulator for social housing administers compliance with the tenant involvement and empowerment standard which requires providers to ensure that tenants are given a wide range of opportunities to influence and be involved in decisions relating to housing related services including policies. This process is fully compliant with that approach.</p>
Legal Implications	<p>The Regulator of Social Housing Regulatory Framework for Social Housing in England requires the Council (as a Registered Provider of Social Housing) to ensure tenants are given a wide range of opportunities to influence and be involved in the management of their homes, the formulation of policies and the making of decisions about how housing landlord services are delivered. In accordance with the constitution:</p> <p><i>“The two co-opted members act as representatives of the Council tenants and are entitled to speak (but not vote) on matters concerning Council housing.”</i></p> <p>This is a decision to be taken by Full Council as it is regarding the composition of Housing Committee.</p> <p>Any scoring process and assessment will need to be done consistently and fairly; some record as to that process will need to be kept in line with the Council’s retention policy in</p>

	<p>order to justify any selection if needed. Craig Hallett, Solicitor & Deputy Monitoring Officer Tel: 01453 754364 Email: craig.hallett@stroud.gov.uk R15.01C21.01D22.01</p>
Report Author	<p>Michelle Elliott, Principal Neighbourhood Management Officer Tel; 01453 754113 Email: michelle.elliott@stroud.gov.uk</p>
Background Papers / Appendices	<p>Appendix 1 Letter to tenants Appendix 2 Discussion topics Appendix 3 Scoring criteria Appendix 4 Assessment scores</p>

1. **Background**

- 1.1 Tenant Involvement is a key regulatory compliance requirement as part of co-regulation, supporting tenants and improving the services we provide. Tenant Services recognise the benefits of tenant involvement in enhancing the communities in which they live and providing social value to individuals, improving wellbeing, increasing confidence and involving tenants in issues which matter and are transparent.
- 1.2 Following the paper to Housing Committee in June 2016, it was agreed that two tenants would be co-opted onto the Housing Committee membership and would have rights to speak on housing matters. Ian Allan and Sadie Tazewell were appointed for a period of two years. This period is now completed and we have procured an Independent Tenant Advisor to work with our tenants to choose two new representatives.

2. **Introduction**

- 2.1 As the 2 year process has come to a conclusion we are now looking to recruit two new tenants for a further 2 years to be co-opted on to Housing Committee.
- 2.2 Tenants were invited to be involved with the procurement of the Independent Tenant Advisor and scrutinised proposals from TPAS, HQN and Jon Warnock before approving Jon Warnock as the chosen Independent Tenant Advisor.

3. **Tenant Consultation**

- 3.1 All tenants received information inviting them to consider the opportunity to apply for the tenant positions on Housing Committee (see Appendix 1). The process was made accessible to all and interested tenants were asked to call our Independent Tenant Advisor to register their interest.
- 3.2 31 Tenants registered their interest and after further discussion 21 tenants have agreed to attend the assessment evening.
- 3.3 An assessment evening has been arranged on 15 January 2019, where tenants will meet together and in small groups will discuss various housing related topics (Appendix 2). There will be a facilitator to lead each group and tenants will be scored on their input to the discussion.

- 3.4 A small group of our Neighbourhood Ambassadors and Tenant Voids & Repairs Inspectors will be involved in the evening and have received training from our Independent Tenant Advisor in order that they can score the discussions (Appendix 3 & 4). They have found this process informative and instructive.
- 3.5 Following the discussions on the evening, the scoring matrix will be shared with candidates. The Independent Tenant Advisor will then invite the tenants who have scored well to an informal discussion. Two Neighbourhood Ambassadors will also attend this discussion and two representatives will be chosen.

4. Summary

- 4.1 Following recommendation from Housing Committee in September 2018, we have ensured that the process for applying to be a tenant representative is straightforward and transparent. With 31 responses we have now made contact with some tenants that we have not communicated with before and it is hoped that all tenants who have shown an interest in this role may be interested in working with us in other roles.