

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet Shareholder Group

3 December 2024

Subject: **The wider responsibilities of the Shareholder Group**

Cabinet Member: **Cllr Phil Alford**
Cabinet Member for Housing

Key Decision: Non key

Executive Summary

This report sets out a review of other commercial activity by the Council before regular reporting is brought to the Shareholder Group

Proposals

Shareholder Group is asked to

- 1) Approve the completion of the officer review of other companies wholly or partly owned by the Council which will be reported to a future meeting

Reason for Proposals

To give full effect to the Terms of Reference of the Shareholder Group and identify any risks and opportunities for reporting regularly and appropriate oversight

Lead Corporate Director Name
Lizzie Watkin (Interim Corporate Director Resources)

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet Shareholder Group

3 December 2024

Subject: Scrutiny Task Group recommendation actions

Cabinet Member: Cllr Phil Alford
Cabinet Member for Housing

Key Decision: Non key

Purpose of Report

1. The terms of reference of the Cabinet Shareholder Group include oversight of other companies where the Council has corporate responsibility as well as the Stone Circle companies. Examples would include the South West Audit Partnership (SWAP) and Adoption West. This report sets out that a review will take place of these organisations and others with a view to these being reported to Cabinet Shareholder Group on a regular basis.
2. The recent litigation started by Thurrock Council against an unincorporated organisation (APSE) reminds us of the need to ensure good governance of all council activity and that includes responsibility for other companies where the Council has some interest.

Relevance to the Council's Business Plan

3. This proposed review is linked to the Business Plan objective that "We take an evidence based approach to decision making."

Background

4. The Terms of Reference for the Cabinet Shareholder Group includes:

"Overview

The Shareholder Group will exercise the Council's role as shareholder in any company, limited by shares wholly or partly owned by the Council for the purposes of service provision and/or trading activities including any joint venture. The Shareholder Group acts with the delegated authority of Cabinet to ensure the performance of any such company is satisfactory."

So far, the focus of the Shareholder Group has been the performance of the Stone Circle Companies. Officers intend to review the activity of the Council to establish which other companies should also be reported to the Shareholder Group such as Adoption West and the South West Audit Partnership (SWAP).

Main Considerations for the Council

5. Commercial activity brings with it risk and opportunity and it is right that the Shareholder Group on behalf of the Cabinet has oversight and are able to influence that activity.

Safeguarding Implications

6. None identified

Public Health Implications

7. None identified

Procurement Implications

8. None identified

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

9. None identified

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

10. None identified

Workforce Implications

11. None identified

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken

12. None identified

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks

13. None identified

Financial Implications

14. None identified

Legal Implications

15. None identified

Overview and Scrutiny Engagement

16. Once the review that is proposed is complete there will be relevant consultation with the Scrutiny team.

Options Considered

17. The option to do nothing was discounted.

Conclusions

18. A review of other commercial activity by the Council is proposed before regular reporting is brought to the Shareholder Group in addition to that about the Stone Circle companies.

Perry Holmes, Director Legal & Governance

Report Author: Perry Holmes perry.holmes@wiltshire.gov.uk

Appendices

None

Background Papers

None