

**Company No. 05076256**

**Your Homes Newcastle Limited**  
**Company Limited by Guarantee**  
**The Companies Act 1985, 1989 and 2006**

**Date of Incorporation: 17 March 2004**

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**Articles of Association**  
**(adopted by written resolution on 5 August 2022)**

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1. **Definitions and Interpretation**

1.1. In the Articles unless the context otherwise requires:

<b>"the 1989 Act"</b>	means the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 as amended or re-enacted from time to time;
<b>"the Act"</b>	means the Companies Act 2006 and any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof for the time being in force;
<b>"the Area"</b>	means any area where the Council owns or manages housing as determined by the Board subject to the approval of the Council;
<b>"the Articles"</b>	means these Articles of Association as originally adopted or as altered from time to time;
<b>"Board"</b>	means the Board of directors of the Organisation from time to time;
<b>"Board Members"</b>	means the directors for the time being of the Organisation;
<b>"Chair"</b>	means the Chair of the Organisation appointed pursuant to Article 27.1 or in his absence any vice or deputy chair appointed pursuant to Article 27.8;
<b>"clear days"</b>	in relation to the period of a notice means that period excluding the day when the notice is given or deemed to be given and the day for which it is given or on which it is to take effect;
<b>"Council"</b>	means the Council of the City of Newcastle upon Tyne or any successor body thereto who shall be the sole member of the Organisation;
<b>"Council Board Member"</b>	means a Board Member appointed by the Council pursuant to Article 16.1;
<b>"executed"</b>	means in relation to any contract, agreement or other document consent thereto and includes any mode of execution;
<b>"Family Member"</b>	means, in relation to a Board Member, their spouse, partner, parent, parent-in-law, son, daughter, stepson, step-daughter, child of a partner, brother, sister, grandparent, grandchild, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, or the spouse or partner of any of the preceding persons and "partner" means a person who lives with a Board Member as husband, wife or same sex partner;
<b>"Independent Board Member"</b>	means a Board Member appointed pursuant to Article 17;

<b>"Local Authority Person"</b>	means any person (a) who is a member of the Council, or (b) who is an officer of the Council (which for these purposes shall not include employees without a supervisory or managerial role apart from employees responsible for monitoring the activities of or providing advice to the Organisation or who perform duties in relation to the Council's housing functions);
<b>"Member"</b>	means the registered member of the Organisation;
<b>"Office"</b>	means the registered office of the Organisation;
<b>"Order"</b>	means the Local Authorities (Companies) Order 1995 as amended or re-enacted from time to time;
<b>"the Organisation"</b>	means Your Homes Newcastle Limited;
<b>"Protected Characteristics"</b>	means ages, gender, gender reassignment, race, nationality, ethnic origin, religion or belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnerships, pregnancy and maternity or disability;
<b>"the seal"</b>	means the common seal of the Organisation;
<b>"Secretary"</b>	means the secretary of the Organisation or any other person appointed to perform the duties of the secretary of the Organisation, including a Joint, assistant or deputy secretary;
<b>"Tenant"</b>	means an individual who occupies a residential property belonging to the Council under a secure tenancy; and
<b>"the United Kingdom"</b>	Means Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

1.2. Unless the context otherwise requires, words or expressions contained in these regulations bear the same meaning as in the Act but excluding any statutory modification thereof not in force when these regulations become binding on the Organisation.

1.3. In these Articles words importing individuals shall, unless the context otherwise requires, include corporations and words importing the singular number shall include the plural, and vice versa, and words importing the masculine gender shall include the feminine gender.

1.4. Save where the context otherwise requires reference to the Council in these Articles shall be to the Council acting as a member of the Organisation.

## 2. **Name**

The name of the company is Your Homes Newcastle Limited ("**the Organisation**").

## 3. **Registered Office**

The Organisation's registered office is to be located in England.

#### 4. **Objects**

The objects of the Organisation shall be to:

