

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

CABINET COMMITTEE – GROUP COMPANY GOVERNANCE

Wednesday 06 July 2022 at 1400 hours
Committee Room A, Council House
Extension, 6 Margaret Street
Birmingham B3 3BG

Attendance:

Councillor Brigid Jones, Deputy Leader - Chair
Councillors Jon Hunt, Ewan Mackey and Yvonne Mosquito

Also in Attendance:

Alison Jarrett	Director Group & Capital Finance, Deputy s151, Finance & Governance
Connie Price	Head of Law, Commercial, Procurement, Privacy & Information
Georgina Dean	Solicitor, Legal Services
Mandeep Marwaha	Committee Services

1 NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chair advised and the meeting noted that this meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's You Tube site (www.youtube.com/channel/UCT2kT7ZRPFCXq6_5dnVnYlw) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are 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.

The Chair welcomed Councillor Yvonne Mosquito, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources who was newly appointed Cabinet Member as well as to the Committee.

2 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVED:-

That the membership of the committee was noted.

Labour Group (2):-

Councillor Brigid Jones (Deputy Leader) (Chair) and Councillor Yvonne Mosquito (Cabinet Member)

Conservative Group (1):-

Councillor Gareth Moore

Liberal Democrat Group (1):-

Councillor Jon Hunt

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The following schedule was submitted:-

(See document No. 1)

3 **RESOLVED:-**

That the terms of reference for the Committee was noted.

APOLOGIES

- 4 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillor Gareth Moore and Ewan Mackey was the nominated Member.
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DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

- 5 The Chair declared she had been newly appointed to the Birmingham Airport Board in addition to her other responsibilities. The official declaration of interest register would not have been updated to date hence the reason for highlighting this.
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PUBLIC NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING – 17 MARCH 2022 (INFORMAL)

- 6 The public notes of the 17 March were noted at this meeting and there were no matters arising.
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COMPANY UPDATE

The following report of the Director Group & Capital Finance, Deputy s151 was submitted:-

(See document No. 2)

The Director Group & Capital Finance, gave an overview of the latest changes made across the Council's portfolio of companies since the last meeting. The private agenda contains the details of confidential updates.

It was noted there were six company changes listed under 3.2 of the report. A summary of these changes was provided.

A number of accounts had been submitted since the meeting in March however, no issues were identified on the audits.

The private appendix highlighted commercially confidential details associated with the companies. This gave a snapshot of the business position which is reported to each meeting of the Group Company Governance Committee on the private agenda.

Councillor Hunt highlighted Councillor Penny Wagg had been appointed to Stockfield related companies. The Director Group & Capital Finance noted this, and updates would be reflected once filtered through relevant channels.

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RESOLVED: -

The Committee noted the information provided within the report and at private appendix 1 which contains commercially confidential details concerning associated companies.

TRAINING UPDATE

A verbal update on training was provided by the Head of Law, Commercial, Procurement, Privacy & Information

Key points noted;

- Roles and Responsibilities Training - Since the last meeting a number of officers and members had received this training via small groups or 1:1's. This training covered the Directors Statutory roles, responsibilities, guidance around conflicts of interests etc.
- Post elections, new Directors will be receiving relevant training. This would be scheduled in September/ October 2022.
- Legal and Compliance Training – This session would be provided by the Civil Service Training.
- Board Effectiveness Training - Alongside this, the Board Effectiveness training would be delivered for Board Members to make Directors aware what an effective Board should look like.
- This session would take place at the same time as the roles and responsibilities training so that Directors only need to attend once.
- Any Directors who miss the training, would have the opportunity to join a mop up session either via 1:1's or small group sessions.
- The Board Effectiveness Training – A private sector Commercial Director had been identified to deliver this training. This would cover a number of

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different subject areas such as; Board performance and why this matters; helping Directors to identify when a Board is not acting as a Board – how this is measured; purpose of the Board; legal aspects to consider; psychology of Board; deal with conflicts of interests away from statutory responsibilities; highlighting features of performing Boards and how this can be improved; highlighting practical actions Directors can take for their personal performance and effectiveness of the Board as a whole.

- This training is essential for effective Boards to be in place. This would ensure Company Boards perform their duties well and were protected.
- Health & Safety Training, GDPR Training, Environmental Protection Training would be delivered throughout the year. This training would also be delivered via the Companies own Boards however, as part of Governance for the Council, this would be channeled via various routes.

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

- Many company Boards were providing their own training for their members rather than solely relying on the Council's training.
- It was noted, the larger companies provided good training for their members.
- The Council deliver the 'standard' training in order to ensure there is consistency across the board (minimum standard of training across the board).
- Specialist areas such as the Pension Trust – mandatory training would be delivered.
- An update will be provided at the next meeting as there will be new Councilors elected and appointed to the Boards.
- The trainings would be promoted through the political group offices.
- A comprehensive database of the Directors is maintained. The database also indicates who has received training and require refresher training.

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RESOLVED: -

The Committee noted the verbal update on training.

ANNUAL APPOINTMENT 2022-23

The following report of the Director Group & Capital Finance, Deputy s151 was submitted:-

(See document No. 3)

The Director Group & Capital Finance notified members a report was presented to Cabinet on 28 June 2022 for noting. The annual appointments process was an opportunity to review the nominations for shareholder directors across the council's group of companies. The report included organisational appointments that fall outside of the scope of the Cabinet Committee for Group Company Governance. The report provided a snapshot of appointments, acknowledging

that changes can occur throughout the financial year. Such changes would be reported to CC-GCG as they arise.

9 **RESOLVED: -**

That the Committee noted the report.

BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN'S TRUST CIC – PEN PORTAIT (PUBLIC)

The following report of the Corporate Director - Finance & Governance was submitted:-

(See document No. 4)

No comments were made by the Members.

10 **RESOLVED: -**

Members are recommended to note the information in this report and approved the Birmingham Children's Trust Business Plan 2018- 2023 – (2022/23 - Year 5 Update).

DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2022-2023

2022

Wednesday 6th July
Thursday 22 September
Thursday 17 November

2023

Thursday 26 January
Thursday 09 March

11 **RESOLVED: -**

Members approved the schedule of dates for the Committee for 2022/23.

12 **OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business to consider.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED:-

13 That, in view of the sensitive nature of the discussion due to take place relating to the Birmingham Children's Trust, the public be now excluded from the meeting.
