

## **Becoming a Tenant Board Member – Your Questions Answered**

### **How is the Board made up?**

The Board has 12 members and is made up of three groups:

- Four tenants
- Four Councillors from BCBC
- Four 'Independents' (Not councillors or tenants.)

### **How can a tenant join the Board?**

As a tenant (or leaseholder) you must first become a Share Member of V2C. Share Membership also enables you to attend and vote at the association's Annual General Meeting. All applications for Share Membership are considered by the Board and once approved you will be required to pay £1 to receive your Share Membership Certificate. This fee is non-refundable.

As a Share Member you can apply to join the Board by completing an application form which asks for details and examples of the skills and experience you would bring to the Board. Invitations to apply are issued annually around June with a closing date at the end of the month.

If there are more applications received than there are vacancies on the Board then a ballot is arranged and sent to all tenants for them to vote for their preferred candidate. The winner of the ballot will be confirmed as a Board Member at the Annual General Meeting in September.

### **What skills or experience will I need?**

The Board needs to make sure that its members have a wide range of skills and experience. Equally as important as legal, financial or management knowledge is a good broad range of life skills that you might have developed from your place of work, from running a home or from being a committee member of a local organisation.

Training is provided to all Board Members and is an important part of being on the Board. As well as helping individuals learn new skills, the Board as a whole has regular training sessions to help everybody work together more effectively.

All new Board Members receive Induction Training to help them settle into the role and find out more about the organisation.

## What does the Board do?

The Board is ultimately responsible for the organisation itself: making sure that it is financially sound and that it complies with the law in everything it does. The Board also has responsibility for deciding the strategic direction of the organisation: what it needs to be doing in the future and what needs changing.

The Board does not manage the day to day affairs of the association: that is the job of the Chief Executive and the staff. The Board does review performance at a very high level but doesn't involve itself in individual cases or matters relating to specific estates.

The main responsibilities of the Board are:

<b>Business Planning</b>	Developing a 5-year business plan and 30-year financial forecast and monitoring performance against both.
<b>Reviewing Services</b>	Ensuring all the homes owned are properly managed and maintained and that customers' views influence the delivery of services.
<b>Financial Accounting</b>	Ensuring the organisation is financially viable both in the short-term and long-term and that policies are in place to minimise risk and deliver value for money.
<b>Employment Matters</b>	Managing a large workforce and ensuring that training and development is in place and that all legal requirements (such as Health & Safety and Equal Opportunities) are met.
<b>Leading by Example</b>	Ensuring that V2C is run in a proper manner and that the reputation of the organisation and the social housing sector is not undermined by the Board or staff.
<b>Property Development</b>	Working with local authorities and the Welsh Assembly Government to provide new affordable, environmentally sustainable homes.

## How often does the Board meet?

The Board meets around 10 times a year. Meetings are held in Bridgend and usually last around 2 ½ hours – starting at 6pm and ending between 8.30pm and 9pm.

## How can I find out more information?

If you would like more information on joining the Board or becoming a Share Member you can contact Alison Harrison:

Tel – 01656 762400 or Email – [Alison.harrison@v2c.org.uk](mailto:Alison.harrison@v2c.org.uk)