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**Title:** Board Membership

**Report of:** Interim Managing Director

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### **Purpose of Report**

1. To formally note the appointments of Alison Stanners and Thomas Sutton as Co-optees on the Board.

### **Background**

2. The Board received a report at its last meeting in May 2020 agreeing arrangements for the next Annual General Meeting, which will be held immediately before the Board Meeting on 24 September 2020.
3. The Board noted a decision taken by Executive Overview Committee under its delegated powers to recommend an amendment to the Articles of Association to appoint up to two co-optees onto the Board. This recommendation was subsequently approved by the Council Representative.
4. Given the current position and the Council's decision to reintegrate the company back into the Council, Executive Overview Committee agreed that the specific skills required for the service transition needed to be complemented by new additions as a matter of priority.
5. A timetable was agreed that would allow two people with the agreed skills and experience to be appointed onto the board as soon as possible.
6. The appointees would initially be co-opted onto the Board. The appointments would be confirmed at the Annual General Meeting in September with one of the co-optees replacing Joanne Carr as an independent director when Joanne steps down.

### **Appointment of Co-optees onto the Board**

7. An advert for the appointment of two co-optees onto the Board was posted in Linked-In, Twitter, Facebook and HousingNet News from 26 May 2020.
8. Three applications were received by the 12 June closing date and all three applicants were shortlisted for interview.

9. An Interview Panel consisting of the four members of Executive Overview Committee with advice from the Interim Managing Director interviewed all three applicants on 3 July 2020.

10. The Interview Panel recommended that, subject to approval by the Board, the following persons be appointed as co-optees on the Board: -

**Alison Stanners** – Alison has been a Director at Big Jigsaw Ltd since 2010 and was Managing Director of NomadE5 Housing Association from 2007-2010. She has worked in socially focussed businesses for more than 30 years and housing has always been at the heart of that work. Most recently Alison has been working with housing organisations who are engaging with the Regulator, for In Depth Assessments, to become registered, and to undertake assessments of regulatory compliance. The committee also recommended that Alison replace Joanne Carr as an independent director when Joanne steps down at the AGM in September.

**Thomas Sutton** – Thomas has been Customer Services Strategic Lead at Incommunities Bradford since December 2018. He is a committed social housing professional who has received national recognition for his strong leadership. He was originally from Gateshead and has recently returned to the area after a decade away.

11. To enable Alison Stanners and Thomas Sutton to attend forthcoming events taking place before this Board Meeting, approval was sought via email which was received from 13 board members by a 7 July deadline.

12. Both Alison Stanners and Thomas Sutton have accepted the offer and were duly appointed as co-optees onto the Board.

### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

13. The company is committed to having a Board that is representative of the community it serves.

### **Risk Management Implications**

14. Failure to manage effective corporate governance is a strategic risk and these proposals will mitigate this risk by providing the board with the skills it requires for the service transition.

### **Recommendation**

15. To note the appointment of Alison Stanners and Thomas Sutton as Co-optees on the Board of Directors.