

HousingExecutive

MINUTES OF THE 737TH BOARD MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING EXECUTIVE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER 2023 AT 10AM IN THE HOUSING CENTRE

PRESENT:

Mrs N Lappin	Chair
Mr J McMullan	Vice Chair
Mrs P Leeson	Board Member
Mr J McCall	Board Member
Mr C Welch	Board Member (via Zoom)
Ms Y Simms	Boardroom Apprentice

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs G Long	Chief Executive
Mrs C McFarland	Director of Finance, Audit and Assurance
Mrs J Hawthorne	Director of Housing Services
Mr P Isherwood	Director of Asset Management
Mr D Moore	Director of Corporate Services
Ms E Newberry	Interim Director, Regional Services
Mr J Blease	Head of Corporate Communications
Mr E Jones	Risk and Governance Manager (Minutes)
Mr A Noble	Board & Committee Support Officer
Mr R Bailie	Senior Principal Officer, Regional Services (for item 5.2)
Ms E Stubbs	Assistant Director, Regional Services (for item 6.1)
Mr R Clements	Senior Principal Officer, Regional Services (for item 6.1)
Mr K Logan	Assistant Director, Procurement (for item 6.2)

APOLOGIES:

Mr D Wilson	Board Member
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1	<p>Welcome / Apologies / Declarations of interest</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that the meeting was being recorded for the purposes of factual accuracy of the minute in line with the agreed protocol. Apologies from Mr. Wilson were noted.</p> <p>The Chair reminded members of the need to declare any interests for any agenda item as appropriate during the course of the meeting.</p>
2	<p>BOARD BUSINESS</p> <p>(2.1) Draft Minutes - 736th Board Meeting on Wednesday 25 October 2023 Members were content to approve the draft minutes without amendment.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> the Board approved the draft minutes of the 736th Board Meetings as an accurate record for signing by the Chair</p> <p>(2.2) Matters Arising Matters arising were noted and referred to in the actions brought forward list.</p> <p>(2.3) Actions Brought Forward List Members noted the actions brought forward list and progress made on actions.</p>
3	<p>STANDING ITEMS</p> <p>(3.1) Chair's Business</p> <p>NOTED.</p>

RESOLVED: the Board approved the adoption of the revised Board members code of conduct.

(3.2) Chief Executive's Report

NOTED.

4 PRESENTATION: Recent Incidents of Race Hate

The Chief Executive presented to the Board on recent incidents of race hate, setting out the immediate context and the increase in incidents over the past six months, with the number, geographical spread and seriousness of incidents increasing during the period. The incidents escalated with an increase in posters and graffiti across a number of sites and housing estates, using racist and threatening language. These race hate incidents have directly impacted on some Housing Executive staff, tenants and the wider community. The Chief Executive stressed that these incidents were not reflective of the majority of the local community, where local staff have excellent reputations and relationships with tenants and the wider community networks.

The board discussed in detail the work to mitigate risks to staff and tenants, work ongoing to prevent future incidents and to build community relations, and the considerable work ongoing to inform and educate stakeholders on how the allocations system works in practice. The Chief Executive referred to a number of structures which have been established at an inter-agency level to deal with the issue proactively, and NIHE has played a key role in helping to establish and support these structures.

	<p>The Chief Executive concluded by outlining the next steps, focused on ongoing intensive engagement at all levels, internal and external communications and awareness-raising and ongoing monitoring of the situation. Members thanked the Chief Executive and officers for their commitment to ensuring safety and welfare of staff, tenants and customers and commended ongoing efforts to proactively develop solutions with local communities and inter-agency partners.</p> <p>NOTED.</p>
5	<p>STRATEGIC BUSINESS:</p> <p>(5.1) Update on Partnership Agreement and Increase in Delegated Authority</p> <p><u>APPROVED.</u></p> <p>(5.2) Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP) 2023/24 Delivery Update and Draft 3-Year SHDP 2024/25-2026/27</p> <p><u>APPROVED.</u></p> <p>(5.3) Treasury Report 6 months to 30 June 2023</p> <p>NOTED.</p> <p>(5.4) Finance Report as at 30 November 2023</p> <p><u>APPROVED.</u></p> <p>(5.5) Organisational Performance Monitor as 31 October 2023</p>

NOTED.

6 APPROVAL PAPERS:

**The Chair proposed, and members agreed, to amend the running order of papers under item 6; the order of items below reflects the order considered during the meeting, however the original item numbers remain unchanged.*

(6.7) HMOs for Temporary Accommodation

APPROVED.

(6.2) Regional Heating contract award (CT082)

APPROVED.

(6.3) Proposed 2024/25 Annual Rent Increase for Unattached Garages

APPROVED.

(6.4) Extension of grant funding to Homeless Connect for NIHE Tenancy Starter Packs

APPROVED.

(6.5) Amendments to Standing Orders - Fundamental Review of Allocations Proposals 17 & 18

APPROVED.

	<p>(6.6) Committee Terms of Reference</p> <p><u>APPROVED.</u></p> <p>(6.8) Quarterly Assurance Statement – Quarter ending 31 December 2023</p> <p><u>APPROVED.</u></p> <p>(6.1) Update on Sustainable Development Strategy</p> <p><u>APPROVED.</u></p>
7	<p>INFORMATION PAPERS</p> <p>(7.1) Tenancy Fraud Update</p> <p>NOTED.</p> <p>(7.2) Chair's Engagements and Correspondence</p> <p>NOTED.</p>
8	<p>STANDING ITEM: Committee Business - Verbal Report from each Committee Chair:</p> <p>(8.1) Briefing from Audit, Risk and Assurance Chair (Verbal Update)</p> <p>NOTED.</p>

	<p>(8.2) Briefing from Tenant & Customer Services Committee Chair</p> <p>NOTED.</p> <p>(8.3) Briefing from Resources & Performance Committee Chair</p> <p>NOTED.</p> <p>(8.4) Briefing from Asset Management and Maintenance Committee Chair</p> <p>NOTED.</p>
9	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>The Vice Chair advised members of his recent participation in the DfC ARAC Chairs forum, a valuable means of sharing knowledge and expertise across public services. He also commended a recent NIAO publication, 'Innovation and Risk Management - A Good Practice Guide for the public sector' to members and officers.</p>
10	<p>Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 28 February 2024</p> <p>The Chair wished all members and officers a happy Christmas and New Year.</p>