



The Gateshead Housing Company

Working with Gateshead Council

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

14 July 2014

PRESENT:

Directors

Barbara Dennis (Chair)
Sheila Boutieh
Robert Buckley
Joanne Carr
George Clark
Michael Davison
Michael Davison
Pauline Dillon
Kathryn Ferdinand
Paul Foy
Helen Hall
John Hamilton
Peter Mole
Joachim Moussounda Mouanda
Gordon Spring

Advisers

Jon Mallen-Beadle	Managing Director
Neil Bouch	Director of Customers and Communities
Natalie Hewitt	Head of Corporate Services
Phil Gallagher	Head of Investment and Development
Julie McCartney	Head of Neighbourhood Services
Kevin Johnson	Head of Customer Services
Stuart Gibson	Governance and Risk Officer

Apologies

Eileen Gill

25 MINUTES

The minutes of the Board Meeting held on 15 May 2014 were approved as a correct record.

26 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUSINESS PLAN 2013-2043

The Managing Director gave a presentation on the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2013-2043.

In particular, the major challenges facing the social housing sector, basic facts and figures, tenant priorities, capital investment, the HRA balance and the key financial, welfare reform, investment and other risks and challenges were highlighted.

- RESOLVED – (i) That the information be noted.
- (ii) That concerns regarding the debt cap be fed into the Northern Housing Consortium in order to start a dialogue with local MPs and other key stakeholders.

27 REPORT ON THE STATEMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL – 2013/14

It is a requirement under the UK Corporate Governance Code that companies undertake, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of their systems of internal control. A company's board should undertake this review for the purposes of making its public Statement of Internal Control, which is published as part of the financial statements.

The statement of internal control for the year ended 31 March 2014 was considered by Audit Committee on 30 June 2014 and it recommended approval to the Board.

- RESOLVED – That the Statement of Internal Control contained with the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014 be approved.

28 DIRECTORS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – 2013/14

The Audit Committee, at its meeting held on 30 June 2014, scrutinised the report and statements and recommended that they be approved by the Board.

The report and financial statements for 2013/14 will be presented to the company's Annual General Meeting, which will be held after the meeting of the Board on 18 September 2014.

- RESOLVED – That the Directors' Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014 be approved.

29 KPMG REPRESENTATION LETTER –YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014

The Company's external auditors KPMG carried out an audit of the report and financial statements for 2013/14 during May 2014. A report presenting their findings was approved by Audit Committee at its meeting on 30 June 2014.

As part of the audit, KPMG require the management representation letter to be signed by the Chair and the Company Secretary on behalf of the Board. Audit Committee, at its meeting on 30 June 2014, recommended that the Board authorise the Chair and Company Secretary to sign the letter on its behalf.

- RESOLVED – That the Chair and Company Secretary be authorised to sign the management representation letter on behalf of the Board.

30 MINUTES OF ASSETS, DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 19 JUNE 2014

The minutes of the meeting of Assets, Development and Investment Committee held on 19 June 2014 were submitted.

RESOLVED – That the minutes be noted.

31 MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD ON 30 JUNE 2014

The minutes of the meeting of Audit Committee held on 30 June 2014 were submitted.

RESOLVED – That the minutes be noted.

32 ITEM FOR INFORMATION

The following item for information has been posted on the Company's website: -

- Forward Plan

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

33 FEEDBACK FROM OUTSIDE BODIES AND EVENTS

The following feedback from outside bodies and events was reported: -

- Paul Foy gave feedback from the CIH Conference on 24-26 June 2014. In particular, he highlighted that the private sector now has the same market share of housing as the social housing sector. Reference was made to a presentation by the Shadow Minister for Housing who stated its intention to build 200,000 new homes per year and to tackle the unsustainable private rented section if Labour gets back into power. Another key theme to come out of the conference was around housing and social health and wellbeing.
- The Board was informed that the Company had won the 2014 LABC Building Excellence Award for Best Social or Affordable New Housing Development for the Kibblesworth development. The Company will now go into the National Final as the regional winners.

RESOLVED – That the feedback from outside bodies and events be noted.

34 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, 18 September 2014 at 10am in the Blaydon Room at Gateshead Civic Centre.

35 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED – That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the remaining business in accordance with the indicated categories of the Company's Access to Information Rules.