



Election of Board Members 2017 AGM

Leeds Community Homes AGM – Election of Members to the Board

At our AGM, Leeds Community Homes members will be asked to elect members who wish to serve on the society's Board. Our Rules (available to view on our website) state that our Board should consist of at least 3, and not more than 12, directors.

A third of the Board is required to retire at each AGM. They are able to seek re-election. However, all Board members have agreed to resign this time, as they were all appointed before the vast majority of members joined the society. All current Board members are offering themselves for re-election. They are:

Steve Hoey
Paul Chatterton
Jimm Reed
Jonathan Lindh

Gill Coupland
James Hartley
Paul Belbin
Rob Greenland

The current Board members contacted all members of Leeds Community Homes, requesting them to consider joining the Board of Directors. A total of four applications were received, from the following members:

Isobel Mills
Martin Gaskin
David Bowe
Nic Bliss

Short statements are included below from each of the members who are putting themselves forward to the Board. The current Directors would like to recommend to Leeds Community Homes members that all 12 applications to join the Board are approved.

The Board would also like to acknowledge that they have not been successful in their efforts to recruit a more diverse Board, to reflect the current membership of Leeds Community Homes and the city that we serve.

After discussion, it was agreed to recommend all applications to the Board. With a wide range of complex tasks to currently undertake, mainly on a voluntary basis, it was thought that we should accept all four of the applications that we had received, as applicants all offer a range of skills to the society.

However, the current Directors would like to re-state their commitment to diversifying the Board during the next twelve months, and would welcome the involvement of members in ensuring that this happens, in time for the next AGM.



Personal statements from members offering themselves for election

Isobel Mills

The greater part of my career as a Civil Servant was spent delivering economic regeneration programmes at European, national and local level. From 1996 until 2011 I led for Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber on communities and housing, which included trying to convince Whitehall colleagues policies made in SW1 did not always (if ever) fit neatly with the needs of Yorkshire neighbourhoods.

During that time I was involved in all aspects of housing, from homelessness through private sector rental and market renewal to statutory planning. Affordable housing – good and decent homes – has been a major thread running through all of these topics, along with how to make and sustain great places.

In retirement I am, amongst other things, the Chair of the Leeds Credit Union, Vice-Chair of the Leeds Citizens Advice Bureau, a Board Member of Headingley Development Trust and of HEART, and a Director of the Key Fund.

I believe I could offer significant policy experience around housing, funding and social enterprises, insights into the workings of national and local government, and skills in the “Board-side” of third sector organisations. I would be thrilled to be part of this crucial and innovative new challenge.

David Bowe

I hope that you will consider electing me to the Board of Directors of L.H.A. Between 1983 and 1989 I was a district councillor in Middlesbrough and I acquired an interest in the day-to-day management of rented social housing.

I dealt on a regular basis with housing allocations, rent arrears, tenant anti- social behaviour issues and general repairs and maintenance policies. This made me crucially aware of the importance of tenant engagement in the management of their properties, to create an environment in which a community can flourish.

During the period of time that I was a member of the European Parliament (1989-2004) I rented an apartment in central Brussels and saw alternative models of housing tenure and management, both public and private and how they could affect the lives of the tenants.

Whilst my skill set does not match those expected of an ideal candidate. I believe that I can bring other knowledge and talents to the role that would make me an



immediate asset to the board. I would also wish to undergo training particularly in financial management and legal issues that would enhance my value as a board member.

