

Wandle Housing Association

Merger Position Statement

2026/27

The Board of Wandle Housing Association has reviewed its position in light of its new Corporate Strategy. The Board continues to have no immediate plans to merge with another housing association and is dedicated to strengthening the organisation and delivering its Strategic Objectives as an independent body. However; the Board collectively has an open mind and will always seek beneficial opportunities and look positively at approaches made by likeminded organisations. The Wandle Chair and Chief Executive are specifically delegated by the Board to look for beneficial opportunities, respond to approaches, and report promptly to the Board on any initial (without commitment) discussions taking place about potential mergers.

The Wandle Board's key considerations when considering any future merger are that the agreed outcomes will be:

- More good quality homes across South London
- Improved services for Residents
- Improved levels of resources to strengthen communities and provide support to individuals and families
- Significant economies of scale and better value driven from combined resources
- Improved financial resilience and borrowing capacity
- An agile high functioning social business
- Consideration of the impact on the ongoing service improvement programmes

Any organisation that the Wandle Board might consider merging with would as a minimum and at the outset have to demonstrate:

- An affinity with the Wandle Values
- A good cultural fit and shared strategic vision
- A sensible geographical fit

The Board are committed to delivering its existing and new Corporate Strategy and its supporting objectives but does recognise its responsibilities to ensure that is able to protect its social housing assets and deliver improved outcomes for its customers. With that in mind the criteria agreed by the Board for considering where a merger with / acquisition by a larger organisation may be in the best interest for the Board to explore are:

- Financial constraints in delivering the commitments in its strategy to ensure customers' homes are safe and secure
- Not being able to improve outcomes for its customers and deliver services in line with regulatory and legal requirements

The Wandle Board will only agree to merge with another housing association following the completion of an in-depth due diligence exercise and the development of an agreed, timed, and resourced merger plan, that has the welfare of residents and robust business principles at its heart.