

Derry City and Strabane District Council

Minutes of Meeting of the Assurance, Audit and Risk Committee held in the Guildhall, Derry on Thursday 8 November 2018 at 4.00 pm

Present: - Councillor McGuire (Chair); Aldermen M Hamilton, McClintock and Thompson; Councillors Carlin, Duffy, Donnelly, Gallagher, Hastings, J McKeever, McGinley, McMahan and O'Reilly.

Non Members of Committee: - Alderman R Hamilton; Councillors Carr and Robinson.

In Attendance:- Mrs K McFarland (Director of Health and Community), Mrs D McDonnell (Lead Assurance Officer), Ms A Begley (Insurance and Risk Manager) and Ms O O'Doherty (Corporate Health and Safety Officer); Miss L Bell (Committee Services Assistant)

AAR103/18 Notice and Summons of Meeting

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

AAR104/18 Member Attendance and Apologies

The Lead Assurance Officer completed the roll call. Apologies were received from Councillor Reilly.

AAR105/18 Declarations of Members' Interests

Councillor Hastings declared an Interest in Item 10- North West Region Waste Management Group- Report to those Charged with Governance.

Open for Decision

AAR106/18 Chairperson's Business

There was no Chairperson's business.

AAR107/18 Confirmation of the Open Minutes of the Assurance, Audit and Risk Committee held on Monday 24 September 2018

The Open Minutes of the Assurance, Audit and Risk Committee held on 24 September 2018 (AAR82/18 – AAR95/18) were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising

AAR108/18 AAR90/18- Financial Statements

Councillor Gallagher referred to a recent meeting of the Business and Culture Committee, at which Members approved £75,000 funding from the North West Air Access Consortium fund provide marketing support for the new Loganair Derry to Glasgow route from the City of Derry Airport (BC214/18).

He commented that he had been given no satisfactory response to queries over the origins of this funding. He added that this had been the first time he had been made aware of this fund and questioned the potential for further use of the fund and if there were any other funds in place which he was not aware of.. He voiced concerns that the airport had faced many difficulties including securing the Public Service Obligation Route to London in the last 2 years and still Members' had been unaware of the availability of this funding and no explanation had been given.

In response, the Lead Assurance Officer advised that a report had been presented to the Business and Culture Committee seeking Members; approval to use the North West Air Access Consortium to provide marketing support for the new route from City of Derry Airport, She advised that the North West Air Access Consortium had been established a number of years ago by Derry City Council and Donegal County Council and the fund was set up as a marketing fund for the region.

Councillor Gallagher replied that these comments had proved his point that no one was aware of the funding and that he found this alarming.

The Lead Assurance Officer explained that as she had previously stated she was aware of the fund.

Alderman Thompson expressed his surprise at Councillor Gallagher raising this issue again as the Chief Executive had answered his questions clearly at the Full Council meeting and explained the purpose of the fund. He stated that he felt Councillor Gallagher had twisted

what was said and had been trying to secure newspaper headlines. He added that he felt that Councillor Gallagher either had difficulty hearing or didn't want to hear what was said and had been trying to undermine this.

Councillor Donnelly stated that he felt Alderman Thompson's accusations were unfair and agreed with Councillor Gallagher that concerns over the possibility of other sources of funding needed addressed.

The Chair stated that the Chamber was the Forum to ask questions.

Councillor Gallagher stated that his hearing difficulty should not be a concern for Alderman Thompson adding that he clearly heard the Chief Executive state that he was unaware of the North West Air Consortium funding. He agreed with the Chair that the Chamber was the forum for asking questions.

AAR109/18 Confirmation of the Open Minutes of the Assurance, Audit and Risk Committee held on Thursday 4 October 2018

The Open Minutes of the Assurance, Audit and Risk Committee held on 4 October 2018 (AAR96/18- AAR102/18) were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

AAR110/18 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

AAR111/18 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 and to seek Member's endorsement on ongoing Risk review processes in accordance with Council's Risk Management strategy.

The Committee

Recommended that Council endorse the Service Risk Register.

AAR112/18 North West Region Waste Management Group - Report to those Charged with Governance

The Lead Assurance Officer presented the above report, a copy of which had been previously circulated to Members. She advised that the purpose of the above report was to seek member's endorsement of the North West Region Waste Management Group's Report to those Charged with Governance for the financial year 2017/2018.

The Committee

Recommended that Council endorse the contents of the Report to those Charged with Governance for the North West Region Waste Management Group.

AAR113/18 Member Training

The Lead Assurance Officer 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 in relation to training for the Assurance, Audit and risk Committee.

The Committee

Recommended that Members note the date of the Audit Committee training (23 November 2018) and advise the Lead Assurance Officer or the Internal Audit Manager if there are any specific areas they would like to cover.

AAR114/18 Corporate Health, Safety and Wellbeing Update

The Corporate Health and Safety Officer 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 the recent Health, Safety and Wellbeing Committee meeting held on 1 October 2018 and to seek Members continued endorsement for Health and Safety systems and processes within Council.

Councillor Hastings thanked the Officer for the report. He queried what systems had been put in place to ensure that incidents like the accident in Limavady last week where a Council employee lost his life, did not happen in the Derry City and Strabane District Council area.

The Corporate Health and Safety Officer replied that systems within all services were regularly audited, the whole scope of work checked, recommendations made directly to the service and team solutions actioned. She added that waste management was one of the highest risk areas in Council and required a high level of work to ensure safety, stating that Council Staff were on-guard for potential issues at all times

Councillor Hastings again thanked the Officer and requested that any learning acquired from this tragedy could be implemented in the Council area.

Councillor Donnelly thanked the Officer for the report and referred to serious allegations made regarding findings of misallocations of the Social Investment Fund by the Northern Ireland Audit Office. He questioned if these findings would have any impact on any of the community projects in the Council area, particularly the Brandywell.

The Director of Health and Community replied that she had not seen the full report and that she was aware of that the funding was allocated through the Social Investment Fund, not Council. She added that she would seek clarity on the matter.

The Lead Assurance Officer commented that any recommendations made in the report would be taken on board.

The Committee

Recommended that Council endorse the report and continues to endorse the Health and Safety systems and processes in place within Council.

Open for Information

AAR115/18 Performance Improvement

The Lead Assurance Officer 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 in relation to the Council's Performance Improvement Responsibilities.

The Committee

Recommended that Council note the contents of this report.

The meeting terminated at 4.25 pm