- 4.1. provide, manage, maintain, improve, demolish or convert the housing stock owned or managed by the Council or the Organisation or any other person from time to time together with any other amenities or facilities constructed or maintained for the benefit of residents of such housing stock either exclusively or together with persons who are not residents of such housing stock;
- 4.2. provide amenities and services of any description for residents of housing stock owned or managed by the Council or the Organisation or any other person from time to time either exclusively or together with persons who are not residents of such housing stock;
- 4.3. provide advice and assistance to all tenants, leaseholders, and licensees, of the Council and applicants for housing and applicants for housing advice in respect of Council housing;
- 4.4. carry out any activity which is both connected with, or incidental to, the Organisation's housing objectives and contributes to the regeneration or development in the area of the Council (within the meaning of Section 126 of the Housing Grants Construction and Regeneration Act 1996) or such other area or areas as may be agreed by the Council including but not limited to:
  - 4.4.1. securing that land and buildings are brought into effective use;
  - 4.4.2. contributing to or encouraging economic development;
  - 4.4.3. creating an attractive and safe environment;
  - 4.4.4. preventing crime or reducing the fear of crime;
  - 4.4.5. providing employment and training;
  - 4.4.6. providing or improving training, educational facilities or health services for local people;
  - 4.4.7. assisting local people to make use of opportunities for education, training or employment; and
  - 4.4.8. meeting the special needs of local people which arise because of any Protected Characteristic.
- 4.5. provide, construct, improve or manage social housing or any other housing and associated facilities to be kept available for letting or for sale;
- 4.6. provide, manage, maintain or improve accommodation required from time to time for the benefit of persons who require temporary accommodation;
- 4.7. assess applications by residents of housing stock owned or managed by the Council to exercise the right to buy under Part V of the Housing Act 1985 (as amended);
- 4.8. enabling or assisting any residents of the housing stock owned or managed by either the Council or the Organisation to acquire, or to acquire and enter into occupation of homes; and

- 4.9. provide services of any description for the Council or any other person in so far as they are connected with, or incidental to, the Organisation's housing objectives.

5. **Powers**

Subject to clause 6, the Organisation may do anything that a natural or corporate person can lawfully do which is not expressly prohibited by the Articles and in particular it has powers:

Property

- 5.1. to construct, alter, improve, maintain, equip, furnish and/or demolish any buildings, structures or property;
- 5.2. to purchase, lease, exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any real or personal property rights or privileges (including shared or contingent interests);
- 5.3. to sell, lease, licence, exchange, dispose of or otherwise deal with property;
- 5.4. to provide accommodation for any other organisation on such terms as the Board decides (including rent free or at nominal or non-commercial rents);

Staff and voluntary workers

- 5.5. to employ staff or engage consultants and advisers on such terms as the Board may approve and to provide pensions to staff, their relatives and dependants;
- 5.6. to recruit or assist in recruiting and managing voluntary workers;

Fund Raising

- 5.7. to raise funds, to invite and receive contributions;

Trading

- 5.8. to trade in the course of carrying out its objects and to charge for services;

Publicity

- 5.9. to hold, conduct or promote meetings, conferences, lectures, exhibitions or training courses and to disseminate information to publicise the work of the Organisation and other similar organisations;
- 5.10. to promote or carry out research and publish the results of it;

Contracts

- 5.11. to co-operate with and enter into contracts with any person, including the Council.

Bank or Building Society Accounts

- 5.12. to draw, make, accept, endorse discount, execute and issue promissory notes, bills, cheques and other instruments and to operate bank or building society accounts in the name of the Organisation;

- 5.13. Borrowing and Loans

- 5.14. subject to the prior written consent of the Council and to such consents as may be required by law to borrow money, to issue loan stock or raise money in such manner as the Organisation shall think fit and to secure the repayment of any money borrowed raised or owing by such security as the Organisation shall see fit (including by way of floating charge) upon the whole or any part of the Organisation's property or assets (whether present or future) and also by giving similar security to secure and guarantee the performance by the Organisation of any obligation or liability it may undertake or which may become binding on it;

#### Insurance

- 5.15. to insure the assets of the Organisation to such amount and on such terms as the Board decides, to pay premiums out of income or capital and to use any insurance proceeds as the Board decides (without necessarily having to restore the asset);
- 5.16. to insure and indemnify its employees and voluntary workers from and against all risks incurred in the proper performance of their duties;
- 5.17. to take out insurance to protect the Organisation and those who use premises owned by or let or hired to the Organisation;
- 5.18. to take out indemnity insurance at the expense of the Organisation to cover the liability of the Board Members and officers of the Organisation who are not Board Members in respect of any loss or liability as set out in Article 12.2.

#### Investments

- 5.19. to invest the money of the Organisation in any investments, shares, securities or property (real or personal) of any nature (including investments involving liability and those not producing income) and in any location that the Board decides;
- 5.20. to delegate to an investment manager power at his discretion to buy and sell investments for the Organisation in accordance with the investments policy laid down by the Board;
- 5.21. to make such arrangements as the Board thinks fit for any investments of the Organisation or income from those investments to be held by a corporate body which is incorporated in England and Wales (or which has established a branch or a place of business in England and Wales) as the Organisation's nominee and to pay remuneration to that corporate body;
- 5.22. subject to such consents as may be required by law and compliance with all formal guidance issued by the Organisation's regulators (if any) to purchase or otherwise acquire or encourage or promote and in any way support or aid the establishment and development of any subsidiary, or any other body established for the purposes of carrying on any trade or business either for the purpose of raising funds for the Organisation or for the furtherance of the objects of the Organisation;
- 5.23. subject to the prior written consent of the Council to make donations, grants or loans or provide services or assistance to such persons and organisations and on such terms as the Board shall think fit to further the objects of the Organisation (such consent not being required in respect of such payments to corporate bodies of which it is a member);

