

Minutes of the meeting of Shareholder Committee held at Herefordshire Council Offices, Plough Lane, Hereford, HR4 0LE on Monday 17 June 2024 at 2.00 pm

Shareholder members Physically Present and voting: Chair: Councillor Jonathan Lester
Councillors Graham Biggs, Carole Gandy, Jonathan Lester and Pete Stoddart

Shareholder Committee members in remote attendance: None

Shareholder Committee members attending the meeting remotely e.g. through video conferencing facilities, may note vote on any decisions taken.

Group leaders / representatives in attendance Councillors Terry James (Group Leader – Liberal Democrats) – attending remotely

Other Councillors in attendance Councillor David Hitchiner (Independents for Herefordshire)

Officers in attendance Andrew Lovegrove (Director of Assurance and Resources), Sean O'Connor (Head of Legal Services), Audrey Clements (Chief Executive, Hoople), John Coleman (Democratic Services Manager (Clerk))

1. ELECTION OF A CHAIRPERSON

Cllr Lester was proposed by Cllr Gandy and seconded by Cllr Graham Biggs. The vote was carried and Cllr Lester was elected as Chairperson of the Shareholder committee.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Tracey Sampson (Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development) and Rachael Hart (Head of strategic Finance).

Apologies were also received from non-committee members Cllr Liz Harvey (Group Leader for the Independents for Herefordshire) and Cllr Bob Matthews (Group Leader of the True Independents).

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4. GUIDANCE ON PERFORMANCE & DECISION MAKING FOR CYBER QUARTER LTD AND HOOPLE LTD

The Chair introduced this report noting that this item is seeking to adopt the guidance document as being the detailed framework that business planning and financial and performance information is reported by the companies to the Shareholder Committee.

Cllr Stoddart noted that the report sets out the best practice guidelines that should be adopted by both organisations. The committee are asked to agree the three recommendations as set out in the report.

The chair proposed that the recommendations be agreed.

It was unanimously resolved that:

- a) **The Council's requirements for annual business planning for the companies shall follow the detailed Guidance;**
- b) **Financial and performance information shall be reported to this Committee as set out in the guidance document; and**
- c) **Notes the guidance in respect to decision making for and within the companies.**

5. HOOPLE LTD UPDATE

For the Hoople Ltd update and Cyber Quarter Limited update items on the agenda, the Chair proposed a vote that the meeting now move into private session. This being due to the reports containing information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

It was unanimously resolved that:

- a) **under section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12(A) of the Act, and it is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.**

6. CYBER QUARTER LIMITED UPDATE

It was unanimously resolved that:

- a) **under section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12(A) of the Act, and it is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.**

Before closing the public meeting, the Chair noted that the next scheduled Shareholder Committee meeting will be on 14 October 2024 at 10am

The public meeting ended at 14:15

Chairperson