Poplar Board

Summary of a meeting held on 29th June 2021

Board Members present:

Paul Brickell (Chair)	John Norman	Simon Turek
Sade Koiki	Tanya Martin	Alexandra Woolmore
Matthew Rowe	Naz Hussain	Momtaz Ajid
Kyle Rosevear	Shabana Yousaf	

Observers present:

Claire Lucas	Regulator of Social Housing
Kemi Awolola	Regulator of Social Housing
Shaun Rowley	Regulator of Social Housing
Mark Sweeney	21st Century Housing Governance

Consent agenda

The Board approved all items on the consent agenda.

Bi- Annual Approval of Risk Appetite

The Board held a Board Strategy Day on June 26th. They explored the risk appetite and made changes to how some risks are categorised and how they score on the risk appetite review chart. The Board endorsed the changes discussed and will receive further work on this at the September Board meeting.

Annual Business Plan

The Board approved the June 2021 Business Plan. Going forward the milestones and triggers will be monitored in the Resourcing the Vision report.

Financial items

The Board received an update on the financial performance of Poplar HARCA including the Capital Monitoring Report and the financial performance.

Resourcing the Vision

The Board:

1. Considered the strategic decision timetable in section 3.3 and the Board assurance 2026 READY roadmap in section 3.4 of the report.
2. Agreed proposed actions in regard to the potential 2023 finance and governance “pinch point” identified by the Roadmap.
3. Noted that we have instructed lawyers to terminate the Barbers Road contract with Bellway Homes and that this notice will be served on 21 August 2021.
4. Noted the progress being made with Fire Safety works.

5. Noted Coronavirus updates are included in the "for information" item Corporate Strategic Review
6. Considered the action taken in regard to the LBTH Youth contract.
7. Note further actions taken regarding the regulators notification of data quality issues and endorse the recommendations of ARC and the BSD that:
   - Corporate Management Team take account of the Board's risk appetite in regards to regulatory, compliance, stock quality and business resilience (cyber) risks
   - Implement a 'consolidation level' of staff team resources in the technical areas of finance, asset management and IT
8. Agree that a Board Strategy Day be arranged for September 2021 with the theme of "Poplar a place ahead of all the others 2026" Places Strategy Review including Tour.
9. Note our ongoing mitigation actions in regard to sector reputational risk.
10. Agreed internal control enhancements recommended in section 8.2 and 8.4 including;
    - Inclusion of vital statistics sheet from September Board onwards.
    - Integration of WP6, bi-annual places review and Asset Management Strategy Annual Reviews from September Board onwards.

Annual Health & Safety Report & Plan and Health & Safety Policy

The Board approved the updated health & safety policy. The Board also received the plan for the year and an analysis against the previous year.

Education

The Board received a presentation on Poplar HARCA's education strategy by the Director of Communities & Neighbourhoods. The Board endorsed the approach and agreed to continue discussions with local schools on the new education model for Poplar.

Other reports noted at the meeting:

- Value for Money
- Terms of Reference Assurance Matrix
- Skills Audit
- Corporate Strategic Review
- Corporate Services update
- Performance update
- Our Customer Style
- Attendance
- NHF Code of Governance Implementation