

To: Shareholder and Joint Venture Group
Date: 16 December 2020
Report of: Companies Scrutiny Panel
Title of Report: Scrutiny Response to agenda item 6 – OxWED Update Report December 2020

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To present Companies Scrutiny Panel recommendations concerning the OxWED Update Report December 2020
Recommendation: The Shareholder and Joint Venture Group is asked to	
1.	state whether it agrees or disagrees with the recommendation in the body of this report.

Appendices
None

Introduction and overview

1. At its meeting on 14 December 2020, the Companies Scrutiny Panel considered the OxWED Update Report December 2020.
2. The Panel would like to thank Jane Winfield, OCC Company Director for OxWED, Kevin Minns, OxWED Executive Officer, and Lindsay Cane, OxWED Company Secretary, for attending the meeting and answering questions. The Panel would also like to thank Nigel Kennedy, Head of Financial Services, and Anita Bradley, Head of Law and Governance for attending as advisors to the Shareholder and Joint Venture Group.

Summary and recommendation

3. The OxWED Executive Director, Kevin Minns, introduced the report. Due to the item having been held in confidential session the majority of the discussion is not recounted in this report but will be available in the minutes of the meeting.
4. Having heard the presentation of the report the Panel makes one recommendation in relation to ensuring transport, energy and environmental considerations are included sufficiently early as not to have the options for their delivery ‘designed out’ by previous decisions.

Transport, Energy and Environment

5. The Panel welcomed the reports of progress being made in appointing the project team for the development. In its discussion of this, the Panel explored a particular area of work to be done regarding transport. It was recognised by the Panel that the OxWED's location meant that the successful resolution of its transport challenges – access to the railway, overcoming the 'barrier' of Oxpens Road, and building the bridge were all critical to the success of the development. Concern was raised that unless these issues were addressed early on in the process, the number of options might be reduced by design decisions made earlier on in relation to other issues, a situation which would be deeply detrimental to the overall development. As such, the Panel encourages transport considerations, including staffing and external resource, to be included from as early a stage as possible.
6. In discussing the threat of narrowed options for transport, it was also noted that environmental and energy considerations could also face a similar challenge if not also included from the start. For example, the aspect of a building has significant implications on its ability to use sunlight as an emission-free energy source. Trying to retrofit similar issues into existing plans would be likely to be costly in both time and money. The Panel is therefore keen that energy and environmental input also be included in the earliest possible stage.

Recommendation 1: That the Shareholder ensures that transport, energy and environmental inputs are considered from the earliest opportunity within the development, including the appointment of suitable external professionals.

Further Consideration

7. The Companies Scrutiny Panel has updates from OxWED as a standing item on its agenda.

Report author	Tom Hudson
Job title	Scrutiny Officer
Service area or department	Law and Governance
Telephone	01865 252191
e-mail	thudson@oxford.gov.uk

Shareholder response to recommendations of the Companies Scrutiny Panel made on 14/12/2020 concerning the OxWED Update Report December 2020

A verbal response will be provided by Councillor Alex Hollingsworth, Shareholder and Joint Venture Group member with responsibility for the OxWED

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Agree?</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1) That the Shareholder ensures that transport, energy and environmental inputs are considered from the earliest opportunity within the development, including the appointment of suitable external professionals.		

This page is intentionally left blank