

A1. Extracts from the draft minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee special meeting held on 9 May 2023

A1.1 The following paragraphs comprise the full comments (as documented in the meeting minutes) made by Guy Stenson (Chief Executive of Gloucester City Homes). These comments relate to the context surrounding GCH's future aspirations for their Board.

A1.1.1 The Chief Executive of GCH stated that GCH had been an independent organisation from the City Council for 8 years and that the organisations had developed a new type of relationship. He noted that the relationship was positive and one of equal partnership, which GCH were keen to maintain.

A1.1.2 The Chief Executive of GCH explained that the board had matured over the years into a single status board, and that GCH was working to identify and meet skill gaps which would ultimately strengthen the organisation. He noted that although GCH welcomed applications from all backgrounds, being a Councillor did not automatically mean a representative had the skills required of a board member. He assured Members that GCH would still engage with the council in a constructive way with a shared focus on Gloucester, which he believed they could do so through partnership working rather than via a board representative.

A1.1.3 The Chief Executive of GCH responded to Members' questions of clarification as follows:

- GCH owned around 5,000 properties in the city.
- There were no issues with GCH board membership including Councillors, however it was best practice in the sector to have a single status board¹, which all other Registered Social Housing providers in Gloucester already had.
- GCH were keen to diversify their board as it was not currently as diverse as the organisation hoped for.
- GCH had not been frustrated by the input of the City Council, however the board did now consider itself to be single status. He noted that the City Council nominated board member would not ask questions on behalf of or as a representative of the council. It was also noted that it was sometimes challenging for board members who had council or community responsibilities to separate these obligations from their board responsibilities.

¹ A board where all board members are appointed through a consistent and transparent recruitment process

- GCH had been approached by the City Council regarding nominations however it was felt that it was sensible to make the decision at this point in the year as the current council board representative was due to step away in December 2023. The recruitment process would therefore need to begin around September 2023.
- The current City Council nominee was a former finance director and had brought valuable experience to the board.
- GCH wanted to steer away from politics as it is not a political organisation, however GCH continues to welcome advocacy from Councillors.