

Agenda

www.oxford.gov.uk



Companies Scrutiny Panel

This meeting will be held on:

Date: **Monday 14 September 2020**

Time: **6.00 pm**

Place: **Zoom - Remote meeting**

For further information please contact:

Andrew Brown, Committee Services Officer

📞 01865 252230

✉️ abrown2@oxford.gov.uk

Members of the public can attend to observe this meeting and.

- may register in advance to speak to the committee in accordance with the [committee's rules](#)
- may record all or part of the meeting in accordance with the Council's [protocol](#)

Information about speaking and recording is set out in the agenda and on the [website](#)

Please contact the Committee Services Officer to register to speak; to discuss recording the meeting; or with any other queries.

*View or subscribe to updates for agendas, reports and minutes at
mycouncil.oxford.gov.uk.*

All public papers are available from the calendar link to this meeting once published

Committee Membership

Councillors: Membership 4: Quorum 2: substitutes are not permitted.

Councillor James Fry (Chair)

Councillor Tom Landell Mills

Councillor Chewe Munkonge

Councillor Craig Simmons

Apologies and notification of substitutes received before the publication are shown under *Apologies for absence* in the agenda. Those sent after publication will be reported at the meeting. Substitutes for the Chair and Vice-chair do not take on these roles.

Agenda

	Pages
1 Apologies	
2 Declarations of Interest	
3 Items to be considered in private	
Items to be considered in private - matters exempt from publication	
If the Panel wishes to exclude the press and the public from the meeting during consideration of any of the items on the exempt from publication part of the agenda or at any other point in the meeting, it will be necessary for the Panel to pass a resolution to that effect.	
The Panel may maintain the exemption if and so long as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	
4 Minutes of the previous meeting	7 - 16
Recommendation: That the open and confidential notes of the meeting held on 22 June 2020 be approved.	
5 Responses to previous recommendations	17 - 20
Report from the Scrutiny Officer on the Shareholder and Joint Venture Group's Covid-delayed response to recommendations from the Panel's meeting on 12 March, and the responses to recommendations from the Panel's meeting on 22 June 2020.	
6 Shareholder and Joint Venture Group reports	
To consider reports to the Shareholder and Joint Venture Group (reports open/exempt as shown on the agenda for that meeting: republished on 11 September as item from OCHL Board is withdrawn)	
7 Date of the Next Meeting	
The next scheduled meeting of the Companies Scrutiny Panel will be held on:	
- 14 December 2020	
If an additional meeting of the Shareholder and Joint Venture Group is agreed, an additional meeting of this Panel will also be arranged.	

Information for those attending

Recording and reporting on meetings held in public

Members of public and press can record, or report in other ways, the parts of the meeting open to the public. You are not required to indicate in advance but it helps if you notify the Committee Services Officer prior to the meeting so that they can inform the Chair and direct you to the best place to record.

The Council asks those recording the meeting:

- To follow the protocol which can be found on the Council's [website](#)
- Not to disturb or disrupt the meeting
- Not to edit the recording in a way that could lead to misinterpretation of the proceedings. This includes not editing an image or views expressed in a way that may ridicule or show a lack of respect towards those being recorded.
- To avoid recording members of the public present, even inadvertently, unless they are addressing the meeting.

Please be aware that you may be recorded during your speech and any follow-up. If you are attending please be aware that recording may take place and that you may be inadvertently included in these.

The Chair of the meeting has absolute discretion to suspend or terminate any activities that in his or her opinion are disruptive.

Councillors declaring interests

General duty

You must declare any disclosable pecuniary interests when the meeting reaches the item on the agenda headed "Declarations of Interest" or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.

What is a disclosable pecuniary interest?

Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to your* employment; sponsorship (ie payment for expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties as a councillor or towards your election expenses); contracts; land in the Council's area; licenses for land in the Council's area; corporate tenancies; and securities. These declarations must be recorded in each councillor's Register of Interests which is publicly available on the Council's website.

Declaring an interest

Where any matter disclosed in your Register of Interests is being considered at a meeting, you must declare that you have an interest. You should also disclose the nature as well as the existence of the interest. If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest, after having declared it at the meeting you must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Members' Code of Conduct and public perception

Even if you do not have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter, the Members' Code of Conduct says that a member "must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself" and that "you must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned". The matter of interests must be viewed within the context of the Code as a whole and regard should continue to be paid to the perception of the public.

