

Corporate governance statement continued

Division of responsibilities

Board roles

There is clear division between executive and non-executive responsibilities which ensure accountability and oversight. The roles of Chairman and Chief Executive are separately held and their responsibilities are well defined, set out in writing and regularly reviewed by the Board.

Chairman, John Burns

- Responsible for the effective running of the Board and ensuring it is appropriately balanced to deliver the Group's strategic objectives
- Promote a boardroom culture that is rooted in the principles of good governance and enables transparency, debate and challenge
- Ensure that the Board as a whole plays a full and constructive part in the development of strategy and that there is sufficient time for boardroom discussion
- Effective engagement between the Board, its shareholders and other key stakeholders

Senior Independent Director, Simon Fraser

- Provide a 'sounding board' for the Chairman in matters of governance or the performance of the Board
- Available to shareholders if they have concerns which have not been resolved through the normal channels of communication with the Company
- To at least annually lead a meeting of the Non-Executive Directors without the Chairman present to appraise the performance of the Chairman
- To act as an intermediary for Non-Executive Directors when necessary and act as Chairman if the Chairman is conflicted
- To act as an independent point of contact in the Group's whistleblowing procedures

Non-Executive Directors (NEDs)

- Provide constructive challenge to our executives, help to develop proposals on strategy and monitor performance against our KPIs
- Ensure that no individual or group dominates the Board's decision making
- Promote the highest standards of integrity and corporate governance throughout the Company and particularly at Board level
- Determine appropriate levels of remuneration for the senior executives
- Review the integrity of financial reporting and that financial controls and systems of risk management are robust

Designated NED for gathering the views of our workforce⁽ⁱ⁾, Dame Cilla Snowball

Cilla Snowball has been designated the NED responsible for gathering the views of our workforce. This is achieved by:

- Attendance at key employee and business events, including property launches and the Summer Party
- Review messages received through the whistleblowing system from the Group's employees
- Monitor the effectiveness of engagement programmes established for employees
- Provide regular updates to the Board
- Monitor the outcome of employee surveys and provide input on their design

Chief Executive, Paul Williams

- To provide clear and visible leadership
- Execute the Group's strategy and commercial objectives together with implementing the decisions of the Board and its committees
- To keep the Chairman and Board apprised of important and strategic issues facing the Group
- To ensure that the Group's business is conducted with the highest standards of integrity, in keeping with our culture
- Manage the Group's risk profile and ensure actions are compliant with the Board's risk appetite
- Investor relation activities, including effective and ongoing communication with shareholders

Chief Financial Officer, Damian Wisniewski

- Support the CEO in developing and implementing strategy
- Provide financial leadership to the Group and align the Group's business and financial strategy
- Responsible for financial planning and analysis, treasury and tax functions
- Responsible for presenting and reporting accurate and timely historical financial information
- Manage the capital structure of the Group
- Investor relation activities, including communications with investors, alongside the CEO

Other Executive Directors

- Support the CEO in developing and implementing strategy
- Oversee the day-to-day activities of the Group
- Manage, motivate and develop staff
- Develop business plans in collaboration with the Board
- Ensure that the policies and practices set by the Board are adopted at all levels of the Group
- Investor relation activities, including communications with investors, alongside the CEO

Company Secretary, David Lawler

- Secretary to the Board and its committees
- Develop Board and committee agendas and collate and distribute papers
- Ensure compliance with Board procedures
- Advise on regulatory compliance and corporate governance
- Facilitate induction programmes for Directors and assisting with their training and development, as required
- Responsible for communications with retail shareholders and the organisation of the Annual General Meeting
- Available to support all Directors

⁽ⁱ⁾ Although Cilla Snowball is the designated Director for gathering the views of our workforce, the Chairman ensures that all Directors continue to remain engaged with our employees and challenge and contribute to discussions on workforce engagement.