

MINUTES OF SHAREHOLDER COMMITTEE MEETING - THURSDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2023

Present:

Councillor Taylor (in the Chair)

Councillors

Mrs Scott (Co-opted Member) Williams

In Attendance:

Alan Cavill, Director of Communications and Regeneration

Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager

Nick Gerrard, Growth and Prosperity Programme Director (Item 7 only)

Steve Thompson, Director of Resources

Kirsten Whyatt, Finance Manager - Subsidiary and Partnership Finance

Tim Cornford, Head of Asset Management, Ellandi (Item 7 only)

Robin Didier, Asset Manager, Ellandi (Item 7 only)

Jane Cole, Managing Director, Blackpool Transport Services Limited (BTS) (Item 8 only)

James Clough, Commercial and Finance Director, BTS (Item 8 only)

Councillor John Boughton, Chair, BTS Board (Item 8 only)

Steve Peters, Managing Director, Blackpool Airport Operations Limited (BAOL) (Item 9 only)

Councillor Gillian Campbell, Chair, BAOL Board (Item 9 only)

Matt Williams, Chair, Audit Committee, BAOL (Item 9 only)

Lorraine Hurst, Company Secretary

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

2 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Shareholder Committee agreed that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Item 3 'Minutes of the last meeting held on 12 October 2023' (restricted minutes only) and Item 4 'Shareholder Update', Item 5 'Wholly-Owned Company Financial Performance as at Month 6 2023/24', Item 6 'Wholly-Owned Company Tender for Statutory Financial Audit Services Including Production of Full Statutory Accounts and Filing with Companies House', Item 7 'Houndshill Shopping Centre', Item 8 'Blackpool Transport Services ZEBRA and Depot Update' and Item 9 'Blackpool Airport Operations Limited Annual Report and Audit Report' on the grounds that they would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

MINUTES OF SHAREHOLDER COMMITTEE MEETING - THURSDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2023

3 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 12 OCTOBER 2023

(The press and public were excluded from the consideration of the restricted minute part of this item as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972).

The Committee considered the minutes of the last meeting held on 12 October 2023, noting that there was a public and restricted version.

The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting as a true and correct record.

4 SHAREHOLDER UPDATE

(The press and public were excluded from the consideration of this item as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972).

Mr Alan Cavill, Director of Communications and Regeneration provided an update on the Council's Wholly-Owned Companies on behalf of the Shareholder.

The Committee noted the update provided.

5 WHOLLY-OWNED COMPANY FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AS AT MONTH 6 2023/2024

(The press and public were excluded from the consideration of this item as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972).

Mr Steve Thompson, Director of Resources provided an update on the financial performance of the Wholly-Owned Companies as at Month 6.

The Committee noted the update provided.

6 WHOLLY-OWNED COMPANY TENDER FOR STATUTORY FINANCIAL AUDIT SERVICES INCLUDING PRODUCTION OF FULL STATUTORY ACCOUNTS AND FILING WITH COMPANIES HOUSE

(The press and public were excluded from the consideration of this item as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972).

Mr Steve Thompson, Director of Resources updated the Shareholder Committee on the recent tender exercise to appoint a provider to deliver Statutory Financial Audit Services including the Production of Full Statutory Accounts and Filing with Companies House to the Council's wholly-owned companies.

The Committee noted the update provided.

7 HOUNDSHILL SHOPPING CENTRE

(The press and public were excluded from the consideration of this item as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972).

MINUTES OF SHAREHOLDER COMMITTEE MEETING - THURSDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2023

(Mr Nick Gerrard, Growth and Prosperity Programme Director, Mr Tim Cornford, Head of Asset Management, Ellandi and Mr Robin Didier, Asset Manager, Ellandi joined the meeting from this item.)

Mr Nick Gerrard, Growth and Prosperity Programme Director introduced the report to the Committee. Mr Tim Cornford, Head of Asset Management and Mr Robin Didier, Asset Manager, both Ellandi, gave a comprehensive presentation on the Houndshill Shopping Centre, current performance and future aspirations.

The Committee noted the presentation.

(Mr Nick Gerrard, Growth and Prosperity Programme Director, Mr Tim Cornford, Head of Asset Management, Ellandi and Mr Robin Didier, Asset Manager, Ellandi left the meeting following conclusion of this item).

8 # BLACKPOOL TRANSPORT SERVICES ZEBRA AND DEPOT UPDATE

(The press and public were excluded from the consideration of this item as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972).

(Mrs Jane Cole, Managing Director, Blackpool Transport Services, Mr James Clough, Commercial and Finance Director, Blackpool Transport Services Limited and Councillor John Boughton, Chair, Blackpool Transport Services Limited Board joined meeting from this item).

Mrs Jane Cole, Managing Director, Blackpool Transport Services Limited (BTS) provided an update to the Committee on the ZEBRA project and proposed depot development and repair.

Shareholder Committee decision:

To endorse retaining the Fitting Shop and Paint Shop, the retention of South Garage and not to repair the Tramshed roof at this time. To also remove the prescriptiveness of reducing to 42 chargers and instead explore feasible options to move all charging externally. To consider the results from the bus and infrastructure tender in due course with a definitive cost of the project alongside how that impacts the financial health of the Company, expected to be late January 2024.

Reason for decision:

The changes to infrastructure and building demolition / renovation reduces the capital requirements of the project which improves the profitability of the ZEBRA project. The aim was to ensure that BTS was in a better financial position than retaining diesel vehicles.

Various options are being explored with industry leaders and suppliers to work out the best value for money in terms of operational cost and business continuity.

Other options considered:

MINUTES OF SHAREHOLDER COMMITTEE MEETING - THURSDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2023

The alternative was to not continue with the electric vehicles as the project was at a stage in which it could be terminated without incurring significant abandonment costs. The Shareholder would have another opportunity to review the electric bus project before abandonment was unfeasible financially.

Date of decision:

9 November 2023.

(Mrs Jane Cole, Managing Director, Blackpool Transport Services, Mr James Clough, Commercial and Finance Director, Blackpool Transport Services Limited and Councillor John Boughton, Chair, Blackpool Transport Services Limited Board left the meeting following conclusion of this item).

9 BLACKPOOL AIRPORT OPERATIONS LIMITED ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDIT REPORT

(The press and public were excluded from the consideration of this item as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972).

(Mr Steve Peters, Managing Director, Blackpool Airport Operations Limited (BAOL), Councillor Gillian Campbell, Chair, BAOL and Mr Matt Williams, Chair, BAOL Audit Committee joined the meeting from this item).

Mr Steve Peters, Managing Director, Blackpool Airport Operations Limited (BAOL), Mr Matt Williams, Chair, BAOL Audit Committee and Councillor Gillian Campbell, Chair, BAOL Board presented the Annual Report and Audit Report to the Committee.

The Committee agreed to note the annual report and audit report.

(Mr Steve Peters, Managing Director, Blackpool Airport Operations Limited (BAOL), Councillor Gillian Campbell, Chair, BAOL and Mr Matt Williams, Chair, BAOL Audit Committee left the meeting following conclusion of this item).

10 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

The Committee noted the date and time of the next meeting as Thursday 14 December 2023, commencing at 3.30pm.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 3.52 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:

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Items marked with a # are subject to call in as per Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.