

Report to:	CABINET	Date: 17 November 2021
Subject:	SIX TOWN HOUSING LIMITED OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS	
Report of	Cabinet Member for Housing Services	

Summary

1. The Board of Six Town Housing Limited (STH) has approved changes to the operational arrangements for its meetings and its committees. These changes will be submitted to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of STH on 8th December 2021.
2. STH is a company limited by guarantee without a share capital and the Council is its sole member. Cabinet is asked to approve the changes and authorise the Council's representative to agree to the passing of ordinary resolutions of STH at the AGM in respect of those changes.

Recommendation(s)

- That Cabinet approve the proposed changes.
- That Cabinet authorise the Council's representative at the Annual General Meeting of STH, Councillor Cummins, to approve the ordinary resolutions proposed to change the operational arrangements for the Board and its Committees.

Reasons for recommendation(s)

3. To ensure that the terms of reference of the STH Board and its Committees are updated to accord with corporate governance best practice.

Alternative options considered and rejected

4. Do nothing.

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Background

5. STH commissioned external consultants Altair Limited to review the STH Board's existing operational arrangements and prepare revised terms of

reference for the Board and its Committees to accord with corporate governance best practice.

6. The objective was to ensure that STH had:

- a. Effective decision-making mechanisms
- b. Transparency around roles and responsibilities
- c. Accountability to and engagement with stakeholders, and
- d. Sustainable business practices.

7. The changes proposed have been approved by the STH Board and are set out in the attached Appendices. They relate to clarification of membership, quorum and voting arrangements and the respective management responsibilities for the following bodies:

- a. BOARD
- b. AUDIT, RISK AND ASSURANCE COMMITTEE
- c. GOVERNANCE, PEOPLE, AND CUSTOMERS COMMITTEE
- d. ASSETS AND GROWTH COMMITTEE

8. These changes are administrative in nature and do not impact on the substantive contractual obligations and responsibilities of STH owed to the Council as set out in the existing Management Agreement entered into between the two parties in 2020.

Links with the Corporate Priorities:

Building houses that are homes

Our new housing strategy recognises the need to make a house a home, with a series of commitments to achieving that, including:

A housing strategy for every township, shaped by our development and regeneration plans to support the future of each town centre and neighbourhood.

More, high-quality and low-carbon homes in the borough.

More affordable homes, to get everyone on the housing ladder

A more dynamic housing market, with a broader range of housing tenures and more tailored support for people.

Additional support that enables people to live healthily and well in their own community long into later life.

Eliminating rough sleeping by 2025, by helping homeless people achieve financial independence.

The proposals in this report will lead to more efficient decision making by STH in relation to the management of the Council's housing stock.

Equality Impact and Considerations:

9. This proposal does not adversely affect equality.

Environmental Impact and Considerations:

10. This proposal does not have a negative carbon impact.

Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE

Legal Implications:

11. The proposed changes to the operational arrangements of the Board and Committees of STH are desirable to improve the standards of corporate governance and are within the ambit of the provisions of its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Financial Implications:

12. There are no financial implications.

Background papers:

Appendices - Terms of Reference

- a. BOARD
- b. AUDIT, RISK AND ASSURANCE COMMITTEE
- c. GOVERNANCE, PEOPLE, AND CUSTOMERS COMMITTEE
- d. ASSETS AND GROWTH COMMITTEE

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning
None used	