*Disclosable pecuniary interests that must be declared are not only those of the member her or himself but also those member's spouse, civil partner or person they are living with as husband or wife or as if they were civil partners.

Minutes of a meeting of the Companies Scrutiny Panel on Monday 22 June 2020

www.oxford.gov.uk



Committee members present:

Councillor Fry (Chair)

Councillor Landell Mills

Councillor Munkonge

Councillor Simmons

Officers present for all or part of the meeting:

Nigel Kennedy, Head of Financial Services

Stephen Clarke, Head of Housing Services / Director Housing Companies, in role as Director, Housing Group and Barton Oxford LLP

Jane Winfield, Regeneration and Major Projects - Team Manager / Director Housing Companies, in role as Director, Housing Group and Barton Oxford LLP

Mike Day, Housing Company Managing Director

David Watt, Finance Business Partner, Housing Companies, Housing Group

Tim Sadler, Transition Director / Chairman Direct Services Companies, in role as Director of Oxford Direct Services

Simon Howick, Managing Director, Direct Services Companies, Director of Oxford Direct Services

Gregor Budde, ODS Interim FD

Tom Bridgman, Executive Director (Development), in role as Director of OXWED

Stephen Hing, OXWED Development Director, OXWED Development Director

Kevin Minns, OXWED Executive Director

Andrew Brown, Committee Services Manager

Tom Hudson, Scrutiny Officer

Also present

Councillor Nigel Chapman, Cabinet Member with responsibility for ODS

1. Apologies

None.

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Items to be considered in private

The Panel resolved to move into private session on the grounds that the presence of the public would likely involve the disclosure of exempt information in accordance with paragraph 3, Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

Subject to minor textual amendments it was **AGREED** that the record of the meeting of 12 March 2020 were an accurate record.

5. Responses to previous recommendations

The Panel was reminded that due to the cancellation of the Shareholder and Joint Venture Group meeting in March 2020, the reports made from the Panel's meeting in March 2020 had not been considered. This information was **NOTED**.

6. Shareholder and Joint Venture Group reports

Minutes of the consideration of the relevant Shareholder and Joint Venture Group reports are detailed below.

7. ODS Minutes

Simon Howick, ODS Managing Director and Tim Sadler, Chair of ODS presented the ODS end of year report to the Panel.

Progress had been made on both senior staffing fronts and wider governance. Gregor Budde, the new Finance Director, had been appointed, was introduced to the Panel and welcomed. The ODS Board had been holding multiple additional meetings with the non-executive directors to manage the disruption caused by Covid. Responding to Covid locally was an area where ODS had received excellent feedback from customers on their work, where they had played a key role in street cleansing and supporting the hubs. An audit committee had been established and had met.

The Panel also raised questions in relation to the ongoing impact of the Council's decision to pause certain capital projects. The Council as both shareholder and contractor, and ODS had worked together early on in deciding how to approach the situation.

Discussion was held by the Panel regarding the impact of shareholder spending through ODS, and the circular economy aspect of spending by the Council and the benefits of capital spending for residents. It was felt that these were valid considerations and should form part of the Council's decision-making as to when paused projects might be recommenced. Whilst it was recognised that the overwhelming majority of projects (specifically housing projects) from the Council to ODS were continuing, it was **AGREED** to make the following recommendation to the Shareholder and Joint Venture Group:

That the Council, when determining whether to recommence paused capital projects, gives weighting to the social value effects of capital projects as criteria. In particular, the impact of reflationary spending, the benefits to the community of the capital project, and the impact on returns to the Council.

The Panel also **THANKED** formally ODS for the work of their staff in the difficult circumstances faced by all.

Councillor Nigel Chapman, Simon Howick, Tim Sadler and Gregor Budde all left the meeting at this point.

8. OxWED Minutes

Tom Bridgman, Stephen Hing, Kevin Minns and Jane Winfield joined the meeting at the commencement of this item.

Tom Bridgman, OXWED Company Director, introduced the OXWED June 2020 update.

The Panel **NOTED** the report with support for the approach being taken.

Tom Bridgman, Stephen Hing and Kevin Minns left the meeting at this point.

9. Barton Minutes

Jane Winfield and Stephen Clarke, City Council representatives on the Barton LLP presented an update report on the progress at Barton Park.

The opening of the school at the site was confirmed for 3rd September. The bus link was running, though with Covid there was extremely little take-up of the service. A continuation by the County Council of the temporary arrangement was deemed likely, given the lack of capacity within the bus companies to develop business plans at present. The planned numberplate recognition cameras to prevent rat running had been put into place and a traffic audit was upcoming. The Pavillion had made progress, though significant numbers of snagging items remained to be completed.

