Item 6 – Lion Homes Information Bulletin

1. Member Voluntary Liquidation

1.1 On 9th July 2025 Cabinet approved the Shareholder Panel recommendation for Lion Homes (Norwich) Ltd (LHL) to enter into a Member Voluntary Liquidation (MVL).

1.2 Grant Thornton LLP have been appointed as the company liquidators and the process to move the company into liquidation has commenced. The MVL process will ensure an orderly closure of LHL, that creditors are paid and assets are realised at market value rather than via a distressed sale.

1.3 It is likely the MVL process, managed by Grant Thornton will take several months to complete, with a target for LHL to formally enter liquidation at the end of March 2026.

2. 2024/25 Draft Statement of Accounts

2.1 The City Council published its draft 2024/25 statement of accounts on 26th September. The draft accounts are subject to external audit by EY and this work is now underway. The draft statement of accounts includes the councils Group Accounts which consolidates its two wholly owned subsidiaries (Norwich City Services Ltd and LHL) into its single entity accounts. The Council has used the latest LHL draft 2023/24 accounts, produced on a break-up basis for the consolidation into its group accounts.

2.2 An email to all Councillors was sent out on the 26th September to confirm the publication of the councils draft accounts.

2.3 The Directors of LHL are responsible for preparing and filing the company accounts with Companies House. Final audit work is being completed and the accounts will be filed as soon as possible. The Directors of LHL have been in regular communication with Companies House and obtained the necessary extension approvals for filing their accounts.

3. Lessons learned report

3.1 The Cabinet also resolved on 9 July to request that the Scrutiny Committee undertake a ‘lessons learned’ review of the company, following the conclusion of the MVL process. Teresa Sharman, as the Council’s Chief Internal Auditor, has been commissioned to produce a lessons learned review report, which will be considered by the Scrutiny Committee in due course. There may also be matters arising from this work that will fall within the remit of the Audit Committee and that will be reported accordingly. Officers will continue to consider whether any intermediate report can be brought to either committee ahead of the completion of the final report.