

Arch

Arch AGM Minutes

Date/Time

Tuesday 21st June 2017
10:00 – 11:00am

Venue:

Arch, Wansbeck Workspace, Rotary
Parkway, Ashington, Northumberland,
NE63 8QZ

In attendance:

Cllr Dave Ledger (Chair)
Cllr Peter Jackson
Cllr Richard Wearmouth
Cllr Wayne Davey
Cllr Jeff Reid

Arch Chair
Leader, NCC

Policy Board Member/Leader of Liberal
Democrat Group

Chris Sayers

Chair of the Board of Governors,
Northumbria University

Present:

Daljit Lalley
Jacqui Kell
Paul Czerepok
Kim Grant (Minutes)

NCC Interim Chief Executive
Arch Chief Executive
Arch Director of Finance
Arch Personal Assistant

Apologies:

Cllr Grant Davey





1.0 Welcome and Introductions

1.1 The Chairman welcomed the attendees to the meeting.

2.0 Apologies for Absence

2.1 The Chairman reported that there had been apologies for absence from Grant Davey.

3.0 Declarations of Interest

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4.0 Board Members Resignations and Nominations

4.1 The Chairman declared that he had received resignations from Cllr Allan Hepple, Cllr Gordon Webb, Gillian Hall and Peter Moran.

4.2 The Chairman confirmed that he would be resigning and handing over the Chairmanship of Arch to Cllr Richard Wearmouth.

4.3 Cllr Dave Ledger gave a short speech covering his 4 years as Chairman of Arch and the achievements that had been made by the Company during that period of time.

4.4 Cllr Peter Jackson thanked Cllr Dave Ledger for all the good work during his Chairmanship and confirmed that this was appreciated by the new Board going forward. Cllr Peter Jackson stated that there was no doubt that Arch had done an awful lot of good work which was recognised and while obviously there were some disagreements on the direction the regeneration work was excellent and the focus would be on the best way to take the Company forward.

4.5 Cllr Dave Ledger stated that as a whole the outgoing Board had been behind all the major decisions taken by the Company with only Manor Walks and Westmoreland being the two main areas of disagreement.

4.6 Cllr Dave Ledger handed over the Chairmanship to Cllr Peter Jackson, wished the Board well and left the meeting.

4.7 The Director of Finance ran through the formal process covering Board member resignations and nominations, confirming that the nominations of Cllr Richard Wearmouth, Cllr Wayne Daley and John Woodman were noted.

4.8 Cllr Peter Jackson proposed the Chairmanship of the Board be passed to Cllr Richard Wearmouth which was seconded by Cllr Jeff Reid.

5.0 Future Board Meetings

- 5.1 The Chief Executive confirmed that the previous governance of the Arch Group meetings were quarterly Board meetings and monthly Investment Committee Meetings.
- 5.2 The Chief Executive stated that it was proposed to introduce monthly Board meetings with every third meeting being the main Board meeting covering the Arch Group Corporate Report and the others to bring any business for approval.
- 5.3 It was agreed by all present that a regular date each month would work well.

Action: K Grant to work with diaries.

6.0 AOB

- 6.1 The Chief Executive confirmed that she had met with Cllr Peter Jackson and Cllr Richard Wearmouth to talk through the schedule of project activity Arch were currently working on that had been agreed by the previous Board. This activity covered the following areas;
- Developments on behalf of NCC
 - Commercial Developments
 - Commercial/Strategic Acquisitions
 - Residential Developments
 - Residential Acquisitions
 - Active Disposals
 - Exchanged Acquisitions
- 6.2 The Chief Executive confirmed that the schedule highlighted projects in green that would be to continue, those highlighted in amber were the projects where the new full Board would want to review the decision and the projects highlighted in red were the projects to be stopped.
- 6.3 Cllr Peter Jackson confirmed that Portland Park project should be moved from red to amber as it should be seen as an exciting project for Ashington and he would like Arch to continue with the road scheme and to actively look for new end users for the project.
- 6.4 The Chief Executive confirmed that due to the direction from the new administration to concentrate on projects in Northumberland some schemes had dropped out of the schedule.

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[REDACTED]

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- 6.7 Cllr Peter Jackson stated that he would like to see the figures for this scheme.
- 6.8 Cllr Richard Wearmouth stated that moving forward he would like to see a rolling list of investment decisions on a monthly basis.
- 6.9 The Chief Executive proposed that a Board Induction day be scheduled to look at the current portfolio and also some of the projects for review in order to achieve decisions on which ones were proceedable.
- 6.10 The Chief Executive went on to comment that the Board induction day would give an opportunity to see the direction the new Board would like to take the Company.
- 6.11 Cllr Peter Jackson confirmed that he would like a community consultation, in conjunction with Ashington Town Council, to take on board the views of the local community with regard to the Portland Park site. This will be their opportunity to put forward some ideas.
- 6.12 Cllr Richard Wearmouth requested an update on Bedlington.
- 6.13 The Chief Executive confirmed that this would be covered at the Board Induction Day.
- 6.14 Chris Sayers commented that it was good to hear Cllr Peter Jackson talk about recognizing the future of Arch. He went on to state that from a personal point of view he wanted to ask for some clarity on behalf of the staff at Arch who had been through a period of a huge amount of uncertainty over the last few months. He stated that felt that clarity and stabilization was needed as soon as possible.
- 6.15 Cllr Peter Jackson stated that one reason for the delay in informing staff had been the necessity to wait for this first Board meeting. Cllr Jackson went on to state that the new administration had a fairly clear view for the Board going forward once it had been constituted and that their view was that Arch were doing some positive things such as affordable housing, which they would continue to support and expand if possible, regeneration with Arch leading, inward investment e.g. energy central which was a major opportunity for the County and they would like to build on that. They would like to do more on training, particularly in the public sector.
- 6.16 Cllr Peter Jackson went on to state that following on from the initial talk to Arch staff informing them of the strategic review a statement and press release would be forthcoming.
- 6.17 Chris Sayers commented that the Arch staff need to be motivated and they need to know that they are being clearly led. From a business point of view, he felt that the sooner some certainty could be given to the staff the better.
- 6.18 Cllr Richard Wearmouth confirmed that the new administration would work on a mission statement that re-confirms the direction for the business.

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- 6.19 Daljit Lally commented that the issue was the change in emphasis and felt that the sooner the staff got a staff bulletin the better.
- 6.20 The Director of Finance commented that Arch had a large commercial portfolio at the moment and asked what was happening with the business assets that generate this funding.
- 6.21 Cllr Peter Jackson confirmed that the emphasis was to be put on stabilizing the portfolio as it was at the moment.
- 6.22 Cllr Jeff Reid commented that there was a need to offer strong and stable leadership.
- 8.9 The Chairman thanked the Board for their attendance and closed the meeting at 10:50.



..... **CHAIRMAN**

21 June 2017

