



Terms of Reference

Housing and Communities Board

Purpose

1. The Housing and Communities Board ("the Board") has been established to address a perceived housing crisis on the Isle of Man.
2. The Board will work to integrate and modernise all housing policy, law and provision into a national housing strategy with the following policy objectives of:
 - a) everyone having a suitable and affordable place to call 'home' and
 - b) the Island's housing stock meeting the needs of the population now and into the future.
3. This strategy and policy must align with the Island Plan, and other policies including the March 2020 principles of affordable housing including alternative housing structures, the Housing First concept and commissioning, climate change action and improving the condition of housing, the needs of our older population and better arrangements for landlords, tenants and owner occupiers. In addition the Board will:
 - promote and assist the formation and extension of one or more approved housing associations or similar and other alternative housing structures,;
 - modify existing arrangements for shared equity and consider other assistance and financial schemes;
 - encourage urban living through regeneration of brownfield sites, vacant properties and conservation areas; and
 - build great communities, with facilities for recreation and other community purposes and access to high quality services for the digitally excluded.

Constitution

4. The Board was established by the Chief Minister using his powers under section 6 of the Government Departments Act 1987.
5. In carrying out its functions, the Board may invite Departments, Boards and Offices and others to participate and does so under the power stated above. The Board may also wish to appoint one or more working groups.

6. All policy and strategy originating from the Board must be approved by the Council of Ministers.

Membership

7. The Chief Minister has appointed Mr David Ashford MHK as Chair of the Housing and Communities Board.
8. The Board should comprise the following:

Mr D Ashford MHK, Political Member for the Cabinet Office, Chair
Mrs A Corlett, MHK, Vice Chair
Minister for the Department of Health and Social Care
Minister for the Department of Infrastructure
Up to six lay members to act in an advisory capacity to the Board.

9. The Board will be supported by officers from

Cabinet Office
Department of Infrastructure
Department of Health and Social Care

10. Other officer support can be requested.
11. The lay members of the Board will be appointed following an open public appointments recruitment process. The information pack will detail the skills and experience being sought from potential lay members, but may include;
 - Ability to represent interests of owner occupiers, tenants and landlords
 - Housing and lending expertise and experience
 - Knowledge and experience of housing first and other approaches to dealing with homelessness
12. The Chair may invite individuals or groups to attend the Board or working groups from within or without Government. The Board may, from time to time, seek input from the third sector, Local Authorities and other stakeholders as appropriate.

Governance

13. The quorum for a board meeting is two of the four political members in attendance.
14. Meetings of the Board will be scheduled and agreed with the Chair but shall take place at least bi-monthly. Recognising the need to provide suitable dates for external attendees, extraordinary meetings may be convened at short notice.
15. Minutes will be prepared by the Cabinet Office and will be issued to the Board at the earliest opportunity and no later than five working days following each meeting. Additionally, a copy of the draft minutes will be submitted to Council of Ministers for approval no later than ten days following the meeting.
16. Agendas are compiled with the approval of the Chair who may also approve late

Confidential

papers

17. A request for an item to be included on the agenda should normally be accompanied by supporting documentation. The agenda and papers will, wherever possible, be distributed to members at least one week before each meeting by the Secretariat.
18. All documentation issued in relation to the Board including the Terms of Reference, proceedings and papers shall be considered to be confidential and should not be circulated for wider distribution without first seeking the necessary permission of the Chair.

Work Programme

19. Due to the large remit of the Board its output has been structured to be delivered with an initial focus on housing. A draft outline of the housing work streams envisaged is provided in the Appendix and is included in the Island Plan. Subsequently communities work streams will be commenced including local authority transition and connected matters.

Finance

20. Treasury funding of the staffing and work programme of the Board is to be agreed.

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