

Minutes of the Trust's Board Meeting held on 15th May 2018, 6.00pm at Ropewalks, Macclesfield

1.	Chief Executive will ta suit everyone.	ke forward g was great to brings them	generative sessions idea and will get back with a date to o see the values incorporated into the Board reports, a to life.		
1.	Chief Executive will ta suit everyone. JH commented that it useful addition which	ke forward g was great to brings them	generative sessions idea and will get back with a date to o see the values incorporated into the Board reports, a to life.		
	Chief Executive will ta suit everyone. JH commented that it	ke forward g was great to	generative sessions idea and will get back with a date to o see the values incorporated into the Board reports, a		
	Chief Executive will ta suit everyone. JH commented that it	ke forward g was great to	generative sessions idea and will get back with a date to o see the values incorporated into the Board reports, a		
	Chief Executive will ta suit everyone.	ke forward g	generative sessions idea and will get back with a date to		
	Chief Executive will ta				
	Chief Executive will ta				
	JH thanked Board members for taking part in the 1-2-1's and confirmed that he and the				
	There were no declara	ations of inte	erest		
	Declarations Of Intere				
	Alison Light, Board Me				
	Apologies for Absence	<u> </u>			
	Pauline Gosling	PG	Minute Taker		
	Nikki Pearson	NP	Governance Officer		
	Vic Bradford	VB	Link Asset Services		
	Liz Holmes	LH	Assistant Director Finance		
	Tim Pinder Greg van Enk-Bones	TP GvEB	Chief Executive Director of Resources		
	Jamie Hutchinson	JaH	Director of Customers		
	Tom Agar	TA	Board Member		
	Gordon Richardson	GR	Board Member		
	Simon Leighton	SL	Board Member		
	Kate Lindley	KL	Board Member		
	Sam Knuckey	SK	Board Member		
	Paul Findlow	PF	Board member (from item 7)		
	Matthew Cunningham	n MC	Board Member		
		JH	Chairman		

JH informed Board that he is meeting with the Challenge Group on Thursday this week, to present the five year plan. Chief Executive's briefing

2.

- Affordability has become key in the Labour Party
- There has been a change of Secretary of State for housing, communities and local government – James Brokenshire takes over from Sajid Javid. There appears to be a sense of a cautious business as usual approach. The Green paper was due about now but may well be delayed.
- Mental Health Awareness Week there has been a lot going on at the Trust with mental health first aider training and the opening of the drop-in hub for mental health services on the Weston.
- GDPR Comes into force on May 25th. The Trust commissioned an assessment by The Data Protection People – they have adopted a traffic light approach to our systems which have received no red lights. There are a number of initiatives the Trust is partially or wholly compliant with and will continue to work on.

3. **Technology Strategy**

Board received the Technology Strategy and Focus report explaining the context. SP invited questions on the Strategy.

KL stated that her assumptions was that we already had some of the things included in the strategy, i.e. CRM and so it came as a bit of a surprise.

SP explained that we do have a CRM albeit a bit fragmented – we are proposing a centralised system that everyone can report into, i.e. taking it a step further to make it better.

SP informed Board that sessions were held with staff asking if they thought there was anything we are currently doing but do not longer need to – this gave the opportunity to review what we capture.

Referring to 'doing IT differently' JH asked what is different? SP stated it is about being restless, some systems have been in place since 2006 – they do work but are not necessarily needed. It's about bringing cutting edge technology to the Trust and doing things differently.

KL asked if we are being ambitious enough or constraining ourselves to current resources. JaH explained that there are some fundamental changes coming with universal credit and restructuring teams etc. We are surrounding ourselves with experts in bringing in CRM – to do it faster would be a risk to income management.

KL, JaH and SP agreed to meet up outside of this meeting to share ideas.

JaH explained that we are looking at Microsoft Dynamics to fit in with rest of business whilst trying to achieve protection for ourselves for the future.

