

REPORT OF THE SHAREHOLDER LIASON SERVICE

Executive Summary

This is the Part 1 report of the Shareholder Liaison Service (SLS) to the Shareholder Executive Committee (SEC). The SLS comprises officers for Commercial, Financial and Governance. The team reports into the Strategic Director, Corporate Resources.

The function of the Committee is to: -

Hold the companies to account for delivery of the Business Plan and, in particular, the company's performance:

- in financial matters
- against the social goals of the company as set out in the company's Objects, Business Case or Business Plan; and
- against the values of the Council.

Evaluate and monitor:

- the financial and social returns on investment (be that shareholding, loans, or direct investment); and
- risks and opportunities including those arising from joint ventures or new opportunities.

The Committee is also reminded of the Council's responsibilities under the Exceptional Financial Support arrangement (EFS). These responsibilities are reflected in this report in the context of company plans to improve financial oversight and the ThamesWey Limited business plan. The responsibilities arising from the EFS arrangements can be summarised as follows:

EFS requirement	Reflected in the report and wider activity
<p>a) <i>a robust asset disposal plan to the satisfaction of Commissioners and Government. This must be underpinned by a detailed assessment of options considering the associated risks and benefits, and a review of the Council's companies' financial positions including detailed cashflows, within three months unless otherwise agreed by Commissioners</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reporting requirements of the Companies' Governance Framework - Interpath advisory and assurance work - Business plan requirements - Lender Board
<p>a) <i>A strict debt reduction plan to the satisfaction of Commissioners and Government, linked to the options appraisal and agreed asset disposal plan;</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lender board - Interpath work

Report of the Shareholder Liaison Service

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Asset disposal options and business cases required as part of the companies' business plans
b) <i>Robust commercial governance and assurance frameworks to the satisfaction of Commissioners and Government to ensure effective decision-making and risk mitigation, and to facilitate an orderly and timely exit from the Council's commercial arrangements with its companies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Implementation of the Companies' Governance Framework- Operation of the Commercial Governance Board- Appointment of new company chairs and NEDs- Amendment of Part 6 of the constitution- Creation and operation of the SEC

The reports brought by the companies to the September committee are: -

- ThamesWey Limited monthly update and finance update for July 2024
- Victoria Square monthly update

The monthly information is summarised and reviewed in a part II report to the committee.

Recommendations

The Committee is requested to:

RESOLVE That

- (i) the report be received.

Reasons for Decision

Reason: To adhere to the reporting requirements as set out in the Companies Governance Framework.

The Committee has the authority to determine the recommendation(s) set out above.

Background Papers:	None
Reporting Person:	Shareholder Liaison Service Kevin Foster, Strategic Director – Corporate Resources Email: kevin.foster@woking.gov.uk, Extn: 3198
Contact Person:	Kevin Foster, Strategic Director – Corporate Resources Email: kevin.foster@woking.gov.uk, Extn: 3198
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Ann-Marie Barker Email: cllrann-marie.barker@woking.gov.uk
Date Published:	16 September 2024

REPORT ENDS