

LIVE BORDERS

Minutes of a Meeting of Live Borders held on Wednesday 18 December 2024, 6.30pm

Present: Neil Richards, Caroline Cochrane (online), Marshall Douglas, Fiona Doig.

Apologies: Jane Cox, Hollie Marshall (sick leave)

In Attendance: Jill Franks Interim CEO, Graeme McMurdo, Joanne Stephen, Sheila Brodie (notes)

1.	Chairs Welcome/ Apologies of Absence	
	NR welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2.	Board Administration	
	<p>a) Declaration of Interest: none.</p> <p>b) Board business: Board noted that the recruitment process is live through Aspen People, interviews to take place in the third week in January. Live Borders have 2 direct applicants and have the go ahead to proceed with these. Staff Directors recruitment process is also underway, 7 applicants. Staff will vote to determine the two reps.</p>	
3.	Adoption of Minutes of meeting 18 November 2024	
	Minutes were approved as accurate.	
4.	Matters Arising	
	A number of items were closed as complete.	
5a.	Finance Management Accounts to period 8	
	<p>JS spoke to the accounts, highlighting the highest variances are against staff and income. October and November forecast figures have been refreshed with actuals, greatly reducing the variances. There is still a £600k deficit. The budget is challenging overall.</p> <p>Focus is very much on cashflow, and scenario planning. Weekly cash flow details are being shared with SBC for ultra transparency. Towards the end of February cash support will be required.</p> <p>Board noted the precarious nature of the cash flow. The control of spending was challenged. Noted that the budget was undeliverable and that to prevent overspends a change to service delivery would need to be implemented. The current underfunded suite of services cannot achieve a balanced budget without making substantial cuts to delivery.</p> <p>Controllable spending was challenged. JS reassured that overall LB is underspent on overheads. CC was pleased that the cash flow is being scrutinised on a weekly basis.</p>	
5b.	Appendix D Savings, Efficiencies and Income generation	
	<p>JF had presented savings, efficiencies and income to Board at the meeting in November. These have been updated and were presented to Board for consideration. JF spoke to some of the more contentious items:</p> <p>Discontinuing free lets. Discussion ensued on common good buildings and community council free lets. NR sought a set of notional charges for community council. CC added that Community council had varying funds available, many used village halls and would already pay rent. GMc to contact Clare Malster SBC re free lets.</p>	GMc

	<p>Income from NHS was discussed, essentially vaccination numbers are very reduced – now just age and medical condition rather than whole population during the pandemic. FD commented that it is all public money and the pressure is just being passed from one body to another. Noted that the social prescribing funding is no longer available. She observed that the limit on public monies means that some service delivery must cease and asked if the savings and efficiencies had been equality impact assessed.</p> <p>Board noted that not all of the items presented were in Live Borders gift to make – ie Eastgate Theatre would be an SBC decision.</p> <p>JF asked Board to identify any savings, efficiencies and income proposals which they find completely unpalatable. DEADLINE for return 20 December 2024.</p> <p>LB can then action the savings which are acceptable.</p> <p>AGREED £2.00 per month increase on Learn2 DD charges.</p> <p>Water and sewerage and also H&S contract were discussed with a view to driving efficiencies. Noted that JF was not comfortable exposing the company to H&S risk. Discussions ongoing with SBC on budget transfer and the need to retain sufficient funding to cover and ideally in house H&S post. Currently this is filled by external contract. Noted the need for specialist support.</p> <p>Board discussed income from cafés – TLC café could be replaced with something else, snacks and drinks would be offered via vending. Noted GToS and HoH café provision are an important part of their offering. GToS café is making money.</p> <p>Discussion moved to an overview of initiatives at GToS to increase footfall and income. A P&L for GToS was sought. JS to supply tomorrow.</p> <p>CC asked that the list be annotated with actions commenced already and also to split into Board / SBC / Operational decision making streams.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>JS</p>
<p>15. AOB</p>		
	<p>CC pleased to see date in diary to meet the senior team</p>	

Meeting closed at 4.10 pm