

The BCHA Group

Membership of Bournemouth Churches Housing Association

SUBJECT: Membership of Bournemouth Churches Housing Association SECTION: Not applicable REVIEWED BY: The Company Secretary	Policy No: 104	HCA Regulatory Framework Governance Std
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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 BCHA aims to encourage individuals with an interest in the activities of the organisation to become shareholding members
- 1.2 BCHA will attempt to attract into membership people with an interest or relevant expertise particularly in the areas of:
 - Community, Charitable and Voluntary work
 - Health, Housing/Homelessness and Social Care
 - Supporting the mission and vision of BCHA
- 1.3 Corporate membership will also be encouraged amongst statutory and voluntary organisations with which BCHA either works or has similar objectives.

2.0 Policy

- 2.1 BCHA has an open membership policy but subject to the following constraints:
 - Tenants and lessees of the organisation are eligible to take membership , but the combined number of tenants/lessee members shall not exceed 30% of the total membership;
 - Other single interest groups, such as representatives of a particular local authority, shall not exceed 30% of the total membership;
 - Persons under the age of 18 are ineligible for membership;
 - Persons previously expelled from shareholding membership of BCHA or from general or Board membership of any of its subsidiaries are ineligible for membership of BCHA unless authorised by special resolution at a BCHA general meeting;
 - Current employees of the BCHA are ineligible for membership. Former employees are ineligible for membership for a period of 5 years. Any employee who has been dismissed, resigned whilst under investigation or who has signed any form of compromise or similar legal agreement as a part of their termination of employment will not be eligible for membership at any time;
 - Persons who have taken legal action against the organisation or who have in any way acted to the detriment of the BCHA will be ineligible for membership;
 - A limit on new applications may be imposed by the BCHA from time to time for administrative or other purposes.
- 2.2 Applicants will be required to demonstrate in writing their commitment to the objectives, policies and values of the organisation. Acceptance of applications for general membership of the organisation is subject to the approval of the Board. The decision of the Board shall be final.
- 2.3 Applicants for membership must also declare at the time of application whether:
 - They have been convicted of a criminal offence or are the subject of criminal investigations;

- They are related to or are acquainted or have business dealings with any other shareholder, to the best of their knowledge;
- They belong to any society, organisation, or campaign group which they know that other BCHA shareholders belong to.

2.4 Should there be any wilful failure to make a disclosure, as required above, the BCHA Board reserves the right to expel any shareholder.

2.5 Members must pay the sum of £1 upon acceptance of their application and their details will be entered in the Register of Shareholders which is maintained by the Company Secretary. Only one share is permitted per individual or organisation and each share carries one vote. Shares are not refundable and do not earn interest, dividend or bonuses and are non-withdrawable. Shares are not transferrable except for the case of corporate members where a share may be transferred from one nominated representative to another in the same organisation.

2.6 Part C of the Organisation's rules governs the issue of shareholding, including the termination of shareholding membership.

3.0 Equal Opportunities

3.1 BCHA has a commitment to promote equality of opportunity for all sections of the community and therefore will seek to encourage applications from a diverse range of backgrounds and life experiences.

4.0 Openness

4.1 In line with the organisation's commitment to conduct its affairs in an open and accountable manner, this policy will be made publicly available. This will include publication on the website and by use of alternative formats (translation, transcription etc where there is an identifiable need to do so) and by targeted distribution in order to reach out to under-represented sections of the community.

5.0 References

BCHA Rules

Amendment History 2023

1.2 Add "*Supporting the mission and vision of BCHA*" for consistency with web page
2.5 Add ..."*each share carries one vote*". Shares are not refundable and do not earn interest, dividend or bonuses "*and are non-withdrawable*" for consistency with website