

SCHEDULE OF ITEMS RECOMMENDED FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEMBER BODIES

Committee: Council

Date: 17 October 2019

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[U90]

Member Body	Report No.
<p>1. FINANCE AND ASSETS COMMITTEE – 26 SEPTEMBER 2019</p> <p>(i) <u>Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy</u></p> <p>The Finance Manager presented a report which advised Members of the need to review and update the section of the Council’s Constitution relating to the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy.</p> <p>It was noted that the current Strategy was approved by Full Council in May 2016. The revised document had not changed significantly but references had been changed in various places and more detail provided where necessary.</p> <p>An anti-money laundering policy statement had previously been approved by Council in 2012 as a stand-alone document, but it did not form part of the Constitution and had not been updated since that time. The new Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy now incorporated a revised money laundering policy statement, thereby ensuring that the policy gained a greater prominence as part of the Constitution.</p> <p>Councillor Cane noted that no reference was made to a Register of Gifts & Hospitality and the Director Commercial assured her that such a register was kept. Councillor Cane duly proposed that the Register should come to Committee on an annual basis and the motion having been seconded by Councillor Bovingdon, was declared carried.</p> <p>Councillor Harries said that having looked through the details of the Strategy, he was against the kind of assertions being made in relation to the culture of the Council, because local authorities had always received public complaints regarding corruption. He felt it would be interesting to review the whole area of openness and make</p>	<p>U64 attached as Appendix A</p>

sure that the Council was living up to it. Communications were also a concern and should be systematically looked at in order to improve them.

Councillor Trapp raised the issue of whistleblowing and was advised that the Legal Services Manager was looking at refreshing the current policy; it would come to this Committee with a recommendation of adoption by Full Council.

It was resolved to RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL:

That the updated Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy, as attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be adopted.

(ii) ECTC BUSINESS PLAN 2019/20

The Committee considered a report that detailed the ECTC Business Plan for 2019/20.

The Director Commercial advised Members that the Finance Manager, ECDC, would take over as Lead Officer for the Committee during consideration of this item, and she would speak in her capacity as a director of the Trading Company. For the benefit of the new Members of the Committee, she introduced Phil Rose, Head of Development, Palace Green Homes and Nigel Ankers, Finance Manager, ECTC.

The annual Business Plan was produced and considered by the then Shareholder Committee on 11th February 2019. The Committee requested further specific financial information to be included in the Plan and this was appended as an exempt appendix.

The Business Plan set out the two key business areas, the first being Commercial Services which currently delivered Ely Markets and Grounds Maintenance, and the second being Property & Community Housing. It was noted that both areas carried out business on behalf of ECDC as well as other customers.

The document also contained details relating to Service Level Agreements, the Board of Directors, Managing Director and Company Secretary and the Company's structural relationship with East Cambridgeshire District Council.

U77 attached as Appendix B

The Director Commercial said that an individual Risk Management Plan would be drawn up for Property & Community Housing.

Members were advised that with regard to the table of current CLT projects in East Cambridgeshire, the Stretham & Wilburton CLT might change as it went through the planning process, but they did not want to be prescriptive. In connection with this, Councillor Hunt asked whether the CLT homes were to be built at Camps Field or Hinton Way. The Director Commercial replied that she was unable to answer this today as the officer dealing with it was on leave, but she would provide Members with a written response early next week.

Councillor Cane said she could not support the Business Plan for a number of reasons. Given the current climate and housing emergency, there was nothing in the Plan about sustainable, secure housing. She believed the Company Directors were displaying a cavalier attitude towards the Finance & Assets Committee as the Trading Company's quorum required the presence of one elected Member and one should be present today. The Committee had received some of the papers late and the accounts were not presented; officers were aware of the deadlines and should have provided everything in good time.

Councillor Harries believed that Kennett should be shown as a risk to the Company rather than an asset. The structure of the Board caused him considerable concern in that the Chairman was not named and he saw the Chief Executive as being a major risk due to a conflict of interests. He continued, saying that the Trading Company could cause major harm to the Council and its executives were showing contempt by not being present today to be held to account. In view of this, he felt that the Business Plan could not be approved.

In the absence of further comments, it was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Councillor Hunt that Full Council be recommended to approve the Business Plan. When put to the vote, the motion was declared carried by majority and,

It was resolved to RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL:

That the ECTC Business Plan 2019/20 be approved.