

## Trading and Enterprise Board

Minutes of a Meeting of the Trading and Enterprise Board held in Committee Room No. 2, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, on the **12<sup>th</sup> October 2023**.

### **Present:**

Cllr. Betty (Chair)

Cllrs. Harman, Ovenden

Cllr. Hicks (Observer).

In accordance with Procedure Rule 1.2 (c) Councillor Hicks attended as Substitute Member for Councillor Bell.

### **Apologies:**

Cllrs. Bell, Walder, Deputy Chief Executive.

### **Also Present:**

Cllr. Feacey.

Director of Customer, Technology and Finance (in her Capacity as Director of A Better Choice for Property Ltd), Service Lead Finance, Commercial Development Manager (A Better Choice for Property Ltd), Principal Solicitor (Property and Projects), Member Services Manager.

## 172 Declarations of Interest

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Minute No.</b>
Feacey	Made a Voluntary Announcement as Chair of the Ashford International Development Company and the Ashford Volunteer Centre.	175
Hicks	Made a Voluntary Announcement as a private landlord.	175
Director of Customer, Technology and Finance	Made a Voluntary Announcement as a Director of A Better Choice for Property Ltd and A Better Choice for Property Development Company Ltd.	175

## **173 Minutes**

It was noted that none of the Members present at the previous Meeting were present at this Meeting, but no comments had been received questioning the accuracy of the Minutes.

**Resolved:**

**That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.**

## **174 Exclusion of the Public**

**Resolved:**

**That pursuant to Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items, as it is likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure of exempt information hereinafter specified by reference to Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act, where in the circumstances the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.**

## **175 A Better Choice for Property Ltd – Portfolio Update**

The Director of Customer, Technology and Finance introduced the report which provided an update of the property portfolio, outlining rental income, void levels and arrears for the period of February to August 2023. She advised that the rental market was buoyant with demand for property high. Rent levels were increasing and arrears remained extremely low.

Officers responded to Members questions about the update report and the activity of the Company more generally.

The Commercial Development Manager (A Better Choice for Property Ltd) gave a more detailed update on the operational/development side of the Company.

**Resolved:**

**That the update be received and noted.**

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