



**MEETING of the
GOVERNING BODY OF
SCOTTISH VETERANS' RESIDENCES
SVR Boardroom and MS Teams on Friday 17th March 2023 at 08.30**

Record of Decisions

Present: George Lowder MBE Chairman – Present
Sue Bomphray (SB) – Online
Capt Andrew Cassels (AC) – Online
Richard Edlmann (RE) – Online
Lt Ray Gidney RN (RG) – Online
Clive Masson (CM) – Online
Sqn Ldr Derek Morrison (DM) – Online
Isla Tabberer (IMT) – Online
Maj Christian Taylor (CT) – Online
Sandy Telfer (ST) – Online
Jonathan Tweedie, Vice-Chairman (VC) – Online

In attendance: Jeremy Chittleburgh Treasurer (JC) – Online
George Corbett Depute CEO (DCEO) – Online
Colin Leslie Head of External Relations (CL) – Present
Gayle Templeton, HR Consultant, (GT) – Online
Graeme Watson, Rosendael Manager, (GW) – Online
Martin Nadin OBE Chief Executive (CEO) – Present (Minutes)

Apologies: Rev Neil N Gardner (NG)
Troy Johnson (TRJ)
Tony Jones KC (TJ)

	Subject	Raised by	Additional Documents	Decision
1	Chairman's Introduction	Chairman		
1	Recognising how busy Members were in their day jobs, the Chairman thanked those present for attending, and welcomed them to the meeting. He recognised the benefits of 'hybrid meetings' but was struck by the fact that some of the Members had not yet met each other in person. At the AGM and next Governing Body Meeting, he encouraged all to attend in person, if possible.			
2	He noted that the agenda was busy and there was a lot to get through. He commented on the turbulence of the times and that was likely to be reflected in some of the sub-committee reports, but he remained grateful to all SVR's staff for keeping the charity and the services on course and able to weather the turbulence.			

3	The Chairman welcomed Capt Andrew Cassels, Chair of the Merchant Navy Welfare Board to his first meeting of SVR's Governing Body, as the representative for the Merchant Navy. All present introduced themselves to AC.			
2	Apologies	CEO		Noted
	Chief Exec confirmed that apologies had been received from Neil Gardner, Troy Johnson, and Tony Jones. With 11 Members in attendance, the meeting was quorate.			
3	Previous Record	Chairman	Draft RoDs 09 Dec 22	Approved
3.1	The draft Record of Decisions of the SVR Governing Body Meeting held on 9 th December 2022 were reviewed and approved as an accurate record of the meeting. RoDs accepted: Proposed by: VC Seconded by: RE			
4	Review Action Log	Chairman	Action Table	Noted
4.1	General – With the majority of the outstanding issues being picked up in the agenda the Chief Exec noted progress against the refresh of SVR's external website, and confirmed that CL wanted to commission a promotional video for SVR. It was agreed to proceed, obtain costings, and revert to the Governing Body for approval.			
4.2	Bellrock Close Review Action List – The Chief Exec reviewed progress against the open serials within the Bellrock Close Action List: Ser 2. Drug Use – We Are With You (WAWY) had integrated well into the Residence with no adverse impact of SVR service delivery. Chief Exec meeting WAWY staff on 27 Mar to explore potential for further support. Sers. 6 & 9 Maintenance Costs and Benchmarking Group – remains work in progress, recent focus on Op FORTITUDE has slowed progress. Sers. 7 and 8 Arrears and Voids processes – Will be picked up as follow on actions once type of accommodation occupancy contract for Bellrock Close has been confirmed (Agenda Item 8). Ser. 10 Employment Transition. Remained challenging, although ERRF having a positive impact allowing Residents to seek employment, and for employed Veterans seeking accommodation, making SVR accommodation affordable. Ser. 12 Extended Support – New Poppyscotland Head of Welfare remained supportive and requested a short pause whilst welfare service vacancies were recruited. Ser. 13 Outcome Targets – Carried forward.			
4.3	The Chairman explained the background of the Bellrock Close review and recommendations to AC.			
4.4	The Chairman identified that 7 recommendations remained as work in progress and were past the dates set for completion. He added that the members had been fully briefed throughout, it was understood why the completions dates had not been met, and the Chief Exec and team were closing them as fast as they could. He asked the Governing Body			

