Meeting: Eastbourne Homes Limited Board of Directors

(Company No. 5340097)

Date: 25th March 2021

Venue: Virtual (due to COVID-19)

Start: 10.00 am

Board of Directors

Present:

Board Directors:

Roger Eastwood (RE) (Chair) Louise Pearce (LP) (Vice-Chair) Sheilah Roberts (SR) (Vice-Chair) Paul Gunnell (PG) Colin Belsey (CB) Mary Hope (MH) Gina Morgan (GM)

EHL Staff

In Attendance:

Candy Vaughan (CV)

Ian Fitzpatrick, Managing Director (IF)

Andrew Clarke, Deputy Chief Finance Officer (AC)

Gary Hall, Head of Homes First (GH)

Paul Jemetta, Interim Finance Business Partner (PJ)

Liz Martin, Neighbourhood Management Lead (LM)

Jane McCarthy-Penman, Company Secretary (JMP)

Paul Turton, Project Director (PT)

Simon Watts, Property Services Lead (SW)

Item	PROCEDURAL MATTERS	ACTION
1.	Apologies for Absence	
	Homira Javadi Richard Tomkinson Tim Whelan	Noted
2.	Declarations of Interest	
	In accordance with Section 177 of the Companies Act 2006 and the Articles of Association of the Company, Directors declared their interests as set out below:	
	 Roger Eastwood Board Director and Chair at South Essex Homes Limited Board Director at Eastbourne Housing Investment Company Limited Board Member – National Federation of ALMOs 	

	Trustee and Vice Chair of Rusthall Lodge Housing Association Limited	
	Mary Hope	
	Wealden CAB	
	Board Director and Chair, Sussex Housing and Care	
	It was noted that notwithstanding any such interests, all Directors were entitled to vote at, and be counted in the quorum of, the meeting.	
3.	Minutes of Previous Meeting of the 17th December 2020 and 28th January 2021	
	Agreed.	Noted
4.	Matters Arising	
	The Board noted that the Annual Report and Group Financial Statements had been signed and filed at Companies House.	
	NFA Tenant Group It was noted that EHL had the opportunity to put a tenant Board Director forward to sit on this group who will work with the NFA on the changes to Consumer Standards. CV expressed an interest, and it was agreed that GH would send her further information.	Complete
5.	Outstanding Board Actions	
	This report provided the Board with a checklist and audit trail of actions arising from previous Board meetings.	
	Action 1 - will be presented at the July Board.	
	Action 2 – Benchmarking – it was noted that the cost of joining HouseMark would be £4,870 + VAT. Following discussions, it was confirmed to proceed with the subscription, and to review on an annual basis.	Complete
	Given due regard to Duty 2, Section 172 CA (06) Recommendation and Resolution by the Board: The Board	
	 Noted the report and the progress on outstanding actions to date Agreed to proceed with the annual subscription to HouseMark 	

	Business Matters				
Confidential Items - Part A					
6. D	raft Budget 2021/22				
	onfidential – not for publication				
7. B	usiness Plan 2021-26				
С	onfidential – not for publication				
Non-Con	fidential Items - Part B	<u> </u>			
8. R	eport of the Head of Homes First				
	his report provided Directors with a brief summary of key high priority issues that d not warrant a separate report. It covered: Performance Health Check Quarter 3, 2020/21 Stock Investment and Sustainability Work Safeguarding General Needs and Retirement Housing Rent arrears and action plan Tenant Involvement Strategy Update Anti-Social Behaviour Policy Information Governance Quarter 3, 2020/21				
20 A C	was noted that the Stock Condition Survey would be complete by the end of May 021 (currently 70% complete). question was raised in respect of how many potential tenants would be facing ourt action once the moratorium is lifted. It was confirmed that this was not nown. It was noted that the arrears globally had 'bucked the trend' by over £80k.				
ро	was confirmed that a report would be circulated to Board on the number of otential tenants facing Court action and the relevant information to support this, efore the next Board.	Complete			
th co	was noted that a Repairs Delivery Project is being set up as part of the review of e service design and the impending procurement of the repairs and maintenance ontract. It was discussed and agreed that the Board felt they should be involved, is they were previously, working with PML.				
pr	was agreed that a workshop for the Board with options presented would be referable, as this worked well last time and the Board felt engaged and part of the esign.				
	s part of that work, it was agreed that the Repairs Delivery Project Group would clude of RE/MH/CB/SR.	SW			
R	iven due regard to Duty 2, Section 172 CA (06) ecommendation and Resolution by the Board: he Board Noted the report				
LM ioined	d the meeting at 11.20 am				

9. **Pets Policy**

The draft Homes First Pet Policy has been approved by Homes First and the Board as a top ten priority policy to be reviewed.

This report provided an overview of the tenant consultation and resulting draft policy for approval.

The policy sought to provide a consistent service across Eastbourne and Lewes encouraging responsible pet ownership; balancing the potential positive impact of pets, while ensuring they do not negatively affect others.

It was noted that this can be a very emotional subject from some residents and therefore, individuals will be considered on a case-by-case basis applying common sense.

A question was raised in respect of terminology, it was suggested that the word 'permission' could be replaced to sound less authoritative to 'consent' or 'approve'.

It was agreed this would be reviewed.

Given due regard to Duty 2, Section 172 CA (06) Recommendation and Resolution by the Board: The Board

Approved the policy subject to the change of word (permission)

LM/SW/GH/PJ/PT left the room at 11.35 am

10. New Business

Consultancy service to support EHL

Confidential – not for publication

This item was picked up earlier on the agenda

Information Items

11. Report back from:

- SEILL Board
- Service and Performance Committee
- Audit and Risk Committee

This report provided the Board with the minutes of the SEILL Board and the Service and Performance Committee and Audit and Risk Committee during quarter three of 2020/21.

The Board noted the following:

- Minutes of the SEILL Board, 17th December 2020
- Minutes of the Service and Performance Committee, 4th February 2021
- Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee, 18th February 2021

Given due regard to Duty 2, Section 172 CA (06) Recommendation and Resolution by the Board:

	 Noted the report Noted the minutes of the SEILL Board Noted the minutes for: Service and Performance Committee Audit and Risk Committee 	
12.	Any Other Business	
	None.	
Meeti	ing closed at 11.45 am	
Signe	ed:Print:	
Positi	ion: Dated:	