

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

NON-KEY DECISION – 17/16

REPORT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS TO THE COUNCIL'S PROPERTY INVESTMENT COMPANY

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Purpose/Summary of Report

- This report concerns the non-key decision by the Leader of the Council on the appointment of three officers to be the Core Directors of the council's Property Investment Company. It is proposed to appoint Helen Standen, Director, Jonathan Geall, Head of Housing and Health and Jess Khanom, Head of Operations based on their broad range of management, business planning, procurement and contract management experience.

RECOMMENDATION FOR DECISION: That:

(A)	the following officers are appointed as Core Directors of the Council's Property Investment Company; Helen Standen, Director, Jonathan Geall, Head of Housing and Health and Jess Khanom, Head of Operations.
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1.0 Background

1.1 At its meeting of 5th September 2017, the Executive approved the establishment of a Property Investment Company, to be registered in due course as Millstream Property Investments Limited.

1.2 At the same meeting, the Executive approved a structure for company's Board of Directors which, in the first instance, consists of three Core Directors who shall be officers of East Herts Council. The authority to nominate three officers to these roles was delegated by the Executive to the Leader of the Council acting in consultation with the Chief Executive.

2.0 Report

2.1 It is proposed that the following three officers be the Core Directors of the company:

- Helen Standen, Director – Helen Standen has much experience of commercial endeavours by councils; she is currently the council's nominated director on the board of the shared building control company. She has recently undergone specific training on the role of directors in local authority controlled companies through the Institute of Directors accredited certification. Helen has delivered significant cost savings and commercial projects in the private sector and has been an advisor to small businesses
- Jonathan Geall, Head of Housing and Health – Jonathan Geall has worked on the preparations for the establishment of the council's housing company, having carried out similar work at two other local authorities. At a previous authority, he undertook specific training on the director role in local authority companies. He has experience of devising and monitoring large-scale, long-term housing business plans at a previous authority and has held directorships in the past
- Jess Khanom, Head of Operations – Jess Khanom has extensive experience of commissioning contractors and managing commercial activities. Most recently, she has led on the procurement of the shared waste contract.

2.2 It is believed that these three officers between them have a broad range of management, business planning, procurement and contract management experience gained in the public and private sectors. These three officers will receive no additional remuneration for taking on these roles.

2.3 It is noted that if the company were to expand in the future, the Executive has approved the appointment, by the council, of external directors recruited on the basis of their relevant skills and expertise. It is not proposed to appoint any such independent directors at this initial stage.

3.0 Implications/Consultations

3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

Background Papers

None

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