	members to confirm they were content with this, which received unanimous support.		
5	Sub-Committee Reports	Chairman	Noted
5.1	<p>Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) – Chief Exec confirmed that TJ had been unable to attend the last ARC Committee Meeting and that SB had chaired the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ He briefed that the ARC Q1 meeting had been the introductory meeting with the new external auditor, Wylie & Bisset, which had confirmed the audit plan for the 2022 accounts. Field work would commence in April. ▪ The 2022 internal audits had been completed and reported. Substantial Assurance had been report for GDPR, and Duty of Care, Reasonable Assurance for Core Financial Controls. ▪ The next meeting on 12 May 23 would take the draft external audit report. 		
5.2	The Chairman asked about peer to peer review, to which the Chief Exec noted that it was hoped to benchmark and review with the English Veteran Supported Housing providers.		
5.3	<p>Investment Remuneration and Finance Committee (IRFC) – The Chairman confirmed that the IRFC meeting had been rescheduled from 8th to 15th March, and as a consequence, the Investment Manager had not been available. He had however, provided his presentation for the meeting and the VC had discussed the portfolio and market outlook in detail with him. The principal issues arising were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A challenging financial environment, characterised by the banking sector; the collapse of SVB and the bail out of Credit Suisse. The actions of the central banks, and particularly the US Federal Reserve, were key to improving market confidence and stability. ▪ Inflation remained significant, although it was expected to decrease during the year, forecast to reach 2 – 3% by year end of early 2024. ▪ The Chief Exec and Treasurer had developed a bespoke Treasury Management Policy (TMP) based on SFHA guidance. The IRFC had agreed its continued development with subsequent review by the Investment Manager, and a subject matter expert, prior to being brought to the Governing Body for endorsement. ▪ Papers had been taken on alignment of Housing Assistant salaries across all sites, and a salary uplift for the Catering Manager. Both had been agreed. ▪ The persistent high void levels at Whitefoord House had been reviewed with consideration being given to alternative use to excess capacity. The potential of converting some single accommodation to temporary accommodation for homeless, or at risk of homelessness veterans families was being explored. This would be considered together with buying/renovating other accommodation for families. The potential conversion of Whitefoord House accommodation also had to be considered within the context of possible conservation work. ▪ 3 Out Of Committee decisions had been ratified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Acceptance of a 2-year electricity contract with British Gas for Whitefoord House and Bellrock Close; ○ Annual fee to Chiene & Tait for financial services; and ○ Employment of Inverroy Crisis Management to develop and finish Crisis Management and Business Continuity plans. ▪ The Committee had also requested a review of previous salary banding work to establish how SVR’s salaries compared to the broader sector. 		
5.4	CM asked if the potential provision of family accommodation referred to Veterans with families, or families of veterans no longer here. Chief Executive stated it could be both. It was believed SVR’s articles would allow both, but assessments of demand, how that		

