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SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL

Meeting of The Shareholder Board

Date: Monday, 21st March, 2022

Place: MS Teams

Present: Councillor I Gilbert (Chair)
Councillors K Buck, T Cox, M Davidson, M Dent, C Mulroney and D Nelson

In Attendance: J Chesterton, A Richards, E Cooney, G Webb, A Grant, N Hoskins, R Harris
G Kauders and J Vickers (SWAN Housing Association)

Start/End Time: 4.00 pm - 4.47 pm

1 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence at this meeting.

2 Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were made:

(a) A Richards – Agenda Item 3 (LLP Budget/Reserved Matters Application Extension Request and LLP Financial Statements Year End March 2021) – Non-pecuniary interest: Council representative on Porters Place Southend-on-Sea LLP;

(b) J Vickers – Agenda Item 3 (LLP Budget/Reserved Matters Application Extension Request and LLP Financial Statements Year End March 2021) – Non-pecuniary interest: Swan Housing Association representative on Porters Place Southend-on-Sea LLP;

3 LLP Budget/Reserved Matters Application Extension Request and LLP Financial Statements Year End March 2021

The Board received a report of the Director of Regeneration and Growth which:

(i) sought approval to a time extension to the current Porters Place Southend-on-Sea, which was previously extended following a report to the Shareholder Board on 6th December 2021;

(ii) sought approval of a request from the Porters Place LLP to continue with the Reserved Matters Application Phase 1a (RMA) beyond 31st March 2022 to keep the project on target;

(iii) sought approval of the Porters Place LLP Annual Report and Financial Statements 2020/21, In order that they can be filed by the LLP at Companies House by 31st March 2022, subject to no material adjustments at the final audit sign-off. The revised and updated Annual Report and Financial Accounts were presented at the meeting.

(iv) sought approval to the signing of the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) back-to-back agreement, between the Council and the LLP to enable funds to be drawn down from this funding stream.

(v) Provided an update on progress of the Better Queensway project including assurances relating to recent announcements by the Council's partner, Swan Housing Association.

The Board also received the latest Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2021, which reflected only a small change of interest rate which had no material bearing compared to the draft accounts presented in Appendix 1 of the report

The Board asked a number of questions which were responded to by members of Swan, the Porters Place LLP and officers.

On consideration of the report two additional recommendations were proposed and seconded which were carried, as set out at Recommendations 6 and 7 below.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet be recommended to approve the extension for Porters Place Southend-on-Sea LLP budget period until the revised Business Plan, budget and viability assessment is approved, or 31st December 2022, whichever is the earlier.

2. That Cabinet be recommended to give approval to the LLP to continue working with the Local Planning Authority on the Reserved Matters Application Phase 1a, until determination and thereafter until the revised Business Plan and updated viability assessment is approved on or before 31st December 2022, whichever is the earlier.

3. That Cabinet be recommended to note the Annual Report and Financial Statements and auditors report for the LLP, year ending 31st March 2021 and agreed they be submitted to Companies House, subject to no material changes being raised at the final audit sign-off.

4. That Cabinet be recommended to authorise the Executive Director (Finance and Resources) to complete the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) back-to-back agreement with the LLP and authorise funds to be drawn from that grant to fund works in line with the current Business Plan.

5. That the progress of the Better Queensway project, including assurances relating to recent announcements by the Council's partner, Swan Housing Association, be noted.

6. That Cabinet be recommended that no other on-site work is done other than the removal of the pedestrian bridge until there has been a full and independent audit of Swan Housing Association Limited and Orbit Group Limited.

7. That Cabinet be recommended that agreement is sought to keep the underpass open.

Chair: _____