



*Incorporating the LONDON FORUM FOR COUNCIL LEASEHOLDERS' ASSOCIATIONS
& the LONDON LEASEHOLDERS' NETWORK*

Constitution

Descriptive

The Social Leaseholders' Network is an umbrella organisation bringing together leaseholder associations. It does not aim to supersede, nor should it be interpreted as superseding, any of these organisations but rather brings them together on common issues where there is consensus.

The Social Leaseholders' Network is an independent organisation, not affiliated to any political party.

The Social Leaseholders' Network acknowledges the diversity of views of its members and aims to reach consensus on issues affecting social sector leaseholders and to only move on to take action where there is consensus.

1. Name: Social Leaseholders Network (SLN)

2. Aims and objectives:

- (a) To be the representative, consultative body for all Leaseholders of Social Housing Landlords and recognised as such by the Leaseholders, their organisations, Borough Councils, their ALMOs, RSLs, the GLA, ALG, Housing Corporation and Central Government Departments.
- (b) To lobby RSLs, the GLA, ALG, Housing Corporation and Central Government Departments on behalf of social housing leaseholders.
- (c) To provide effective channels for communication of views and information, encouraging active participation by all entitled to membership on a non-exclusive equal opportunities basis.
- (d) To respond to government consultation on issues affecting social sector leaseholders.
- (e) To support the development of local leaseholder groups and borough-wide associations of Social Sector Leaseholders, encouraging democracy, transparency, competence and accountability.
- (f) To seek adoption of best practice by all Local Government and RSLs in the management of leaseholder services.

Social Leaseholders' Network

3. Powers

- (a) In furtherance of the objectives, but not otherwise, the Management Committee may exercise
 - i) power to raise funds and to invite and receive contributions provided that in raising funds the Management Committee shall conform to any relevant requirements of the law.
 - ii) power to co-operate with charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the objectives or of similar purposes and to exchange information and advice with them;
 - iii) power to appoint and constitute such advisory committees as the Management Committee may think fit;
 - iv) power to publish information through web pages, newsletters, bulletins and guidance notes only where no professional liability is incurred;
 - v) power to maintain a database of members in accordance with Data Protection and other relevant Acts;
 - vi) power to open and maintain a bank account requiring two signatures out of three registered with the bank;
 - vii) power to do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the objects;

4. Membership

- (a) shall consist of three categories all having landlords who are Local Authorities or RSL's.
 - i) Borough-wide Leaseholder Associations
 - ii) Estate / Area Leaseholder Groups
 - iii) Individual Leaseholders
- (b) Membership shall be available to all those who by completing a simple form indicate that they agree with the SLN's Aims and Objectives and not unreasonably withheld.
- (c) By resolution of an annual or special general meeting subscriptions for membership may be agreed and enforced thereafter.
- (d) By resolution of a general meeting, other bodies with wider or differing interests may be invited or excluded from sending delegate(s) to attend SLN meetings as non-voting participants. On the presumption that this arrangement would be reciprocal.
- (e) In exceptional circumstance a general meeting shall vote on the censure of a member where either their activities are manifestly contradictory to the SLN as set out in this constitution or their behaviour at meetings is contrary to the fair ruling of the chair. Only at a subsequent meeting and following opportunity of a fair hearing can the

Social Leaseholders' Network

meeting then vote for a permanent exclusion.

- (f) A database of all members shall be maintained and kept available for inspection by members only.

5. Governance:

- (a) General Meetings open to all Members
 - i) There shall be a minimum of 3 meetings each year, one of which will be designated the AGM.
 - ii) Meetings shall determine principles matters of policy and nominate delegates to represent the SLN and act on its behalf in pursuance of its aims and objectives.
 - iii) All Members may speak under the direction of the chair but voting will be restricted to Associations as at 4a above (two votes) and Groups as at 4b above (one vote) - except that no more than six votes may be exercised by representatives from any one Borough.
- (b) An Annual General Meeting shall be held each year.
 - i) All members will be invited with 4 weeks notice.
 - ii) Details of any proposed changes to the constitution shall accompany notice of the meeting.
 - iii) Procedures for the AGM shall include the election of such officers as agreed by the meeting to be necessary and reports from all outgoing officers.
 - iv) At the AGM the treasurer shall present accounts showing income, expenditure and balances for the year.
 - v) Printed copies of this constitution, any code of conduct, procedural rules, the list of members, and the accounts shall be freely available at the AGM.
- (c) Proposed resolutions should be clearly set out in the notice calling the meeting but may be accepted by the chair if, at the commencement of the meeting, there is agreement that they be added to the agenda.
- (d) It shall be standard practice to make electronic recordings of the general meetings for the sake of producing accurate minutes only but that adequate steps should be taken to draw this to the attention of those attending and to give them opportunity to challenge this.

6. Winding up

- (a) Shall be only undertaken by vote, as set out above, at a special general meeting called with 4 weeks notice to all the members.
- (b) Notice of a special general meeting called to wind up the SLN must be accompanied with a written proposal as to how any remaining funds and assets are to be disposed of.