

Agenda Item 7: Directors' Elections process for the AGM 2020

1. Background

In early 2019, UKCN changed its articles¹ to enlarge the board of directors and to ensure the governance of the organisation was more focused on the interests of group members of the Network. Applications to appoint a new board were opened in mid-2019. It has taken the board longer than anticipated to work through the new process and ensure that the recruitment and election were in order and aligned to the new articles. By the autumn, it was then felt that rather than carry them out separately, it was most appropriate to bring the recruitment and elections in line with the AGM cycles.

2. Summary of board recruitment and elections:

UK Cohousing Network can have a board consisting of up to 9 elected directors and 3 appointed directors.

At the AGM on 12 February 2020 UKCN will have 6 vacancies for elected directors and 1 appointed director.

3. Elected Directors

Individuals applying to become “elected directors” represent a cohousing group whether in development or established that is up to date with fees and other requirements as part of its membership. There is a limit of having one person on the board from each group. The current board then assess applications for skills and experience, and have the ability to endorse applications they feel are strong and meet requirements, to the UKCN members who will then elect candidates. At each AGM, 3 elected directors (or nearest to a third) will step down from office in order of length of office.

The board have this year decided to endorse all applicants for approval by the vote of the membership at elections to be held at the AGM. Groups unable to attend to have the ability to ask for a proxy vote. As there are the same or fewer candidates put forward for election relative to the numbers of vacancies on the board, the election is not a competitive selection between candidates, but rather a vote to show whether there is “approval to appoint” individual directors. This will be carried out by a show of hands, against the proposal of each individual applicant in turn. Details of individual candidates are provided separately.

4. Appointed Directors

The board also has the power to appoint directors who have additional skills and abilities needed to help UKCN achieve its objectives. These posts are usually fixed-term for 12 months until then next AGM when the need for the posts is reviewed. The board is intending to appoint a new director at this AGM. In this case, the board wishes to appoint Julian Brooks of the Good Homes Alliance and Project Q to join the board for his significant experience and skills in construction, built environment and sustainability.

¹ A full copy of the resolution of the adoption of the UKCN Articles of Association 09 April 2019 are available at: <https://beta.companieshouse.gov.uk/company/06313462/filing-history>