Overview and Scrutiny Committee Review of the Governance Arrangements associated with The Steadings, Cirencester

Draft Terms of Reference

Purpose

The Steadings is a development in Cirencester, Gloucestershire which is advertised as a complementary, well-integrated, sustainable new community with Bathurst Development Limited (BDL) taking a lead role as the Master Developer. The <u>masterplan</u> sets out some of the key features which will comprise the new community.

The development was granted outline planning permission in April 2019 under reference: 16/00054/OUT. It is supported by section 106 agreements which have been entered into by both the District Council and the County Council.

The development includes the requirement to set up a Community Management Trust (CMT). The CMT is a charitable company which will own, maintain and manage the green open spaces, the community buildings, children's play areas, sports pitches and other assets at The Steadings.

Working with the District Council, the Town Council and the local community, the CMT will re-invest in The Steadings to build a cohesive community in which everyone who lives, works or goes to school at The Steadings will be a part

The Core functions of the CMT include:

- Management and maintenance of public open space.
- Financial management and investment of its assets.
- Providing and managing of its facilities and services.
- Promoting community development and integration.
- The Trust will collect an annual levy from residents and businesses on the site.
- Bathurst Development Limited will provide upfront payments or endow the Trust with assets to ensure it is financially viable during the early years of the development before a critical mass of dwellings is on site and paying into the fund

The purpose of this review is to look at the governance arrangements surrounding the CMT and the District Council's involvement in the CMT with a view to establishing whether they are compliant with any conditions/legal agreements and whether the Council is adequately fulfilling its role.

Scope

It is proposed that the review will cover:

	 Oversight of the development to ensure it remains in line with the planning permission and planning agreements and delivers its objectives e.g. affordable housing, green and open spaces etc; Oversight of delivery of the infrastructure required to support the development Oversight of the CMT including: The requirements around the setting up of the CMT Whether the CMT has been established in accordance with those requirements The role of the District Council in the CMT and whether the Council is fulfilling its requirements including how representatives are appointed to the CMT The governance arrangements of the CMT e.g. are there ways that the Council can raise concerns, are procurement rules in place, how is money allocated etc Delivery timescales for the development and how these link with the work of the CMT
	4. Review of the governance arrangements in place to enable the Council to deliver on its obligations as part of the site delivery 5. Whether there is any engoing requirement from Security.
	5. Whether there is any ongoing requirement from Scrutiny
Timescale	Commence in September 2021 and report back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at regular intervals
Members	TBC
Scrutiny Officer	Angela Claridge and/or Claire Hughes
Democratic Services Support Officer	TBC