

# ENGLISH RURAL HOUSING ASSOCIATION

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Resident Panel Meeting 21st January 2010

Report by the Operations Director  
on the Recruitment of Panel Members

[FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION]

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## 1. Recruitment of Panel Members

- 1.1 The Winter Newsletter had sought to promote the role of the Residents Panel and secure additional participation from residents. A letter from the Resident Board Members had also been distributed to all households to support this.
- 1.2 The response to these actions has been positive and we now have four expressions of interest from residents regarding participation in the Residents Panel. All have received additional information on the role and what to expect. It was originally intended that an election may need to be held should the expressions of interest exceed the number of places available on the Panel. The Panel had also sought to secure a broad geographical representation in line with the Association's housing stock.
- 1.3 A summary of these four residents is provided in the table below:

<b>Resident Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Tenure</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<i>Mr Martyn Clements</i>	<i>11 George Marriott Close Stoney Stanton Leicestershire</i>	<i>Tenant</i>	<i>It has previously been difficult to secure representation from this area, where we are no longer active. Mr Clements property type will represent some of our older stock. He will help to compliment a gender balance to the Panel.</i>
<i>Mr Tom Wratten</i>	<i>11 Fortescue place smeeth Ashford Kent</i>	<i>Tenant</i>	<i>Lives in one of our newer properties and has recent experience of the allocations process, defects handling and inclusion of renewables. Would help to compliment a gender balance.</i>
<i>Lisa Swan</i>	<i>9 Church Field Saffron Walden Ashdon</i>	<i>Tenant</i>	<i>Is Chair of the Saintsfield Residents Association. Has a proven record of being</i>

	<i>Essex</i>		<i>positively involved.</i>
<i>Sharon Harwood</i>	<i>7 Hunters Close Kings Sombourne Stockbridge Hampshire</i>	<i>Tenant</i>	<i>Sharon is the TVRHA Board Member and in place of seeking additional representation the Board have asked that Sharon is offered first refusal to participate in the Residents Panel.</i>

- 1.4 We have yet to receive any interest from the western area of our operation, although it is recognised that additional barriers such as travel requirements and proximity to central operations will be a factor here.
- 1.5 In order to proceed with successfully establishing the Residents Panel inline with its original aims and objectives it would seem appropriate to attempt to secure representation from the Western are of the Association's operation by approaching known candidates directly; consulting with the local area housing manager will help to inform such an approach.
- 1.6 For discussion:
- a) Should all those who have expressed an interest now be offered a place on the Residents Panel? If so, how should this approach be confirmed and is an election still necessary?
  - b) Does the Panel feel that the candidates offer a fair and representative mix?
  - c) Where are the current gaps and would the Panel support a more direct approach to recruitment on the basis of the limited response?