

## **Derry City and Strabane District Council**

**Minutes of Meeting of the Assurance, Audit and Risk Committee (Open) held in the Guildhall, Derry on Thursday 8 March 2018 at 4.00 pm**

**Present:- Councillor McGinley (Chair); Aldermen McClintock; Councillors Duffy, Hastings, McMahon, Reilly and Robinson.**

**Non Members of Committee:- Alderman M Hamilton**

**In Attendance:- Mr P Kingston (Lead Legal Services Officer), Mrs K McFarland (Director of Health and Community), Mrs D McDonnell (Lead Assurance Officer) and Ms A Begley (Insurance and Risk Manager);**

### **AAR24/18 Notice and Summons of Meeting**

The Lead Assurance Officer read the Notice and Summons for the Meeting.

### **AAR25/18 Member Attendance and Apologies**

The Lead Assurance Officer completed the roll call. Apologies were recorded for Alderman Thompson; Councillors O'Reilly, Donnelly, Gallagher and D Kelly.

### **AAR26/18 Declarations of Members' Interests**

There were no declarations of Members interests.

### **Open for Decision**

#### **AAR27/18 Chairperson's Business**

There was no Chairperson's business.

#### **AAR28/18 Confirmation of the Open Minutes of the Assurance, Audit and Risk Committee held on Thursday 1 February 2018**

The Open Minutes of the Assurance, Audit and Risk Committee held on Thursday 1 February 2018 (AAR14/18- AAR22/18) were confirmed and signed by the Chairperson.

The Lead Assurance Officer referred to an inaccuracy in item AAR 21/18, she indicated it should read "the NIAO Director clarified that the City of Derry Airport, was not considered a going concern risk at the moment, however; would continue to be monitored by the NIAO during the audit". She asked that Members amend their Minutes accordingly.

#### **AAR29/18 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **AAR30/18 Risk Review Processes and Update on Council Service Risk Registers**

The Insurance and Risk Manager presented the above report, a copy of which had been previously circulated to Members. She advised that the purpose of the report was to; update Members on ongoing risk review processes, seek Members' endorsement on ongoing risk review processes in accordance with Council's Risk Management strategy and to provide Members with an update on Service Risk Register reviews completed during the period from November 2017 to February 2018. Councillor Hastings referred to the Community Planning risk register and the over reliance on Central Government for funding. He commented that he felt there were no alternatives available to Council at this time.

The Insurance and Risk Manager replied that some risks will remain high scoring due to the external risk factors which are impacting on them.

Councillor Reilly acknowledged that most of the high scoring risks identified were as a result of the lack of an executive at Stormont and not a fault of Council. He referred to cuts in the Rates Support Grant and difficulty in obtaining a City Deal, indicating that these were impacts of the lack of an Executive. He referred to a report issued by the Northern Ireland Select Committee which highlighted the impact that the lack of devolution was having on the people of Northern Ireland. He thanked the Insurance and Risk Manager for her report and stated that he hoped devolution could be restored soon.

Councillor McMahon stated that he hoped devolution would be restored when the appropriate conditions are met and these issues could then be tackled.

Councillor Hastings agreed with the analysis; however expressed his concerns in relation to the impact that the lack of an executive was having on the out workings of the community planning workshops. He added that public expectations had been raised and it was important civil servants within Central Government need to be made aware of the difficulties which Council are experiencing.

The Chair thanked the Insurance and Risk Manager for the report, stating that the amount of work put into the analysis of the 13 Service Risk Registers should not be underestimated.

The Committee

**Recommended that Council endorse ongoing risk review processes in accordance with Council's Risk Management strategy.**

### **Open for Information**

#### **AAR31/18 Performance Improvement**

The Lead Assurance Officer presented the above report, details of which had been previously circulated to Members. She advised that the purpose of the report was to update Members in relation to Council's Performance Improvement responsibilities.

The Committee

**Recommended that Members note the content of this report.**

#### **AAR32/18 Appeal by Oasis Retail Services Limited in Relation to an Amusement Permit Application**

The Lead Legal Services Officer presented the above report, details of which had been previously circulated to Members. He stated that the purpose of the report was to advise Members of the decision of the court in respect of the appeal by Oasis Retail Services Limited against the decision of Derry and Strabane District Council to refuse an application for an Amusement Permit under Article 108 (1) (ca) of the Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (NI) Order 1985 ("the 1985 Order") in respect of premises at Unit 23 Richmond Centre, Londonderry.

The Lead Assurance Officer reminded Members that this case had previously been reviewed as part of the Internal Audit Report, which was presented to the Audit, Assurance and Risk Committee in February 2018; and that 5 recommendations within this Report were a result of this judgement. She added that the implementation of the recommendations would be monitored by the Health and Community Committee.

Councillor Reilly thanked the Lead Legal Services Officer and the Lead Assurance Officer for the report and the points made surrounding the implementation of recommendations.

The Committee

**Recommended**

**that Members note the  
content of this report.**

**The meeting ended at 4.30 pm**

**The Meeting went into Confidential Business**