

**GOVERNANCE REVIEW DRAFT MINUTE
RCC MEETING HELD ON 10TH SEPTEMBER 2018**

Members received a report of the Town Clerk in respect of the City Corporation's Housing Governance. Members noted that the Policy and Resources Committee had considered an initial report at its July 2018 meeting, which had opened the discussion. This report sought the view of the Barbican Residents' Consultation Committee as to the future of the Barbican Residential Committee and any potential amendments that might be made.

Members were invited to give their views and, whilst some of these were representative of their House Groups, some felt that they had not been given long enough to consult as the paper had been circulated after the main RCC pack.

A Member from Aldersgate was in attendance and, with the permission of the Chairman, addressed the Committee and encouraged Members to share their views on all the options in the report; i.e. the five potential options in relation to future arrangements, which was reported to the Policy & Resources Committee in the Summer, and their views on the options which had emerged from the Chairman's discussions with interested parties.

The Deputy Chairman of the Barbican Residential Committee was in attendance and set the context by explaining the background and circumstances which had led to this report; i.e. the BRC was carrying a number of non-resident vacancies which were proving difficult to fill, and meetings were at risk of being inquorate. The recent debate on Car Park Charges and the rigid adherence to dispensations had highlighted the issues currently faced by the BRC.

During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- Could proxy voting at Committee meetings be introduced in order to avoid the risk of being inquorate?
- The difficulty in recruiting to the Committee might arise from a lack of interest in residents' issues, as the Community and Children's Services Committee also carried vacancies. This gave rise to implications for succession planning and finding individuals willing to stand as Chairman or Deputy Chairman.
- There was a strong reluctance to disbanding the BRC as the current arrangements work well for residents.
- There was, however, strong support for the status quo (option i), with a possible tweaking of Membership numbers to reduce the risk of being inquorate. Of the five options set out in the report, Members were not in favour of :
 - (ii) Disbanding the Barbican Residential Committee and transferring its responsibilities to the Community & Children's Services Committee as

this would overload the Committee, which was heavily engaged on HRA matters.

- (iii) Disbanding the BRC and transferring its responsibilities to the Property Investment Board was inappropriate, given this Committee's asset focus and lack of housing expertise.

Members generally felt that comments (iv) Reconfigure the Barbican Residential Committee, particularly if on a large scale and (v) Establish a new, non-Ward based Housing Committee were not desirable.

Members felt that the Code of Conduct in respect of pecuniary interests and the rigidity around dispensations inhibited the resident members. Members also felt that the Committee needed the current level of resident Members to represent constituents and take forward lobbying. There was a further view in that, if the number of resident Members were to reduce, then the non-residents should do likewise, reducing the quorum to 3 (i.e. a third of the non-resident Members).

It was suggested that the advantage of reducing the number of non-resident Members was that it would address the long-standing vacancies on this committee that are highlighted above. However, a concern was expressed that, in the event of a number of apologies for a meeting, decision making powers would then lie with a very small group of non-residents.

It was noted that the continued existence of the BRC, with an RCC to garner residents' views, was a fundamental part of the vote that took place some years ago regarding the management of the Barbican estate. As such, residents expected the City to continue to honour the commitments made at that time.

Finally, the Town Clerk advised Members of the arrangements for the BRC meeting next Monday whereby the formal BRC would start at 2.30pm but Members would hold an informal discussion in public, on the Housing Governance Review, at 1.45pm.