	demand might be met, and costs all needed to be considered.
5.5	<p>Quality Committee (QC) – CM confirmed that the QC had met on 12 March. Key issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Residences’ service self-assessment and improvement plans had been reviewed and found to be well-established. It was felt that the Care Inspectorate would be satisfied with them. ▪ The application for a Scottish Veterans Fund grant to fund a Band 6 Occupational Therapist had been approved. Recruitment would commence on receipt of the formal grant letter. ▪ The annual Residents’ survey had been received. Generally positive, 3 areas identified by some Residents for improvement/concern: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meal quality at Whitefoord House; ○ Request for more detailed explanation of accommodation and service charges; and ○ An undercurrent that non-Veterans should not be accommodated. ▪ Employee Satisfaction Survey (ESS) had been received. Very positive with one outlier. ▪ The QC had received an update on complaints received so far during the year. ▪ The unexpected death of a Rosendael Resident. The appropriate procedures had been followed by staff, who dealt with the incident extremely professionally and well.
5.6	The Chairman commented that he had been unaware that the provision of accommodation to non-Veterans was an issue for some Veteran Residents. CM and the Chief Exec replied that it had always been present as low-level grumbling, mostly relating to a perception amongst some Veterans that they had different (better) values and standards than non-Veterans. The Chief Exec felt the issue had more visibility, because communication with Residents and passage of information within SVR, had improved, and concerns and issues were better and more widely understood. He felt that the undercurrent was perpetuated by a failure to communicate effectively with the Residents. An explanation should be provided that SVR’s charitable objects, whilst focussing on preventing Veterans homelessness, did not do so exclusively. It was beholden on SVR both morally, and financially, to offer any capacity not used by Veterans for use by non-Veterans. He would work with the Residence Managers to develop a suitable narrative for all Residents.
5.7	The Chairman noting the one employee outlier in the employee survey, whilst not wishing to dwell on it, sought assurance from CM that he was not concerned by it. CM confirmed that he was, overall the ESS was extremely positive with most scores in excess of 4/5 or in the upper quartile.

6	Treasurer’s Report	Treasurer	2022 Q4 Management Accounts & February 2023 Cashflow	Noted
6.1	The Treasurer referred to the 12-month Management Accounts which had been included in the meeting papers. He commented that whilst a deficit of c£200k had been recorded, this was better than the forecast deficit of c£400k. As a result, SVR was cash positive at year end.			
6.2	His main area of concern remained the high void levels at Whitefoord House, which reduced overall income if the accommodation was not occupied. Given the financial climate, a decision had been taken to delay a number of major projects, which had been rolled over into 2023. Food inflation had significantly exceeded expectation and had been difficult to control. However, in overall terms, the major areas of expenditure had been kept on control.			

6.3	One area that he wished to highlight which would be visible on the annual statutory accounts was the <u>unrealised</u> loss of c£800k on investments, which when added to the operating deficit produced an overall deficit of £1m. He reassured the Governing Body, that it shouldn't panic, the loss was unrealised, most other charities were reporting proportionally similar unrealised losses, and there were already signs that the market was recovering from its end of year low point.
6.4	He noted that money continued to be received for restricted purposes, which was relevant to the Project SUNDIAL paper later on in the agenda, and the Governing Body's duty to ensure restricted funds that had built up were appropriately used.
6.5	He also referred to the cashflow forecast, which showed over the next 18 months a cash low point of c£600k, and if Project SUNDIAL was authorised, this would still retain £450k available. He had also taken the decision in light of increases in interest rates to place £250k on 4 months deposit at 3.12%, to get a better return than from the current account. Overall, the position remained challenging but the major areas of expenditure remained in control.
6.6	He offered to take questions but no further explanation was required.

7	Project SUNDIAL	Chief Exec	Briefing Note	Approved
7.1	The Chief Exec referred to the Business Case that had been developed by GW and the covering note that had been circulated with the meeting papers.			
7.2	Referencing the Treasurer's previous comments, he confirmed that Rosendael's restricted fund held c£230k and had done so for some time. Consideration had been given to the use of the fund and GW had looked at a range of options. Project SUNDIAL was a range of works that would improve the layout, ergonomics, and décor of Rosendael's entrance, the front administrative corridor, and the FPK Lounge.			
7.3	<p>Authority from the Governing Body was sought to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide a budget of up to £150k for the project works; ▪ Permit GW and DCEO to obtain quotes for the proposed works; and ▪ Allow the Chief Exec to approve works within the £150k budget. 			
7.4	The Chief Exec noted that the project works and their 'unveiling' could be used as the basis for the proposed RP visit later in the year.			
7.5	SB sought confirmation that the FPK Lounge was not the lounge that had been refurbished a few years previously. It was confirmed that the previous refurbishment had been to the Grampian Lounge and the Dining Room.			
7.6	The Chairman asked if there were any further questions or requests for clarification. There being none he sought the agreement of the Governing Body to authorise a project budget of up to £150k from the £230k Rosendael restricted fund, and the approval of the requested delegations. Decision – All approved.			
7.7	The Chairman recognised that there would inevitably be delays to the project but it was important to be able to show progress for the proposed RP visit.			
Due to operational requirements the meeting was suspended for 5 minutes.				

