

TO:	Management Committee
PREPARED BY:	Linda Sichi (Deputy CEO)
SUBJECT:	REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP POLICY
DATE OF MEETING:	07 November 2023
APPROVED BY:	Paul Martin (CEO)

# MEMBERSHIP POLICY

LS/NOVEMBER.2023/REF.P35



## **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 MHA is a community controlled housing association whose membership is open to anyone over 16 years of age living within the Association's area of operation. MHA is committed to the involvement of tenants, factored owners, and other residents in the running of its affairs and to consultation over those actions or policies which may affect them.

## **2. OBJECTIVE**

2.1 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 Controlled 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.

2.2 The Membership Policy should be read in conjunction MHA Rules which are provided to each applicant applying for Membership. Rules 7 – 10, Application for Membership, outlines the process involved.

## **3. PROMOTION OF COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT**

3.1 MHA believes that a healthy membership base is essential to the ongoing viability of the Association as a community controlled organisation and necessary to ensure a good ongoing supply of Management Committee Members and future leaders of the Association. Therefore, MHA actively seeks to encourage residents to become Members of the Association 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 MHA**

As a Member of the Association, 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 serve on the Management Committee.
- Have your say in the future direction of the Association.
- Appoint the auditors and receive the annual accounts.
- Vote on any change of Rules that are proposed.

#### **4. TARGETS**

- 4.1 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**

- 5.1 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 widely representative as possible, subject to the criteria described in Section 1.
- 5.2 MHA seeks to encourage that each of its geographic Areas of Operation is represented on the MC. However, the Management Committee will remain conscious of the needs to retain a balance on the MC that reflects the wider community and adheres to the Equality Act 2010. (Detailed in MHA's Equality & Diversity Policy).

#### **6. COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION**

- 6.1 To enhance and support participation from the wider community, in line with our Succession Planning Strategy, MHA shall actively promote and facilitate Focus Groups, Scrutiny Groups, Registered Tenants Organisations and Close Meetings when required.

#### **7. GDPR**

- 7.1 When applying for Membership, MHA will comply with the terms of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) on how we collect, hold, and use personal information.

#### **8. MONITORING & REVIEW**

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