	TA asked if wearable technology could that lead us to wellbeing again in the future. JaH explained how it would help us to identify for e.g. tenants who did not have heating on but it could be used for wellbeing in the future in a better way. PF asked if the Trust has a Business Continuity Plan – SP assured that we have a BCP Plan off-site back up and a facility with Staffordshire Housing which is tested 2 times per year. The link in the strategy is to investigate if we could do it better ourselves and be self-reliant. GR asked are we sure we are on top of data confidentiality for internet instructions etc. JaH agreed this is a big challenge because tenancy agreements would need to be changed but we are aware of it. SP further assured Board that Data Protection by design is built into all packages. JaH stated that there is a big piece of work to do with our customers and for us too, before handing to developers, therefore we intend to take small steps and not be over ambitious.		
	TP confirmed that we also have independent expert on hand and gave credit to the IT team who have a good track record and gave the example of the My Account success.		
	The Board decided:		
	664) To approve the Technology Strategy.		
4.	Financial Strategy		
	Board received the Financial Strategy and Focus report explaining the context. LH invited		
	questions on the Strategy.		
	LH asked if Board thought strategy was wide enough to cover the business – were there any restrictions and does it cover the right areas?		
	JH thought the Strategy was closely aligned with 5 year plan which was reassuring.		
	JH questioned the accuracy of returns to the Regulator, are we confident of the quality of the information? LH stated that some areas of data cleansing is required but she is confident we can make sure data is accurate by working with SP and MG.		
	GvEB stated we do a lot of checking and double checking before data is submitted to ensure accuracy.		
	JH asked about the risk of reliance on sales revenue, how reliant are we – LH replied that we test significant drops in value and completions in sales and use market data to ensure we are developing correctly.		
	The Board decided:		
	665) To approve the Financial Strategy.		
	10 approve the financial strategy.		
5.	Board KPIs		
	DOMANIA		
	GvEB gave a presentation of the Board KPI's for 2018/19 with themes covering foundations, protect, grow and create.		
L	In 1 - 1 - 2 / O. 2 / 2 / 2 / 2 / 2 / 2 / 2 / 2 / 2 / 2		

	Each KPI includes targets with stretch targets JH – thanked GR and PF for helping to develop this suite of KPI's, stating that it will be interesting to see how they track over 5 years. The Board decided:			
	666) To approve the Board KPI's for 2018/19			
5.	Gender Pay Gap			
	Donal received a regard containing that The Trust is not required to request on Conder Donal			
	Board received a report explaining that The Trust is not required to report on Gender Pay Gap, but has estimated the Gender Pay gap using similar methodology as required by the government.			
	The Trust Gender Pay Gap has been estimated at +17.3% (Mean average) or 18.4% (Media average). Average hourly earnings are +17.3% higher for males than females employed at the Trust on the Mean Average basis.			
	GvEB emphasised that there is no question of unequal pay between genders here, but if we were required to report our gender pay gap we would have a higher than average gap map pay being 17.3% above female pay levels. The reasons are to do with the populations of two particular teams - Repairs and Tustlink, The overriding reason for pay gap is that 1 teams is mainly female lower paid and the other mainly male with qualifications attracting higher pay.			
	There was also a gap in Manager pay levels last year with +12.5% Median - but this has narrowed to +2.7% by April 2018			
	SK welcomed report on basis of transparency but noted that if the 2 teams were removed then the gap would go up. GvEB explained that the report was based on 2017 data and would like to get back to SK with updated data since manager population inequality sorted			
	JaH explained the disparity between Trustlink and Repairs but confirmed that for anyone doing same job there is no gap.			
	KL commented that the perception at senior level is predominantly male which paints a picture that makes her feel uncomfortable.			
	SK commented that the language being 'female friendly' is not necessarily the right theme it's about fostering a culture of equality.			
	JH asked if there is anything that can be done about the repairs team being predominantly male. TP confirmed we have used colleges and imagery etc. in the past and don't think we are alone.			
	KL said it would be useful to see these figures annually.			
	The Board Decided:			
	The Board Decided:			

667.i)	To review the marketing material and recruitment approach for jobs that are
	currently dominated by one gender.
667.ii)	To review the scope for management vacancies to appeal to females and invest
	in support for existing managers.
667.iii)	To publish our gender pay gap report on our own basis – including our planned
	actions to address any issues.

7. <u>Performance Report</u>

Board received the performance report to 31st March 2018 which contained 6 green, 1 amber and 5 reds.

JaH and GvEB gave an overview of the red indicators:

Rent collection and rent loss through voids – we have been dealing with some long winded and complex cases (ASB, Safeguarding etc.). We are testing new income system and process to drive efficiency of the team and preparing us for universal credit.

JaH confirmed that month's performance was back to where it should be. A support post for the allocations team has been signed off and we are working with CEC around the allocations process and looking at efficiency of the team.

<u>New Home Starts only -</u> achieved half of the 230 target, 50% of those are due to us redesigning the Crossings scheme.

New Home Completions - achieved 80% of the 148 target. Some completions affected by the bad weather but the main reasons were to do with services being installed and planning requirements on large development sites where we take the social housing element - s106 sites. In future we plan to move to more of our own sites - particularly on our town centre developments. This will improve our ability to control and predict timings.

Although we didn't achieve our target, the number of homes completed was higher than we have ever achieved for a year and means we are growing at a rate that makes us one of the top developing housing associations in the country as we saw in the earlier report.

<u>Net Housing Stock Growth</u> - There were 117 acquisitions, 10 Right To Buy sales, and 6 Right To Acquire sales during 2017/18. 4 properties have been historically included in the total housing stock number, however these have now been re-categorised and removed as they are not being used for housing purposes.