8	SVR Tenure Policy	Chief Exec	Briefing Note	Approved
8.1	<p>The Chief Exec acknowledged GW's lead in undertaking the review of SVR's tenure documents. This had led to a number of recommendations. The Chief Exec summarised the recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The content, accuracy, and formatting of tenure documents required significant improvement; ▪ Completion of the documents could be haphazard and better training of housing staff in their completion was necessary; and ▪ Bellrock Close Residents should be switched from their current support and occupancy agreements to Short Scottish Secure Tenancies (SSST). 			
8.2	<p>GW added that anecdotally, the title of the current Resident tenure document "Housing Support Agreement and Accommodation" caused confusion for some Residents and he considered it was better to separate the 2 aspects into support, and accommodation.</p>			
8.3	<p>The Chairman thanked GW for his work in conducting the review and producing the recommendations. He had noted that if approved, there would be a process of rollover to the revised format documents as they became due for resigning and that this was likely to take until the end of the year.</p>			
8.4	<p>GW acknowledged that and added that he felt the most significant improvement was better training of staff which would lead to better, more accurate completion of the documentation.</p>			
8.5	<p>AC asked if it was worth including the issue of the risk register. Chief Exec acknowledged that it could be managed through the operational risk register. He suggested that the review recommendations became actions, to be managed through the Governing Body's Action Table, and that a generic operational tenure risk was drafted, which had as its control measure, the regular review of tenure agreements to check for compliance with legislation. AC confirmed that would be satisfactory. GW added that there would be an accompanying Tenure Policy that would be reviewed on a periodic basis and following legislative change.</p>			
8.6	<p>ST wanted to understand if it was likely for a Bellrock Close Resident to refuse to sign a SSST and seek to retain their current contract, in the belief that it gave them greater rights. Consultation should be transparent and identify the advantages, and if applicable, the disadvantages of switching so that Residents could make informed decisions. Chief Exec acknowledged the risk and said that as part of the process of consultation with the Residents, it was envisaged that TPAS Scotland would be engaged to brief Residents on the benefits of switching to a SSST. ST also considered there might be cause to register the challenge and risk of switching contracts with SVR's original legal advisors, who had advised the use of the Housing Support Agreement and Accommodation contract as the basis for occupancy of the Bellrock Close supported accommodation.</p>			
8.7	<p>AC commented that there should be a backstop or contingency plan should a Resident refuse to switch. GW that he felt in such circumstances the law would prevail, but it would be necessary to talk through potential scenarios with TC Young.</p>			
8.8	<p>The Chairman asked, noting the advice and caveats from the Governing Body members, if the Governing Body was content to proceed with the recommendations, which were agreed.</p>			

