

MEMBERSHIP POLICY

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1. OBJECTIVE

It is a primary objective of Milnbank Housing Association (MHA) to actively promote Membership in the Organisation as set out in its rules through the purchase of a £1 share. As a Community Based Housing Association, eligibility for Membership to become a shareholder is open to all tenants and any resident aged 16 or over living within MHA's geographical Area of Operation.

The Membership Policy should be read in conjunction with the Association's Rules which are provided to each applicant applying for Membership. In particular, Rules 7 – 10, Application for Membership, outlines the process involved.

2. PROMOTION OF COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

The Association will actively seek to encourage residents to become Members of MHA whenever practicable and staff will be encouraged to highlight the benefits to potential new Members. MHA uses the following methods to promote membership:

- Provide to new tenants whenever the tenancy agreement is being signed and similarly for new owner-occupiers as part of the standard factoring package.
- MHA newsletters, Annual Reports, notice board, reception area the Association's website.
- Tenant participation and other community involvement Activities.

3. BENEFITS OF BEING A MEMBER OF MILNBANK HOUSING ASSOCIATION

As a Member of MHA, the following benefits are available:-

- *Attend Annual General Meetings or Special General Meetings and automatically be entered into the attendance prize draw.
- *The right to nominate, or be nominated, for election to the Management Committee.
- *Have your say in the future of the Association.
- *Appoint the auditors and receive the annual accounts.
- *Vote on a change of Rules.

4. TARGETS

The Association will pursue a target of a minimum of 50% of the households in its Area of Operation having at least one member. This target will be closely monitored and assessed monthly by the Management Committee.

5. COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION

This policy aims to promote good governance of MHA and to ensure the proper accountability of its Management Committee by having a membership which is as wide as possible, subject to the criteria described in Section 1.

The Association will seek to encourage that each of its nine geographic Areas of Operation is represented on the Committee. However, the Management Committee will remain conscious of the needs to retain a balance on the Committee that reflects the wider community and adheres to the Equality Act 2010. (Please refer to MHA's Equality & Diversity Policy).

6. COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION

In order to enhance and support participation from the wider community, in line with our Succession Planning Strategy, the Association shall actively promote and facilitate Focus Groups, Scrutiny Groups, Registered Tenants Organisations and Close Meetings when required.

7. MONITORING & REVIEW

The Membership Policy is formulated by the Management Committee and will be reviewed every 3 years or as otherwise deemed necessary.

GDPR - MHA controls the personal information that we collect, this means that we are legally responsible for how we collect, hold and use personal information. It also means that we are required to comply with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) when collecting, holding and using personal information.