

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

EXECUTIVE - 14th SEPTEMBER 2004

REPORT FROM THE BOROUGH SOLICITOR AND DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

APPOINTMENTS TO THE LONDON HOUSING UNIT COMMITTEE

FORWARD PLAN REF: COR-04/05-73

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report details the background to the Association for London Government ('ALG') London Housing Unit Sectoral Joint Committee ('LHUC') and the requirement for member representation.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are asked to appoint the Leader to the LHUC and the Lead Member for Housing as an alternate member to this committee.
- 2.2 Members are asked to nominate the Lead Member for Housing for appointment by the LHUC onto their executive sub committee.

3. DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 This report has been subject to screening and officers believe there are no diversity implications.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The LHUC is a joint sectoral committee consisting of 25 member boroughs. Its terms of reference are set out in full in an agreement with the ALG (dated 13 December 2001). These terms of reference are summarised in Part 5 of the Brent Constitution and repeated in paragraph 7 for ease of reference.
- 4.2 The LHUC exercises executive functions and as such the Executive must make the appointments to this committee. The Executive may only appoint Executive members to the joint committee and the appointed members need not reflect the political balance of the authority.
- 4.3 In the both the 2001 ALG agreement and the standing orders of the ALG, the appointment to this committee shall be the Leader of the member borough from time to time. Although there is no requirement in the agreement or the ALG standing orders, the ALG have recommended that the Lead Member for Housing should then be appointed as deputy representative (i.e. the alternate member) as well as being nominated for appointment by the LHUC onto their executive sub committee.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are none.

6. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are none.

7. DETAIL

7.1 Democratic Services has received correspondence from the London Housing Unit Committee requesting that the Leader be appointed to a seat on the Committee and a deputy representative be appointed to the Committee. The LHUC has also asked that each member borough nominate their lead member for housing for subsequent appointment by the LHUC onto their executive sub committee.

7.2 London Housing is part of the ALG and provides information on housing and related issues to member boroughs. The London Housing Unit Committee (LHUC) is a joint sectoral committee comprised of the Leaders of the member boroughs and is responsible for the approval of strategic and crosscutting policy and approval of the annual LHUC budget. The LHUC meets at least twice a year, in June (Annual General Meeting) and in December. Its terms of reference are summarised as follows:

1. To assist Constituent Councils to discharge their statutory housing functions.
2. To assist with the housing functions of councils generally.
3. The activities of the Committee shall include:
 - (a) provision, organisation and co-ordination of housing publicity and information on issues relevant to member authorities;
 - (b) research and analysis on housing matters;
 - (c) evaluation and analysis on housing policy and service issues; and
 - (d) other appropriate activities consistent with or contributing to the housing duties and functions of the Constituent Councils.
4. To carry out investigations into and the collection of information relating to the housing functions of the Constituent Councils and the housing activities of other appropriate bodies.
5. To make arrangements for such information and the results of such investigations to be made available to Constituent Councils.
6. To assist the Constituent Councils in giving publicity to their functions and the amenities and/or advantages of and entitlements affecting their area.
7. To provide professional administrative and technical assistance to the Constituent Councils.

8. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 8.1 Correspondence with Association of London Government (ALG) dated 15th June 2004.
- 8.2 ALG agreement dated 13th December 2001.
- 8.3 The Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2000 (Statutory Instrument 2000 No. 2851) and amendments thereto (Statutory Instrument 2001 No. 3961).

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