

Role Profile

Independent Chair (Housing Improvement Board)

- Reports to: Chief Executive
- Direct reports: None
- Your team: Chief Executive Office
- Service area: Chief Executive Office
- Directorate: CEX Office

Special requirements of the post

This post requires a DBS check at the Standard level

This post is subject to the council's declaration of interest procedure

This post is designated as politically restricted

Our mission

Islington is a place rich with diversity and culture. As a council our sense of purpose couldn't be clearer: we serve. It's in the logo. We are committed to challenging inequality in the borough and as one of the largest employers we know that to look after the place and the planet, we have to look after our people. **Together we can change the future.**

To do this, everyone who works at Islington Council lives by a set of values which guide us in everything that we do: collaborative, ambitious, resourceful, and empowering. They spell out 'CARE', which is what we think public service is all about.

Overview of the role

The Independent Chair will provide impartial leadership, constructive challenge and strategic oversight to Islington Council's Housing Improvement Board.

The Chair will support and scrutinise the Council's Housing Improvement programme. They will ensure that agreed improvement actions deliver better outcomes for council tenants and leaseholders and support the Council in achieving sustainable service excellence. Crucially, they will strengthen governance and accountability to build enduring trust in Islington Council's housing governance and assurance frameworks.

The Chair will be knowledgeable about the latest sector best practice and current legal and regulatory developments. They will help Islington Council learn from these insights whilst maintaining a clear focus on resident experience, performance and regulatory compliance.

Key responsibilities

Strategic leadership

- Chair Housing Improvement Board meetings, ensuring Board discussions are focused, evidence-based and outcome-oriented
- Provide independent support and challenge to officers and stakeholders responsible for housing improvement activities.
- Maintain a clear strategic focus on improvement priorities and resident outcomes.
- Promote continuous improvement, transparency and accountability.

Assurance and scrutiny

- Provide independent assurance and scrutiny of the Housing Improvement Programme,
- Ensure the Board receives robust performance, risk and delivery information.
- Escalate concerns relating to delivery, resources or risk Challenge underperformance and seek evidence that corrective actions are being taken.

Resident focus

- Champion the interests of tenants and leaseholders by ensuring resident insight, feedback and lived experience inform decision making and improvement activity, and that meaningful engagement influences service delivery.

Stakeholder engagement

- Act as an independent ambassador for the Housing Improvement Programme.
- Liaise with elected Members as required and provide updates to scrutiny bodies where appropriate.
- Facilitate constructive discussion where there are competing priorities, delivery challenges or areas of concern.

Continuous improvement and learning

- Draw on good practice from across the social housing, local government and regulatory sectors.
- Support the Council to identify opportunities for innovation and service improvement.
- Any additional duties consistent with the grade and level of responsibility of this position, for which the holder possesses the required experience and/or training.

Compliance

Ensure adherence to legal, regulatory, and policy requirements under GDPR, Health and Safety, Employee Code of Conduct and in your area of expertise by identifying opportunities and risks, and escalating issues as necessary.

Person specification

The successful candidate will be a credible, impartial and values-led leader with substantial experience of social housing, governance, improvement and stakeholder engagement. They will be able to operate confidently in a complex political and organisational environment while maintaining independence and a clear focus on residents, service quality and public accountability.

Knowledge, skills and experience

Point	Criteria description	Essential / desirable
1	Significant senior leadership experience within the housing environment.	Essential
2	Experience of chairing boards commissions or governance forums, with strong meeting discipline and follow-through.	Essential
3	Deep and up to date understanding of housing law and regulation, social housing management, landlord responsibilities and the relationship between service performance, resident trust and regulatory compliance.	Essential
4	Experience leading large-scale organisational improvement programmes and providing performance scrutiny, assurance, benefits realisation and risk management, with the ability to interpret performance, finance and assurance information to identify emerging risks, issues and opportunities.	Essential
5	Experience working with elected Members, senior executives, regulators, residents and partner organisations.	Desirable
6	Ability to build productive relationships and facilitate constructive challenge and difficult conversations within a complex political and organisational environment.	Essential
7	Highly credible and respected leader can command confidence, maintain independence and create an environment of openness, accountability and trust.	Essential
8	Excellent chairing, facilitation, written and verbal communication skills, with the ability to present complex information clearly and objectively.	Essential
9	Sound evidence-based judgement and decision-making capability, including knowing when to support, challenge or escalate.	Essential
10	Demonstrable commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion, and to improving outcomes for residents who experience inequality or disadvantage.	Essential

Time Commitment

Board meetings	Chairing Housing Improvement Board meetings, typically monthly.
Preparation	Review papers, performance information, risk reports and delivery updates in advance of meetings.
Engagement	Attend resident engagement sessions and stakeholder meetings as required.
Senior liaison	Periodic meetings with senior officers, Members and housing leadership.
Estimated commitment	Approximately 2 days per month for an expected duration of one year, with possibility to extend to ca. 18 months. Contract duration is subject to programme developments and may be revised with consultation of the Chair.

Our accreditations



Our accreditations include Disability Confident Leader, The Mayor's Good Work Standard, London Living Wage Employer, Stonewall Diversity Champion, and Employer with Heart.