

HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report To: Cabinet
24 January 2012

Subject: BOARD APPOINTMENTS - BROADACRES

**All Wards
Scrutiny Committees
Cabinet Member: Leader of Council, Councillor N W Huxtable**

1.0 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 The Council currently appoints two members to the Board of Broadacres Housing Association. Whilst there have been changes to the number of nominees over the years these appointments go back to when Hambleton Housing Association (and then Broadacres) was first formed following the council house stock transfer in the early 1990's.
- 1.2 In the early days the value in these appointments would have been about retaining influence over things like lettings, tenancy conditions, tenants liaison and maintenance etc. However purposeful input on these issues has reduced over time for reasons such as; Council appointees not being in a majority, national criteria that regulate social landlords have developed and Broadacres responsibility to its tenants etc. As Broadacres has developed its own purposes have evolved to the point where it is now an active developer as well as a landlord – one of many circumstances that could not have been predicted when the Association was originally set up.
- 1.3 The general view is that there now appears to be nothing that the Council really gains from this arrangement in terms of liaison or influence. Indeed it is becoming more the case that members have to declare interests within the Council when involved as Board Appointees of Broadacres and this part of the relationship is potentially ineffective rather than a benefit.
- 1.4 Therefore it is recommended that the council formally withdraws from the Broadacres Board. This does not stop any member who wishes being a member of Broadacres (as is the case now). There are various agreements covering the relationship with Broadacres but withdrawing from Board membership is not seen to be a problem in this context.
- 1.5 Broadacres continue to be a significant partner in affordable homes delivery and suitable liaison arrangements would be made to facilitate continued partnership working and maintain good relations.
- 1.6 Informal sounding indicates Broadacres would have no issue with the proposals and it is in keeping with a recent Audit and Governance request to review outside bodies.

2.0 DECISIONS SOUGHT:

- 2.1 To formally withdraw from making Council appointees to the Broadacres Housing Association Board.

3.0 LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES:

3.1 Broadacres are one of a number of partners in affordable housing delivery.

4.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 There are no risks in agreeing the recommendation.

5.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 None

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND EFFICIENCIES:

6.1 None

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

7.1 The Council can withdraw from making appointments to the Broadacres Board.

8.0 SECTION 17 CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998:

8.1 None

9.0 EQUALITY/DIVERSITY ISSUES:

9.1 None

10.0 RECOMMENDATION(S):

10.1 That the Council formally withdraw from making appointments to the Broadacres board in line with its constitution.

PETER SIMPSON

Background papers: None

Author ref: PS

Contact: Peter Simpson
Chief Executive
Direct Line No: 76001