9	Whitefoord House Conservation Survey	Chief Exec	Verbal Update	Noted
9.1	For AC's benefit, the Chief Exec gave a short synopsis of the conservancy work being considered at the Whitefoord House campus, within the context of improving the site's energy and thermal efficiency, trying to achieve Net Zero Carbon, and a potential partnership with Edinburgh World Heritage Trust (EWHT).			
9.2	He confirmed the conservation survey had been completed and the report and the initial building-by-building costings of conservation, received. There were some cost exclusions (asbestos removal (if necessary), licence fees and obtaining building authority).			
9.3	The initial costs quoted were £2.5m for fabric repairs to conservation standards, which of itself would not improve thermal efficiency, but was compliant with the Fabric First approach, directed by Scot Gov. To those costs had to be overlaid thermal efficiency measures, and reducing carbon output produced by heat and light. He offered some potential examples.			
9.4	In terms of prioritisation of work, there was a balance to be achieved. Whether to adopt a purely conservation approach, and prioritise the oldest and most historic buildings for repair, and accept the high resource requirements (technical, time, cost), or, to undertake work elsewhere on campus that was relatively simple, and required significantly less resource. A trial removal of building render would also be required to understand the technical requirements and the condition of the stonework currently covered by the render. Discrete funding was available for the trial.			
9.5	He felt that the next steps would be a meeting of the relevant stakeholders to discuss the report findings and recommendations, after which, he judged he would begin to bring together the various work-strands and findings into a sustainability strategy that would include the conservation of the Whitefoord House campus. The aim of the strategy was to demonstrate 'good behaviour'. It would define the research and investigations undertaken to understand the infrastructure and the charity's carbon footprint, and set out how the charity could address infrastructure conservation within the context of improving energy and thermal efficiency, and reducing the carbon footprint (hopefully to net zero).			
9.6	The Chairman said he had a couple of comments, but invited questions from Members. There were several concerning the removal of render, application for historic building renovation, breakdown of costs, and the availability of grant funding, to which the Chief Exec responded.			
9.7	The Chairman commented that in terms of the draft strategy, clarity was required regarding the health & safety objectives, vs the conservation objectives vs the sustainability objectives, and he had a sense that SVR could seek to do many of the objectives in all 3 areas, which could lead to an uncontrolled cost spiral. Therefore clarity was essential in all 3 areas, and where something was identified as essential in all 3, it was likely that would become a priority. He also considered that functional and sustainability impact and effectiveness were likely to override aesthetic considerations.			
9.8	The Chief Exec agreed, adding that it was his intention as part of the strategy to list all the measures that could be done, if there were no resource constraints. Where insufficient resource was available to implement a measure, that would exclude it, until such time as resource could be generated. The reasons for excluding any identified measures would be articulated in the strategy, which he hoped would allow SVR to demonstrate good behaviour. It was recognised that there would be tensions within the programme of measures and that appropriate balances and compromises would have to be struck.			

9.9	<p>ST offered to arrange an introduction with Zero Waste Scotland, which was able to provide independent advice and review of all the issues that had been considered. The offer was gratefully received.</p> <p>Afternote: Chief Exec met with Stephen Boyle on 12 Apr 23.</p>			
9.10	<p>In concluding the discussion the Chairman acknowledged that the strategy should be developed and brought forward for review and endorsement, when ready. He also noted that he and the Chief Exec had discussed staff capacity. Once the strategy was agreed and the programme of measures agreed, it would be necessary to augment the Head Office team, which would incur further cost, but this was necessary given the programme's likely complexity, and the need to maintain current operational services.</p>			
10	Chief Exec's Report	Chief Exec	Chief Exec's Written Report	Approved
10.1	<p>Chief Exec drew attention to the topical issue of persistent damp and mould in properties, which he had covered in his written report. His intent was to give the Governing Body assurance that damp and mould was recognised as an issue, but there wasn't a problem with persistent damp and mould in any of SVR's properties. There had not been any reports of damp and mould throughout 2022. A revision of SVR's General Health & Safety Policy Statement was being undertaken, to which a discrete damp and mould section would be added. Overall, there was no problem with the prevention or reporting of damp and mould. He was happy to discuss the issue in further detail with any member of the Governing Body, should they want to do so.</p>			
10.2	<p>Deputy Chief Executive. DCEO sought Governing Body approval for 2 issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Postponed/Delayed maintenance projects identified as priorities within condition survey: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Replacement of 5 electricity distribution boards at Whitefoord House; ○ Repairs to sash windows at Whitefoord House; and ○ Repairs to Callendar House stairwell following minor building movement. <p>The Treasurer confirmed that there were unexpected savings after having prepared the budget and the 3 projects were sensible ones to undertake. The Chairman sought the Governing Body's approval to carry out the projects with a total projected cost of £128k, which were agreed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extension of PPM contract. Given the quality of work undertaken by the current provider (ECG), the maintenance consultants had advised against re-tendering the PPM contract and to accept ECG's 2 year offer of a 9.5% cost increase to Year 1 of a new contract, and 0% in Year 2. The new contract would run from Sep 23 – Sep 25. <p>The Chairman asked if the Governing Body was content to authorise retention of ECG to provide the PPM contract, which was agreed.</p>			
10.3	<p>DCEO confirmed he was monitoring the City of Edinburgh Council's (CEC) contract for Homeless Accommodation with Support (HAWS) through its Flexible Purchase System. The retender process was currently paused and release of applications to join the framework and participate in the mini-tenders was awaited. He explained that currently, the terms and the conditions of the draft specification for the provision of HAWs, were very demanding. They required exclusive use of the accommodation for CEC, and provision of a range of services options and facilities that were significantly different from SVR's service delivery model. He added that although SVR intended to proceed with the</p>			

