

**MINUTES OF THE SHAREHOLDER CABINET COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT 10:00PM ON
MONDAY 12 JUNE 2023
BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOM, TOWN HALL**

Members Present: Councillors Steve Allen (Chair), Councillor Jackie Allen, Councillor Cereste, Councillor Coles, Councillor Simons

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ayres. Councillor Jackie Allen was in attendance as substitute, in an advisory capacity.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

3. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 7 November 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2022 were noted as a true and accurate record.

4. Additional Equity Investment into Peterborough HE Property Company Ltd for Phase 3 of the University

The Shareholder Cabinet Committee received a report in relation to additional equity investment into Peterborough HE Property Company Ltd for phase 3 of the University.

The purpose of this report was to seek recommendation to Cabinet for an investment of an additional £1.3m equity into the Peterborough HE Property Company Ltd (known as PropCo1) to contribute towards additional construction costs on the University of Peterborough Phase 3 Living Lab project.

The Executive Director for Place and Economy introduced the report and provided an overview of the key points.

The Shareholder Cabinet Committee debated the report and in summary responses to questions raised included:

- In relation to risk management, it was advised that the 'red' risk indicated within the report was solely due to the financial aspect of the project. All other indicators were at a low or medium level. Officers were confident that the project continued to be very achievable.
- It was suggested that the additional equity figure may end up being around £1 million, though £1.3 million was being asked for to ensure that the process would not have to be repeated further down the line.
- It was noted that the reduction in development cost came mainly from materials, with the largest saving that of cladding. Members were assured that this cladding would aesthetically match the previous phases of development and, while it was a cheaper product, adhered to all the necessary safety standards.

- Comment was made that the long-time environmental impact of the building remained a key consideration and was fully considered by the board when reviewing cost-saving measures.

Shareholder Cabinet Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to recommend that Cabinet:

1. Approves an additional investment of 1,300,000 Ordinary Shares (to the value of £1 per share) into Peterborough HE Property Company Ltd, to enable phase 3 of the University development to proceed.
2. Provide delegated authority to the Executive Director for Place and Economy, in consultation with the Executive Director for Resources, to agree final versions of the subscription letter and the funding profile to be included in the shareholder's agreement with Peterborough HE Property Company Ltd.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The decision was designed to ensure Shareholder Cabinet Committee had sufficient information to enable it to make a recommendation to Cabinet.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

These were described in section 4 of the report.

5. Peterborough Investment Partnership 2022/2023

The Shareholder Cabinet Committee received a report in relation to the Peterborough Investment Partnership (PIP) for 2022/2023.

The purpose of this report was to provide a brief annual review of the activities of the Peterborough Investment Partnership up to and including the period 2022/2023.

The Executive Director for Place and Economy introduced the report and provided an overview of the key points. The Head of Economic Growth and Development was also in attendance to respond to any questions.

The Shareholder Cabinet Committee debated the report and in summary responses to questions raised included:

- Concern was raised over the implications for the future of Pleasure Fair Meadows Car Park should the PIP be dissolved. Members were advised that the site had been sold to Medesham Homes and a range of options were still being considered for the location.
- Members highlighted the possibility of the site being used for house, leisure facilities and student accommodation, as well as continued car parking.
- It was advised that the equity held by the PIP was mostly in cash, with a small value held in land.
- Comment was made that Pleasure Fair Meadows had previously experienced issues with anti-social behaviour and car cruising, and so any future plans should take this into account and form part of preventative measures.
- Members were informed that work was soon to begin on the development of a city centre transport vision, which would protect adequate car parking for the city.

- It was considered that future special purpose vehicles (SPVs) were unlikely with the PIP, but not impossible. SPVs with other developers would be an option for future projects. It was noted that the Council now had a fit-for-purpose growth and regeneration function and so it's need for SPVs had shifted.
- Comment was made in relation to the protentional for working with PIP following its work with Cambridgeshire University around social care and sustainable farming, which were being watched with interest.

Shareholder Cabinet Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to:

1. Note the contents of the report for 2022/2023.
2. Note the company activity for 2022/2023.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The decision was designed to allow the Shareholder Cabinet Committee to review the status and activities of PIP LLP and assure itself that the Council was fulfilling its role in the company appropriately.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not applicable, as this report was for information only.

6. Assurance of PCC Companies

The Shareholder Cabinet Committee received a report in relation to the assurance of Peterborough City Council companies.

The purpose of this report was to review the remit and powers of the Committee, set out arrangements for oversight of Council companies, and endorse training proposals for Members and officers.

The Director of Law and Governance introduced the report and provided an overview of the key points. The Service Director for Corporate Finance was also in attendance to respond to any questions.

The Shareholder Cabinet Committee debated the report and in summary responses to questions raised included:

- Members questioned whether the committee members should be briefed prior to the officer Companies Unit. It was indicated that this was not the proposed process, as the unit would feed into the committee, however, committee members could be briefed beforehand if they wished.
- In relation to the Member training for those with directorship positions on Council companies, it was advised that further detail would be forthcoming.
- External training would be provided by a local authority law firm who specialised in the running of local authority companies.
- It was noted that lead officers were to be appointed for each company, who has experience, to be a direct point of contact and to take on the role of company secretary.
- It was further considered that training needed to cover the role of Members to think strategically about the future of their company and to understand how companies were run.

Shareholder Cabinet Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to:

1. Note the revised Terms of Reference for the Shareholder Cabinet Committee
2. Note the Companies Unit and its Terms of Reference
3. Note the lead officer role and role description
4. Agrees training programme, for members and officers involved in council companies and partnerships, to be organised by the Monitoring Officer

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To outline arrangements for the Shareholder Cabinet Committee and central oversight of all Council companies.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

7. Shareholder Cabinet Committee Work Programme

The Shareholder Cabinet Committee received the Shareholder Cabinet Committee work programme for the 2023/2024 municipal year.

Members were advised that the previously mentioned 'Guidance for Members and Officers who Service on Outside Bodies' document, programmed to be discussed at this meeting, would instead be addressed via a training programme.

The Shareholder Cabinet Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to note the latest version of the work programme.

Chairman
10:00am – 10:47am
12 June 2023