

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

CABINET COMMITTEE – GROUP COMPANY GOVERNANCE

**Thursday 13 January 2022 at 1400
hours online at MS Teams**

Attendance:

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

Also, in Attendance:

Alison Jarrett	Assistant Director - Development and Commercial, Finance & Governance
Georgina Dean	Solicitor, Legal Services
Elaine Peach	Finance Manager
Connie Price	Head of Service
Sofia Mirza	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 None submitted

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

3 Councillor Chatfield expressed an interest in Item 6 – Birmingham Airport.

COMPANY UPDATE

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

(See document No.1)

The Assistant Director Commercial and Development presented the report to the members which provided an update on the changes that have been reported through companies' house or that the finance legal services have been made aware of.

The AD notified members that there was a private appendix which gives more detail on the companies and on areas that are of a confidential nature to company performance.

The AD stated that looking at company changes over the last two months there was just one through companies house on Arden Cross Limited that is relevant to the Council. There have been other changes however they do not impact us as a council.

The second update is to do with Prop Co Limited and Mendes. Prop Co has presented in a board meeting on 15th December at which Catherine James notified us of her resignation once the accounts were submitted on which the AD will be put onto as the company Director. Alison is due to take over. Catherine James as Assistant Director of Property is then able to act as the council and not have any conflict of interest by remaining on the board of Prop Co.

The annual accounts of a year-end of 31st March had a deadline of 31st December to submit their accounts. There are a number of accounts and after looking through all of the submissions made we have checked them for any notices of any public concern. Where applicable they have had clean audit reports. Where applicable they have had clean audit reports.

Whilst there is an appendix on the private agenda any issues will be reported on the normal report.

Members were asked to note the content of the report.

No further comments were made by the members.

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 this item was provided by the Head of Law.

Training plans are as previously reported and on course. Ad Hoc training is being provided as and when a new director is appointed. Plans for 3 groups of specific training in progress that will cover the Director's in the cultural sector – the arts, museums, galleries and performance building. Where there is often

conflicts of interest such as hospitality the usual director's duties and responsibilities training will apply but with a focus on areas of conflict.

Will also be grouping together finance officers that are serving as directors and providing them with training that takes into account the particular areas of potential conflict for them being council employees and serving as directors.

Board effectiveness training is being provided by an external commercial director from the finance sector; the trainer will be provided with non-sensitive background information so that training can be tailored to address particular issues that have a reason with one or two of our company boards.

Annual training will be provided post the main elections provided by the civil service.

The Chair asked members if there were any questions.

Councillor Chatfield asked if there would be any training on what contributions board members could make with regards to commercial operations and supporting the institution. The Head of Law responded and stated that for now when we train the positives are pointed out to that contribution before the training takes place. As a Director you are judged rather vigorously if you are an expert in an area, nevertheless we try to change this and show how the individual can impact the company and serve a wider role.

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RESOLVED: -

The Committee noted the verbal update on training.

BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT - PUBLIC

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

(See document No.1)

The Chair introduced the Finance Manager to the members.

The Finance Manager stated that the public report is as read and is for the private agenda.

Members were asked if they had any questions.

No further comments were made by members.

RESOLVED: -

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Members noted the information provided in the report.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 7 The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday 17th March 2022 at 1400 hours.
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OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

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

RESOLVED: -

- 9 That, in view of the sensitive nature of the discussion due to take place relating to Birmingham Airport, the public be now excluded from the meeting.
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