

INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER DECISION

Report Subject	Appointment of Directors to North East Wales (NEW) Homes Board
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Housing
Report Author	Chief Officer (Housing and Assets)
Type of Report	Operational

INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

During the emergency situation, we have adapted our processes so that urgent decisions can be made. We have introduced 'Individual Cabinet Member' decision making so that such decisions are taken transparently and with due accountability.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks Cabinet approval to appoint three independent Directors to the NEW Homes Board.

This follows Cabinet approval on the 17th March 2020 for NEW Homes to amend its Articles of Association to remove the provision for up to one Council Officer on the Board and amend to allow up to four independent Directors on the Board.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To approve the appointment of three new independent Directors as Board Members for North East Wales Homes.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS TO THE NEW HOMES BOARD
1.01	<p>At its Board meeting on the 16th January 2020 NEW Homes Board advised the Council it would like to increase the maximum number of Independent Board Members from three to four. It was agreed that the size of the Board remain at a maximum of nine. To facilitate this change, the Board was advised this would require a change to the Memorandum and Articles of Association, which, if approved, could be implemented via a written resolution of the Council as sole shareholder.</p>
1.02	<p>With this in mind, a report was presented to Cabinet on the 17th March 2020 when the following recommendations were approved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To approve an amendment to the NEW Homes Articles of Association to remove the provision for up to one Council Officer on the board and amend to allow up to four independent Directors on the board;• Authority be given to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Assets to sign the Written Resolution authorising the changes.
1.03	<p>A recruitment exercise was undertaken by NEW Homes during January and February 2020. There were eight applicants in total of a high calibre, these were subsequently shortlisted to four applicants – three of which accepted the invitation to attend the interview.</p>
1.04	<p>Following the interviews, the following candidates have been offered positions on the Board, subject to Flintshire County Council approval.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Geoff Davies - Lead Officer Community Housing, Denbighshire County Council;• Richard Weigh – Chief Finance Officer / S.151 Officer, Craven District Council;• Simon Finlay – Development Director, Macbryde Homes.
1.05	<p>Collectively, all of the successful applicants are locally based and will bring considerable strategic and operational expertise and experience in key areas identified at the Away Day including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• housing management;• asset management;• resident engagement;• project management;• pre-construction residential development and procurement;• delivery of housing programmes;• local government strategic leadership;• delivery of the Council’s medium and long-term financial strategy;• development of commercial ventures within a local government

	environment, including the development of shared ownership housing schemes.
1.06	The interview panel were unanimous that NEW Homes should proceed with the appointment of the three applicants this views is also supported by the Board.
1.07	All three applicants have been formally offered and accepted the positions and are aware this will need to be formally approved by Flintshire County Council.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	There are no resource implications arising from this report.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	There are no specific risks arising and any board appointments will be subject to Flintshire County Council approval.
3.02	Appointing further Independent board member(s) will assist in diversifying and strengthening the Board's skills set.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	The Board were involved in developing this approach at the Board away day in November 2019.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None.

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Melville Evans, Housing Programmes Manager Telephone: 01352701436 E-mail: Melville.evans@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
	<p>NEW Homes: North East Wales Homes, (NEW Homes) is a Housing company based in Flintshire and owned by Flintshire County Council. NEW Homes owns, leases and manages properties across Flintshire. The company was established to increase the quantity and quality of affordable housing available across the county; increasing housing choice for those who may not qualify for social housing but for whom market housing is unaffordable or difficult to access. In addition NEW Homes provides a professional service to landlords as a managing agent as a means to increase the supply of quality affordable housing.</p> <p>Board Members: Directors of New Homes.</p> <p>Articles of Association: The internal rules governing NEW Homes.</p> <p>Independent Directors: Directors who are not Councillors or Council Officers.</p>

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS TO NEW HOMES BOARD

To be completed by Cabinet Member

1.) Please select one of the following options:

- a. **I do not have an interest under the Councillors' Code of Conduct in this report**
- b. I have a personal interest in this report because [insert details of interest]
- c. I have a personal and prejudicial interest in this report and it will need to be decided by the Leader of Council/Deputy Leader.

2.) My decision is to adopt the recommendation set out in this report as follows:

That the appointment of three new independent Directors as Board Members for North East Wales Homes, as detailed within the report, be approved.

Reason for Decision:

As in the Report.

Approved by:

Councillor Dave Hughes, Cabinet Member for Housing

Date decision taken:

Tuesday, 12th May, 2020