#### Other organisations

- 5.24. to establish, acquire, promote, assist or support (financially or otherwise) any trusts, charities, companies, industrial and provident societies, associations or institutions which have purposes which include any one or more of its objects;
- 5.25. to co-operate or join with any voluntary body or public or statutory authority in any location whatsoever in furthering its objects or allied purposes, to exchange information and advice and to undertake joint activities with them;
- 5.26. to amalgamate with any organisation which has objects similar to its objects;
- 5.27. to affiliate, register, subscribe to or join any relevant organisation;
- 5.28. to act as agent or trustee for any organisation;

#### Reserves

- 5.29. to accumulate income in order to set aside funds for special purposes or as reserves against future expenditure;

#### Formation expenses

- 5.30. to pay the costs of forming the Organisation and of complying with all relevant registration requirements;

#### General

- 5.31. to do anything else within the law which promotes or helps to promote its objects.

### **6. Council Consent**

The Organisation shall not, without having disclosed in advance to the Council (and subject to the consent of the Council):

- 6.1. receive a sum which, if it were a local authority, would be a capital receipt;
- 6.2. receive consideration to which, if it were a local authority, Section 61 of the 1989 Act would apply;
- 6.3. receive a sum by way of grant from a European Union institution to which, if it were a local authority, Section 63(4) of the 1989 Act would apply;
- 6.4. enter into a credit transaction (as defined by Article 12(2) of the Order);
- 6.5. with respect to a credit transaction agree to a variation of terms which, if it were a local authority, would be a variation within the meaning of Section 51(1) of the 1989 Act;
- 6.6. incur additional liabilities within the meaning of Article 16 of the Order;
- 6.7. reduce its liabilities within the meaning of Article 16 of the Order; or
- 6.8. invest or make any arrangements to invest sums other than in the use of a building society or bank.



**7. Application of Income and Property**

The Organisation shall operate on a not-for-profit basis. The income and property of the Organisation shall be applied solely towards the promotion of its objects as set forth in the Articles and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred, directly or indirectly (save as provided below) by way of dividend (unless permitted by law and permitted by any applicable regulation or regulator and approved by the Council), bonus or otherwise howsoever by way of profit to the Council; and save as specifically provided, no Board Member shall be appointed to any office of the Organisation paid by salary or fees or receive any remuneration or other benefit or money or money's worth from the Organisation PROVIDED THAT nothing herein shall prevent any payment in good faith by the Organisation:

- 7.1. of reasonable and proper remuneration (including pensions, contributory pension payments, payment of premiums to pension policies and terminal grants and gratuities) to any officer or employee of the Organisation (not being a Board Member) in return for any services rendered to the Organisation;
- 7.2. of reasonable non-executive directors fees approved by the Council or an independent assessor approved by the Council for each director of the Organisation who is not an employee of either the Council or the Organisation and not an elected member of the Council;
- 7.3. of fees, remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth to a company of which a Board Member may be a member holding not more than 2% of the share capital of the company;
- 7.4. to:
  - 7.4.1. any Board Member; or
  - 7.4.2. any person who is appointed by the Board to sit on a committee to which the Board has delegated any of its powers (for the avoidance of doubt, in each case in their capacity as a Board Member or person so appointed), of reasonable out of pocket expenses and such other sums as may be determined by the Council PROVIDED THAT no sum shall be paid to a Board Member or such other person in excess of that which would be permitted to be paid to a board member of a social landlord registered under the Housing Act 1996 and PROVIDED FURTHER THAT no sum shall be paid to a Board Member or other person who is an elected member of the Council in excess of that permitted by the Order;
- 7.5. of sums due in respect of indemnity insurance for Board Members under clause 5.18;
- 7.6. of reasonable and proper remuneration to the Council or employees thereof (not being Board Members) in return for any services rendered to the Organisation;
- 7.7. of reasonable and proper rent for premises demised or let by the Council;
- 7.8. of reasonable and proper interest on money lent by the Council;

PROVIDED FURTHER THAT nothing shall prevent the Organisation from managing a property in accordance with its objects (including the full range of activities it may undertake) notwithstanding the fact that the tenant, lessee or licensee (or prospective tenant, lessee or licensee) of such property may be a Board Member SUBJECT TO

the proviso that any Board Member who is a beneficiary of the Organisation shall not be entitled to speak in any debate or cast his/her vote in respect of any matter relating solely to the property of which he is lessee, tenant or licensee and shall absent himself/herself from such proceedings but such Board Member shall be entitled to speak and vote in respect of matters which relate not only to such property but also to other properties managed by the Organisation; or

PROVIDED FURTHER THAT nothing in this Article 7 shall limit the operation or variation of the terms of any agreement between the Organisation and the Council concerning the amount of the fee on whatever basis or terms of payment or any adjustment to either of them in respect of services provided by the Organisation to the Council in relation to the management of the Council's property and assets within the Area.

