

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

Audit Committee

Minutes of the remote Meeting of Louth County Council Audit Committee held on Thursday, 24th September 2020 at 9.00 a.m.

In attendance: Mr. Richard Bowden
Mr. Billy Doyle
Ms. Irene McCausland
Cllr. C. Keelan
Mr. Joe McGuinness, Director of Services.
Mr. Alan Sherry, Senior Executive Officer.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th July, 2020 were proposed by B. Doyle, seconded by I. McCausland and agreed by the committee.

2. Matters Arising

- The Chair undertook to seek clarity from the Head of Finance in relation to the additional monthly repayment cost to the Council on land loans from July 2020.
- A brief update in relation to progress on rates collection was requested.
- The unfunded balances of €48,000,000 were raised and an update was requested
- The audit tracker was discussed and the need to close off items that have been addressed or considered an acceptable risk in order to ensure the committee were only monitoring relevant issues was raised. It was suggested that the tracker could be reviewed at the first and last meeting of the year.

- The Chair also stated that anything that is circulated to the committee after the agenda has been issued should be dealt with at the next meeting in order to ensure members had sufficient time to read reports prior to meetings.

3. Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest raised by the members of the committee.

4. Audit Plan Update

The committee noted the report circulated.

5. Audit Tracker

The committee addressed any issues under matters arising.

6. Risk Register

- The committee discussed the policy and it was agreed to get clarity from the IPA lecturer who gave the risk register training in relation to the extent of the role of the audit committee to risk management within the local authority.
- It was noted that the policy referred to a quarterly review of all risks being undertaken
- It was requested that the updated risk register with COVID-19 impacts included should be circulated for the next committee meeting
- It was pointed out that the committee should meet a Director of Service at each meeting to discuss risk management
- It was also pointed out that the audit committee should receive an annual report in relation to the review of the risk register

7. NOAC Reports

The reports were discussed under matter arising

8. Protected Disclosures Annual Report 2019

The committee noted the report

AOB

It was agreed that the next meeting should be at 9.00 on 12th November, 2020 with a briefing from ASM on the Council's risk register and a further meeting at 9.00 on 10th December with the local government auditor if available.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

Confirmed at Meeting held on : _____

Chairman: _____

Meetings Administrator _____