

6 April 2023

Report of the Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee**Matters referred to Cabinet in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules****Exempt Information**

None.

Executive Summary

The following Committee has referred the following matter to Cabinet:

Scrutiny Committee	Title of Matter referred	Date of Scrutiny meeting
Corporate Scrutiny Committee	Solway (Tamworth) Limited Update	14 th March 2023

Background

To update Cabinet and to make recommendations to it following consideration of the report of the Chief Executive.

At the Corporate Scrutiny Committee meeting on 14th March 2023 the Committee received the Solway Tamworth Limited Update report. Apologies were received from the Chief Executive and in his absence the Vice-chair, as a former director of the company, provided an overview of the history of the setup of the Company. It was reported that the trading company had been set up as a tool to use to generate income where the options arose. However to date no such opportunities had arisen.

The Vice-Chair reported that the approximate costs associated with the administration of the company were around £3000/3500 per year, which, after discussion, members considered to be a reasonable estimate.

The Committee questioned whether it could be more beneficial to save these annual costs by winding up the company with a view that it could be set up later if the opportunity arose to utilise the company. The Committee further considered that there would have been initial set up costs associated with establishing the company, but the Committee did not have details of these costs.

The Committee discussed whether before any recommendations to wind up the company were proposed, further information was required including as to whether there were any proposed projects / plans that the company may become involved in or whether the commercial focus of the Council had changed. However, it was noted that this was something which Cabinet could take into consideration on receiving the Committee's recommendation.

Recommendations

RESOLVED that the Committee recommended:

1. That Cabinet wind up Solway (Tamworth) Limited.

(Moved by Councillor A Cooper and seconded by Councillor S Goodall)

Options Considered

None.

Report Author

Councillor T Jay
Chair of Corporate Scrutiny Committee