8. **Equal Opportunities**

The Organisation shall at all times take into consideration the principles of equality of opportunity irrespective of any Protected Characteristic.

9. **Limited Liability**

The liability of the Member is limited.

10. **Members Guarantee**

The Member undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Organisation, in the event of the same being wound up while he is a member of the Organisation, or within one year after he ceases to be a member of the Organisation, for payment of the debts and liabilities of the Organisation contracted before he ceases to be a member of the Organisation, and of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves, such amount as may be required not exceeding one pound.

11. **Winding Up**

If, upon the winding up or dissolution of the Organisation, there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever, the same shall be paid or transferred to the Housing Revenue Account (as defined in Section 74(1) of the 1989 Act) of the Council.

12. **Indemnity and Insurance**

12.1. In this Article:

12.1.1. companies are **associated** if one is a subsidiary of the other or both are subsidiaries of the same body corporate;

12.1.2. a **relevant officer** means any director or other office or former director or other office of the Organisation or an associated company (including any company which is a trustee of an occupational pension scheme (as defined by section 235(6) of the Act)), but excluding in each case any person engaged by the Organisation (or associated company) as auditor (whether or not they are or were also a director or other officer), to the extent they act in their capacity as auditor; and

- 12.1.3. **relevant loss** means any loss or liability which has been or may be incurred by a relevant officer in connection with that relevant officer's duties or powers in relation to the Organisation, any associated company or any pension fund or employees' share scheme of the Organisation or associated company.
- 12.2. Subject to Article 12.3, but without prejudice to any indemnity to which a relevant officer is otherwise entitled:
- 12.2.1. each relevant officer shall be indemnified out of the Organisation's assets against:
- 12.2.1.1. any liability incurred by that officer in connection with any negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust arising from the execution of their duties in relation to the Organisation or an associated company;
- 12.2.1.2. any liability incurred by that officer in connection with the activities of the Organisation or an associated company in its capacity as a trustee of an occupational pension scheme (as defined in section 235(6) of the Act); and
- 12.2.1.3. any other liability incurred by that officer as an officer of the Organisation or an associated company;
- 12.2.2. the Organisation may:
- 12.2.2.1. provide any relevant officer with funds to meet expenditure incurred or to be incurred by them in connection with any such proceedings or application as are mentioned in section 205(1)(a) of the Act or any such regulatory action or investigation as is mentioned in section 206(a) of the Act but shall recover any amounts paid in respect of an unsuccessful defence in a criminal prosecution; and
- 12.2.2.2. do anything to enable any such relevant officer to avoid incurring such expenditure.
- 12.3. This Article 12 does not authorise any indemnity which would be prohibited or rendered void by any provision of the Act or by any other provision of law.
- 12.4. The directors may decide to purchase and maintain insurance, at the expense of the Organisation, for the benefit of any relevant officer in respect of any relevant loss subject to the limitations set out in Article 5.18.
13. **Admission of Members**
- 13.1. No person other than the Council shall be admitted to membership of the Organisation.
- 13.2. The Council acting as a Member shall nominate a person to act as its representative in the manner provided in Section 323 of the Act, such representative shall have the right on behalf of the Council to attend meetings of the Organisation and vote thereat, and generally exercise all rights of membership on behalf of the Council. The Council may from time to time revoke the nomination of such representative and nominate

another representative in his place All such nominations and revocations shall be in writing.

- 13.3. The rights of the Council as sole member shall be personal and shall not be transferable.

