

Case Study

DTP

Grand Union Housing Group

Stress testing board workshop

Grand Union Housing Group provides 12,000 homes for more than 27,000 people across Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire and Hertfordshire.

Objective

GUHG commissioned DTP to work with its executive team and Board to undertake a stress testing workshop. GUHG's Board regularly reviews its stress tests and mitigations, but wanted to have a focused, more intensive workshop following a number of recent internal changes (e.g. group consolidation) and ongoing rapid changes in the external operating environment.

What we did

DTP's approach comprised the following:

- Onsite meeting with Executive to review and understand current stress tests etc.
- Preparation for Board session
- Delivery of Board and Exec workshop (we treated this as if the RSH were present, to focus minds and ensure all Board members fully engage)
- Production of a report after the session

The workshop involved a review of the Group's current stress tests and how those impacted on the Business Plan, discussion on any additional or multivariate tests the Board wanted to see, consideration of proposed mitigations and an expansion of those to cover a wider set of scenarios.

The method included smaller group work as well as Board-wide discussions.

The workshop attained full Board member and executive attendance.

DTP also provided advice and assistance on the presentation of stress testing and mitigations, in the form of a resilience plan, which GUHG's Board will discuss and approve at a future Board meeting. The support was undertaken in a collaborative and iterative way, with a partnership approach.

GUHG undertook a feedback exercise of those attending the workshop, which was then shared with DTP.

Some of the comments received included:

*"Consultants were knowledgeable.
Breakout sessions worked well."*

"Very good debate about stress testing – I think the Board is clear where we are going."

*"Good, structure, summary and input from DTP that kept us focused on relevant aspects.
Good participation and degree of openness.
Clear way forward agreed for most things."*

"Well facilitated with useful insights from experiences gained elsewhere in sector."



DTP worked with us to plan the event and ensured that it was tailored to our particular circumstances. There was great engagement from all involved throughout the day and the DTP team facilitated a lively and absorbing event.

Aileen Evans, Group CEO

A different perspective