

# BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

## **CABINET COMMITTEE – GROUP COMPANY GOVERNANCE**

**Thursday 22 September 2022 at 1400  
hours Committee Room 6, Council  
House Extension, 6 Margaret Street  
Birmingham B3 3BG**

### **Attendance:**

Councillor Yvonne Mosquito - Chair  
Councillors Gareth Moore, Roger Harmer and Majid Mahmood

### **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
Alex Cerruti	Trainee Solicitor, Legal Services
Mandeep Marwaha	Committee Services

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### **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](https://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.**

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### **APOLOGIES**

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Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillor Brigid Jones and Councillor Yvonne Mosquito would be chairing the meeting in her absence.

Councillor Majid Mahmood (Cabinet Member) in attendance as an additional Cabinet Member as the quorum for a formal meeting is two Cabinet Members and one opposition member.

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillor Jon Hunt and Councillor Roger Harmer in attendance as his substitute.

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**DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

- 3 There were no declarations of interests made.
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**PUBLIC NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING – 06 JULY 2022**

- 4 The public notes of the 06 July 2022 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. 1)

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 five 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 July however, no issues were identified on the audits. If there were any concerns that impact the Council in revenue, then this would go through the Revenue Budget monitoring report through the appropriate channels. There was nothing of this nature to report at this meeting.

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 Majid Mahmood highlighted the Overview and Scrutiny Chair listed on the covering report was incorrect. The report should state Councillor Aikhlaq Ahmed as the relevant O&S Chair. Officers noted comments made and would apply this to future reports.

- 5 **RESOLVED: -**

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

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**TRAINING UPDATE**

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

Key points noted;

- The Committee were previously informed that extensive training and refresher training would be provided to new Directors following the appointments made after the elections. The legal team were compiling a list of the Directors that require training. The Training would consist of a single session based on Director's roles and responsibilities as well as Board Effectiveness training. There was a challenge of finding a suitable day for everyone to meet for 4-5 hours.
- Mop up sessions would take place on a 1:1 basis or in small groups.
- Charity, Trustee Directors training – This would be reviewed separately as the rules associated with this role were different to Company Board Directors.
- Roles and Responsibilities Training – This would be provided by the Civil Service.
- Board Effectiveness Training – This would be delivered by a private sector lecturer who lectures for British Venture Capital and Private Equity Association etc.
- Health and Safety, GDPR, Environmental Protection Training – This would be provided to Board Directors throughout the year

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

- Councillor Mosquito suggested officers should explore different ways of delivering parts of the training i.e. hybrid sessions; videos etc. Officers would explore the different options available.
- Councillor Moore raised concerns around the length of time allocated to the training sessions. It was felt 5 hours of training in one day was too long and officers to consider this whilst planning the sessions. Officers to explore splitting the training sessions into two sessions in order to maximise attendance. This was supported by Councillor Mahmood and for the sessions to be split into modules, split sessions of 2 – 2 ½ hours, possibly to hold some evening sessions for members who have daytime jobs.
- Dates would be circulated in advance of sessions to ensure there was good attendance.

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**RESOLVED: -**

The Committee noted the verbal update on training.

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**ACIVICO LIMITED - PEN PORTRAIT (PUBLIC)**

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

(See document No. 2)

Councillor Harmer queried how much work from Acivico Limited was undertaken for Birmingham City Council and how much work was for external consultancy. In response, it was noted that at present under the Teckal arrangements, 80% plus of the work was for Birmingham City Council. There were some opportunities arising in Worcestershire and Gloucestershire.

7 **RESOLVED: -**

Members noted the information contained within the Acivico Limited Pen Portrait report.

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**B:MUSIC - PEN PORTRAIT (PUBLIC)**

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

(See document No. 3)

No comments were made by Members of the Committee.

8 **RESOLVED: -**

- (i) Members noted the information contained within the B:Music Pen Portrait report.
  - (ii) Officers to explore Birmingham City Council Grant and service charges associated with B:Music.
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**DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

9 The next meeting is scheduled on Thursday 17 November 2022 at 1400 hours.

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10 **OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business to consider.

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**EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:-**

11 That, in view of the sensitive nature of the discussion due to take place relating to Acivico Limited and B: Music, the public be now excluded from the meeting.

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