	application to join the framework, it would be necessary to seek amendments to the service specification.			
10.4	The Chairman asked what was the risk of losing the income currently received from CEC. The DCEO confirmed that it was £116k annually, around 5% of Whitefoord House's annual income. He added that he wanted to make the Governing Body aware that there was a risk that income could be loss because of an inability to comply with the conditions of the service specification.			
	Afternote: Draft risk added to Strategic Risk Register.			
10.5	Head of External Relations (HER). The HER said that he hoped that his first written report was self-explanatory, but he would be happy to take questions or expand on any of the points it contained. There were no questions or requests for expansion.			
10.6	The Chairman congratulated the HER on the steady drumbeat of articles that were appearing in the media.			
11				
	Residence Reports	SB, IT & NG	Verbal briefs	Noted
11.1	Bellrock Close – SB noted the Residence Manger now held monthly meetings with the Residents and SB attended quarterly. With input from the Occupational Therapy students and WWTW there had been a busy series of activities with had resulted in an uplift in Resident engagement. There had been a successful Burns Supper.			
11.2	Rosendael – GW noted that there had been one Residence meeting so far. A series of monthly themes had been initiated. There had been higher than normal staff and Resident turnover, with Residents principally moving on to independent accommodation. Rosendael too, had had a successful Burns Supper. He and the Chief Exec had met with Dundee City Council housing staff which he hoped would lead to the development of a SLA with the council for accommodation provision for Veterans. Staff had been bust conducting the Care Inspectorate's Self-Assessment and developing the annual Improvement Plan.			
11.3	Whitefoord House – Chief Exec noted that the Residents' Association was working well and was providing useful suggestions and input to service provision. A dip in staffing was beginning to recede following the return of a number of long-term absentees. There had been a significant number of applications for corporate volunteering at Whitefoord House and where appropriate it was hoped that these applications could be shared with Rosendael and Bellrock Close.			
12				
	Service Reports	Chief Exec	Verbal Brief	Noted
12.1	Royal Navy. RG noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MOD Caledonia would revert to RN ownership, a reversal of the previous 2SL's decision. It was a potential base for new ships coming on line (Types 26 and 31). An increase in investment at the site was expected. ▪ At a recent conference, 1SL had noted that recruitment into the RN remained good, but that retention was a challenge. ▪ The Chief Exec had attended the Naval Regional Forum and he hoped he had found that useful. ▪ It was likely to be RG's last meeting as he was changing roles. There was a nominated replacement but the post would be gapped until Aug 23. 			
12.2	IMT sought clarification if the increase in operational units in the Forth could lead on to more RN personnel and families settling in the Fife and Edinburgh areas. RG replied that			

