

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

CABINET COMMITTEE – GROUP COMPANY GOVERNANCE

Thursday 17 March 2022 at 1400 hours
Council House Extension, Committee
Room A, Margaret Street

(INFORMAL)

Attendance:

Councillor Tristan Chatfield (Chair)
Councillor Jon Hunt

Also, in Attendance:

Alison Jarrett	Assistant Director - Development and Commercial, Finance & Governance
Georgina Dean	Solicitor, Legal Services
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 Councillor Brigid Jones and Councillor Gareth Moore.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

3 None submitted

PUBLIC NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING – 13 JANUARY 2022

- 4 The public notes of the last meeting were agreed and there were no matters arising.

COMPANY UPDATE

- 5 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 three changes. On the Private agenda there is a report to do with risk issues which is a short report.

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.

Finance officers have received training on the companies they serve. Selected members who sit on arts and cultures companies have also received training.

Targeted training was done to highlight risks associated with that sector.

Further training will be provided as time goes on.

New and returning directors later in the year will receive training from the civil service training board.

Roles and responsibilities training will be undertaken by all directors. The training will look at where mistakes and errors can be made.

Councillor Chatfield asked about the timescales for the training, The Head of Law stated that we are in the process of creating questionnaires identifying what the director could bring to the role of the company. The companies may want something that the director can't provide. The questionnaires will tease out what the companies want and what the director can bring to the company.

- 6 **RESOLVED: -**

The Committee noted the verbal update on training.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The AD noted that this is an annual report and what the risk environment is, the counting policies and how the company is faring. The Risks are carried out twice in the year. The questionnaires are produced on the private agenda as they contain commercially sensitive data. The assessment of all the group companies are part of this report.

The AD asked members if there are any issues that if they could be brought into the next meeting.

RESOLVED: -

- 7 Members noted the information provided in the report.
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Unique venues Birmingham.

The AD went through the pen portrait. It is a subsidiary of the REP theatre. Work together under a collaboration agreement and share profits.

There are two directors appointed to the board, the agreement is due for renewal.

RESOLVED: -

- 8 Members noted the information provided in the report.
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PREPARATION FOR MAY ELECTIONS

Councillor Chatfield asked if managing expectations would be done and the Head of Law agreed that this would be looked at. It will be after the AGM and some companies will lose directors and new ones will come on board so it will take time.

Councillor Chatfield asked what the process is for directors who are resigning, the Head of Law stated that they would need to resign themselves.

Councillor Hunt asked if training could be provided on a voluntary basis if possible, as after the May election appointments are made as people are usually thinking about their role within the council. The Head of Law stated that there isn't a reason why we couldn't accommodate small groups and would help them to make an informed choice.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 7 The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday 9th June 2022 at 1400 hours.

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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