



POLICY: ELECTION OF NON-RESIDENT BOARD MEMBERS

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Copies of this Policy are available in alternative formats.

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POLICY: ELECTION OF NON-RESIDENT BOARD MEMBERS

All reference to 'we', 'our' or 'us' in this Policy should be read as meaning Sandbourne Housing Association.

1. Purpose and aim of the Policy

- 1.1 We recognise the need for regular fresh members on its Board to avoid stagnation in governance and also recognise the benefits of continuity and experience. The National Housing Federation Model Rules 2011 were adopted by the Board in June 2013 and should be referred to, if required.

2. Expertise on the Board

- 2.1 We regard it as essential that the Board should contain a mixture of skills, ideally with no more than two Board members coming from one particular area of knowledge or experience.
- 2.2 Vacancies on the Board should be filled by individuals who can bring expertise in areas that the Board considers to be essential and/or desirable.
- 2.3 For the avoidance of doubt, the NHF Model Rules 2011 should be the determining factor with Section D being the relevant section.

3. Extensions to the nine-year rule

- 3.1 Former Board members can be considered again after one year's break in office.
- 3.2 The Board will consider each application for an extension in the light of the factors set out in Section 2 above.

4. Nomination process

- 4.1 Our Rules state that no Board member may serve for more than nine continuous years. The Chairman will serve a maximum term of three years and then retire as Chairman at the Annual General Meeting.
- 4.2 We recognise that, in limited circumstances, it may be necessary to extend a Board member's tenure beyond this period. This extension may be granted for an additional one year in the first instance and will take into account the following:

- (a) the conurbation in which it operates has a relatively small pool of individuals who are both suitably qualified and available for Board membership
- (b) individuals may be prevented from serving as Board members due to potential or actual conflicts of interest
- (c) the requirement for a balance of backgrounds as set out above.

4.3 If no other option can be found, a Board member may be re-nominated at the end of a year's extension or any subsequent extensions, but this must be clearly justified by the circumstances and be declared with a 'reasoned statement' in the annual accounts.

4.4 The final decision to accept any nomination is at the discretion of the Board.

5. Election process

5.1 The election process for appointing non-resident Board members is subject to our Rules and Standing Orders currently in force. All new members serve as co-opted members until elected at the next Annual General Meeting.

6. Resignations from the Board

6.1 If a non-resident Board member decides to retire from office during the year, his/her resignation can be submitted verbally or in writing either to the Chairman, or the Chief Executive in his role as Secretary of the Board.

6.2 Resignations received will be reported at the next Board Meeting by the Chairman of the Board.

6.3 A member who leaves the Board automatically ceases to become a shareholder unless there is a resolution to the Board agreeing that they remain a shareholder.

7. Equality impact assessment

Age	Neutral
Being or becoming a transsexual person	Neutral
Being married or in a civil partnership	Neutral
Being pregnant or on maternity leave	Neutral
Disability	Neutral
Race including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin	Neutral
Religion, belief or lack of religion/belief	Neutral
Sex	Neutral
Sexual orientation	Neutral

8. Consultation arrangements

8.1 We will consult all residents and recognised residents' bodies on any substantive changes to this Policy and their views will be taken into account by the Board before approving it. Our staff will also be consulted on any substantive changes to this Policy and any reasonable suggestions will be taken into account before the Policy is approved by the Board.