



## The BCHA Group

# MEMBERSHIP OF BOURNEMOUTH CHURCHES HOUSING ASSOCIATION

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<b>SUBJECT:</b> Membership of Bournemouth Churches Housing Association  <b>SECTION:</b> Not applicable  <b>REVIEWED BY:</b> The Company Secretary and The Policy & Quality Officer	<b>Policy No:</b> 104	<b>HCA Regulatory Framework</b> Governance Std
	<b>Draft Issued:</b> 9 December 2013 <b>BCHA Board Approved:</b> 30 January 2014 <b>Equality Impact Assessment:</b> N/A <b>SURF Approved:</b> N/A	
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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 members
- 1.2 BCHA will attempt to attract into membership people with relevant expertise in the areas of:
  - Community, Charitable and Voluntary work
  - Health, Housing and Social Care
  - Law;
  - Property development;
  - Finance.
- 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 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 Board of the organisation reserves the right to expel any shareholder.
- 2.5 Members must pay the sum of £1 and their details will be entered in the Register of Shareholders which is maintained by the Company Secretary.
- 2.6 Part C of the Organisation's rules governs the issue of shareholding.

### **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 using alternative formats (translation, transcription etc) where there is an identifiable need to do so and targeted distribution in order to reach out to under-represented sections of the community.

### **5.0 References**

BCHA Rules