



**AGENDA ITEM: 5 (j)**

**CABINET: 18 January 2011**

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**Report of: Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services**

**Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor Mrs V Hopley**

**Contact for further information: L. McGarry (Extn. 5233 )  
(E-mail: leigh.mcgarry@westlancs.gov.uk)**

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**SUBJECT: TENANTS' AND RESIDENTS' FORUM CONSTITUTION**

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RVL/LMcG/EH2.952cab  
11 January 2011  
Wards affected: Borough-wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider the proposed amendments to the Tenants and Residents' Forum Constitution. This is an interim measure until the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee has recommended changes which better reflect the role encouraged by the Tenant Services Authority (TSA) for tenants to influence and scrutinise services received by them.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the amended Tenants' and Residents' Forum Constitution attached at Appendix A to the report be approved.
- 2.2 That the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing be given delegated authority to make future amendments to the Constitution, subject to the approval of the Tenants' and Residents' Forum.

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## **3.0 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Cabinet agreed the current Tenants and Residents' Forum Constitution in 2008 following the review of Tenant Participation.
- 3.2 The Constitution was reviewed by the Tenant Participation Working Group In November 2010 and the suggested amendments were then agreed by the Tenants and Residents' Forum on 7 December 2010.

3.3 The Forum Constitution states that Councillors will recognise that the Tenants' and Residents' Forum is a non political organisation they will not politicise meetings unless they are asked to clarify a point of information relating to Council policy.

#### **4.0 CURRENT POSITION**

4.1 The Tenants and Residents' Forum is open to Tenants, Residents and Elected Members to attend.

4.2 On average 3-4 Elected Members attend the Forum meetings when they are held bi-monthly

#### **5.0 ISSUES**

5.1 On occasions, Elected Members have dominated discussions at the Forum and have attempted to bring in political views.

5.2 The Tenant Participation Working Group members feel that while Elected Members' attendance is appreciated, Elected Members have other opportunities through the political structure of meetings to raise issues.

5.3 Forum members would like Elected Members to continue to attend the Forum meetings but as observers only.

#### **6.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

6.1 The new Constitution will enable the Tenants' and Residents' Forum to become more focussed and structured to encourage greater participation and more Tenants and Residents to join.

#### **7.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no additional costs to the HRA as a result of the new constitution. The Tenants' and Residents' Forum currently have an annual budget to cover grants for Tenant and Resident Associations, training and costs associated with running the bi monthly Tenants' and Residents' Forum meetings.

#### **8.0 RISK ASSESSMENT**

8.1 Tenants may decline from making comments or suggestions at the Tenants and Residents' Forum if they feel it is a political meeting.

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#### **Background Documents**

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

## **Equality Impact Assessment**

There is no evidence from an initial assessment of an adverse impact on equality in relation to the equality target groups.

## **Appendices**

Appendix A – Tenants’ and Residents’ Forum – Constitution