

TRADING BOARD

2 August 2017

Present: - Councillor Rosalind Scott (Chair)
Councillors Lewis Barber, Kevin Bentley, Robert Davidson, Chris Pearson and Lesley Scott-Boutell

Substitute Members:- None

Also in attendance:- Councillor Smith

166. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2017 be confirmed as a correct record.

The Board resolved under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting for part of the following item as it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

167. Revised Terms of Reference and Nomination of Directors

The Board considered a report from the Monitoring Officer inviting the Board to consider revised terms of reference for the Trading Board and the nomination of Councillor Directors to the board of Colchester Commercial (Holdings) Ltd. The Board also had before it a supplementary document giving details of a further nomination for a Councillor Director from the Labour Group.

Terms of Reference

Adrian Pritchard presented the report to the Board and explained that a meeting of the Chair and Group Spokespersons had been convened to discuss the terms of reference as requested by the Board at its meeting on 21 June 2017. Revised terms of reference arising from that meeting were included in the Monitoring Officer's report. These clarified the role of the Trading Board in challenging the work of Colchester Commercial.

The Board explored the different roles on the Board and the Governance and Audit Committee and Scrutiny Panel in monitoring and auditing the work of Colchester Commercial and its subsidiaries. It was confirmed that Colchester Commercial would have its own audit processes and appoint its own auditors. It would also be subject to audit and scrutiny as any other Council budget. One of the Board's roles would be to provide more regular monitoring than could be provided through these periodic processes.

The Board indicated that it supported the revised terms of reference, subject to an amendment to paragraph k. It was suggested that paragraph k should be amended to remove the words "where relevant", which seemed to unduly limit the Board, and to clarify the Board's role in the appointment of the Councillor Directors.

In response to queries from the Board, it was confirmed that once the terms of reference were agreed, a draft work programme could be drawn up for the Trading Board. This would also need to reflect Colchester Commercial's work programme. The Board requested that the Chair be involved in discussion on the drafting of the Board's work programme.

Nomination of Councillor Directors

Adrian explained that the Board was invited to consider nominations for Councillor Directors for Colchester Commercial (Holdings) Ltd from the three main political groups. The Group Leaders had been asked to nominate a member of their Group as a potential candidate. Some of the Groups had put forward more than one candidate for the Board to consider. The skills and attributes that the Board may wish to consider when assessing the nominations were:-

- Financial acumen;
- Business acumen;
- Major project management experience;
- Housing/commercial development experience;
- Human Resources experience;
- Marketing/sales/customer service experience.

Some members of the Board were of the view that there would be some merit in requiring more than one candidate from each group when considering future appointments to ensure that candidates with a broad range of skills were put forward. However, it was important to consider the nominations submitted and not to delay appointments further.

Following careful consideration of the nominations, the Board considered that the following Councillors should be recommended to Cabinet for appointment as Councillor Directors of Colchester Commercial (Holdings) Ltd:

- Councillor Beverly Davies
- Councillor Adam Fox
- Councillor Martin Goss

RECOMMENDED to CABINET that:-

(a) The revised Terms of Reference for the Trading Board be approved, subject to the amendment of paragraph k to read:

Recommend the constitution and appointment of the Councillor Directors of Colchester Commercial (Holdings) Limited.

(b) The following Councillors be appointed as Councillor Directors of Colchester Commercial (Holdings) Ltd

- Councillor Beverly Davies
- Councillor Adam Fox
- Councillor Martin Goss

The Board resolved under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting for the following item as it involved the likely

disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

168. Minutes – Not for Publication Extract

RESOLVED that the not for publication extract of the minutes of the meeting on 21 June 2017 be confirmed as a correct record.

The Board resolved under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting for the following item as it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

169. Commercial Business Development – Operational Businesses/Performance and Income report

This minute is not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)).