

MINUTES OF SHAREHOLDER COMMITTEE MEETING - FRIDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2022

Present:

Councillor Taylor (in the Chair)

Councillors

Clapham (Co-optee) L Williams

In Attendance:

Mr Steve Thompson, Director of Resources

Mr Alan Cavill, Director of Communication and Regeneration

Mr Mark Towers, Group Company Secretary

Ms Kirsten Whyatt, Finance Manager

Ms Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager

Mr Peter Evans, Deputy Managing Director, Blackpool Entertainment Company Limited (BECL) (Items 7 – 13 only)

Mr Andy Morgan, Finance Manager, BECL (Items 7 – 13 only)

Councillor Amy Cross, Chair, BECL Board (Items 7 – 13 only)

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 23 September 2022' (restricted minutes only), Item 4 'Shareholder Committee Action Tracker', Item 5 'Shareholder Committee Update', Item 6 'Wholly-Owned Council Performance as at Month 5 2022/23', Item 7 'Blackpool Entertainment Company Limited Managing Director's Report', Item 8 'Blackpool Entertainment Company Limited: Financial Report and Key Performance Indicators', Item 9 'Blackpool Entertainment Company Limited: Financial Forecast Report', Item 10 'Blackpool Entertainment Company Limited Commercial Director', Item 11 'Winter Gardens Daily Opening Schedule' and Item 12 'Event Management Agreement 2023/24 between BECL and the Council' 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.

3 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 23 SEPTEMBER 2022

The Committee considered the minutes of the last meeting held on 23 September 2022, noting that there was a public and restricted version.

The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting as a true and correct record subject to an amendment in Minute 5 'Shareholder Committee' in the restricted set of minutes.

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4 SHAREHOLDER COMMITTEE ACTION TRACKER

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

The Committee considered its action tracker and agreed to note the updates, consolidating actions where appropriate.

5 SHAREHOLDER UPDATE

(The press and public were excluded prior to 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 and Mr Steve Thompson, Director of Resources were invited to provide an update on the Council Wholly-Owned Companies on behalf of the Shareholder.

The Committee noted the update.

6 WHOLLY-OWNED COMPANY FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AS AT MONTH 5 2022/23

(The press and public were excluded prior to 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 overview of the financial performance of the Council's Wholly-Owned Companies as at Month 5 2022/2023.

The Committee noted the update provided.

7 BLACKPOOL ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY LIMITED MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

Mr Peter Evans, Deputy Managing Director, Blackpool Entertainment Company Limited (BECL), Mr Andy Morgan, Finance Director, BECL and Councillor Amy Cross, Chair, BECL Board joined the meeting from this item.

Mr Peter Evans, Deputy Managing Director, Blackpool Entertainment Company Limited (BECL) presented the Managing Director's Report.

The Committee noted the update.

8 BLACKPOOL ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY LIMITED: FINANCIAL REPORT AND KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

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

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Mr Andy Morgan, Finance Director, Blackpool Entertainment Company Limited (BECL) presented the Financial Report and Key Performance Indicators.

The Committee noted the update.

9 BLACKPOOL ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY LIMITED: FINANCIAL FORECAST REPORT

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

Mr Andy Morgan, Finance Director, Blackpool Entertainment Company Limited (BECL) presented the Financial Forecast Report.

The Committee noted the update.

10 BLACKPOOL ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY LIMITED COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR

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

Mr Peter Evans, Deputy Managing Director, Blackpool Entertainment Company Limited (BECL) presented the report to allow the Committee to consider the request from the BECL Board for the shareholder's view regarding terminating the recruitment process for a Commercial Director and to instead focus recruitment on a Head of Conference Sales.

The Committee agreed with the decision of the Company to terminate the search for a Commercial Director and to instead recruit a Head of Conference Sales to focus on generating new opportunities and specifically Conferences and Exhibitions for the new Centre.

11 WINTER GARDENS DAILY OPENING SCHEDULE

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

Mr Peter Evans, Deputy Managing Director, Blackpool Entertainment Company Limited (BECL) presented the report to allow the Committee to consider the proposal that the Winter Gardens be closed on certain days over the winter period based on the calendar and schedule of events.

The Committee explored the proposal in detail querying how the closure days would be identified, the total cost savings on offer from closing and when it was currently closed. Following consideration of the details, Members were strongly of the opinion that the Winter Gardens should remain open every day for members of the public unless an event did not allow it to be so. A number of reasons for this were highlighted including ensuring people knew when to expect the building would be open rather than having ad hoc closures, ensuring it was maintained as a community asset for those that wanted or needed to use its facilities and overall that being closed sent the wrong message that Blackpool was closed.

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The Committee did therefore not support the BECL proposal to close the Winter Gardens on days when the venue did not have any bookings over the winter period and instead requested that the Company keep the building open.

12 EVENT MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT 2023-24 BETWEEN BECL AND THE COUNCIL

(The press and public were excluded prior to 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 presented the report to enable the Committee to consider whether the Council should enter into a one year agreement with Blackpool Entertainment Company Limited to manage the dance festivals promoted by the Council from the 1 April 2023. He noted that the current three year agreement was coming to a close and that should the extension be agreed a full review to enter into a more long term agreement would be undertaken next year.

Shareholder Committee decision:

To approve that a one year Event Management Agreement be drawn up between BECL and the Council for the dance festivals from 1 April 2023 on the same terms and conditions as the current agreement.

Reason for the decision:

To enable the Council and BECL to agree a new agreement for signature before the 31 March 2023.

There were no plans to offer any new cultural events in 2023/24, other than the already established dance festivals. A one year agreement would allow the Council and BECL time to consider new events from 1 April 2024 which might be within scope of the cultural exemption and could be included in a future agreement.

Other options considered:

The Council could pursue an agreement with other parties to manage the Cultural events on our behalf. However BECL as site operator was uniquely placed to provide this service to the Council given its expertise in delivering these events over many years.

Date of decision:

14 October 2022.

13 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee noted the date and time of the next meeting as Friday 25 November 2022, commencing at 10am.

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Chairman

(The meeting ended at 12.39 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:

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