

Top stories in this newsletter



CDS has a new Chair!



New opportunity



RUSS update



Rent increase

Appointment of Board Chair - presented by Christina Friedenthal

Following the resignation of Jayam Dalal in September, and a temporary arrangement which saw Matt Creasey (Senior Independent Director) as the interim Chair, Juliet Lack, CDS Finance and Audit Committee Chair was interviewed and the panel recommended to the board that Juliet be elected.

Juliet has several years' experience in leadership on various charitable boards and, as Treasurer, she has evidenced appropriate oversight and a keen awareness of risk as well as her expertise in finance as a chartered accountant. The panel felt Juliet has a proven track record of building relationships and had a strong grasp of the direction and needs of the organisation and priorities of the board whilst also maintaining appropriate focus on resident experience and the core values and purpose of the organisation.

The board unanimously supported the recommendation from the interview panel and approved Juliet's election to Chair of the Board with immediate effect. Juliet was delighted at the news and we hope you'll join us in supporting her in her new role.



CDS Co-operation in Social Housing Commission - presented by Tom Bremner



Promoter budget.

The concept of CDS establishing a Co-operation in Social Housing Commission was discussed. This would look at how the principles and practices of co-operation could be used to have a positive impact on social housing – for local communities but also landlords and the sector. CDS would act as the sponsor and lead but would involve others from across the sector and potentially beyond. This work was proposed to take place over the next few years which it was thought could be linked to our 50th anniversary celebrations. It was noted that this initiative fit well with the mission and corporate objectives, and would be funded from the

The board was in favour of this initiative proceeding and felt this would be a great opportunity. Further updates will be forthcoming as things progress.

RUSS update - presented by Lev Kerimol

The board was updated as to the slower-than-hoped progress on the Church Grove development. Some outstanding issues relating to building safety, damp and mould were being considered in detail to satisfy ourselves that the units were safe for future residents. The documents relating to the building safety issues would be reviewed by an external consultant to provide an additional layer of scrutiny. Staff for any contributions made to this really important piece of work.



Rent & Service charge annual increase - presented by Anne Hauxwell

The current rent settlement allows that social housing rents can increase annually by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) plus 1% (with CPI as at the September preceding the increase being used). CPI last September was 6.7% therefore, applying the rent policy, the increase to our social housing tenants would be 7.7% from 1 April 2024. The board approved this increase.

Other information shared with the Board was as follows:

- Governance external review
- Co-operative Housing Finance Society Ltd
- Management accounts to September 2023
- Corporate plan update
- Risk strategy
- CLH London Hub update

Should you require further information regarding items on this list, please refer to the Executive Team in the first instance.

Thank you for reading!