

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING	Resources PDS panel	
MEETING DATE:	28 th November 2018	
TITLE:	BATH TOURISM PLUS COMPANY ANNUAL ACCOUNTS	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Appendix 1 – Bath Tourism Plus annual report and accounts		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 To note the annual accounts of Visit Bath, trading as Bath Tourism Plus (BTP).

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Panel is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the BTP 2017/18 year end audited accounts (Appendix 1)

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 The resource implications, including the specific financial impact on the Council is set out within the body of the report.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

- 4.1 BTP is governed in accordance with the agreed company governance arrangements, articles of association and other operating agreements. These accounts are provided to the Council for consideration in accordance with the Local Authorities (Companies) Order 1995

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 The Council wholly owns Bath Tourism Plus. The Company was established for the purpose of supporting and advancing the economy of Bath and North East Somerset by marketing and promoting the district as a leisure, conference, business and educational visitor destination and assisting the Member to deliver its tourism and conferencing services.
- 5.2 The Council acquired sole ownership of BTP which is a company limited by guarantee, with the Council as sole member of the company.

- 5.3 As sole member of BTP, the Council is asked to note the accounts of this company.
- 5.4 The BTP 2017/18 accounts are attached at Appendix 1 and shows that the company made an operating deficit of £178,810.
- 5.5 During this period the company has faced a number of challenges, including a reduction in Council funding of £150,000.
- 5.6 Significant changes have been put in place during the current year, which aim to support the company back into profitability. These include:
- The appointment of a new Executive Chair and non-Exec Directors following the end of term of previous incumbents and a refresh of the company's business plan.
 - A greater focus on commercial opportunities
 - A move to a cheaper location for the back office and co-location with Bath Festivals and re-location of the Visitor Information Centre
 - Savings in staffing, including redundancies and restructures
- 5.7 As stated in the Council report in September 2017 following an initial review of the BTP business plan by Ernst Young and with the above changes in place there is a good indication that the Company will be back in surplus by the end of 2018/19, including repayment of the one-off loan from the Council to cover the short term one-off costs incurred in the year.
- 5.8 Further details for the company activities are provided within the Director's Reports forming part of the accounts for each company.

6 RATIONALE

- 6.1 The recommendation complies with the legal and best practice requirements for the governance of local authority companies.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 None

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The BTP accounts have been drawn up with support from external experts and Council Officers have had the opportunity to review and input into this report.
- 8.2 Consultation has taken place with the Board of BTP.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 9.1 Each of the companies are required to maintain appropriate risk management arrangements specific to their activities and operations for which the relevant company Board is responsible. Full details are reported to the Council (as Shareholder) as part of the annual business planning processes for each company.

Contact person	<i>John Wilkinson, Director of Economy & Growth. Tel: 01225 396593 (for BTP).</i>
Background papers	<i>None</i>
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	