

Board Member Accountability and Code of Conduct

Introduction

Effective and transparent Board practices are essential to achieving good governance in AHB's today, and will form a key part in enabling all Associations to meet their compliance commitments.

Members of governing boards, regardless of size or mission, are bound by the duties of integrity, accountability and openness. The ICSH recommendations set out below provide guidance on accountability and conduct which should be read and agreed to by individual Board Members and reviewed periodically, in accordance with the VRC.

Guidance for Board Members

- Board members should take decisions solely in the interests of the housing association. They will not do so in order to gain financial or other benefits for themselves, their family or friends.
- Board members are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate.
- All Board members should take collective responsibility for all decisions taken by the board.
- Board members should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They will give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.
- Board members should declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.
- Board members should uphold the highest standards of corporate and personal ethics.
- In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, board members should make choices solely on merit. It is important that housing associations demonstrate value for money as well as transparency in the procurement process; therefore the Department of Finance Guidelines (Public Sector Procurement Guidelines, 2006) should be followed.
- Board members should support the staff and management of the housing association while monitoring their conduct.
- Board members should familiarize themselves with the powers of the company as laid out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association. They should also be aware of their legal duties under the Companies Acts 1963-2006 and ensure that they comply with all regulations.

Policy Title:	Board Member Accountability and Code of Conduct
Date policy discussed and agreed by Board:	
Review Date:	
Signed by Chairperson on behalf of the Board:	

On becoming a Board Member of Housing Association I undertake to:

- Uphold the values, objectives and policies of the Association.
- Take decisions solely in the interests of the Association.
- Take collective responsibility for decisions and be accountable for these decisions and actions to the public.
- Declare any relevant conflicts of interest.
- Uphold the highest standards of corporate and personal ethics.
- Support the staff and management of the association.
- Understand the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the legal duties under the Companies Act 1963-2013.
- Respect the confidentiality of information at all times.
- Attend Board meetings regularly

Signed: _____

Date: _____