Our net stock grew by 97 homes, which was double the growth in each of the previous three years, but 26 under our target. 28 new homes did not complete as expected by year end, however we sold fewer homes than anticipated as a result of tenants exercising their Right to Buy or the Right to Acquire their home

JH stated that this is a step change in terms of ambition and asked if we are confident we can step up to the level of activity stated in 5 year plan.

GvEB confirmed there is no indication in these figures that would give concern for figures in 5 year plan, our learning is to get better at managing our contractors and having more control over our own schemes.

	GR commented on the planning problems experienced with the new home starts and suggested that the Trust would probably benefit from some strategic planning overview.				
	The Board Decided:				
	668) To note the Performance Report to 31st March 2018				
8.	Finance Report				
	Board received the finance report to 31 st March 2018.				
	GvEB confirmed that all covenants had been met.				
	JH summed up stating that this was a good set of results to the end of the year. Board always receive good information throughout the year, well done to the finance team.				
	The Board Decided:				
	669) To approve the finance report to 31st March 2018				
9.	New Value for Money Regulatory Standard				
	TP explained that the report was designed to familiarise Board with new requirements from the Regulator.				
	TP highlighted 2 specific elements:				
	It is principally the Board's job to set strategic direction and have a really good understanding of whether that is delivering vfm. TP thought that Board's involvement in putting together the 5year plan and KPI's along with the discussion earlier has a very positive reflection.				
	The Regulator expects Boards to own their own approach to vfm – they don't want a one size fits all, therefore our approach needn't be overcomplicated. The challenge will be to ensure there is a regular and rigorous challenge from the Board on anything significant brought to it.				
	SL stated that he had read that vfm should be a standard item at every Board meeting but struggles with that and feels that Board needs to find its feet a bit.				
	TP replied that the Trust way around it is to ensure that every report brought to Board includes clear information on costs and outcomes allowing Board to make their decision.				
	The Board Decided:				
	670.i) To note the requirements of the vfm standard introduced by the ROSH 670.ii) To agree its approach to secure vfm				
10.	Standing Orders Review				

	Daard	as informed that the fallowing Chanding Onders were uniformed by Community		
	Board was informed that the following Standing Orders were reviewed by Governance Committee at its meeting on 8 th May and recommended to Board for approval: • ST07 Role of Chair of Board • ST08 Role of Board Member			
	• 5	TO9 Role of Chief Executive. Subject to Governance Committee approval on the 8th		
	таскеа	changed versions of the Standing Orders were made available via the portal.		
	The Deep	ul Burgland		
	The Board Decided:			
	674 :)	Tarana and the annual of CTO7 Data of Chair of Daniel		
	671.i)	To approve the amended ST07 Role of Chair of Board.		
	671.ii)	To approve the amended ST08 Role of Board Member.		
	671.iii)	To approve the amended ST09 Role of Chief Executive.		
44	F	I for a Constraint Constitution		
11.	Feedbac	k from Governance Committee		
	CI I	Constituted for the Constitute Constitute bald other		
	SL gave	feedback from the Governance Committee held 8 th May:		
	The felle	uning policies were reviewed and resourced to Deard for approval.		
		owing policies were reviewed and recommend to Board for approval:		
		Board Member Recruitment Policy		
		Board Member Succession Policy		
	• 1	nvolved Customer Expenses Policy		
	Tracked	changed versions of the policies were made available via the portal.		
		eting included a lot of semantics around the changes to becoming a CBS which was		
	very eas	y for committee to approve.		
	The min	utos of the meeting are available via the portal		
	The minutes of the meeting are available via the portal. The Board Decided:			
	The Boa			
	672.i)	To note the feedback from Governance Committee held on 8 th May 2018.		
	672.ii)	To approve the Board Member Recruitment Policy.		
	672.iii)	To approve the Board Succession Policy.		
	672.iv)	To approve the Involved Customer Expenses Policy.		
	,	,		
12.	Feedbac	k from Audit Committee		
	MC gave	e feedback from the Audit Committee held 24 th April 2018.		
	The internal audit reports were reviewed.			
	The follo	owing policies and standing orders were reviewed and recommended to Board for		
	approva			
	• F	inancial Regulations and Scheme of Delegations		
		nformation Security Policy		
		Data Protection Policy		
L				

	Tracked changed versions of the documents were made available via the portal.		
	Committee received a reassuring presentation on GDPR along with a presentation of complaints and compliments. There was discussion around golden rules 2 and 3 with suggested amendments whic been recommended to Board.		
	The minutes of the meeting are available via the portal.		
	The Board Decided: 673.i) To note the feedback from Audit Committee held on 24 th April 2018.		
	673.ii) To approve ST18 Financial Regulations and Scheme of Delegations		
	673.iii) To approve the Information Security Policy		
	673.iv)	To approve the Data Protection Policy	
13.	Any Other Business		
	There w	as no other business	
	The meeting closed at 8.10 pm		

	(J. Z. Hirosan	
Signed		

Date......31st May 2018.....