

HORIZON HOUSING ASSOCIATION LIMITED	CORPORATE POLICY
TITLE	MEMBERSHIP POLICY
DATE OF APPROVAL	MAY 2009
DATE OF REVIEW	MAY 2010

1. VISION

INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES WHERE PEOPLE'S PARTICULAR HOUSING NEEDS ARE MET

2. GENERAL STATEMENT

2.1 Horizon is a values driven organisation and aims to attract members from the communities it serves, particularly our tenants, and those who share our values. The Association's core values are:

- Everybody is equal
- People are disabled by society and the environment, not by their impairment
- Everyone is different and diverse each with their own individual qualities
- The organisation will aim to give choice in the housing that we produces and the services we deliver

2.2 Members of the Association are those people who purchase a share in the Association and are entered into the Register of Members. It is a requirement of membership that members are supportive of the aims and objectives of the Association.

2.3 Encouraging the active participation of members has two main functions:

- (a) Through consultation, drawing upon the skills and experience from a broad base of members coming from all social backgrounds, ethnic origins, practical experiences and professions.
- (b) Using the same broad base of membership to promote the Association and our work.

3. PROMOTING MEMBERSHIP

3.1 The Association will promote membership through its Annual Report, quarterly newsletters, contact with tenants and applicants, including the annual Tenants Conference. All new tenants receive a welcome letter from the Chairperson inviting them to become members of the Association.

4. WHO CAN JOIN

4.1 The Association wishes to encourage as broad a representation as possible in our membership from the groups and communities which we serve. We therefore particularly welcome applications from:

- a) Tenants of the Association
- b) Sharing owners and owner occupiers within our estates.
- c) Other residents of the areas where we have housing stock.
- d) People who can make a positive contribution based on their community, business or professional experience or skills.

4.2 The Association is committed to equality of opportunity in every area of our business activity, and membership is open to all sections of the community regardless of colour, race, nationality, ethnic or national origins, gender, disability, age or sexuality. To this end, the Association particularly welcomes applications from individuals who have experience of disability, and black and ethnic minority community members.

5. MEMBERSHIP OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

5.1 The Association is controlled by a Management Committee elected annually by the membership. Horizon is a significant sized and diverse business and is, therefore, keen to try and ensure that our Management Committee contains people with experience or interest in:

- Building and maintenance
- Community care issues
- Financial management
- Housing management
- Human Resource Management

5.2 However, whilst it is acknowledged that people with professional backgrounds in related fields can be a valuable resource for the Association, so too can tenants and sharing owners who can bring particular insight as recipients of services delivered by the Association

5.3 Finally, Horizon is committed to providing equality of opportunity to people irrespective of their physical or support needs. It therefore acknowledges the particular contribution that people with disabilities and those with voluntary commitment can bring to the organisation, based on their life experiences.

6. HOW TO APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP

6.1 Those wishing to apply for membership should request an application form and return the completed form with the £1 membership fee, to the Secretary at the Association's Registered Office.

- 6.2 Each application must be considered by the Management Committee and it will do this at its next scheduled meeting following receipt of the application, or as soon thereafter as is practicable.
- 6.3 Following approval of an application, the Secretary will, within seven working days, write to the new member to confirm their membership. The new member will receive their Share Certificate and a copy of the Association's Rules. They will also receive a copy of Horizon's Annual Report and regular Newsletters throughout the year.
- 6.4 The Management Committee will consider all applications for membership based on the terms of the Membership Policy and the Rules of the Association.
- 6.5 In the unlikely event that a membership application is refused, the unsuccessful applicant will be given a statement of the reasons for refusal. The applicant has a right of appeal against the refusal and this should be made in writing within 7 days of receipt of the decision. The Management Committee will consider the grounds of appeal at its next scheduled meeting and its decision on that occasion will be final.

7. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- 7.1 Membership of Horizon Housing Association will cease when a member:
- (a) Resigns by giving written notice to the Secretary
 - (b) Becomes an employee of the Association
 - (c) Is expelled in accordance with the Rules
 - (d) Changes address, but does not notify the Association of their new address
 - (e) Dies

The £1 membership is not refundable on termination of membership.