Nic Bliss

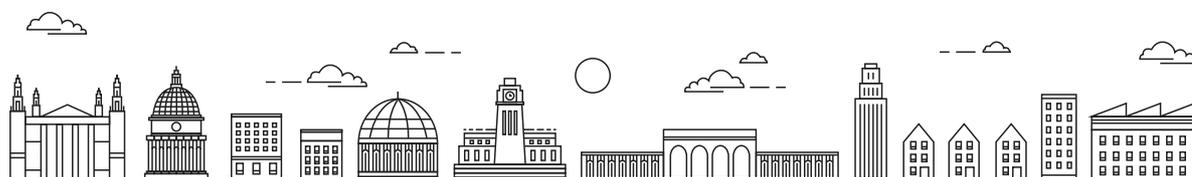
I am the Head of Policy for the Confederation of Co-operative Housing, the national organisation that represents co-operative housing in England and Wales. I have many years' experience of governance, management and legal and financial structures of a variety of models of co-operative and community-led housing and have done much training and development in these areas.

I have led on the CCH's programme to develop new co-operative housing in Wales since 2012 working with the Welsh Government – where about 25 schemes are at various stages of development – across a range of tenures and catering for different needs and circumstances. In England, I have been involved in dialogue between the various national community-led housing organisations and am conversant with current discussions taking place with the DCLG on the Community Housing Fund.

I wrote the CCH's guide on Developing New Co-operative and Community Led Homes and our summary of recent developments (1,001 Co-operative and Community-Led Homes). I am a Commissioner on the CCIN Housing Commission – reporting later this year and targeted at how local authorities can support co-operative and community-led housing.

I have worked with numerous housing co-ops and other community-led housing schemes in England and Wales – and have worked extensively with housing associations and local authorities on a wide range of tenant and community empowerment related programmes.

I am passionately committed to communities running their own housing – both through my work in CCH and through my membership of 20/20 Housing Co-operative in Birmingham since 1987.



Martin Gaskin, BA ACA MBA FRSA

A 57-year-old Chartered Accountant, FD and business consultant, I have primarily been involved in large businesses (consumer goods, banking and professional services) gaining great experience in finance, banking, commercial funds raising and support services leadership, latterly as Chief Operating/Financial Officer. I am now a Director supporting and developing two small local businesses (manufacturing and professional services).

I have deliberately changed direction to use my experience to further the causes of social justice. I am passionate about the injustices – global and local – of opportunity, equality and basic living provision. My particular passions are in education (as the basis of access to equality of opportunity) and in affordable housing as a basic living need. I have followed an MA course in Global Urban Justice to understand the issues and potential remedies. I am a member of the Resources Committee of Joseph Rowntree Foundation/Housing Trust and of the Audit Committee of the University of York, and of the Finance Committee of an inner city academy trust and a governor on 2 schools. For the past 2 years I have been a volunteer consultant to Chaco – a community co-housing development in Chapeltown.

The possibility of contributing to the development of affordable housing in Leeds is right in the sweet spot of my passions and ambitions and I believe I have a set of skills and experience that can further the aims of LCH and its communities.



Personal statements from current Board members offering themselves for re-election

James Hartley

My name is James Hartley and I am currently the CEO of Leeds Action to Create Homes, (Latch). I have been involved with Leeds Community Homes from its inception and am keen and excited about seeing the group grow and assist others to achieve their housing aspirations.

I have been working for Latch for over 19 years where my current role is to oversee the delivery of the organisation's strategy and ensure that the organisational aim of creating homes for homeless people is at the core of all we do.

I am responsible for financial management, the management of the Supported Housing, Property Management and Property Development service teams, for fundraising and for organisational Health and Safety. I believe that housing policy and interventions should be directed at meeting human need and not be a basis for the creation of private profit.

The housing market has failed individuals, communities and society and we need to devise housing solutions that meet the needs of people. My work at Latch has been dedicated to this and I hope to continue to promote this through Leeds Community Homes.

Jimm Reed

I have worked in housing for 17 years, mostly in the role of development project management in affordable and community-led housing. My background at Yorkshire Housing group gave me a solid foundation in housing development and partnership-building skills.

I delivered a number of complex projects while with them, and I also built up many strong connections with professional partners, agencies and local authorities, including Leeds.

