

AGENDA ITEM 6**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL****CABINET****14th MAY, 2015****RCT HOMES - BOARD GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS.****REPORT OF THE SECRETARY TO THE CABINET.****Author – Emma Wilkins, Cabinet Business Officer****1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To advise Members of the changes to the Governance arrangements for RCT Homes Board following adoption of the Community Housing Cymru Model Rules.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:-

- i. Note the report
- ii. Approve the adoption of the Model Rules by RCT Homes with particular reference to the change in governance arrangements (as outlined within section 4 of the report)
- iii. Provide confirmation of this approval to the Group Chief Executive of RCT Homes.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 On the 20th February, 2015, correspondence was received from the Group Chief Executive of RCT Homes, advising of RCT Homes' intention to adopt the Community Housing Cymru's Code of Governance, once published.
- 3.2 The Group Chief Executive advised of the Welsh Government's Housing Regulation Teams expectation that all Registered Social Landlords comply with the code.
- 3.3 The code, which has now been published following acceptance by the Financial Services Authority was developed with the Welsh Government, the Community Housing Cymru Group and other stakeholders including RCT Homes, and although it is not mandatory it is considered to represent best practice.

4 GOVERNANCE ARRANGMENTS

- 4.1 One element of the Code is an expectation that Boards should comprise of no more than twelve Board members (or fifteen including co-optees).
- 4.2 The current Board composition for RCT Homes Board is five tenants, five RCT Council representatives, and five independent members. (The Board however currently operates a thirteen Member Board, due to one tenant and independent vacancy.) .
- 4.3 RCT Homes has formally requested the Council agreement to reduce the overall size of the Board from fifteen members to twelve, meaning that each category of board membership will be reduced to four members from the current five.
- 4.4 Current practice within RCT is that four County Borough Councillors and one officer is appointed to the Board at the Council's Annual General meeting.
- 4.5 It is recommended that the Council accept the request for a reduction in Board representatives and nominations to the Board be provided at the Councils Annual General Meeting in May.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Council has been advised that for RCT Homes to make the above proposed changes on a substantive basis, the Rules of Association for the Board will also be amended.
- 5.2 RCT Homes Board have approved the adoption of the Model Rules and written approval from RCT Council is sought to progress the item, so that formal resolution will be put at the boards Annual members meeting in July.