

Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Tenant Scrutiny Board

Date: 6th April 2016

Subject: Administrative Support Arrangements for Tenant Scrutiny Board

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

1.0 Summary of main issues

- 1.1 At the Board's informal meeting in March 2016 a discussion was held on the changes to how Tenant Scrutiny Board would be supported in the future. It was agreed that this matter should be reported at today's meeting in order to formally record the views of Board members.
- 1.2 Following the amalgamation of the three ALMO Scrutiny Boards into the existing city wide Tenant Scrutiny Board, administrative support has been provided by Democratic Services, in conjunction with Housing Leeds, specifically the Housing Manager, Customer Relations, Tenant Scrutiny, Tenant Involvement, Equality & Diversity (Sharon Guy).
- 1.3 A review of this support has taken place which has concluded that from the June 2016 meeting, support to Tenant Scrutiny Board will be provided by the Housing Manager, Customer Relations, Tenant Scrutiny, Tenant Involvement, Equality & Diversity and her team.
- 1.4 In making this decision officers are aware that the Chair of Tenant Scrutiny Board has, quite rightly, raised the issue of continuity of service and the independence of this support.
- 1.5 The Tenant & Community Involvement Section within Housing Leeds, in which the post of Housing Manager, Customer Relations, Tenant Scrutiny, Tenant Involvement, Equality & Diversity sits is specifically established to provide support to tenants and facilitate tenant 'challenge' to the services and performance of Housing Leeds. This will ensure that the advice given to Tenant Scrutiny in undertaking its Scrutiny functions will remain independent from Housing Leeds.

1.6 This independence will be further cemented by the Board's Terms of reference which state;

"The Tenant Scrutiny Board provides independent, customer focused scrutiny which will robustly challenge policy practice and performance to ensure that Leeds City Council provides a high quality housing service that retains tenants at the heart of the organisation".

1.7 Existing procedure rules will remain, providing the Tenant Scrutiny Board authority to call officers before them and to receive relevant information.

1.8 There is a clear commitment from the City Council to ensure Tenant Scrutiny Board is supported in undertaking its Scrutiny role. This commitment is not compromised by the changes in officer support detailed above.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Board is requested to;

- (i) Note the changes in officer support provided by Leeds City Council to the Tenant Scrutiny Board
- (ii) To review in six months whether the new support arrangements are providing the appropriate support and independence expected.

3.0 Background documents¹

3.1 None.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.