

Management Consulting for Housing Associations

AWICS is a Management Consulting and Training company that provides advice and assistance to public services including housing.

Housing Associations are faced with rising demand for affordable housing and constrained resources.

We have recently assisted our clients with management consulting advice and assistance with:

- Business Cases for Mergers
- Business Planning, Accounting and Budgeting
- Value for Money Reviews
- Management and Governance issues
- Forming a new housing association
- Service Charges for Leaseholders and Tenants
- Development and Delivery of Training Programmes



Adrian Waite, Managing Director of 'AWICS'.

Business Cases for Mergers

AWICS supports housing associations that are either considering or implementing a merger.

For example, we have recently assisted three London housing associations with preparing business plans and business cases for merger.

Business Planning, Accounting and Budgeting

Housing Association finance is a specialist area and our management consultants offer specialist advice and practical assistance with business planning, accounting and budgeting. We have recently assisted three housing associations in London with the preparation of business plans and with preparing a business case for a merger.

Value for Money Reviews

Housing Associations are faced with rising demand for affordable housing and constrained resources. We believe that value for money is most likely to be achieved where there is a focus on the needs and aspirations of customers and a rigorous review of systems and costs.

Our experience in management consulting, strategic management, housing finance, business plans and residents' advice make us well placed to consider value for money.

We have recently carried out a Value for Money review for Severnside Housing Association. This included considering: an evaluation of the value for money for major works; indirect market testing of responsive repairs and elements of planned and major works; out of hours repair reporting; variations; repairs policy; service standards; missed appointments; interface between major works and voids teams; installation of major works; operational structures and staffing arrangements and improvements in cost and productivity generally.

Management and Governance Issues

We can offer advice and assistance on many management and governance issues. For example, we are currently reviewing complaints policies and procedures for a housing association in northwest England. We also offer independent residents' advice and interim management.

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Forming a new Housing Association

We can assist with many aspects of the establishment of a new housing association including registration with Homes England.

Service Charges for Leaseholders and Tenants

The calculation and management of service charges for leaseholders and tenants can be complex. We have advised several housing associations on service charges including Calico Housing Association and YMCA London Southwest.

We have provided in-house training to several housing associations on service charges including: the Abbeyfield Society, North Star Housing Association, Soho Housing Association, Two Castles Housing Association and Valleys to Coast Housing Association.

Adrian Waite has been a guest speaker at National Housing Federation conferences on service charges. We have advised Teresa Peace MP, currently the Shadow Minister for Housing, on issues connected with service charges in Thamesmead in her constituency.

Development and Delivery of Training Programmes

It is essential that housing managers, board members and tenant representatives have a working knowledge of how housing association finance works. As well as our regional seminars and in-house courses we can evaluate your training needs and design a training programme to suit your needs. We recently provided in-house training for Homes England, Eildon Housing Association and Bro Myrddin Housing Association.

Options Appraisals: Transfers and Re-structures

We are available to assist Housing Associations with options appraisals for transfers or re-structures. We advised Community Trust Housing in Lambeth on options for the future when its parent association proposed a collapse of the group structure. Impact Housing Association established a commercial subsidiary while Adrian Waite was Chair.

We worked with Circle Anglia Housing Association on the stock transfer in Fenland that resulted in the creation of Roddons Housing Association as a subsidiary. We worked with the Walsall Alliance of Tenant Management Organisations (WATMOS) and Lambeth Alliance of Tenant Management Organisations (LATMOS) on the stock transfer of the Ethelred, Magdalen and Thorlands estates from Lambeth Borough Council to WATMOS.

We can assist with options appraisal, financial modelling and the preparation of business plans for stock transfers, re-structures of housing associations or subsidiary associations that may wish to leave a group structure to become a stand-alone housing association.

About Adrian Waite

Adrian is Managing Director of AWICS Limited, a fully qualified member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy, a member of the Chartered Institute of Housing, a Fellow of the Institute of Leadership & Management, and a former Chair of Impact Housing Association.

For further information about services that we offer to housing associations, please contact Adrian Waite at Adrian.waite@awics.co.uk or 017683-51498 or visit our website at: <http://awics.co.uk/housingassociations-1> for information about management consultancy or <https://awics.co.uk/inhousecourses> for information about training.