14. **General Meetings and Resolutions**

- 14.1. The Organisation shall not be required to hold annual general meetings.
- 14.2. The Board Members may call general meetings and, on the requisition of the Council pursuant to the provisions of the Act, shall forthwith proceed to convene a general meeting for a date not later than 14 (fourteen) clear days after receipt of the requisition. If there are not within the United Kingdom sufficient Board Members to call a general meeting, any Board Member or the Member may call a general meeting.
- 14.3. A general meeting not called on the requisition of the Member pursuant to Article 14.2 shall be called by at least 21 (twenty one) clear days' notice or by shorter notice if it is so agreed by the Member in writing.
- 14.4. The notice shall specify the time and place of the meeting and shall be given to the Member and to the Board Members and auditors.
- 14.5. The notice shall be posted in such place as the Board decides in order to bring it to the attention of the Tenants.
- 14.6. The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to, or the non-receipt of notice of a meeting by, any person entitled to receive notice shall not invalidate the proceedings at that meeting.
- 14.7. No business shall be transacted at any general meeting unless a quorum is present. The presence of a duly authorised representative of the Member shall be a quorum.
- 14.8. Tenants and Board Members may attend a general meeting and may speak but may not vote.
- 14.9. If the Member makes a decision which is required to be taken in a general meeting or by means of a written resolution, that decision shall be valid and effectual as if agreed by the Organisation in general meeting. Any decision taken by the Member pursuant to this Article 14.9 shall be recorded in writing and delivered by the Member to every Board Member and to the Organisation for entry in the Organisation's minute book.
- 14.10. An entry stating that a resolution has been carried or lost in the approved minutes of any meeting shall be conclusive evidence of the fact.

15. **Number of Board Members**

- 15.1. The maximum number of Board Members shall be 12 (twelve) comprising a maximum of:
- 15.1.1. 4 (four) Board Members who shall be Council Board Members; and
- 15.1.2. 8 (eight) Board Members who shall be Independent Board Members.
- 15.2. No more than 4 (four) Board Members shall be Local Authority Persons and no Local Authority Person shall qualify as an Independent Board Member.

- 15.3. In the event that the number of Board Members shall be less than the numbers specified in this Article 15 the Member and the remaining Board Members shall use reasonable endeavours to appoint further Board Members but, for the avoidance of doubt, the Board may act notwithstanding there are vacancies in their number.
- 15.4. No person shall be appointed as a Board Member if that person is a Family Member of an existing Board Member.
- 15.5. No person shall be a Board Member if that person is an officer or employee of the Organisation.

**16. Appointment of Council Board Members by the Member**

- 16.1. Subject to Articles 15 and 19, the Member shall from time to time appoint up to 4 (four) persons as Council Board Members and shall have the power to remove at any time from office any such Council Board Member.
- 16.2. Notwithstanding any other provisions in these Articles the Member shall have power to remove at any time any Board Member.
- 16.3. Appointment or removal pursuant to Articles 16.1, 16.2 and 18 shall be effected by an instrument in writing signed by or on behalf of the Member and shall take effect upon lodgement at the registered office of the Organisation or such date later than such lodgement as may be specified in the instrument.

**17. Appointment of Independent Board Members**

- 17.1. Independent Board Members shall be appointed by the Board for a fixed term of three years or such shorter term of office as is agreed by the Board, but may, subject to Article 17.2 be reappointed.
- 17.2. No fixed term shall be set which would cause the relevant individual to serve beyond six years continuous service save where it is agreed that circumstances exist where it would be in the best interest of the Organisation for an Independent Board Member to serve for further terms (based on additional terms of no more than three, one year fixed terms).
- 17.3. In respect of persons who are Independent Board Members at the date that these Articles are adopted, for the purposes of this Article 17, their fixed term of office shall be deemed to have started on the date that they were last appointed.

**18. Appointment of Board Members**

- 18.1. Subject to Articles 17.1 to 17.3 the Member may by Ordinary Resolution appoint any eligible person who is willing to act as an Independent Board Member.
- 18.2. Subject to Articles 15 and 19, vacancies on the Board may only be filled:
  - 18.2.1. for Council Board Members, by the Member in accordance with Article 16.3; and
  - 18.2.2. for Independent Board Members, by the Member in accordance with Article 16.3 upon a recommendation made by the Board provided that if the Board fails to make a recommendation within 6 (six) months of a vacancy for an Independent Board Member, the Member may appoint any person eligible

and willing to act to be an Independent Board Member. If the Member fails within 3 (three) months of a written request by the Board to make an appointment to the Board of an Independent Board Member, the Board may fill the vacancy by Board resolution.

- 18.3. No appointment, re-appointment or deemed re-appointment of a Board Member shall be for a period exceeding the third 1<sup>st</sup> September following the date of their appointment.

