

BOLSOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL DRAGONFLY SHAREHOLDER BOARD

Minutes of a BDC Dragonfly Shareholder Board Meeting held on Tuesday 11th February 2025 in Committee Room 1, The Arc, Clowne at 1100 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillors Tom Kirkham, John Ritchie and Phil Smith.

Officers:- Karen Hanson (KH) (Chief Executive, BDC), Steve Brunt (SBr) (Strategic Director of Services), Jim Fieldsend (JF) (Monitoring Officer), Theresa Fletcher (TF) (Section 151 Officer), Jessica Clayton (JC) (Client Programme Manager) and Alison Bluff (Governance).

SHBD43-24/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

SHBD44-24/25 ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR MEETING

Moved by Councillor Tom Kirkham and seconded by Councillor Phil Smith
AGREED that Councillor John Ritchie be elected as Chair for the meeting.

SHBD45-24/25 MINUTES – 21ST JANUARY 2025 AND MATTERS ARISING

It was noted that Councillor Smith had been omitted from those present at the meeting and that Councillor McGregor had not been present at the meeting.

With regard to Minute No. SHBD37-24/25 in relation to Dragonfly's Business Plan, KH noted she would inform Dragonfly's Chief Executive of the Board's intention to share Dragonfly's Business Plan with the independent review and request feedback.

In response to a query from Councillor Smith regarding the target of 200 homes to be delivered by Dragonfly by 2028, JF noted that this was the Council's target and not Dragonfly's. Any review of this target would fall to the Council.

With regard to Minute No SHBD41-24/25 in relation to the £15m Regeneration Fund Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), KH advised that Natalie Fleet MP had sent a letter of support to MHCLG and deadlines were being extended so the MoU should be received very soon.

With regard to Minute No SHBD43-24/25, KH noted that this should read;

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It was noted that some ~~recent~~ staff uplifts and new posts had not been submitted to the Employment and Personnel Committee or Council to approve.

AGREED that 1) subject to amendments i) and ii) as set out below, the Minutes of a BDC Dragonfly Shareholder Board meeting held on 21st January 2025 be approved as a correct record;

- i) the inclusion of Councillor Phil Smith being present at the meeting and Councillor Duncan McGregor being removed from those present,
- ii) Minute No SHBD43-24/25 to read '*it was noted that some ~~recent~~ staff uplifts and new posts had not been submitted to the Employment and Personnel Committee or Council to approve.*'

2) the Chief Executive BDC to inform the Chief Executive Dragonfly Management of the Board's intention to share Dragonfly's Business Plan with the Independent Review and request feedback.

SHBD46-24/25

VERBAL UPDATE ON THE NEW SHAREHOLDER BOARD MEMBERS FOLLOWING RECENT LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Councillor Ritchie referred to an email he had received which commented on the reasons for the resignations of Councillors McGregor and Peake from the Shareholder Board. As the comments were incorrect, the Board agreed that a response be sent advising them of this.

The new Shareholder Board Members were confirmed as being Councillors Tom Kirkham and Duncan Haywood.

It was agreed that an independent person on the Board would be considered when the outcome of the independent review was known.

AGREED that 1) a response be sent advising that the comments in the email, as discussed above, were incorrect,

2) consideration of an independent person on the Board be given when the outcome of the independent review was known.

SHBD47-24/25

TO CONSIDER RESPONSES TO EMAILS RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLORS WATSON AND WOOD

The Board considered the content of emails which KH had received from Councillors Deborah Watson and Carol Wood.

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KH noted that she had replied with some information which Councillors Watson and Wood had requested but had advised them both that the Board would respond formally to other requests they had made after this meeting had taken place.

Following on from this, KH had received a further email from Councillor Watson, which the Board considered at length.

It was clarified that as a 'working group', all officers on this Board were able to take part in relation to recommendations it made to Executive and/or Council and delegated decisions to the Chief Executive BDC. It was also clarified that the independent review would look at the whole of the governance arrangements for the wholly owned companies including this Board.

The Board considered a further email which KH had received from Councillor Wood and a lengthy discussion took place. The Board recommended that a clear response be sent to Councillor Wood which laid out the facts regarding her comments in the email.

KH noted that she was still awaiting feedback from Dragonfly on the scope of the independent review.

AGREED that 1) a clear response be sent to Councillor Wood which laid out the facts in relation to her comments in the email,

2) KH to remind Dragonfly to provide feedback on the scope of the independent review.

SHBD48-24/25

VERBAL UPDATE ON THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW WITH DRAFT TIME FRAME

JF advised that he had spoken to David Crowe at Local Partnerships who had explained how the independent review would be carried out.

The main body of the review would start in April where all documents of the wholly owned companies would be looked at. A meeting would then be held for all stakeholders including local residents who wished to ask questions about Dragonfly. KH noted that an inception meeting with Local Partnerships would take place prior to the review work starting.

SHBD49-24/25

VERBAL UPDATE ON THE POSITION OF THE COUNCIL'S STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

TF advised that she had been working continuously with Dragonfly's auditors and Dragonfly's statement of accounts had now been received. This meant that TF could now update the group accounts part of the Council's accounts, and TF had been working with the Council's external auditors, Forvis Mazars, who would be attending a

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special Audit Committee on 20th February. TF noted that Forvis Mazars would give a disclaimed audit opinion on the Council's accounts due to insufficient time to work on the group accounts. Further to this, TF noted that the Annual Governance Statement would need updating for 2023/24, and published on the Council's website.

It was noted that Dragonfly had appointed new auditors; Hewittcard Ltd.

SHBD50-24/25

**MINUTES OF THE DRAGONFLY BOARD – 19TH
NOVEMBER 2024**

The Board considered the Minutes of the Dragonfly Board meetings held on 19th November and 10th December 2024.

The Board considered the agenda and report of the Dragonfly Board meeting due to take place at 1pm today.

AGREED that 1) the Minutes of the Dragonfly Board meetings held on 19th November and 10th December 2024, be noted,

2) the agenda and report of the Dragonfly Board meeting to be held at 1pm today, be noted.

SHBD51-24/25

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

As there was no further business to consider, the meeting concluded at 12:50 hours.