Subsequently while working with my own company, CoHo, since 2009 I have been involved in a broad range of housing work, including private and affordable sector, and charity clients. I have also become much more involved with community-led housing: having been the project manager for the successful LILAC scheme in Leeds, I have since worked with more than a dozen other community-led groups across the UK.



I am passionate about enabling groups and individuals to shape their own housing futures rather than having to rely on a broken system to provide the communities of tomorrow. I am proud to have been involved as a Director of LCH up to now and I believe that it offers a new model of enabling and facilitating the much-needed change in how housing can be created in the UK.

What I offer as an ongoing LCH Director: I am focused on providing my skills, knowledge and professional relationships towards the practical delivery of the aims of Leeds Community Homes: such as providing an enabler service to assist and facilitate new community led projects, and to be a part of creating our target of 1000 homes in the next decade. I am also very interested in helping shape the structure of the organisation as it develops, in order to be able to achieve these goals.

I hope that members will support my ongoing involvement on the Board.

Paul Belbin

I have worked in the social housing sector for almost 30 years, principally delivering supported housing for vulnerable people. For the last two decades I have worked in Leeds, and I am proud to have been involved in shaping and providing services in the city.

This includes developing the first Rough Sleepers' Street Outreach Team in Leeds, chairing the Homelessness Forum, and bringing together partnerships of third sector organisations to deliver city-wide accommodation and support services to young people, the homeless and other vulnerable groups.

I now work as Development Manager for GIPSIL, based on the Gipton estate in East Leeds. Over the last four years, I have led on GIPSIL's programme of bringing empty homes back into use as supported housing: we are close to completing the thirtieth property, with ongoing plans for ten renovations each year.

I am also proud of the partnerships we have formed with Leeds City Council and other community-led organisations – LATCH & Canopy – to make Leeds a national exemplar in tackling empty homes.

I believe passionately that we achieve more when we collaborate and cooperate than when we compete, which is why I have been involved in Leeds Community Homes throughout our formation and development: I hope that members will support my remaining on the Board.



Rob Greenland

I have been involved in social enterprise for most of my adult life – having started out volunteering at a fairtrade social enterprise in Leeds 20 years ago. I’m a founder and co-director of Social Business Brokers CIC, a social enterprise which aims to come up with collaborate solutions to complex social problems. Since 2013 we’ve mainly been focusing on empty homes. Our Empty Homes Doctor service has helped to bring back into use over 200 long-term empty homes over the past four years.

Getting involved in Leeds Community Homes felt like a natural next step – having seen so much of what’s wrong with our housing market through our work on empty homes. I believe we need *people powered* solutions to the problems we face in society – and I think what we’re doing at Leeds Community Homes is a great example of that.

My involvement so far has focused in particular on helping to ensure our share offer was successful – I was closely involved in pulling together the business plan and share offer document, and took a lead on marketing and communications – to make sure we reached out to people in Leeds and beyond.

To Leeds Community Homes I bring 20 years of experience of running social enterprises. I don’t pretend to be a housing expert – but I have a good understanding of how you go about tackling complex social problems – like how to create affordable housing. I also have 20 years of useful contacts in Leeds and beyond – people who I know are keen to see us succeed.

Given my close involvement in the share offer, I would appreciate the opportunity to stay involved as a Board Member until the successful completion of our first member-funded project – the creation of 16 *People Powered Homes* in Leeds Climate Innovation District.

Gill Coupland

I am a founder and co-director of two other social businesses, Social Business Brokers and Angels Community Enterprises and have worked in the sector for the past 12 years.

Through my work bringing long-term empty properties in Leeds back into use it became clear that there are so many problems with the property market, locally and nationally. Coming together to create Leeds Community Homes felt like a very positive step towards developing solutions.



My view is very simply that a lot of what's wrong with our housing market could be solved if people were more involved in creating the homes and communities in which they live. Housing has become a commodity, driven largely by profit. New housing is provided largely by a handful of big housebuilders – and is unaffordable to many. Tenants are trapped by rising rents payable to private landlords.