19. **Disqualification and Removal of Board Members**

A person shall be ineligible for appointment to the Board and if already appointed shall immediately cease to be a Board Member if the relevant individual:

- 19.1. ceases to be a Board Member by virtue of any provision of the Act or becomes prohibited by law from being a company director; or
- 19.2. is or becomes a person disqualified from elected membership of a local authority; or
- 19.3. becomes bankrupt or makes any arrangement or composition with his creditors generally; or
- 19.4. is, or may be, suffering from mental disorder and either:
- 19.4.1. is admitted to hospital in pursuance of an application for admission for treatment under the Mental Health Act 1983 or, in Scotland, an application for admission under the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1960; or
- 19.4.2. an order is made by a court having jurisdiction (whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere) in matters concerning mental disorder for his/her detention or for the appointment of a receiver, curator bonis or other person to exercise powers with respect to his property or affairs; or
- 19.5. resigns his office by notice to the Organisation; or
- 19.6. being an Independent Board Member is removed from office by a resolution of (or written notice signed by) at least 3 (three) quarters of all the other Board Members from time to time provided that the Board Member concerned has first been given an opportunity to put their case and to justify why they should not be removed as a Board Member; or
- 19.7. shall for more than 6 (six) consecutive months have been absent without permission of the Board from meetings of the Board held during that period and the Board resolves that his office be vacated; or
- 19.8. in any period of 12 (twelve) months, he shall have been absent (without the permission of the Board Members) from at least 60% of the meetings of Board Members held during that period and the Board Members resolve by simple majority that his office be vacated; or
- 19.9. is an Independent Board Member and is or becomes a Council Board Member leading to a breach of the limit in Article 15.1; or
- 19.10. is an Independent Board Member and is or becomes a Local Authority Person; or

19.11. is removed by written notice by the Member pursuant to Article 16.1.

20. **Powers of the Board**

20.1. Subject to the provisions of the Act, directions of the Member in general meeting and the Articles, the business of the Organisation shall be managed by the Board who may exercise all the powers of the Organisation No alteration of the Articles or directions of the Member shall invalidate any prior act of the Board which would have been valid if that alteration had not been made The powers given by this Article shall not be limited by any special power given to the Board by the Articles and a meeting of the Board at which a quorum is present may exercise all powers exercisable by the Board.

20.2. The Board may, by power of attorney or otherwise, appoint any person to be the agent of the Organisation for such purposes and on such conditions as they determine, including authority for the agent to delegate all or any of his powers.

21. **Borrowing Powers**

Subject to Articles 5.13 and 6, the Board may exercise all the powers of the Organisation to borrow money without limit as to amount and upon such terms and in such manner as they think fit, and to grant any mortgage, charge or other security over its undertaking and property, or any part thereof, and to issue any debenture, whether outright or as security for any debt, liability or obligation of the Organisation or of any third party.

22. **Delegation of Board Members' Powers**

22.1. The Board may delegate any of their powers to any committee consisting of 2 (two) or more Board Members together with such other persons the Board considers fit to exercise such powers which committees shall include an Audit and Risk Committee, a Finance and Performance Committee and a Remuneration and Nominations Committee. A separate Customer Services Committee shall also be established to which no decision making powers shall be delegated and which shall only require a single Board Member to serve upon it. The Board may also delegate to the Chair/or any vice or deputy Chair or to any executive officer such of their powers as they consider desirable to be exercised by him.

22.2. Any such delegation may be made subject to any conditions the Board may impose, and either collaterally with or to the exclusion of their own powers and may be revoked or altered Subject to any such conditions and this Article, the proceedings of a committee with 2 (two) or more members shall be governed by the Articles regulating the proceedings of the Board so far as they are capable of applying.

23. **Alternate Board Members**

No Board Member shall be entitled to appoint any person as an alternate Board Member.

24. **Board Members' Expenses**

24.1. The Board Members may be paid all travelling, hotel, and other expenses reasonably and properly incurred by them in connection with their attendance at meetings of the Board or committees of the Board or general meetings or otherwise in connection with the discharge of their duties and such other sums as may be determined by the Council PROVIDED THAT no sum shall be paid to a Board Member in excess of that which

would be permitted to be paid to a Board Member of a social landlord registered under the Housing Act 1996 and PROVIDED FURTHER THAT no sum shall be paid to a Board Member who is an elected member of the Council in excess of that permitted by the Order.

- 24.2. Any person who is appointed by the Board to sit on a committee to which the Board has delegated any of its powers under Article 22 may be paid all travelling, hotel, and other expenses reasonably incurred by them in connection with their attendance at meetings of such committee and such other sums as may be determined by the Council PROVIDED THAT no sum shall be paid to such person in excess of that which would be permitted to be paid to a Board Member of a social landlord registered under the Housing Act 1996 and PROVIDED FURTHER THAT no sum shall be paid to such person who is an elected member of the Council in excess of that permitted by the Order.

