

Shareholders Committee

Wednesday, 17th
November, 2021

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor David Thain (Chair), Councillor Alex Fogg (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Imran Altaf, Andrew Fry and Lucy Harrison

Also Present:

Simon Ingyon (Managing Director, Rubicon Leisure Limited)

Officers:

Claire Felton

Senior Democratic Services Officer:

Jess Bayley-Hill

15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

The Chair welcomed all Members present to the meeting and advised that Councillor Alex Fogg was attending the meeting as Vice Chair of the Committee. Members were informed that the agenda for the meeting had been published prior to Councillor Fogg's appointment at a recent meeting of Council to this position, replacing Councillor Joanne Beecham, who was no longer a Member of the Committee.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

17. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Shareholders Committee held on 9th September 2021 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

18. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Chair

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Under S100 A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following matters on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 of the said act, as amended.

Minute Item No. 19 – Quarter 2 Performance Monitoring Report

Minute Item No. 20 – 2020-21 Financial Outturn Report.

19. QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT

The Managing Director of Rubicon Leisure Limited presented the performance monitoring report for the second quarter of 2021/22.

The Committee was informed that during the period many of the facilities operated by Rubicon Leisure Limited had reopened, following a period of closure during the national lockdowns. The Palace Theatre had been the last venue to reopen. Social distancing and other mitigating measures designed to reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission had subsequently remained in place throughout much of the summer and into September.

A financial monitoring report for the first two quarters of the 2021/22 financial year would be available for Members' consideration in January 2022. The company had received some additional grant funding during the period which would be useful.

Communications remained an important factor in promoting the services provided by Rubicon Leisure Limited. Regular communications were issued on social media to customers and the company worked closely with the Council's Communications team to inform residents about the reopening of facilities.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

(During consideration of this item, Members discussed matters that necessitated the disclosure of exempt information. It was therefore agreed to move to exclude the press and public prior to any debate on the grounds that information would be revealed which related to the financial and business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)).

20. 2020-21 FINANCIAL OUTTURN REPORT

The Managing Director presented the Financial Outturn 2020/21 report for Members' consideration.

Members were advised that the lockdowns that had occurred during the Covid-19 pandemic had impacted on the financial position of Rubicon Leisure Limited. Leisure facilities had had to close or significantly reduce services during this time, which had impacted on income. Many leisure companies were in a similar situation due to the restrictions that had been in place during the pandemic.

As a consequence of this situation, additional financial support had been requested from the Council for Rubicon Leisure Limited. Members were asked to note that Rubicon Leisure Limited would be requesting additional financial support of £119,000 from the Council to help balance the budget. This funding could be granted by the Section 151 Officer under delegated authority, although would be reported to all Members in the Council's Financial Outturn 2020/21 report..

RESOLVED that

the Committee note the report and the additional financial subsidy that will be reported to the Executive Committee.

(During consideration of this item, Members discussed matters that necessitated the disclosure of exempt information. It was therefore agreed to move to exclude the press and public prior to any debate on the grounds that information would be revealed which related to the financial and business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)).

The Meeting commenced at 6.30 pm
and closed at 7.09 pm