

Minutes of the 185th meeting of the Directors of the Company duly convened and in Room 1.08, First Floor, 10 South Colonnade, London E14 4PU on 31 January 2023.

Present:

Dame Teresa Graham DBE (TG) – Chair
Michael Stark (MS)
Tracy Vegro OBE (TV)
Annie Shepperd MBE (AS) – Accounting Officer
and Chief Executive
Helen Powell (HP) – Director of Finance and
Resources

Attending:

Ian Rodger (IR) – Director of Programmes
Paul Smyth (PS) – Director of Strategy and
Technical Services (Item 5)
Richard Wilson (RW) – Interim Director, Delivery
Agent Housing
Paul Chambers (PC) – BEIS Observer
Selvin Brown (SB) – BEIS (Item 4)
Sarah Mann (SM) – BEIS (Item 4)
Julie Ellis (JE) – Governance Manager (minutes)

QUORUM

A quorum being present, TG declared the meeting open.

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. PLACES FOR GROWTH

The Board noted the paper in which Salix sets out its plan and likely timescale to establish an office outside London (likely to be in the Manchester metropolitan area) as part of its commitment to the Government's Places for Growth agenda. The Board emphasised that this was an ambitious plan and the paper highlighted key dependencies, particularly in respect of the preparation for the new housing schemes (Item 4 below). The Board added that successful and cost-effective delivery of schemes should be prioritised over meeting strict targets. A consultant is being engaged to produce a paper on modern day apprenticeships to advise on the setting up of a Salix scheme.

The Board Chair will next meet with Lord Callanan on 7th February 2023.

3. DISPUTES RESOLUTION PROCEDURE

Agreement on an updated disputes resolution procedure, which will replace the procedure currently in the Framework Agreement, has been reached and has been approved by HM Treasury. Paul Chambers and Rita Varsani of BEIS were thanked for their assistance in achieving this.

Action - BEIS to circulate the new procedure and confirm sign off by Treasury.

4. DELEGATED AUTHORITY LETTER (DAL)

Selvin Brown and Sarah Mann of BEIS joined the meeting for this item. The Board considered and **AGREED** the terms of a DAL which conferred the powers to Salix act as BEIS' delivery agent to manage the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund and the Home Upgrade Schemes, which would be operated by a delivery partner. This will be subject to prior amendment to embody any change to the delivery partner and to tidy up remaining non-substantive inconsistencies.

The DAL supersedes the current Heads of Terms in place governing Salix's work in respect of the schemes. It is not legally binding, but an expression of intent. The delegation would be reviewed in three months and at three-yearly intervals. It would be reviewed again in September 2023 as part of the wider triennial review into Salix's status as an arm's length body.

Salix is currently engaged in the process of selection of the delivery partner following an invitation to tender exercise. It expects to start its role as delivery agent in April 2023.

The Board and BEIS thanked each other for the endeavour and goodwill that had gone into reaching agreement. The Board noted the collaborative and co-creationist approach being fostered in respect of the housing schemes and Paul Chambers was also thanked for his calibrating role.

5. [CONFIDENTIAL ITEM]

6. AOB

6.1 Board Cybersecurity Training

It was noted that most Board members completed a cybersecurity training session on 18 January. The training was well-received as comprehensive and relevant. The National Cyber Security Centre advises that Boards should be "cyberaware" as a matter of good practice and it is the expectation of the Information Commissioner's Office that appropriate training is completed by Board members and staff.

DATE OF THE NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Board is on Tuesday 28 February 2023.

Chair

Date

Summary of Actions:

ACTION: BEIS to circulate the new disputes resolution procedure and confirm sign off by Treasury.
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