

	<b>Cabinet</b> 11 December 2023
	<b>Report from the Chief Executive</b>
	<b>Lead Member – Deputy Leader &amp; Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources &amp; Reform (Councillor Shama Tatler)</b>
<b>Appointment of Chair to the i4B Holdings Ltd and First Wave Housing Ltd Boards</b>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Key
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	None
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Sadie East Director of Transformation Tel: 020 8937 1507 Email: <a href="mailto:Sadie.East@brent.gov.uk">Sadie.East@brent.gov.uk</a>

## 1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report recommends the proposed appointment of Andrew Hudson, to the position of Chair to the board of the Council's two wholly owned housing companies, i4B Holdings Ltd and First Wave Housing Ltd.

## 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet agrees that Andrew Hudson is appointed to the position of Chair for i4B and FWH for a term of three years.
- 2.3 That Cabinet notes that Martin Smith will stand down as Chair of i4B and FWH as of 31 December 2023.

## 3.0 Cabinet Member forward

- 3.1 I am pleased to recommend Andrew Hudson be appointed as Chair of i4B Holdings Ltd and First Wave Housing Ltd, following a competitive search and

selection process. i4B and First Wave Housing contribute to Borough Plan Strategic Priority 1 – Prosperity and Stability in Brent, as part of the Council's work to deliver safe, secure and decent housing.

3.2 I would also like to express thanks to Martin Smith for his work for Brent's housing companies over the past seven years.

#### **4. Background**

4.1 The Council has two wholly owned housing companies: i4B Holdings Ltd (i4B), an investment company set up to own and manage private rented sector properties, and First Wave Housing Ltd (FWH), a registered provider of social housing.

4.2 Brent Council is the sole Shareholder for i4B, and the sole Guarantor for FWH. The Board has the same membership for both i4B and FWH and is made up of a Chair and four directors, including two senior Council officers, an independent Chair and Director, and one Councillor. Any removal or appointment of Board members for the companies is a Cabinet decision as Shareholder/Guarantor of the companies.

4.3 The current Board membership is:

- Martin Smith – Independent Chair (appointed 21 December 2016)
- Peter Gadsdon – Corporate Director, Resident Services, Brent Council (appointed 16 December 2016)
- Melanie Smith – Director of Public Health, Brent Council (appointed 19 July 2023)
- Akintoye Dorowoju – Independent non-executive director (appointed 1 May 2018)
- Councillor Saqib Butt (appointed 23 November 2020)

4.4 Martin Smith will step down as chair of i4B and FWH on 31 December 2023. Andrew Hudson is the recommended candidate following a comprehensive search and selection process which included a final panel interview with the Chief Executive, Corporate Director of Finance & Resources and Deputy Leader.

#### **5.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement**

5.1 N/A.

#### **6.0 Financial Considerations**

6.1 The remuneration for the post is £18,000 per annum. This has been benchmarked against other comparable non-executive Chair roles. The Chair's remuneration will be funded by the companies.

## **7.0 Legal Considerations**

7.1 As sole Shareholder for i4B and the sole Guarantor for FWH, the Council has an important role in providing strategic direction for the companies and retains control of key decisions. Cabinet is the strategic supervisory body with ultimate responsibility for ensuring governance of the companies and the power to appoint and dismiss Directors and the Company Secretary are reserved to Cabinet. Cabinet therefore has the power to agree the Recommendations contained in this report.

## **8.0 Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations**

8.1 There are none.

## **9.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations**

9.1 There are none.

## **10.0 Communication Considerations**

10.1 Once the new Chair has taken up post, details will be registered with Companies House and Brent's website will be updated.

**Report sign off:**

***Kim Wright***  
Chief Executive