

On 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015, this Association was given just seven days to respond to an offer made by its trade body, the National Housing Federation (NHF), to the Government.

The offer related to a voluntary agreement to extend Right to Buy discounts to all our tenants.

The offer was considered by this Association's Risk Management Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015 and it refused to support the voluntary agreement.

The full minute from the meeting is reproduced here:

***After full consideration of the documentation provided, Members rejected the proposal for a voluntary agreement with the Government to extend Right to Buy discounts to all its tenants.***

***Board members reminded themselves of the key charitable object of the Association's constitution "to carry on for the benefit of the community the business of providing housing and associated facilities and amenities for [low income] people". They considered the proposal from the National Housing Federation to be completely inconsistent with that most important principle.***

***Aware of the significance of good governance, Members were appalled at the content of the documentation from the NHF, believing it to contain insufficient clear information upon which to make such an important decision. It was recognised with regret that, whilst ordinarily Members would have deferred a decision until the uncertainties had been clarified and risks more fully understood, the opportunity for such consideration was unavailable given the deadline unreasonably imposed upon the Association.***

***Believing the issue to be of fundamental importance to the future provision of decent housing for the whole of society, Members were of the very strong opinion that designing the agreement so as to avoid public debate and parliamentary scrutiny was a shameful act.***

***The Director was instructed to investigate the implications for the Association of terminating its membership of the National Housing Federation.***

Although this Association has refused its support, the offer of a voluntary agreement does have the support of the majority of housing associations and the NHF will continue to negotiate with the Government over its implementation.

Anyone wanting to discuss the Association's position is encouraged to contact the Director, Graham Howarth on (01900) 602906 or [graham.howarth@westfieldha.org.uk](mailto:graham.howarth@westfieldha.org.uk)