

**EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING MINUTES:
18 JULY 2017**

Present:

Councillor K Clark (Chair), Councillor S Bain (Vice Chair), Councillor S Kelly, Councillor P Murphy and Councillor J Wade.

21. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor O Dervish, Councillor J Howard and Councillor L Rice.

22. Declaration of Members' Interests

There were none declared.

23. Minutes of previous meeting (19 June 2017 AGM)

Members confirmed as true and accurate the minutes of the Annual General meeting held on 19 June 2017. The Chair was authorised to sign the same.

24. Minutes of previous meeting (27 June 2017 EGM)

Members confirmed as true and accurate the minutes of the Extraordinary General meeting held on 27 June 2017. The Chair was authorised to sign the same.

25. Statement of Accounts & Auditor's Report 2016/17:

Members received the Finance Director's report on the Statement of Accounts for 2016/17, together with the Statement of Accounts, the Auditor's report and draft letter of representation. Members were advised by the Finance Director that they were being asked to approve the audited Statement of Accounts and Governance Statement earlier this year as a trial run for the tighter timetable of 31 July applicable for the 2017/18 accounts next year. Draft copies of both had been signed off on 31 May ahead of the 30 June deadline. It was expected that the Authority would receive an unqualified opinion and certificate on the Accounts.

The Finance Director introduced the External Auditor, Neil Hewitson, KMPG. He attended to present commentary and detail to those charged with governance.

The External Auditor outlined the responsibilities relating to the Audit and confirmed a clean opinion had been reached in respect of the Financial Statements and draft. The audit had identified a significant risk in relation to the Triennial Valuation and he confirmed checks had been undertaken for completeness and accuracy which resulted in a clean bill of health being issued. There were no issues to report in respect of Value for Money. Members received confirmation of the Audit fee of £18,720 plus VAT.

Members were reminded that once approved, the Annual Governance Statement would be signed by the Chair and Interim Managing Director.

External Auditors confirmed the unqualified opinion stating that the accounts needed to be adopted by the Authority.

Members considered the draft letter of representation **and approved** the Annual Governance Statement and Statement of Accounts. The letter of representation at Appendix B will be signed by the Finance Director.

The Chair congratulated everyone for achieving this good result.

Members thanked the External Auditor for his attendance and contribution before he left the meeting.

26. Date of Next Meeting:

Members noted the date of 11 September 2017.

27. Any other public items

There were none.

28. Private Business

Members resolved to exclude the public and press from the remainder of the meeting by reason of the nature of the business to be discussed which included information exempt from publication by virtue of paragraphs 1, 3, 4 and 8 respectively of part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

29. Management Arrangements – Interim Managing Director

Members received an update and presentation on the future organisational options, including appointment of a replacement Managing Director, from the Interim Managing Director and on her deliberations and actions since being in post from end June.

Members actively discussed ELWA's future management arrangements and, based on their discussions on the possible scenarios presented, confirmed their thoughts and direction as to the way forward. **Members asked** the Interim Managing Director to present a decision-making report, based on their preference, for formal confirmation at the next meeting.

Members agreed to hold a ½ day informal workshop in September to discuss future strategy.

Minutes agreed as a true record.

Chair: K Clark

Date: 11 September 2017