

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

Audit Committee

Minutes of Meeting held in Setanta Room, County Hall, Dundalk on Thursday 10th October 2013 at 4.30pm

In Attendance: Dr. Philip Byrne, Chairman
Mr. Billy Doyle
Mr. Richard Bowden
Councillor Jim Lennon
Councillor Frank Maher

Ms. Philomena Poole, County Manager
Mr. Frank Pentony, Director of Services
Mr. Joe McGuinness, Director of Services
Mr. Gerry Kelly, Senior Engineer/Head of Function
Mr. Paddy Donnelly, Meetings Administrator

Apologies: Ms. Bernie Woods, Head of Finance

Guests: Mr. Leo Fleming– Deloitte & Touche

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th May 2013 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. Jim Lennon and seconded by Cllr. Frank Maher.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Internal Audit Reports

The Chairman, Dr. Philip Byrne outlined that the main business of the meeting was to deal with two reports, one in respect of the Planning Process and a second in relation to special audit directed by the County Manager in relation to the Social Housing Investment Programme 2010.

- **Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP) 2010**

The Chairman invited the Manager to comment on the progress of the report. The Manager confirmed to the Chair and the Committee that she had directed that Deloitte carry out an audit into the SHIP 2010 Programme. The work on this audit is ongoing and she will report on the matter as soon as possible. The Chairman thanked the Manager for the update.

- **Planning Report**

Mr. Leo Fleming, Deloitte, presented the findings of the report on the planning process to the meeting. Mr. Fleming highlighted the issues identified by the audit team and referred to the management responses in relation to same. Mr. Gerry Kelly, Head of Function for Planning Services and Mr. Frank Pentony, Director of Services with responsibility for Planning in Dundalk and North Louth responded to the member's queries in relation to same. There was an extensive discussion in relation to the report. The Chairman thanked Mr. Fleming and his team for the comprehensive report into what is a very intricate and important function of the Local Authority. Mr. Billy Doyle congratulated the audit team and also wished to pay tribute to the work done by the planning team as it was obvious from the report that there are great strides to improve the delivery of the service. Mr. Fleming acknowledged and thanked the staff for their co-operation during the audit.

4. Date of Next Meeting

Mr. Leo Fleming outlined to the members the audit plan that is proposed for the coming months. It was agreed that they would progress the Contract Management Report with a view to same being presented at the next meeting of the Audit Committee. It was agreed that this meeting would be held on Wednesday 4th December at 4:30 pm. The Chairman also requested that the Local Government Auditor be invited to attend that meeting to make a presentation at same, and this was agreed.

5. Any Other Business

The Chairman spoke briefly in relation to the National Oversight and Audit Committee (NOAC) and in general about the intention to put the role of the Audit Committee on a sounder legal footing in the new legislation. This would come before the committee in due course.

The Chairman also raised the matter of Risk Management and requested that the Risk Register be circulated to the members of the Committee and that same be tabled for the December Meeting.

The Chairman also proposed to circulate a draft report that he would present to Council at the December meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

Confirmed at Meeting held on: _____

Chairman: _____

Meetings Administrator _____