

**To:** Council of Governors  
**From:** John Bennett, Committee Chair  
**Date:** 10 September 2020  
**Subject:** Significant Business Committee Report

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## 1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To update the Council on the work of the Significant Business Committee.

## 2.0 Background

2.1 The Significant Business Committee has been established to carry out specific duties on behalf of the Council, including reviewing the Trust's business development and associated strategy.

2.2 The membership of the Committee is as follows:

- Dawn Allen, Public Governor, Bedford Borough
- Rehana Ameer, Appointed Governor, City of London
- John Bennett, Public Governor Tower Hamlets (Committee Chair)
- Robin Bonner, Staff Governor
- Arif Hoque, Public Governor Tower Hamlets
- Daniel Victorio, Public Governor, Hackney
- Ernell Watson, Public Governor, Newham
- Keith Williams, Public Governor, Luton (Deputy Lead Governor)

2.2 The Committee met on 27 July 2020 and 24 August 2020. In addition to the core members, also attending were:

Mark Lam (Trust Chair, **27 July only**)  
Dr Mohit Venkataram (Executive Director of Business Development)  
Norbert Lieckfeldt, Corporate Governance Manager

Cathy Lilley (Director of Corporate Governance) sent apologies.

2.3 The Significant Business Committee meetings are open to Committee members only.

## 3.0 27 July 2020 Meeting: Key Decisions and Discussions

### 3.1 Primary Care Strategy

3.1.1 The Committee received an update on the Trust's Primary Care strategy.

3.1.2 While the Trust is delivering some primary care (GP) services directly, its main aim is to increase the resilience of GP practices in our patch to achieve the Trust's population health outcomes.

## 4.0 Business Development Updates

4.1 There was insufficient time to address the impact of Covid-19 on the Trust's business development. The Committee agreed to schedule a further meeting to discuss this (see Meeting of 24 August 2020)

## **5.0 Strategic Review**

- 5.1 Trust Chair Mark Lam joined the Committee for a review of the strategic landscape in which the Trust is operating in the near and medium term.
- 5.2 The Committee noted that while there is uncertainty about the future shape of the wider NHS, the local healthcare systems and finance, there is certainty that the Long-Term Plan is calling for greater integration of services as well as providers and commissioners.
- 5.3 In line with its role, the Committee will be kept updated and informed about strategic decisions the Board will be working on, in order to gauge governors' response and to inform and offer assurance.
- 5.4 The Committee will review its ToR to ensure they reflect these requirements. Any recommended changes will be subject to formal agreement by the Council of Governors.

## **6.0 25 August 2020 Meeting: Key Decisions and Discussions**

- 6.1 The Committee focused entirely on an update by Dr Mohit Venkataram on the impact of Covid-19 and the Trust's response on ELFT's business development.
- 6.2 The Committee noted that while the pandemic challenged the Trust's vision and values in its impact on particular groups of service users (often deprived, excluded or minority ethnic), the Governors received assurance that the Trust's response (and plans for the future) in turn emphasised our values and focused on a wider, population health agenda.
- 6.3 The Trust is neither a mental nor community nor primary care Trust, but a population health trust with responsibility for the quality of life of all in our geographies; that includes supporting other providers such as nursing homes to enable them to meet the Covid-19 challenge and provide the best possible service.
- 6.4 In light of the discussions, the Governors agreed to review the Council's strategic business development framework at its next meeting in October 2020. Any recommended changes will be subject to formal agreement by the Council of Governors.

The Council of Governors is asked to **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** the report.