

SOLIHULL COMMUNITY HOUSING BOARD MEETING – 25 November 2019

MINUTES

Present: Richard Hyde (Chair), Katy Blunt, Ben Burton, Jenny Fletcher, Diane Howell, Nigel Page, Patricia Smith (Vice Chair), Louise Tubbs and Chris Williams

Officers: Fiona Hughes, Samantha Gilbert, Surjit Balu, Kevin Bennett, Mark Pinnell, Mary Moroney and Carole Evans (minutes).

Apologies: David Bell

1. CHAIR'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed members to the first Board meeting of a new decade. Richard then spoke about the sad news of the sudden death of Ashley Lane (former Chair of the Board). Everyone stood for a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies from David Bell.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Jenny declared that a question in Item 10 relates to one of her tenants.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

DECISION THE BOARD

(i) **APPROVED** the minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2019.

5. ACTION LOG

0918-1 – Due to the distance to travel to Yarlinton, Fiona asked for suggestions of other high performing organisations that are closer.

1119-1 – to be followed up outside of the meeting.

DECISION

(i) **NOTED** the action log.

6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S UPDATE

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Strategic Vision and Delivery Plan - these have been a major focus of work. They are Items 7 and 8 on the agenda.

Service Improvement Board – there are five key programmes which will be cross-cutting across teams. The first meeting is taking place on Friday.

IT – there will be a report at the next Board meeting in March. Paul Langham will be attending the meeting.

Staff Engagement – there has been a lot of progress. Members of staff have come forward and have welcomed the opportunity to be involved. Jenny asked if there is numerical evidence/metrics. Fiona confirmed that Kevin will report to HR&R Committee and we will be doing polls to test. We are also looking at doing an annual survey.

Customer Satisfaction and Engagement – a lot of work has been done. The Framework will be presented at Housing Operations Committee on 10 February. Patricia said she is pleased to see this. Chris felt it was helpful that the Framework is being presented as an A3 document.

Strategic Housing Framework – brings together housing at strategic level. Fiona pleased. We have received Cabinet Member approval for Lakeside (supported housing for young people). There are currently five properties occupied at Lakeside. SCH is being given the opportunity to play a greater role in the development of Kingshurst. Details to follow.

Fire Safety (CONFIDENTIAL) – See separate confidential extract of minutes

DECISION

(i) NOTED the content of the report.

7. SCH STRATEGIC VISION

The text version of the Strategic Vision is included within the pack of papers. A mock-up was circulated at the meeting. Board felt that reducing the number of complaints was not as important as learning from them and delivering better services as a result. The final draft Strategic Vision will be reported to the Economic Development and Managed Growth Scrutiny Board on 9 March, then the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health for approval on 31 March.

DECISION

(i) APPROVED the draft Strategic Vision

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Post meeting note; the Chair and CEO agreed that the amended version of the Strategic Vision would be circulated to the Board prior to being circulated to the SMBC Scrutiny Board.

8. DRAFT DELIVERY PLAN FOR 2020/21

Fiona confirmed an amendment that Sam Gilbert will be included on the structure chart along with a photograph.

A mock-up was circulated at the meeting. Board asked that the colours chosen for the final version enable people to be able to read the text.

Fiona explained that the responsibilities of the three Executive Directors have been included separately for milestones and KPI's.

Board asked about the SAP rating where the information is missing in the Delivery Plan. Board Members felt that at the Council Scrutiny Board there will be a focus on climate change. Fiona said it is difficult to give commitment without sufficient funding, and there needs to be ongoing work to develop this area with SMBC.

Board members felt that the EPC rating is important and we need to keep them updated. Mark responded that we are updating them and most properties are above an 'E' rating.

Board felt the document lacks detail around climate change / energy efficiency. Fiona explained that there will be a separate report about environmental sustainability to come to Board. With regard to the data not in the draft version of the document this will be filled in prior to Scrutiny Board reviewing and Board members will be kept informed (see post meeting note).

DECISION

(i) APPROVED the contents of the report.

Post meeting note; the Chair and CEO agreed that the amended version of the Delivery Plan would be circulated to the Board prior to being circulated to SMBC Scrutiny Board.

9. CHAIR'S REPORT FROM AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE 2 DECEMBER 2019

This item is confidential.

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10. WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

This item is confidential.

11. FORWARD PLAN

Board agreed to receive a report on Environmental Sustainability later in the year and the date to be agreed between the Chair and Chief Executive.

DECISION

(i) NOTED the Forward Plan.

12. Any Other Business

None

13. Review of the Meeting

Board noted that there had been a good level of discussion.

The meeting ended at 7:20 pm

Signed by chair:

Date:.....