

Role Description for Governing Body Members of Atrium Initiatives

1. Introduction

"The Governing Body leads and directs the RSL to achieve good outcomes for its tenants and other service users." Regulatory Standards of Governance and Financial Management, Standard 1¹

- 1.1 This role description has been prepared to set out the responsibilities that are associated with being a Governing Body Member (GBM) of Atrium Initiatives (Initiatives) which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Atrium Homes (Atrium). It should be read in conjunction with the accompanying person specification and Atrium Homes' Articles of Association and Standing Orders and the Independence Agreement between the two companies..
- 1.2 Atrium Homes is a Registered Social Landlord and a Scottish Charity. Atrium Initiatives is a wholly owned subsidiary of Atrium Homes and is required to ensure that it operates in accordance with strategic objectives determined by the parent. The role description reflects the principles of good governance and takes account of (and is compliant with) the expectations of the Regulatory Standards of Governance and Financial Management for Scottish RSLs and relevant guidance produced by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).
- 1.3 Atrium encourages people who are interested in the Association's work to consider seeking election as a GBM and is committed to ensuring broad representation from the communities that it serves. GBMs do not require 'qualifications' but, from time to time, we will seek to recruit people with specific skills and experience to add to or expand the existing range of skills and experience available to ensure that the governing body is able to fulfil its purpose. We carry out an annual review of the skills that we have and those that we need to inform our recruitment activities.
- 1.4 This role description applies to all members of the Governing Body, whether elected or co-opted, new or experienced. It is subject to periodic review.

2. Primary Responsibilities

- 2.1 As a GBM your primary responsibilities are, along with the other members of the Governing Body, to
 - Lead and direct Initiatives' work
 - Promote and uphold Initiatives' values
 - Set and monitor standards for service delivery and performance
 - Control Initiatives' affairs and ensure compliance
- 2.2 Responsibility for the operational implementation of Initiatives' strategies and policies is delegated to the Chief Executive.

3. Key Expectations

- 3.1 Atrium has agreed a Code of Conduct for Governing Body Members which every member is required to sign on an annual basis and to which you must adhere. You may not take up a position on the Governing Body unless you have signed the Code of Conduct.

¹ Scottish Housing Regulator (April 2012) *Regulation of Social Housing in Scotland: Our Framework* available [here](#)

- 3.2 Each GBM must accept and share collective responsibility for the decisions properly taken by the Governing Body. Each GBM is expected to contribute actively and constructively to the work of Atrium. All members are equally responsible in law for the decisions made.
- 3.3 Each member must always act only in the best interests of Atrium and its customers, and not on behalf of any interest group, constituency or other organisation. GBMs cannot act in a personal capacity to benefit themselves or someone they know.
- 3.4 You are required to declare any interests you might have, particularly those which might conflict with the interests of Atrium.

4. Main Tasks

- To contribute to formulating and regularly reviewing Initiatives' values, strategic aims and performance standards
- To monitor Initiatives' performance
- To ensure that Initiatives operates within and is compliant with the relevant legal and regulatory frameworks
- To ensure that risks are realistically assessed and appropriately monitored and managed
- To ensure that Initiatives is adequately resourced to achieve its objectives and meet its obligations
- To act, along with the other members of the governing body, as the employer of Initiatives' staff

5. Duties

- Act at all times in the best interests of Initiatives
- Accept collective responsibility for decisions, policies and strategies
- Attend and be well prepared for meetings of the governing body. If for any reason you cannot attend a meeting, submit your apologies timeously and in advance
- Contribute effectively to discussions and decision making
- Take part in training and other learning opportunities
- Take part in an annual review of the effectiveness of Initiatives' governance and of your individual contribution to Initiatives' governance
- Maintain and develop your personal knowledge of relevant issues and the wider housing sector
- Represent Initiatives positively and effectively at all times, including when attending meetings and other events
- Respect and maintain confidentiality of information
- Treat colleagues with respect and foster effective working relationships within the governing body and between the governing body and staff
- Be aware of and comply with our policy on the restrictions on payments and benefits

- Register any relevant interests as soon as they arise and comply with Initiatives' policy on managing conflicts of interest

6. Commitment

- 6.1 An estimate of the regular annual time commitment that is expected from GBMs is shown below. Over and above this, you may be asked to become involved in a range of activities such as interviewing prospective staff or consultants; procurement processes; ad hoc working parties; and ambassadorial roles at formal dinners etc.

Activity	Time
Attendance at up to 4 regular meetings of the Governing Body	6 hours
Reading and preparation for meetings of the governing body	6 hours
Attendance at annual planning and review events (including individual review meeting)	6 hours
Attendance at internal briefing and training events	8 hours
External Training and conference attendance (may include overnight stay or weekend)	10 hours
Total	36 hours

- 6.2 Board meetings take place in the evenings of the first Tuesday of March, June, September and December commencing at 5.45pm. Because they are planned and scheduled in advance, there is an expectation that GBMs will prioritise attendance over other activities.

7. What Atrium Offers GBMs

- 7.1 All GBMs are volunteers and receive no payment for their contribution. Atrium has policies which prevent you or someone close to you from benefiting personally from your involvement with Atrium, although these policies also seek to ensure that you are not unfairly disadvantaged by your involvement with Atrium. All out of pocket expenses associated with your role as a GBM are fully met and promptly reimbursed.

- 7.2 In return for your commitment, Atrium offers:

- A welcome and introduction when you first join the governing body;
- A mentor from the governing body and a named staff contact for the first six months, with ongoing support
- Clear guidance, information and advice on your responsibilities and on Initiatives' work
- Formal induction training to assist settling in
- Papers which are clearly written and presented, and circulated electronically in advance of meetings
- A tablet or comparable electronic device, should you need it, to access the papers
- The opportunity to put your experience, skills and knowledge to constructive use
- The opportunity to develop your own knowledge, experience and personal skills
- The chance to network with others with shared commitment and ideals

8. Review

- 8.1 This role description was approved by the Governing Body on XXX. It will form the basis of the annual review of the effectiveness of your contribution to our governance. It will be reviewed by the Governing Body not later than 2021.