

9 March 2022

**Report of the Chief Executive****Solway (Tamworth) Ltd Update****Exempt Information**

None

**Purpose**

To provide Corporate Scrutiny Committee with an update for any trading activities, as is required under the Councils constitution.

**Recommendations**

1. To note there has been no trading activities within the company that require reporting to Committee.

**Executive Summary**

The Council has set up a wholly owned trading company to utilise as one of the many tools it has to diversify its income generating options.

However, to date the company has not traded, but as part of good governance Corporate Scrutiny receive a report – even a nil return - twice a year, which is also provided for within the Constitution.

For the Committees information the Council started exploring uses for land at Solway Close in 2016 with an initial decision made to develop the site for private rental sector housing through its newly established trading company Solway (Tamworth) Ltd.

The initial premise was to explore the opportunity for using council capital reserves to generate long term revenue streams. However in March 2022, this committee received a report that based on structural changes to the economy, it was felt important to test the original approach for the site, rigorously testing and challenging a number of options to identify the most advantageous approach for the Council.

The outcome of the recommendations of the March 2022 report was a further report to Cabinet in June 2022 agreeing the sale of the site originally earmarked for Solway (Tamworth) Ltd to develop.

Committee is asked to note that Solway (Tamworth) Ltd continues to exist as a trading entity with a focus on commercially led, revenue generating opportunities when they arise, and it is more advantageous that a Local Authority Trading Company takes the lead.

**Options Considered**

None

**Resource Implications**

Nil.

**Legal/Risk Implications Background**

None

**Equalities Implications**

None directly arising from this report

**Environment and Sustainability Implications (including climate change)**

Climate change and sustainability are noted as a key priority for the Council.

**Background Information**

None

**Report Author**

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**List of Background Papers**

Nil

**Appendices**

None