	<p>he couldn't be definitive. There was potential for increased operational basing on the Forth, but so too were other options. Clarity was unlikely for a couple of years.</p>
12.3	<p>The Chairman thanked RG for his conscientious contributions during his time in role and for shaping his briefs for the SVR audience. He wished him good luck in his new command.</p>
12.4	<p>Army. CT noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A series of deployments to Mali, Middle East, Cyprus and Kenya over the previous 6 months and that cover had been provided for a number of strikes across Scotland. Personnel remained on standby to cover further industrial action. ▪ The cost-of-living crisis was having an impact particularly on young married families. ▪ Recruiting and retention remained poor, which was proving challenging in maintaining commitments. ▪ It was planned to increase Army basing around Leuchars by up to 1000 personnel and families by the end of the decade. This would include the move of 3 SCOTS from Fort George, and 7 Regt RLC from England. ▪ The Future Accommodation Model would go live from Oct 23. Those in long term relationships would move from being eligible for service accommodation to entitled. This was expected to place more strain on service accommodation availability. The Private Rental Scheme, whereby surplus service accommodation had been offered for private rental, would be reversed, including the ending of current leases.
12.5	<p>The Chairman commented on the state of the Craigiehall Estate in Edinburgh, in which none of the properties were occupied and nearly all had been vandalised. CT acknowledged this but said that the estate was due for disposal following the basing review.</p>
12.6	<p>RAF. DM noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High tempo over previous 6 months. For example RAF aircraft had flown over 1.2m km and transported 10,000 Ukrainian military personnel for training in the UK. ▪ An investment of £83m and the creation of 125 jobs had been announced following confirmation of infrastructure builds to accommodate incoming E7 Wedgetail aircraft (Airborne Early Warning) at Lossiemouth. Aircraft expected in 2024. ▪ He had sent 2 document summaries produced by the RAFA to the Chief Executive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ OVA paper on former UK Armed Forces personnel perceptions; and ○ Research paper on suicides in former UK Armed Forces personnel 1996-2018, a retrospective cohort study. ▪ There was support available from the RAFBF and RAFA for RAF Veteran Residents of SVR.
12.7	<p>Merchant Navy. AC noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2023 was the 75th Anniversary of the MNWB, and had a number of celebrations to plan this year. ▪ It was the umbrella charity for 43 constituent members, including SVR. It was non-beneficiary facing; sitting in between Government and Funders and the Beneficiary Charities. MNWB covered the UK, Gibraltar, and the Falkland Islands. ▪ He provided a short resume of the previous 2 years and described the operating model and service provision. He noted receipt of £2.1m of government money as part of its Covid-19 response, of which, £1.5m had been distributed by the end of 2022. ▪ He also gave a short resume of his CV.

13	Strategic Risk Register	Chief Exec	Strategic Risk Register	Noted
13.1	<p>With time pressing, the Chairman decided to move past the Strategic Risk Register as an agenda item. He noted that the ARC had reviewed the Risk Register and the IRFC had reviewed the financial risks. The Chief Exec would circulate a note Out of Committee, confirming changes in the Register since the previous Governing Body meeting.</p> <p>Afternote: The Chief Exec updated all Governing Body members by email on 18 March 2023.</p>			
14	AOB	Chairman	Copy of RSM letter	Noted and acknowledged
14.1	<p>RSM resignation letter as SVR external auditor. The Chairman referred to the resignation letter that had been circulated to the Governing Body and the need to acknowledge the resignation of the previous external auditors. There was unanimous acknowledgment of RSM's resignation and the appointment of Wylie and Bisset as the new external auditor.</p>			
14.2	<p>SVR Strapline. To be considered at the next meeting.</p>			
15	DONM – Wednesday 24th May 2023 at 12.00, immediately preceded by AGM.			
15.1	<p>The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and all they did for the organisation. He noted that SVR was lucky to have such a qualified Governing Board with all the competencies it could wish for.</p>			