

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

CABINET COMMITTEE – GROUP COMPANY GOVERNANCE

Thursday 17 September 2020 at 1400
hours via an On-line meeting

Attendance:

Councillor Brigid Jones, Deputy Leader - Chair
Councillors Tristan Chatfield, Gareth Moore, Jon Hunt

Also in Attendance:

Connie Price	Head of Law – (Commercial, Procurement, Privacy & Information) – Legal
Alison Jarrett	Assistant Director - Development and Commercial, Finance & Governance
Georgina Dean	Solicitor, Legal Services
Mandeep Marwaha	Committee Services

1 NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chairman advised and the meeting noted that this meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site (www.civico.net/birmingham) and members of the press/public could record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

The business of the meeting and all discussions in relation to individual reports was available for public inspection via the web-stream.

APOLOGIES

2 There were no apologies noted from Members.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

3 There were no declarations of interests made.

PUBLIC NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING – 15 JULY 2020

4 The public notes of the last meeting were agreed.

Matters arising – Birmingham Museums Trust had appointed two new Joint Chief Executives since the last time the Committee had met.

COMPANY UPDATE

The following report of the Interim Chief Finance Officer was submitted:-

(See document No.1) – (Page 11 of the document pack)

The Assistant Director, Commercial and Development reminded Members this was a regular report shared at the Committee. This outlined changes that had happened across BCC portfolio of companies since the last meeting. An overview of all the recent changes was provided.

In addition to the document, the following key points were noted:

- Frontier Development Holdings Limited & Frontier Development Capital Limited - Alison Jarrett had become Director on both companies and replaced Clive Heaphy' s position.
- Birmingham Airport Holdings – The changes listed in the document were filed at Companies House. The structure of the Company required different Directors, i.e different nominees for the various Birmingham Airport companies. There were around 6-7 different Birmingham Airport Companies.
- Birmingham Museums Trust – Councillor Robert Alden appointed as Director.
- Acivico Limited – Previous Director, Ian Harley Benson had been replaced by Chris Hall through a recruitment process. Chris would be attending the Committee in November.

Reference was made to point 3.3 where companies had filed their accounts since the last Committee. It was noted there were no audit issues on any of these.

An ongoing brief takes place on all the material interests of BCC to see how the companies were reacting to the impact of Covid-19. This was both on employees and business plans. The update on this area would be discussed on the private agenda as this contained sensitive business information.

It was highlighted any companies that would impact the Council financially, this would be addressed at the monthly revenue monitoring and reported to Members.

In response to Members questions, the following points were noted:

- BHX (Scotland) Limited – There was a Scottish element to the structure for tax purposes - related to pension.
- Gordon & Phillips Words & Pictures Company Limited – The Chair thought this was a private company that was owned by a former Councillor. There was uncertainty if this was invested in through Finance Birmingham hence listed on the accounts or mistakenly left on the accounts. Officers to provide clarity to Members on this query.

5 **RESOLVED:-**

The Committee noted the information provided within the report. Appendix 1 which contains commercially confidential details concerning associated companies would be discussed on the private agenda.

APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES – PROCESS REVIEW

The following report of the Assistant Director, Commercial and Development was submitted:-

(See document No.2) – (Page 17 of the document pack)

The Assistant Director Commercial and Development informed Members the report was presented to Cabinet on the annual basis. This provided an update of all the appointments made i.e. Directors, trustees, observers to BCC Companies and Boards.

On the private agenda, officers would share a proposed reformat of the contents by providing more appropriate information recommended by internal audit such as names of BCC Contact Officers. As there are proposed names indicated in that document, the view was to discuss this on the private agenda with an informal discussion to develop this further. Members would be asked for suggestions to ensure optimal governance arrangements were incorporated and to enhance the role of the Committee. The revised report would come back to a future Committee.

To set the context, the September Cabinet report for Appointments was attached as part of the document pack.

There were no comments noted at this stage of the Committee on the report and the Chair stated the Committee would discuss the report in Private.

6 **RESOLVED:-**

The Committee noted the report and the broad process, presentation and information contained within the accompanying Cabinet report.

BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN'S TRUST CIC – PEN PORTRAIT

The following report of the Assistant Director, Commercial and Development was submitted:-

(See document No.3) – (Page 27 of the document pack)

The Assistant Director Commercial and Development informed Members the Birmingham Children's Trust (BCT) would be attending on the private agenda to discuss their business plan. An overview of the Trust outlined in the covering report was given.

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Appendix 1 gave the list of current Directors. The BCT financial year end was end of March, which was a similar term to the Council. Last year the contracts paid to the Trust was £193 million for the provision of full service across the City. Further detail would be provided on the private agenda.

RESOLVED:-

- 7 The Committee noted the information provided within the report.
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DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 8 The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday 12 November 2020 at 1400 hours via on-line meeting.
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OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

- 9 There was no urgent business to consider.
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EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED:-

- 10 That, in view of the sensitive nature of the discussion due to take place relating to Companies update, appointments to outside bodies (process review) and Birmingham Children's Trust CIC, the public be now excluded from the meeting.
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