

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Coventry Shareholder Committee
held at 3.00 pm on 21 November 2024

Present:

Members: Councillor G Duggins (Chair)
Councillor L Bigham
Councillor R Brown
Councillor P Hetherton
Councillor AS Khan
Councillor J O'Boyle
Councillor K Sandhu
Councillor P Seaman

Coventry and Warwickshire Growth Hub C Humphrey (CEO)
A Williams (Director)

Coventry Municipal Holdings Limited: G Sangha (Secretary)
A Walster (Director)

Strategic Energy Partnership P Wallace (Head of Coventry Strategic Energy Partnership)
J Martin (Solution Strategy and Coordination Lead, City Energy Transformation)

UKBIC Limited A Williams (Director)

Employees (by Directorate):

Finance B Hastie (Director of Finance and Resources), M Philips

Law and Governance A West

Regeneration and Economy A Livesey, R Palmer, P Singh, S Weir

Apologies: Councillor N Akhtar

Public Business

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd April 2024 were agreed and signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

3. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 for the consideration of the following private reports on the grounds that the reports involve the likely disclosure of information defined in Paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Act as indicated, and that in all circumstances of the cases, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information:

Minute Number	Report Title	Paragraph(s) of Section 12A of the Act
9	Coventry and Warwickshire Growth Hub Half-Year Report (Financial Year 2024/25)	3
10	UKBIC 6-Month Performance report 2024/25	3
11	Coventry Municipal Holdings Limited Annual Performance Report year ended 31 st March 2024	3

4. Strategic Energy Partnership Performance Update – November 2024

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Regeneration and Economy and the Director of Innovation which provided an update on Strategic Energy Partnership activity since the approval of the Strategic Business Plan and Annual Business Plan at Shareholders Committee on 23rd April 2024.

The fifteen-year Strategic Energy Partnership between the Council and E.ON is the first of its kind in the UK and has the potential to put Coventry at the forefront of the net zero transition. The Council's relationship with E.ON will help support the development of ground-breaking projects, with potential funding from E.ON as well as other sources.

There has been a significant amount of activity over the last six months. Projects underway include a five-year energy supply contract, development of solar/heat pump projects in schools and four council-owned or run buildings, installation of EV charging points and a home energy efficiency programme. A key milestone that has been achieved is the production of the Coventry energy plan, which provides a detailed baseline of energy infrastructure challenges and opportunities to help prioritisation of future projects the partnership develops going forwards to maximise impact. In addition, there are currently nine social value projects that generate benefits to local communities either delivered or underway which include school education programmes, work placements, a community growing programme and tree planting.

It was noted that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee had considered the report on 20 November and recommended that the Coventry Shareholder Committee approve the recommendations in the report.

RESOLVED that, the Coventry Shareholder Committee receive and note the update on Strategic Energy Partnership activity since approval of the Annual Business Plan 2024/25, as per the agreed governance process which is set out in the Strategic Energy Partnership Joint Venture Contract.

5. Coventry and Warwickshire Growth Hub Half-Year Report (Financial Year 2024/25)

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Finance and Resources relating to the performance of the Coventry and Warwickshire Growth Hub (CWGH) for the first half of the 2024/25 financial year.

The CWGH has been established since 2014 and is firmly integrated as part of a successful Coventry and Warwickshire economic area – providing a ‘one stop’ centre for local businesses, with advice and guidance on the most appropriate support for their needs.

The CWGH Business Plan was approved by the Shareholder Committee on 23rd April 2024. The CWGH half-year report outlines the performance based on the Business Plan during the Financial Year 2024/25, detailing income and operating costs for the ‘core’ Growth Hub. There are limited risks with the company balance sheet and CWGH has sufficient resources to meet liabilities as they fall due. The Council is not responsible for meeting liabilities in its role as shareholder, as CWGH is a private limited company.

Primary objectives and priorities for the period of the Business Plan remain unchanged with the CWGH focussing on accessing and supporting sub-regional small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), plugging them in to relevant and available support partners and their programmes - such as those funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Based on the content of the CWGH Business Plan, the half-year performance report identifies that the CWGH is ahead of the overall Key Performance Indicators target set within the Grant Agreement, and this trend is expected to continue for the remainder of the financial year.

A corresponding private report detailing confidential financial matters was also submitted for consideration (minute 9 below refers).

It was noted that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee had considered the report on 20 November and recommended that the Coventry Shareholder Committee agree the recommendations in the report, and that future reports be considered as public items of business.

RESOLVED that the Coventry Shareholder Committee, subject to the consideration of the additional confidential information contained in the corresponding private report, approve the Coventry and Warwickshire Growth Hub half-year performance report, attached to Appendix 1 of the corresponding private report.

6. UKBIC 6-Month Performance report 2024/25

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Finance and Resources relating to the performance of UKBIC for the first half of the 2024/25 financial year.

