



Meeting: Integrated Housing Board

Date: 17 March 2008

Report Title: Inter-Tenure Consultation Group

Report of: Phil Harris, Assistant Director, Strategic and Community Housing

Purpose

The Integrated Housing Board is asked to agree the development of the consultation group.

Recommendations

That the proposal be agreed.

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Strategic Implications

The proposal to create an inter-tenure consultation group is strategic in nature, as it will become the principal consultation forum for over-arching issues of housing related policy and strategy; and will feed into the Integrated Housing Board which is itself a strategic body.

The IHB is a theme board within the Haringey Strategic Partnership (HSP) and it therefore reflects the important partnerships that are at the heart of the Council's approach to improving services and tackling need.

The inter-tenure consultation group will help the IHB to tackle over-arching housing challenges by providing opportunities to test out ideas with a broad range of borough based groups who have an interest in and awareness of the housing issues facing Haringey.

Financial Implications

The financial implications of this proposal are limited to the costs of servicing meetings of the group. Given the proposed scope of the group, it is anticipated that meetings will be held in high profile venues, incurring hire costs; and as half day events, catering costs will also be incurred.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

Equalities Implications

It is critical to the success of the inter-tenure consultation group that a broad spread of national, religious, cultural and ethnic representation is achieved and that the issues faced by the range of communities in the borough are addressed.

Consultation

The proposed inter-tenure consultation group has been considered initially by the IHB and will be tested for customer support by seeking their involvement in the group. The working of the group will be reviewed after an initial period and proposals for any modifications will be brought back to IHB for discussion and decision.

Background

This paper sets out the proposed purpose, make-up and structure of the inter-tenure consultation group to be set up as an over-arching consultation body working to the Integrated Housing Board.

Purpose

The purpose of the inter-tenure consultation group is to create a reference point for housing issues which will be the subject of discussion and/or decision of the Integrated Housing Board and fall within the operational remit of the Strategic & Community Housing Service and/or go beyond the remit of the council's ALMO, Homes for Haringey.

Thus topics for discussion by the group might include initiatives aimed at creating a local housing company; proposals for the future development of housing for the elderly; environmental sustainability for new and/or refurbished housing in the borough, whether being developed by the social or private sector; affordability of social and private rented housing; the role/future of shared-ownership housing within Haringey; directions in planning policy which help or hinder the development of new or refurbished housing; the emerging place shaping debate and other issues around the council's strategic housing role.

Make-up

While the invitation list for the group will include the consultative forums currently in operation with Homes for Haringey, we will seek the participation of other housing providers and managers by enabling access to the representative and consultative groupings that they work with in developing their services. In addition, we will seek the involvement of those groups within the community at

large, such as owner/occupiers, who have an interest in housing in the borough, though they own and manage their own homes.

We will also seek to access the representative bodies supporting the wide range of minority ethnic communities within Haringey, which may not have a specific housing remit, but which serve as an important channel of communication on all public matters to the members of their specific national, language, religious or cultural group.

The make-up of the group will therefore include:

- tenants and residents associations working within the council's housing stock managed by Homes for Haringey
- residents groups working within the housing managed by Strategic & Community Housing Services eg: those in temporary accommodation
- tenants associations operating within the housing stock owned and managed by RSL/housing associations
- Leaseholder associations formed by those living in council, RSL or privately owned accommodation within the borough
- tenants groups working within the housing stock owned and managed by private landlords in the borough
- residents groups formed from owner/occupiers and others living in a particular geographical area within the borough
- Housing associations and registered social landlords owning and/or developing homes within the borough
- Private landlords owning and managing rented housing in Haringey
- Ethnic minority community groups eg: Somali, Turkish, Greek, Ghanaian, Afro-Caribbean, etc.

Structure

The inter-tenure consultation group will have a minimal structure and will operate through regular quarterly or half-yearly meetings. The group may find it useful to appoint a Chair to act as the interface between the group and the council, but meetings will be open to all those groups who feel the topic for discussion is relevant to them. Meetings will generally comprise a presentation on the chosen topic, followed by workshop discussions and a report back. Meetings will normally be limited to a morning, with lunch to follow to allow networking.

Responsibility for the organisation of the meetings will rest with the council in conjunction with the Chair of the group. It is proposed that the group be called the "Haringey Housing Network".

Conclusion

This report makes proposals to set up the Haringey Housing Network, an inter-tenure consultation group aimed at providing a vehicle for consultation on overarching issues falling within the discussion/decision remit of the Integrated Housing Board.

The Network will bring together a wide range of groups with a housing or community interest, in order to provide realistic opportunities for the whole community to influence the future of housing in Haringey.

If the IHB agree to this proposal, a detailed project delivery plan and budget will follow.