I'm convinced that *people powered* homes will deliver a range of solutions and will particularly tackle affordability and sustainability. At Leeds Community Homes we hope to open up opportunities for people to create homes for themselves.

My role to date has been on a very practical level, working on the share offer and ensuring we're on track to deliver our first 16 affordable homes. I'm now working with partners to identify further development opportunities. We're in exciting times for community-led housing, our work is attracting a lot of interest. I don't have a background in housing but I have a lot of relevant connections in the region. I think I bring an entrepreneurial perspective, alongside an ability to spot opportunities and bring the right partners together to take them forward.

Steve Hoey

Since Paul Chatterton and I had the first conversation about forming LCH three years ago, I have been actively involved in developing the idea and the organisation. Thanks to a brilliant team we have achieved a lot in the last few months.

I am the Director at the United Nations World Habitat Award (2015-16) winning Canopy Housing. I lead an innovative, sustainable and replicable organisation with a strong global reputation in community-led housing, partnership work, support, training, and job creation.

I am moving to a new position at Locality in September as their Head of Housing and Neighbourhoods.

I am a resilient and effective professional, with active interests in community-led housing, neighbourhood planning, homelessness, social enterprise, leadership and management.

I read my first degree at Leeds University and have since gained an MBA. I was recently invited to become a Fellow with the RSA. My 23-year career is in housing and leadership, in positions ranging from volunteer to Founder, from Resettlement Worker to CEO.



I love climbing, swimming, cycling, running and wrestling with my three sons after watching Popeye episodes.

I am keen to remain on the LCH board, and hope that the membership will support my continued involvement.

Paul Chatterton

I would like to stand for re-election as a board member of Leeds Community Homes based upon my following experience. I am a writer, researcher and social activist. I am currently Professor of Urban Futures in the School of Geography at the University of Leeds where I co-founded the 'Cities and Social Justice' Research Cluster and MA in 'Activism and Social Change'. I have written extensively on urban change, civic renewal and engagement, coproduction and social action.

I am currently Director of the University's Sustainable Cities Group, which is launching an innovative new Masters in Sustainable City Futures in 2018. I am also taking a lead on a new initiative in Leeds called Centre for Future Cities (www.kvdt.org.uk/centre-for-future-cities/). I am co-director of the N8 universities 'Urban Living' research programme and Director of a cross research council Urban Living Pilot programme in Leeds called TRUE (Transformational Routemapping for Urban Environments) (true.org.uk).

I am co-founder of the public charity 'Antipode' dedicated to research and scholarship in radical geography and an associate editor of the journal 'City'. I am also co-founder and resident of the award winning low impact cohousing co-operative Lilac (www.lilac.coop). I am currently a Commissioner of the Co-operative Council Innovation's network on community led housing, and have been a director of the UK Cohousing Network. I am committed to developing a model for scaling up genuinely low impact affordable community led housing in Leeds.

Jonathan Lindh

I have been involved with LCH since the early discussions that led to the setting up of the steering group that now sits as the board. It has been an inspiring journey and a privilege to contribute to a board with such wide-ranging skills and a commitment to providing affordable, sustainable community led housing in our region. The support from our investors and members has been very heartening over this time.

I am an architect and founding member director of LEDA , a cooperative company offering building services and architecture. At LEDA our focus in our first 20 years has



been in creating quality sustainable buildings with a wide cross section of housing from refurbishment and new build.

I am currently supporting a number of co-housing groups and others wanting to create improved housing solutions, and have had involvement in social housing stretching back to the late 1980's in Leeds and Yorkshire, including the self-built timber frame eco houses in Chapel Allerton.

LCH is an excellent response to the current problems we have in providing decent affordable homes, I would very much like to continue to serve as board member as we begin the task of delivering our first housing units. I believe my experience in architectural design, housing and sustainability as well as group organisation can make a useful contribution to the organisation's further development at this important stage.