The UK Battery Industrialisation Centre (UKBIC) Limited is a state of the art, 20,000m² battery manufacturing research and development facility on Rowley Road which was formally opened in July 2021. UKBIC is an open access facility designed to allow UK manufacturers to trial and industrialise the next generation of batteries for electric vehicles and other applications, which is essential to the UK's net zero ambitions.

Between November 2017 and October 2019, the Council approved the acceptance of £114m grant funding from Innovate UK's Faraday Battery Challenge towards the total cost of £132m to develop the UKBIC facility. The remaining £18m was provided in the form of an £18m repayable grant (essentially an interest free loan) from WMCA.

The Faraday Battery Challenge was established by government in 2018 to invest in research and innovation projects, and facilities, to drive the growth of a strong battery business in the UK. Securing UKBIC in the Coventry area is critical to the future of the area's world-class automotive and advanced manufacturing cluster.

UKBIC Ltd was established in order to operate the facility. CCC owns 100% of the shares in UKBIC Ltd, and has two CCC directors who sit on the board, including the Chair. The remaining board seats are made of up of the UKBIC Managing Director and Finance Director, a representative from Government's Advanced Propulsion Centre (APC) and independent battery / automotive industry experts. In addition, the Faraday Challenge Director attends the board as an observer.

The Faraday Battery Challenge reviews and approves the UKBIC Ltd business plan on a regular basis to ensure that the business is sustainable and that it is meeting the technology needs of the UK automotive industry, and provides core operational funding to UKBIC Ltd.

A corresponding private report detailing confidential financial matters was also submitted for consideration (minute 10 below refers).

It was noted that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee had considered the report on 20 November and recommended that the Coventry Shareholder Committee agree the recommendations in the report.

RESOLVED that the Coventry Shareholder Committee, subject to the consideration of the additional confidential information contained in the corresponding private report, approve the UKBIC 6 month performance report 2024/25, attached to Appendix 1 of the corresponding private report.

7. **Coventry Municipal Holdings Limited Annual Performance Report year ended 31st March 2024**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Finance and Resources, relating to the performance of Coventry Municipal Holdings Ltd (CMH) for the year ended 31st March 2024.

The Annual Performance Report is focused on a backward look over the 12 months of operation from April 2023 to March 2024 for CMH and its subsidiaries which includes the following entities.

- Coombe Abbey Park Ltd, including two subsidiaries:
 - No Ordinary Hospitality Management Ltd
 - Coombe Abbey Park (LACo) Ltd

- Tom White Waste Ltd, including two subsidiaries:
 - A&M Metals & Waste Ltd
 - Tom White Waste (LACo) Ltd

- Coventry Regeneration Ltd
- Coventry Technical Resources Ltd
- No Ordinary Hotels Ltd

The Group Governance Agreement requires CMH to produce an Annual Performance Report looking back at the operation of the Group to the year-end 31st March 2024.

A corresponding private report detailing confidential financial matters was also submitted for consideration (minute 11 below refers).

It was noted that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee had considered the report on 20 November and recommended that the Coventry Shareholder Committee agree the recommendations in the report.

RESOLVED that the Coventry Shareholder Committee, subject to the consideration of the additional confidential information contained in the corresponding private report, accept the performance assessment provided by Company Management in the Annual Performance Report for the CMH Group for the year ended 31st March 2024

8. **Any other items of public business which the Chair decides to take as matters of urgency because of the special circumstances involved**

There were no other items of public business.

9. **Coventry and Warwickshire Growth Hub Half-Year Report (Financial Year 2024/25)**

Further to Minute 5 above, the Committee considered a private report of the Director of Finance and Resources which set out the commercially confidential matters relating to the performance of the Coventry and Warwickshire Growth Hub for the first half of the 2024/25 financial year.

RESOLVED that the Coventry Shareholder Committee approve the Coventry and Warwickshire Growth Hub half-year performance report attached to Appendix 1 of the report for the financial year 2024/25.

10. UKBIC 6-Month Performance report 2024/25

Further to Minute 6 above, the Committee considered a private report of the Director of Finance and Resources, which set out the commercially confidential matters relating to the performance of UKBIC for the first half of the 2024/25 financial year.

RESOLVED that the Coventry Shareholder Committee approve the UKBIC 6-Month Performance Report 2024/25 included in Appendix 1 of the report.

11. Coventry Municipal Holdings Limited Annual Performance Report year ended 31st March 2024

Further to Minute 7 above, the Committee considered a private report of the Director of Finance and Resources which set out the commercially confidential matters relating to the performance of Coventry Municipal Holdings Ltd (CMH) for the year ended 31st March 2024.

RESOLVED that the Coventry Shareholder Committee accept the performance assessment provided by Company Management in the Annual Performance Report for the CMH Group for the year ended 31st March 2024.

12. Any other items of private business which the Chair decides to take as matters of urgency because of the special circumstances involved

There were no other items of private business.

(Meeting closed at 4.15 pm)