

Minutes of a meeting of the Companies Scrutiny Panel on Tuesday 20 July 2021

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Committee members present:

Councillor Fry

Councillor Landell Mills

Councillor Miles

Councillor Mundy

Councillor Pegg

Officers present for all or part of the meeting:

Tom Hudson, Scrutiny Officer

Nigel Kennedy, Head of Financial Services

Also present:

Councillor Alex Hollingsworth, Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Delivery

Gregor Budde, Finance Director, ODS

Lindsay Cane, Company Secretary for OxWED, ODS and the Housing Companies

Stephen Clarke, Director Housing Companies, in role as Director, Housing Group and Barton Oxford LLP

Jane Winfield, Head of Corporate Property, in role as Director, Housing Group and Barton Oxford LLP and OXWED

Michelle Thomas, Interim Managing Director, OCHL

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

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

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

Kerry Kyriacou, Chair, Housing Group, Non Executive Director, Housing Group

Helen Horne, Invited Guest

1. Appointment of Chair

In the absence of the Chair, the Panel **AGREED** that Councillor James Fry should assume the role of Chair for the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Councillor Nigel Chapman tendered his apologies.

3. Declarations of Interest

None

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

The record of the meeting of 15 March 2021 was **AGREED**.

5. Announcements and verbal updates from the Chair, the Scrutiny Officer, and/or the Monitoring Officer

None

6. Responses to previous recommendations

None

7. 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.

8. Shareholder and Joint Venture Group reports

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

a) ODS minutes

The Panel considered the confidential report in private session and **NOTED** the report.

Simon Howick, Managing Director, Gregor Budde, Finance Director, Lindsay Cane, Company Secretary were present at the meeting for the duration of this item to answer questions.

b) OCHL minutes

The Panel discussed the exempt report in private session and agreed to **NOTE** the report.

Michelle Thomas, Interim Housing Company Managing Director, Jane Winfield, Housing Company Director, Kerry Kiriadou, Housing Company Chair, and David Watt, Finance Analyst joined the meeting to present the report to the Panel. Helen Horne also attended as an invited guest.

c) Barton minutes

The Panel discussed the exempt appendix in private session and agreed to **NOTE** the report.

Jane Winfield and Stephen Clarke, City Council representatives on Barton Oxford LLP were present to introduce the report and to answer questions.

d) OxWED minutes

The Panel discussed the confidential report in private session and **NOTED** it.

Tom Bridgman, City Council representative on the OxWED board presented the report. Councillor Alex Hollingsworth, Cabinet member for Planning and Housing Delivery also provided responses to questions.

9. Date of the Next Meeting

Recent changes agreed by Cabinet, Scrutiny and Council concerning the governance of the Council's companies were reported to the Panel. Executive meetings, in the form of the Shareholder and Joint Venture Group, were moving to a four-monthly cycle, but with two meetings. Panel members were invited to attend these meetings and contribute in a non-voting capacity. The Companies Scrutiny Panel would continue without officers (except for the Scrutiny Officer) to discuss what would be brought up at Shareholder and Joint Venture Group meetings.

This information was **NOTED**.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 7.40 pm

Chair

Date: Monday 18 October 2021

When decisions take effect:

Cabinet: after the call-in and review period has expired

Planning Committees: after the call-in and review period has expired and the formal decision notice is issued

All other committees: immediately.

Details are in the Council's Constitution.