

Committee Name: Cabinet

Meeting Date: 5 December 2024

Issue Title: Property Maintenance Company O&S Panel report

Report of: O&S Panel

Cabinet Portfolio: Climate and Corporate

Key Decision: No

Confidentiality: Partly exempt

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. This report provides an update of Butterwood Homes' performance to Cabinet, following consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel and the main committee.

RECOMMENDATION

2. Note the current mid-year status, occupancy, and financial updates.
3. Further comments from Cabinet relevant to the shareholder role and terms of reference to be forwarded to the company directors.

BACKGROUND

4. In June 2021, the Council created a new limited company, dedicated, and wholly owned by the Council as the sole shareholder.
5. Cabinet approved the draft initial business plan, which set out in some detail a framework for the operation of the business, including:
 - The objectives and mission of the company
 - The company structure and governance arrangements
 - Its operational approach, how it would be financed and manage risk
 - Details of the Articles of Association and Shareholder Agreement were also provided
6. To maintain good governance, a company scrutiny panel was established. In April 2024, following consideration by O&S Committee, Cabinet approved a new governance structure for the company.

MAIN ISSUES

7. On 9 October, a virtual meeting was conducted by the Scrutiny Panel for Butterwood Homes. Three directors of Butterwood Homes attended the meeting, three members of the Scrutiny Panel, an observer (the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services), and a committee services member who facilitated the meeting. The minutes of the meeting are available in Appendix 1 with the current Terms of Reference at Appendix 2.
8. The Panel considered a performance report and detailed financial summary and these are included as Appendix 3 and Appendix 4 respectively. The Panel

also considered the latest risk register. The Panel reported to O&S Committee on 10 November.

9. The financial performance of Butterwood Homes continues to be solid, and the 2024/25 projections reflect the stability of the Company beyond the initial set-up phase. The Scrutiny Panel is satisfied that the company is achieving the desired aims for Hart District Council.

ACTION

10. After consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny, the Housing Scrutiny Panel can present their findings to the Cabinet if deemed necessary.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Minutes of Butterwood Homes Scrutiny Panel

Appendix 2 – Terms of Reference

Appendix 3 – Company performance report

Appendix 4 – Company financial report (Exempt)