The Panel **NOTED** the report.

10. Housing Company Minutes

Mike Day joined the meeting at this point. The Panel were introduced to him as the newly appointed Managing Director, and he was welcomed.

Stephen Clarke introduced a report detailing the end of year financial outturn and changes in budget spend in-year.

David Watt, Finance Business Partner joined the meeting at this point.

Councillors Craig Simmons and Tom Landell Mills left the meeting at this point.

The Panel requested that greater focus be given in future reports of wider value considerations of delivery of different housing sites, not simply focus on timescale-related KPIs. It also welcomed the news of reworking the business plan to get a more realistic assessment of timescales and the means by which OCHL could support the Council's MTFP.

The Panel **NOTED** the appointment of a new Managing Director for OCHL and expressed thanks to the outgoing Managing Director for offering to remain as a non-executive director and Chair of the Board to ensure continuity of handover.

11. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was **NOTED**.

The meeting started at Time Not Specified and ended at 8.10 pm

Chair
2020

Date: Monday 14 September

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

12 March 2020

ODS Q3 and Year to Date Report

6

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Agree?</i>	<i>Comment</i>
<p>1) That the Council tasks the City Centre Manager to reinvigorate and republicise its previous scheme for allowing members of the public to use shop toilets in the City Centre and the Shareholder and Joint Venture Group requires ODS to coordinate with these efforts and capitalise on any benefits accordingly.</p>	Yes	<p>Whilst the recommendation does make requirements of ODS it should be noted that this recommendation is primarily aimed at the Council as ODS client, not ODS itself. ODS is happy to work with the City Centre Manager on any reinvigorated scheme.</p> <p>It is also important to stress that the focus of ODS continues to be on improving user experience through providing more attendants to ensure cleaner toilets and reduced anti-social behaviour, and that any City Centre toilet scheme should be in addition to, rather than a substitute for, current facilities.</p>
<p>2) That the Shareholder and Joint Venture Group continues with its dashboard reporting, but with the following changes: i i) to report on the outcome of bids by value rather than number, ii) to disaggregate the figures by ODS service area, and iii) to add another metric to the dashboard reports by presenting the results when Council contracts are excluded.</p>	Yes	Happy to accept this recommendation
<p>3) That the Shareholder and Joint Venture Group seeks ODS to report each quarter on the value of work undertaken by the TECKAL company, and the Trading Company.</p>	Yes	This is a worthwhile suggestion and can be accommodated

Housing Company Update Report

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Agree?</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1) That the Shareholder and Joint Venture Group seeks the Housing Company to outline a model through which tenant spending on heating can instead be invested in energy-efficiency measures, and which balances the cost of delivering any such measures with the need to provide tangible reductions in heating bills to tenants.	Partially	We are actively looking at schemes to increase energy efficiency and it may be one such as that Nottingham City Homes may be able to contribute on its own or as part of a mix of measures, but it is not possible to make any such commitment at present.
2) That the Shareholder and Joint Venture Group considers a report, when suitable data is available, detailing the impacts of the Housing Company building to differing levels of energy-efficiency, particularly with reference to the potential impact on returns to the Council and the proportion of social housing delivered.	Yes	Work on this is ongoing, and it is hoped that the work being undertaken in the Blackbird Leys regeneration will move us forward in relation to understanding the financial viability of different models and standards of energy efficiency. With Covid, progress on this is likely to be delayed, however.

10

22 June 2020

ODS 2019/20 End of Year Report

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Agree?</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1) That the Council, when determining whether to recommence paused capital projects, gives weighting to the social value effects of capital projects as criteria. In particular, the impact of reflationary spending, the benefits to the community of the capital project, and the impact on returns to the Council.	Partially	The Council gives consideration to social values at two points in a capital scheme's process: in the initial decision of whether to proceed or not, and then through the social value elements embedded within its procurement processes. In balancing its decision whether to unpause capital projects, social value issues will again be

Shareholder and Joint Venture Group Responses to Companies Scrutiny Panel Recommendations

		<p>considered but within the round of which discretionary schemes best fulfil the Council's ambitions in its Corporate Plan rather than honing in on its own.</p> <p>Whilst an important consideration, the impact of a decisions on the returns to ODS are not determinative on their own. Also, the Council has not paused capital projects which are cash generative.</p>
--	--	--

This page is intentionally left blank