

NI Water Ltd
("the Company")

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board of Directors (the "Board")
on Tuesday 23rd July 2024 @ 11 am
IOC Conference Room, Westland House

Present:

Jo Aston	Chair
Maurice Bullick	Non Executive Director
Danny McSorley	Non Executive Director
Paddy Larkin	Non Executive Director
Marie-Therese McGivern	Non Executive Director
Belinda Oldfield	Non Executive Director
Sara Venning	Chief Executive
Ronan Larkin	Director of Finance, Regulation and Commercial
Stephanie McCullagh	Director of Customer and Operations

In attendance:

Mark Ellesmere	General Counsel & Company Secretary
Gary Curran	Director of Engineering and Sustainability
Rose Kelly	Director of People & Learning
Tzvetelina Bogoina	Director of Infrastructure Delivery
Alistair Jinks	Director of Business Services (Items 5 & 6)
Lorraine Yarr	Health and Safety Manager (Item 2)
Brendan Kelly	Health and Safety Manager (Item 2)
Anthony Lynn	Head of Communications (Item 5)
Paddy Brow	Head of Living with Water Programme (Items 8 & 9)

Conflict of Interest - Paddy Larkin declared a potential conflict of interest in relation to item 9. It was agreed that he should leave the meeting when this item was being considered.

1. Minutes and Actions from Previous Meeting

- The minutes of the previous meeting on 25th June 2024 were approved.
- All Actions complete or were progressing within agreed timeframes.

2. Health and Safety Report

- The update report was noted with one Company reportable incident and no Contractor incidents in the reporting period. The details of Company incident were set out in the report.
- A verbal update was provided on the serious incident involving a Contractor on 3rd July. Members wished the injured party a full recovery.

3. Budget Update

- Members noted that the revised Operating Plan and Budget 24/25 had been submitted to Dfl. The Permanent Secretary's response to that submission was noted and it was agreed that Management could make an appropriate submission to Dfl as part of the October monitoring round process, if required, in August.
- Members welcomed completion of the Group Annual Report and Accounts 23/24 and thanked the Director of Finance, Regulation and Commercial and his team for their efforts in this regard.
- The CEO provided a verbal update on her most recent meeting with the Permanent Secretary, Dfl. He agreed that draft planning assumptions for PC27 recently issued by the Director of Water Policy and Drainage would be considered at a meeting of the WSSG.
- Members made a number of suggestions for consideration in relation to responding to the EQIA process in relation to the Dfl budget 24/25.
- PC21 Outputs and Outcomes – the “Reasoned Submission” was discussed at the ORG meeting on 28th June – Members asked for more time to consider the submission in more detail within their respective organisations.

4. Main Board Report

The CEO provided a verbal update on the following matters:

- Wastewater Assets Stakeholder Updates – the Company has been engaging with trade bodies, developers and local councils to share the reshaped wastewater investment plan - the reaction to that plan has been (understandably) negative.
- Water and Sewage Services Order Amendments – the Company has asked Dfl to consider amending the Order to allow developers to make payments directly to NI Water to upgrade infrastructure to accommodate new connections.
- PC21 Monitoring Round – there were no additional allocations to the Company as a result of the June monitoring round process. The Permanent Secretary, Dfl has committed to working collaboratively with the Company in relation to bids in future monitoring rounds.
- The Chair requested a more detailed briefing for the Board on the Wastewater Assets Stakeholder Updates to include recent correspondence from the Information Commissioner's Office in relation to wastewater discharges.

Colleagues:

- Pay 23/24 – Engagement continues with Dfl and NIPSA

Operations:

- All targets on track for delivery currently

Water Quality and Wastewater Compliance:

- Members discussed the potential impact of the Wastewater Reform Project and requested further information on the impact of this project on environmental performance

Finance:

- The Director of Finance, Regulation and Commercial provided an update on the consequences of a delay in the payment of the road drainage charge by Dfl. It was

agreed that, if and when revised PC21 outputs are agreed, the original PC21 outputs should be included for analysis purposes.

5. Engagement Strategy Update

- The quarterly update presentation and video were welcomed and included a summary of activities in period and a forward look. It was noted that there was an upward trend in negative media coverage as a result of the Company's funding situation. It was agreed that the Company's communications strategy should be open, transparent and not misleading. A discussion ensued in relation to reputation management and the Company's communication strategy going forward. The Chair asked for clarification of the roles and responsibilities of NI Water and DfI in terms of communications.

6. ACE2 Update

- The quarterly update on the ACE2 Programme was noted with continuing positive progress.

7. Asset Delivery Quarterly Update

- The Quarterly Update was noted across Infrastructure Delivery and Engineering and Sustainability Directorates.

8. LWWP Update

- The half yearly update presentation was discussed in detail including the impact on Belfast Lough of a delay or deferral of the project. The Chair requested that consideration be given to a Board workshop in the Autumn to cover funding, the environment, the economy and communications strategy.

9. Higher Ground Project Update

- Paddy Larkin left the meeting for this item
- The update on the proposed project was noted together with the anticipated timeline for the next stages. A discussion ensued in relation to the Company's involvement in the project and what it might gain from the project, should it proceed. It was also agreed that the Company should take part in a proposed briefing of both the Ministers for the Economy and for DfI.

10. Approvals

10.1 Risk Management of Energy Price

- Approved based on the information provided within the paper.

10.2 IF182 Professional Services Framework

- Approved based on the information provided within the paper.

11. Risk Committee Update – 22nd July 2024

- The Chair of the Risk Committee provided a verbal update on the most recent meeting of the Committee on 22nd July. The agenda included a verbal update on the health and safety incident on 3rd July, updates on HR and Cyber Security (the latter including a recent external assurance review that deemed the project "satisfactory"). It was also agreed that all Board Members have access to Committee papers and meetings and that the Committee would focus on current, high risks including funding and

wastewater in the short term. A risk appetite workshop had been arranged for all Board Members on 25th November.

12. Forward Look

- The forward look was noted.

13. AOB

- There were no items under Any Other Business

Approved