

North Yorkshire County Council

Shareholder Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2019 commencing at 1pm, at County Hall, Northallerton.

Present:-

Members:-

County Councillors Carl Les (Chairman), Gareth Dadd and Don Mackenzie

Officers:-

Michael Leah (Assistant Director, Strategic Resources), Barry Khan (Assistant Chief Executive Legal & Democratic Services), Gary Fielding (Corporate Director Strategic Resources) and Melanie Carr (Principal Democratic Services Officer)

Also In attendance: County Councillor Derek Bastiman

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

29. Minutes

Resolved -

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 May 2019, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

30. Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared at the meeting:

31. Exclusion of the Public and Press

Resolved -

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the appendix to Agenda item 6 -, on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Variation Order 2006.

32. Public Questions or Statements

There were no questions or statements from the public.

33. Brierley Group Annual Report 2018/19

Considered –

The report of the Director of Strategic Resources, providing an annual performance update on the work of the Brierley Group.

Michael Leah presented the report detailing the mixed performance of the Brierley Group through the financial year 2018/19. Members noted the shortfall in net PBIT and the main factors for that. In particular it was noted that whilst Yorwaste had struggled to compete, the other companies had all experienced some measure of success. In the case of Brierley Homes the financial loss as a result of running costs was accepted ahead of the sale of homes built at Thorpe Willoughby.

County Councillor Derek Bastiman expressed the view that the County council needed a more entrepreneurial vision and to identify more suitable properties to buy and more potential long lease tenants. Members agreed with his stance noted that a commercial mind set was a plus regardless of the environment each company found themselves in. Michael Leah confirmed all company leads were being challenged to reach both their financial and operational targets set, through the advocacy of an enterprising spirit.

In regards to a recent Notice of Motion at full Council, suggesting the use of Brierley Homes profit to provide additional social housing, members noted the decision of the Corporate & Partnerships Overview & Scrutiny Committee to reject the proposal. It was confirmed that County Councillor Derek Bastiman would formally report that decision to the Executive in October 2019.

Resolved –

That the Committee noted the annual update for 2018/19.

The Appendix in respect of the following item was considered in private and the public have no right of access. Minute No. 34 provides details of the public aspect of the reports and a public summary of the business conducted in private.

34. Brierley Group Quarter 1 Performance Report 2019/20

Considered -

The report of the Director of Strategic Resources providing a first quarter financial and performance update for 2019/20, for the companies that make up the Brierley Group.

Michael Leah, Assistant Director Strategic Resources introduced the report detailing the performance of the Brierley Group through the first quarter of the 2019/20 financial year.

The confidential Appendix to the report detailed the first quarter achievements and challenges, together with an overview of future areas of development, and as Members had a number of comments and questions relating to the information, they agreed to move into private session.

Resolved -

That the Committee accepted the first quarter update for 2019/20.

35. Work Programme

Members considered the Work Programme for the Committee for 2018/19 and agreed to receive the Brierley Group Q2 2019/20 Performance Report at the next meeting on 21 January 2020.

The meeting concluded at 1.30 pm

MLC

