

POLICY REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL REPORT

REPORT TO:	Corporate Performance Panel		
DATE:	24 March 2023		
TITLE:	Councillor request on Council Wholly Owned Companies		
MEETING DATE:	5 April 2023		
REPORT AUTHOR:	Monitoring Officer		
OPEN/EXEMPT		WILL BE SUBJECT TO A FUTURE CABINET REPORT:	Yes/No

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY OF COUNCIL OWNED PROPERTY COMPANIES

SUMMARY:

A Councillor request for an agenda item was made and accepted from Cllr Morley and Cllr Ryves to: *provide a summary of the issue the performance of the council owned businesses, West Norfolk property, West Norfolk housing and Alive Leisure, and any other 100% owned or partially owned business which operate independently of the Council.*

The request was further clarified as follows, to apply in respect of West Norfolk Housing Company Ltd and West Norfolk Property Limited only:

- *The decision tree and ownership of these decisions (why, what and when) governing the transfer of properties to each company.*
- *The process for tracking these properties to ensure they deliver against the decisions made.*
- *The governance process for reporting (a) to the Board, (b) to the Shareholder Committee and (c) the Parent.*
- *The finance reporting process and explanation of finance reporting within the decision tree and Council's Statement of Accounts. (Including the discount arrangements against market price and how this is reported and the initial capital "loss" posted).*
- *The Parent guarantees to cover any losses incurred by its subsidiaries, in such a situation what data will be provided to the Parent Council body to explain the situation.*
- *How will the profit from these companies be brought to account for the benefit of taxpayers.*
- *details of the content of the Statement from the Shareholder Committee as to company performance for publication to the real shareholders, the taxpayers. This may have to rest on internal audit for a draft release as we can't wait years for EY or their successors to get up to speed.*
- *as regards the Shareholder Committee we need an explanation of their part in the Governance process for wider distribution and visibility.*

A Briefing Note has been attached as Appendix 1 in response to this Councillor request.

KEY ISSUES:

Members are referred to the attached Briefing Note.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

Members are referred to CPP's own terms of reference for the remit of any recommendations they wish to take following the consideration of the Briefing Note at CPP.

Members are reminded that the remit of a number of these areas going forwards will rest with the recently convened Shareholder Committee, the forward decision list for which will be provided to CPP for consideration of items to be heard at CPP.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Briefing Note is considered and that CPP refers to its own terms of reference for the remit of any recommendations they wish to propose.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

To fulfil the Panel's remit.

REPORT DETAIL

1. Introduction

A Briefing Note has been attached as Appendix 1 in response to this Councillor request.

2. Issues for the Panel to Consider

Members are referred to CPP's own terms of reference for the remit of any recommendations they wish to take following the consideration of the Briefing Note at CPP.

Members are reminded that the remit of a number of these areas going forwards will rest with the recently convened Shareholder Committee, the forward decision list for which will be provided to CPP for consideration of items to be heard at CPP.

3. Financial Implications

Not applicable as this is an information paper.

4. Any other Implications/Risks

Not applicable as this is an information paper.

5. Equal Opportunity Considerations

Not applicable as this is an information paper.

6. Environmental Considerations

Not applicable as this is an information paper.

7. Consultation

Not applicable as this is an information paper.

8. Conclusion

A Councillor request for an information paper around the performance of the Council's two property companies was made and Members are invited to consider CPP's terms of

reference for any onward recommendations they may wish to make after consideration of the Briefing Note at Appendix 1 which addresses the Councillor request.

9. Background Papers

None