



Report to
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

12th April 2017

Report of
Cllr. Patricia Seaman

Title
Annual Report on the Work Of Outside Bodies – **Whitefriars Housing Association**

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report sets out details of the work of Whitefriars Housing over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The recommendation is that the current arrangement for the governance of the Whitefriars Housing board should continue to be made and that the Council continues to appoint four individuals to the organisation to
- Ensure compliance with the values and purpose of Whitefriars Housing
 - Play a leading role in setting the direction for the organisation
 - Establishment of policies and plans
 - Ensure residents are central to plans and decisions
 - Oversee a framework of delegation and control
 - Take decisions on significant matters
 - Approve annual accounts, budgets and business plans for agreement at WM Group Board
 - Monitors performance in relation to plans budgets and key performance indicators

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

- 3.1 Whitefriars Housing was created in 2000 following a stock transfer of c22,000 homes from Coventry City Council. Whitefriars Housing joined West Mercia Homes in 2009 now known as WM Housing Group that together own and manage around 30,000 homes across Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Birmingham and Coventry and the wider West Midland. Governance arrangement require Whitefriars Housing board to report to the WM Group Board. However, Whitefriars Housing board maintains its autonomy and local influence. Since transfer Whitefriars Housing has sought to deliver on their vision to 'Create places where people are proud to live and work'.
- 3.2 Whitefriars Housing has continued to perform well in an increasingly complex social, economic and political environment and facing the most challenging time of change. The commitment of Whitefriars Housing and Council staff, along with private sector partners and resident involvement has seen the continued development of house building programmes, renovations and insulation projects remain on track. **Note performance report in appendix 1: Annual report 2015/16**

3.3 February 2017 has seen the appointment of a new Chair of Whitefriars Housing Board Janice Nichols as a result of the current chair of the board stepping down. Also at this time a task and finish group is also looking at Governance structures that aims to improve the effectiveness and the work of the board at a local level. This may or may not have implication on the future number of nominated representatives on the board.

3.4 Key aims of Whitefriars Housing is to carry on for the benefit of the community the provision of social housing, other housing, accommodation and assistance to help house people and provide associated facilities and amenities for people in housing need. In addition, to deliver a local vision with an emphasis on pre tenancy work, effective support for customers to maximise incomes and create attractive and well maintained estates.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

4.1 Sustain the working relationship with Whitefriars Housing in line with their vision and Coventry City Council priorities and local plan

4.2 Supporting a governance structure that maintains a close connection to Coventry City Council that maintains a positive working relationship

4.3 Reinforce the link between the Council’s strategic housing function in partnership to meet the housing challenge and the increase in homelessness, the impact of universal Credit and changes to Housing benefit entitlements on individuals and families.

5 What Financial Contribution Does the Council Make to this Organisation

5.1 None

6 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

6.1 The allowance is currently £2,000 basic per annum per appointment. Attendance information is attached at appendix 2.

List of background papers:

Appendix 1 White Friars Housing – Our performance, Annual report 2015/16

Appendix 2 Whitefriars Council Board Member Attendance 2016

Proper officer:

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None

Papers open to Public Inspection

Description of paper

Schedule of City Council Appointments to Outside Bodies

Location:

Council House, Room 59