

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER 2009**

held at 12.50pm on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at

Deloitte Public Sector Internal Audit Ltd, Stonecutter Court, Fleet Street, London

### **MINUTES**

Present: Chris Down (Chairman) and Suzanne Lane from the Executive

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#### **1 Apologies**

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Gordon Mattocks, Paul McLoughlin, Judith Lowe, Christine Davison, Natasha Miles, Peter McKenzie and Andrea Hunt from the Executive.

#### **2 Minutes of Annual General Meeting 20 January, 2009**

- 2.1 The minutes were **approved**.

#### **3 Matters arising from the minutes**

- 3.1 There were no matters arising.

#### **4 Chairman and Executive's Report:**

- 4.1 The Chairman reported a successful year during which the Forum continued to provide a range of member seminars and training days in various locations, a residential conference in January 2009 in Stratford-on-Avon, and the publication of new and updated good practice guides.
- 4.2 He thanked the members of the Executive team for their support and guidance during the year, and without whom the business of the Forum could not take place.
- 4.3 The Executive Committee proposed that the Forum be renamed the 'Social Housing Internal Audit and Assurance Forum' with effect from April 2010. This is to acknowledge that the Tenant Services Authority (TSA) will assume responsibility for regulation of all social housing, including that provided by local authorities, from that date; and that the activities and publications of the Forum should hold greater relevance to our LA colleagues. It also addresses the relevance of the Forum to ALMOs.

Some concern was raised about the term 'Social Housing' which was felt to be a dated label by some. Philip Winter of the TSA argued that it was necessary to include 'social' or 'affordable' to distinguish the sector from the private rented sector. Others felt that the regulator might eventually

regulate the private sector as well so it wasn't necessary. The risk of not changing the name was then discussed which included the need to include more than just Housing Associations in the forum especially with the change in regulation to the TSA.

There was also concern about the loss of a recognisable brand and the Chairman suggested a new name which would allow us to keep the existing acronym (HAIAF) but some felt the existing acronym to be too long! There was also a question about the cost of rebranding and the Chairman suggested that these would be minimal as most of our branding is via the website.

Finally, it was suggested that the Executive had not consulted effectively. The Chairman explained that this had been publicised in the ezine and that he was not aware that any feedback had been received.

It was **agreed** that the change in name is needed to coincide with the new regulatory regime, however, the name Social Housing Internal Audit and Assurance Forum was not agreed. The Chairman proposed that the executive would consider members views further and undertake further consultation. The Chairman asked that if the Executive did this that the membership would need to engage with the Executive and respond to any consultative document.

## 5 Treasurer's Report:

### 5.1 Accounts 2008/2009

The Chairman reported an increased surplus for the previous year of £8,020 which remained after a loss on the annual conference. In addition, the Chairman confirmed the 2009 membership figures as follows:

Small Associations	- 136
Standard Associations	- 89
Medium Associations	- 5
Large Associations	- 31
Corporate Members	- 40
Affiliate Members	- 7
Associate Members	- 14
Honorary Members	- 2

Members queried the level of surplus and what this was going to be used for as members' subscriptions should be used to provide services for the membership. The Chairman highlighted the services the Forum provide, in addition, there were contributions from the floor which also underlined the importance of being prudent, for example, because the funding previously received toward the IAPG's may not be there in future. The Chairman requested that if there were any thoughts on the use of these funds they should be provided to the Executive.

## 5.2 Proposed Fees for 2010/2011

In view of the healthy financial position, the Executive propose that the fees for 2010/2011 remain at the present level.

The proposals of the Treasurer regarding the presentation of the Annual Accounts and the Proposed fees for 2010/11 were unanimously **approved** by the membership.

## 6 Appointment of Independent Examiner

6.1 The Chairman proposed the reappointment Campbell Tickell (Lustig & Co) as independent examiner to the Forum.

The proposal was unanimously **approved** by the membership.

## 7 Determination of Executive Positions and Elections:

7.1 The Chairman confirmed that:

- The existing members of the Executive Committee had indicated their willingness to continue in their existing posts.
- Suzanne Lane of RSM Bentley Jennison had volunteered to join the Executive Committee in a role yet to be determined.
- Gordon Mattocks completed two years as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Forum in September 2009 and in the absence of any other nominations, was happy to continue in that role for a further twelve month period.

The membership and Chairman of the Executive were **agreed**.

## 8 Any other business

8.1 There was a question about the conference venue, in that the venue being a five star hotel could be seen as inappropriate when the costs are met by businesses in the social housing sector which should be using their resources to provide better services to residents. The questioner also said this was particularly relevant at the current time in the light of the scandal over MP's expenses and in view of the current economic climate. The Chairman explained that the conference booking was negotiated on our behalf by an events organiser to achieve the best possible terms. The Chairman also said that the Executive would take the point on board and ensure that the conference was clearly marketed on the basis of the real value it can add to our organisations. This was **agreed** by the membership.

## 9 Dates of next meetings:

9.1 Members free training day, Thurs 14 January 2010, Ty Gwalia, Swansea

9.2 Members' free seminar Thurs 4 March, Genesis Hsg Group, London

9.3 Residential Conference, 8-9 June, 2010, Oulton Hall Hotel, Leeds