

Committee: Barbican Residential Committee	Date: 17 June 2019
Subject: Quorum of the Barbican Residential Committee	Public
Report of: Town Clerk Report author: Julie Mayer	For Decision

Summary

The Barbican Residential Committee (BRC) has experienced difficulty in recruiting non-resident Members and is currently carrying 5 vacancies, with notice of a further resignation after the June meeting of the Committee. Given that this will leave just 5 Members out of the required 11, future meetings will be at a very high risk of being inquorate.

Housing Governance, including the Membership of the BRC, was considered by the Policy and Resources Committee on 14th Mach 2019. Members noted the latest position in respect of non-residential Membership and the fact that a new dispensations regime had been implemented on 1st March 2019. Consequently, Members agreed that it would be prudent to allow a reasonable amount of time for the new dispensations regime to bed in and review the position at that time.

Members are asked to note that, if the quorum was to be reduced permanently, as a result of the BRC's decreased non-residential Membership, then the number of resident Members would need to reduce proportionately. The Housing Governance paper stated that we would consult with stakeholders on any proposed reduction. The Comptroller and City Solicitor has advised that, in order to be lawful, a consultation needs to follow the Gunning principles; i.e. *'it needs to take place at a formative stage, enough information and time must be given to permit intelligent consideration and response and the decision maker must conscientiously take the product of the consultation into account when reaching their decision'*.

Members are therefore asked to consider a temporary reduction in the quorum of the BRC, from 5 to 4 non-resident Members, to ensure a quorum at the September and December 2019 BRC Meetings. The issue of Membership will then be considered, as part of the wider Housing Governance review, which is due to be revisited by the Policy and Resources Committee. Members are asked to note that, by the end of September 2019, the new dispensations regime would have been in place for 6 months.

Recommendations

The Policy and Resources Committee (P&R) and the Court of Common Council be recommended to approve:

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1. A temporary reduction in the quorum of the Barbican Residential Committee by one; i.e. from 5 to 4 non-resident Members, until such time as another non-resident member is appointed, or until the end of 2019.
 2. In the event of the BRC being unable to recruit more non-resident Members by the September 2019 meeting; by which time the new dispensations regime will have been in place for 6 months, the Policy and Resources Committee be asked to revisit the Housing Governance Review, including the future Membership of the BRC.

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