

Public Report

Birmingham City Council

Report to Cabinet Committee – Group Company Governance

14th January 2021



Subject: Birmingham Venture Capital Ltd - Company Pen Portrait
Report of: Alison Jarrett, AD Commercial and Development,
Finance & Governance
Relevant Cabinet Member: Councillor Brigid Jones
Relevant O &S Chair(s): Councillor Sir Albert Bore
Report author: Alison Jarrett

Are specific wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – All wards affected
If yes, name(s) of ward(s):		
Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, add Forward Plan Reference:		
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential :		

1 Executive Summary

Birmingham Venture Capital (BVC) Ltd is to present to Members on the private agenda. This report provides Members with a pen portrait of the company.

2 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to note the information provided

3 Background

3.1 BVC Ltd is wholly owned by the council, it was incorporated in 1986 as a delivery vehicle for venture capital business support and as part of a wider group. Part of that group remains, Creative Advantage West Midlands Ltd, but BVC held investment rather than traded. BVC was repurposed in 2014 to provide a corporate structure for private sector trading of the council's postal contract and the group of companies was simplified, de-coupling BVC Ltd.

3.2 The council's Digital Mail Centre services a number of other public sector bodies and local authorities, doing so as a department of the council. In order to be able to trade with the private sector however a corporate structure was required, it would compete in the market and be subject to Companies Act regulation including taxation etc.

3.3 The principal activities of the company are provided by the Corporate Digital Mail Centre which is a one stop shop for print and post services including:

- Inbound mail processing
- Digitisation of incoming mail
- Hybrid mail – Press to post
- Bulk printing services
- Courier services
- Access and time management services – Borer
- Bulk scanning of archived documents
- Outbound mail services

3.4 The company is run within the premises and using the team at the Digital Mail Centre, which is itself a service within the Digital and Customer Services directorate. Use of the premises, staff and resources by the company is paid for as a trading cost by the company.

3.5 Key personnel and board members within BVC are:

BCC Directors

- Karen Price – Director of BVC and Operations Manager, Corporate Digital Mail Centre - BCC
- Alison Jarrett – Director of BVC and Assistant Director Development and Commercial – BCC

Paid Service Director

- Karen Stokes – Director and Company Secretary

4 Options considered and Recommended Proposal

4.1 This report provides information to Members on Acivico Ltd and will assist in the exchanges and discussion on the presentation within the private agenda.

5 Consultation

5.1 The Chair of the Committee has been consulted on the attendance of Acivico Ltd.

6 Risk Management

6.1 This report provides an outline of the company and background for discussion of company performance with the company representatives.

7 Compliance Issues:

7.1 **How are the recommended decisions consistent with the City Council's priorities, plans and strategies?**

The recommended decision supports the Birmingham City Council Plan 2018-2022, contributing to the priority of Birmingham being an entrepreneurial city to learn, work and invest in.

7.2 Legal Implications

The Council's Section 151 Officer has a duty to ensure the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, requires the Council to have effective arrangements for the management of risk.

7.3 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications directly arising from this report but Members should consider any questions or considerations arising from this report for discussion during the private agenda.

7.4 Procurement Implications

There are no procurement implications directly arising from this report.

7.5 Human Resources Implications

There are no human resources implications directly arising from this report.

7.6 Public Sector Equality Duty

There are no equality duty or equality analysis issues relating to the proposals set out in this report.

8 Background Documents

None