

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

Audit Committee

Minutes of the Meeting of Louth County Council Audit Committee held in Setanta Room, County Hall, Dundalk on Thursday, 12th December, 2019 at 2.30 p.m.

In attendance: Mr. Richard Bowden
Mr. Billy Doyle
Ms. Irene Mc Causland
Cllr. C. Keelan
Cllr. C. Markey
Mr. Joe McGuinness, Director of Services.
Mr. Alan Sherry, Senior Executive Officer.
Paddy McCabe, Local Government Auditor

1. Election of Chairperson

Richard Bowden was proposed by B. Doyle, seconded by I. Mc Causland and agreed by the members to chair the meeting. It was agreed to elect a permanent chair at the next meeting.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th January, 2019 were proposed by B. Doyle and seconded by I. Mc Causland and the minutes of the meeting of 9th October were proposed by C. Keelan, seconded by R. Bowden and agreed by the committee.

3. Matters Arising

It was agreed to circulate the members with the briefings referred to in the NOAC report on the internal audit function of local authorities discussed at the previous meetings.

4. Terms of Reference & Conflicts of Interest

Following discussion it was acknowledged by the committee that risk was part of its brief. Members were asked to say if they had any conflicts of interest in relation to any of the items on the agenda. There were none declared.

5. Consideration of the report of the Local Government Auditor on the Annual Financial Statement 2018

Paddy McCabe, Local Government Auditor briefed the committee and answered queries raised.

A copy of the audited accounts and the management letter were requested by the committee.

7.6. Housing Capital Projects – Deferred Income

A breakdown of the position in relation to the outstanding debit balances was requested by the committee.

8.3. Housing Stock reconciliation

The committee stressed the importance of the housing stock reconciliation being carried out and that it should be done as part of the preparation of the annual accounts.

8.4. Proof of Title

The committee expressed concern at proof of title not being found for a number of properties.

9. Loans Payable

Following a discussion of outstanding loans on the accounts an estimate of the likely impact on cash flow when some portion of these loans transfer from interest only to capital and interest repayment, was requested by the committee.

9.3. Variable Housing Affordable Loans

The committee expressed its concern at the issue raised in relation to not adhering to the accounting code of practice.

10. Non Compliance with Planning permission

The members raised the issue of a contingent liability and requested that the matter be referred to the Head of Finance.

6. Audit Committee Charter

The committee agreed that the charter used by the previous committee should be used again and were informed that it would be put before the full Council for approval in January.

7. Internal Audit Report – Economic Development

It was suggested that a wider sample should have been examined in relation to grants for festivals and that the LEO and Leader Partnership agreement should be examined. The committee noted the report as circulated.

8. Risk Register

The committee noted the tracker document circulated at the meeting.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting on Thursday, 13th February at 8.30 am.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

Confirmed at Meeting held on : _____

Chairman: _____

Meetings Administrator _____