25. **Board Members' Appointments and Interests**

- 25.1. A Board Member may not have any financial interest personally or as a member of a firm or as a director or senior employee (being an employee with managerial status) in any contract or other transaction of the Organisation unless it is permitted by these Articles and is not prohibited by Article 6.
- 25.2. Each Board Member shall ensure that the Secretary has at all times an up to date list of:
- 25.2.1. all bodies trading in which he or she has an interest as.
    - 25.2.1.1. a director or senior employee;
    - 25.2.1.2. a member or partner of a firm;
    - 25.2.1.3. the owner or controller of more than 2% of the issued share capital in a company,
  - 25.2.2. all interests as an official or elected member of any statutory body;
  - 25.2.3. all interests as the occupier of any property (other than their principal residence) owned, leased or managed by them; and
  - 25.2.4. any other significant or material interest.

26. **Proceedings of Board Meetings**

- 26.1. Subject to any regulations established from time to time by the Organisation in general meeting and compliance with Section 10(1) of the Local Authorities (Companies Order) 1995 the Board may regulate their proceedings as they think fit and the quorum for the transaction of the business of the Board at the time when the meeting proceeds to business shall be 4 (four) including not fewer than 2 (two) Independent Board Members and one Council Board Member save that where the dispensation under Article 26.8 applies the quorum requirement shall exclude the attendance of a Council Board Member PROVIDED THAT if either the number of Board Members in one or more categories of Board Member falls below 2 (two) or all (or all but one of) the Board Members in one or more category are prevented from voting by Article 26.7 then the quorum requirement shall be reduced to one or none (as remain in office and entitled to vote) in respect of such category or categories.



- 26.2. 33 1/3 % of the total number of Board Members (or such whole number of Board Members nearest to 33 1/3 %) may call a meeting of the Board It shall not be necessary to give notice of a meeting to a Board Member who is absent from the United Kingdom.
- 26.3. If a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for a Board Meeting the Board Meeting shall, if requested by a majority of those Board Members present, be adjourned to the same day in the next week at the same time and place or to such other day and at such other time and place as the Board Members present may determine.
- 26.4. If at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting then notwithstanding Article 26.1 the Board Members present shall constitute a quorum.
- 26.5. Any member of the public may attend a Board Meeting but may not speak without the permission of the Chair PROVIDED THAT any such person shall be excluded from the meeting during any item of business which the Board by resolution determines is not appropriate for consideration with the public present.
- 26.6. Questions arising at a Board Meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes and each Board Member present in person shall be entitled to one vote In the case of an equality of votes, the chair of that meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
- 26.7. Any Board Member having an interest (which shall include interests of Family Members) in any arrangement between the Organisation and another person or body shall disclose that interest to the meeting before the matter is discussed by the Board or committee of the Board PROVIDED THAT if the interest exists solely because of the circumstances set out in Article 26.8.1, 26.8.2 or 26.8.3 then the interest need not be specifically disclosed at that meeting so long as it is at that time properly recorded in a written Register of Interests of Board Members maintained by the Organisation Unless the interest is of the type specified in Articles 26.8 or 26.9 the Board Member concerned shall not remain present during the discussion of that item unless requested to do so by the remaining members of the Board or committee of the Board Unless permitted by Articles 26.8 or 26.9 the Board Member concerned may not vote on the matter in question, but no decision of the Board or any committee of the Board shall be invalidated by the subsequent discovery of an interest which should have been declared.
- 26.8. Provided the interest has been properly disclosed pursuant to Article 26.7 a Board Member may remain present during the discussion and may vote on the matter under discussion where the interest arises because:
- 26.8.1. the Board Member is a Tenant so long as the matter in question affects all or a substantial group of Tenants; or
- 26.8.2. the Board Member is a director or other officer of a company or body which is a parent, subsidiary or associate of the Organisation; or
- 26.8.3. the Board Member is an official or elected member of any statutory body including the Council,

PROVIDED THAT where the matter to be considered by the Board relates to the contractual financial arrangements between the Organisation and the Council, or the setting of the management fee payable by the Organisation to the Council or there is a dispute between the 2 (two) the dispensation in Article 26.8.3 shall not apply.

