



MEMBERSHIP POLICY
(Shareholders)

1. POLICY STATEMENT

Local individuals, community groups and organisations across our area of operation are encouraged to become members of the Association in order for us to be an accountable and representative body, with a membership which reflects the interests of the communities we serve.

2. MEMBERS' RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

- 2.1 Members are required to comply with the obligations placed upon them by the Association's registered rules. They shall consider the Association's interests at all times and, for the benefit of the community, act as guardians of the Association's objects.
- 2.2 Each member is issued with a share having the value of one pound. Being a shareholder does not give a member the right to receive any interest, dividend or bonus. A member shall not hold more than one share. A share cannot be held jointly, other than by nominees of an unincorporated body.
- 2.3 Shares cannot be transferred other than between nominees of an unincorporated body, e.g. a charity or local authority.
- 2.4 When a member leaves the Association for whatever reason the share shall be cancelled.
- 2.5 Only members of the Association may be members of the Board of Management, with the exception of co-opted members. Elections to the Board of Management are held at our Annual General Meeting.
- 2.6 All members of the Association receive an invitation to the Annual General Meeting, when the Annual Report and Accounts for the year are received, an Auditor is appointed and members of the Board of Management are elected. Special General Meetings of the Association may also be held, either at the request of the Board of Management or by one-tenth of the membership. Every member is entitled to one vote at an Annual or Special General Meeting. A member who is a corporate Body can appoint an individual to exercise its rights at General Meetings

3. ACCEPTANCE OF NEW MEMBERS

- 3.1 The Association's Board of Management decides the policy for acceptance of new members, and new members shall only be admitted in accordance with the policy.
- 3.2 Applications for membership shall be accepted from individuals, community groups and organisations who:
 - (i) support our objects as a charitable Association; and
 - (ii) have an understanding of, and commitment to, the communities where the Association operates.
- 3.3 The following cannot be members of the Association:
 - (i) a minor;

- (ii) a person who has been expelled as a shareholder, unless authorised by a resolution at a General Meeting;
- (iii) an employee of any group member;
- (iv) a person who has been removed by the Board in accordance with rule D5;
- (v) a person in respect of whom a registered medical practitioner treating that person gives a written opinion to the effect that that person has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a Board member and may remain so for more than three months;
- (vi) a person in respect of whom, by reason of that person's mental health, a court makes an order which wholly or partly prevents that person from personally exercising any powers or rights which that person would otherwise have; or
- (vii) a person who is disqualified from acting as a Director of a company for any reason;
- (viii) a person who has been convicted of an indictable offence which is not, or cannot be, spent, or who has been convicted of any other offence at any time which in the opinion of the Board brings the Association into disrepute or which is not considered by the Board to be compatible with the role of shareholder and the Board resolves (by a majority of at least two thirds) that they should be removed; or
- (ix) a person who is the subject of any composition made with that person's creditors generally in satisfaction of that person's debts.

3.4 Any application for membership shall be made to the Secretary of the Association:

- (i) setting out the reasons for applying for membership; and
- (ii) declaring how the applicant complies with the policy for acceptance of new members (see clause 3.2); and
- (iii) declaring that the applicant qualifies for membership (see clause 3.3); and
- (iv) paying the sum of one pound; and
- (v) where the applicant is an unincorporated body, confirming the name and address of the nominee.

A standard application form shall be provided for this purpose.

3.5 Every application for membership shall be considered by the Board of Management in its first meeting following receipt of the application. The Board of Management has the discretion to accept or reject an application.

3.6 Following acceptance of an application for membership the new member's name and address shall be entered into the Association's register of shareholders, and one share together with a certificate and a copy of the registered rules shall be issued to him/her.

Where a new member is a corporate body (e.g. a limited company), its registered name and address shall be entered into the register of shareholders. Where the new member is an unincorporated body (e.g. community group, local authority) the name and address of its nominee shall be entered into the register as the shareholder. The name and address of the unincorporated body shall also be recorded.

- 3.7 Where an application for membership is rejected the sum of one pound shall be returned to the unsuccessful applicant.

4. PROMOTING MEMBERSHIP

The Association will make use of the following methods to attract new members: -

- 4.1 Details of this policy together with standard application forms shall be displayed in all of the Association's offices and at any public events staged e.g. Annual General Meeting, open days, and exhibitions.
- 4.2 Details of this policy and an application form shall be presented to every new tenant.
- 4.3 Make use of opportunities to increase membership, e.g. when addressing general meetings or meeting Community Councils.

5. CANCELLING MEMBERSHIP

5.1 Membership of the Association shall be cancelled if the member:

- (i) dies;
- (ii) is expelled (see 5.2);
- (iii) gives one month's notice to the Secretary of the intention to withdraw from the Association;
- (iv) does not participate in three Annual General Meetings of the Association nor submits a written apology in advance;
- (v) is a corporate body when first a member, and ceases to be a corporate body thereafter;
- (vi) is the nominee of an unincorporated body, and the share is transferred to another nominee of that body.
- (vii) the Association serves notice on the Shareholder asking them to indicate if they wish to remain as a Shareholder, and they fail to reply within a specified period that they do
- (viii) the Association has obtained an order of a competent court or tribunal against them for recovery of monies due from them to the Association
- (ix) they are a tenant and are in material or serious breach of their tenancy agreement or lease
- (x) they are a tenant and are in breach of a suspended possession order, or are subject to any particular court order

When a shareholder ceases to be a shareholder or is expelled from the Association, his or her share shall be cancelled. The amount paid up on that share shall become the property of the Association.

- 5.2 A member may be expelled by a special resolution at a Special General Meeting called by the Board of Management. Where a resolution to expel a member is approved by a Special General Meeting their membership shall be cancelled immediately. No person who has been expelled from membership is to be re-admitted except by a special resolution at a General Meeting.