

## LIVE BORDERS

Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting of Live Borders held on Monday 22 April at 6.30pm  
at The Great Tapestry of Scotland, Galashiels

**Present:** Alison (Chair), Bill White, Carly McCallan (online), Ewan Elder, John Fordyce, Cllr Neil Richards, Sarah Mathieson (online), Cllr Tom Weatherston,

**Apologies:** Hollie Marshall, Kirsty Kiln, Cllr John PatonDay

**In Attendance:** Jim Hutchieson; Jill Franks, Graeme McMurdo; Sheila Brodie (Minutes)

1.	<b>Chairs Welcome/ Apologies of Absence</b>	<b>Actions</b>
	The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies noted.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Board Administration</b>	
a)	<b>Declaration of Interest:</b> None	
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Budget Position and SBC Additional Funding</b></p> <p>Chair outlined the current situation identifying the budget award and the £400K deficit which has been identified. Noted the build of the budget has been a robust process and the gap is an accurate reflection.</p> <p>Board discussed the additional points which were presented 'live' to council on 28 March, these comprise points f,g,h,i Item 12 Motion 28 March 2024. LB legal advisors are averse to the wording "full assurances". Rescinding these stipulations would require SBC officers to enact a Standing Order. This is deemed highly unlikely.</p> <p>Board considered and discussed each point individually.</p> <p>f) <b>Business plan</b> needs further work, noted it is a holding one year plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ People Strategy</li> <li>○ Retention plan</li> <li>○ Performance framework</li> </ul> <p>Noted the business plan includes a section on Risk and outlines the assumptions which have been made.</p> <p>Chair recapped on how we had arrived in present financial position. CEO explained re vacancy management and its positive impact on the budget. Noted that an annual meeting with SBC specific to staffing would be a helpful addition to the budget setting process.</p> <p>A great deal hinges on the outcome of the Transformation work, including SPA, making it impossible just now to produce a 10 year plan.</p> <p>g) <b>Sustainable footing</b> has always been a key objective of the Board. Board challenged Council – what assurances are being offered to Live Borders and what controls? There are actions which could have been taken to put LB on a more sustainable footing, but the decision making sits with SBC for whom we deliver at the cost of autonomy. The SPA asks LB to deliver too much, it is too</p>	

	<p>broad and not coherent. In terms of service redesign there are unrealistic constraints negatively impacting on achieving a sustainable footing.</p> <p>In terms of full assurances, LB need full assurances from SBC.</p> <p>GMcM outlined the Transformation agenda, stripping 35+ projects down to 10, deprioritising those not delivering a financial saving. Shared services have been discussed with Council and in the majority of cases are not deemed financially advantageous, nor achievable, with one exception – property.</p> <p>Joint Transformational Programme Change Update report to Council 28 March 5.10 Noted financial figures include Covid monies from central government which give the appearance of an increased management fee, which is not the case.</p> <p><b>CEO asked if LB has a Directors &amp; Officers Policy – to be confirmed to Board</b></p> <p>h) <b>Observer</b> role on LB Board stimulated some discussion on the handling of Councillor Trustees at Council meetings – exclusion, inability to comment nor vote. Board questioned why with 3 councillors on Board a further observer would be required to provide feedback to the Council.</p> <p>Noted that the Governance project has come to a standstill. Frustrations exist regarding the missed communication opportunities.</p> <p>i) <b>Conditional Approval of additional £600K (recommendation C)</b> on LB acceptance of the three points f,g,h. Board cannot approve budget without the additional £600K. Effectively a stalemate has been reached In addition there is still Board requirement for a new letter of comfort extending to the end of the current financial year.</p> <p>After much deliberation and reference to previous resignations and the potential impact on current trustees Board agreed that no decision could be made, agreed decision on budget to be deferred to May meeting.</p> <p>Chair and LB CEO to contact SBC CEO and the Council Portfolio holder, Trustees will have the response to add to their considerations when the budget decision is made on 20 May. Board agreed that Chair should write to all on the transformational change programme and SBC CE. The present model is unaffordable, closures undesirable and cannot be achieved timeously (impact assessments/ consultations).</p> <p>LB response to recommendations will decline to accept conditions, put forward LB position, make observation on the impact of SBC actions on LB Board of trustees.</p> <p>CEO gave clarification on current liquidity position, LB would not need to make an first draw down on the additional funding until FY24/25 Q3.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 8.35pm</p>	
4.	<b>AOCB</b>	

	<p>Chair met with good, strong candidates for the role of LB CEO – recruitment is ongoing.</p> <p>John Fordyce appointed as chair of Finance Committee.</p> <p>Definition of external bar sought – (Halls pricing policy)</p> <p>Chair of A&amp;G to be invited to all Finance Committee meetings</p>	<p></p> <p>JH</p> <p>SB</p>
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