- 26.9. A Board Member shall not be treated as having an interest:
- 26.9.1. of which the Board Member has no knowledge and of which it is unreasonable to expect him to have knowledge; or
  - 26.9.2. in the establishment of a policy in respect of Board Member expenses payable pursuant to Article 24.
- 26.10. If a question arises at a meeting of the Board or of a committee of the Board as to the right of a Board Member to vote, the question may, before the conclusion of the meeting, be referred to the chair of the meeting and his ruling in relation to any Board Member other than himself shall be final and conclusive.
- 26.11. All acts done by a meeting of the Board, or of a committee of the Board or by a person acting as a Board Member shall, notwithstanding that it be afterwards discovered that there was a defect in the appointment of any Board Member or that any of them were disqualified from holding office, or had vacated office, or were not entitled to vote, be as valid as if every such person had been duly appointed and was qualified and had continued to be a Board Member and had been entitled to vote.
- 26.12. Any Director may validly participate in a meeting of the Board or a committee of the Board through the medium of conference telephone or any other form of communications equipment (whether in use when these Articles are adopted or developed subsequently), provided that all persons participating in the meeting are able to hear and speak to each other throughout such meeting.
- 26.13. A person so participating by telephone or other communication shall be deemed to be present in person at the meeting and shall be counted in a quorum and entitled to vote. Such a meeting shall be deemed to take place where the largest group of those participating is assembled or, if there is no group which is larger than any other group, where the chairman of the meeting is.
27. **The Chair**
- 27.1. The Chair shall be an Independent Board Member and the Board shall appoint a person (who may be an existing Independent Board Member) to be the Chair but any such appointment shall require and be subject to the written approval of the Member and if the appointee is not an existing Board Member they shall become one upon appointment.
- 27.2. Such appointment shall be made by Board resolution approved by a simple majority of all the Board Members from time to time (other than any debarred pursuant to Article 27.3 below).
- 27.3. An existing Independent Board Member may be appointed as the Chair however, the Independent Board Member concerned may neither vote nor be counted for the purposes of determining the requisite simple majority.
- 27.4. Subject to Article 17.2 the Chair will hold office from the date and for the term specified in the resolution of appointment, any such term is not to exceed 3 (three) years.
- 27.5. The Chair will cease to act as Chair of the Board and will cease to be a Board Member if any of the provisions set out in Article 19 apply.

- 27.6. Unless they are conflicted from or are otherwise unable to do so, the Chair shall preside at every meeting of the Board at which they are present.
- 27.7. If there is no Board Member holding the office of Chair or if the Chair is unable or unwilling to preside or is not present within 5 (five) minutes after the time appointed for the meeting, the Board Members present may appoint one of the two vice or deputy chairs and if neither shall be present or if they shall decline to act an Independent Board Member from amongst their number to be chair of the meeting and such appointment of the chair of the meeting shall not require approval of the Member in accordance with Article 27.1.
- 27.8. The Board may appoint up to 2 (two) vice or deputy chairs to act in the absence of the Chair on such terms as the Board shall think fit.

28. **Written Resolution**

- 28.1. Provided that notice of the proposed resolution shall have been given to them, a resolution in writing signed or confirmed electronically by:

28.1.1. a Simply Majority of all the Board Members entitled to receive notice of a meeting of the Board or of a committee of the Board; and

28.1.2. the Chair of the Organisation or of the relevant committee; and

which satisfies the quorum requirements of Article 26.1 shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Board or (as the case may be) a committee of the Board duly convened and held and may consist of several documents in the like form each signed by one or more Board Members.

29. **Secretary**

Subject to the provisions of the Act, the Secretary and any deputy or alternate Secretary shall be appointed by the Board for such term, at such remuneration and upon such conditions as they may think fit and any Secretary so appointed may be removed by them

30. **Minutes**

- 30.1. The Board shall cause minutes to be made in books kept for the purpose:

30.1.1. of all appointments of officers made by the Board Members; and

30.1.2. of all proceedings at meetings of the Organisation and of the Board, and of committees of the Board and of the Council in its capacity as the sole member of the Organisation, including the names of the Board Members present at each such meeting.

31. **Records Accounts and Returns**

- 31.1. The Organisation shall comply with the provisions of Part V of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Local Authorities (Companies) Order 1995 and Part 15 of the Act in respect of:

31.1.1. the keeping and auditing of accounting records;

31.1.2. the provision of accounts and annual reports of the Board Members; and

31.1.3. in making an annual return.

32. **The Seal**

- 32.1. If the Organisation has a seal it shall only be used with the specific or general authority of the Board or of a committee of the Board. The Board may determine who shall sign any instrument to which the seal is affixed and unless otherwise so determined it shall be signed by a Board Member and by the Secretary or a second Board Member.
- 32.2. The Organisation may exercise the powers conferred by Section 49 of the Act with regard to having an official seal for use abroad, and such powers shall be vested in the Board Members.

33. **Notices**

- 33.1. Any notice to be given to or by any person pursuant to the Articles shall be in writing except that a notice calling a meeting of the Board or of a committee of the Board need not be in writing.
- 33.2. The Organisation may give any notice to the Council (including as Member) either personally or by sending it by post in a prepaid envelope addressed to the Council at their registered address or by leaving it at that address.
- 33.3. The Council present by duly authorised representative at any meeting of the Organisation shall be deemed to have received notice of the meeting and, where requisite, of the purposes for which it was called.
- 33.4. Proof that an envelope containing a notice was properly addressed, prepaid and posted shall be conclusive evidence that the notice was given. A notice shall be deemed to be given at the expiration of 48 hours after the envelope containing it was posted.