

NI Water Ltd  
("the Company")

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board of Directors (the "Board")  
on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023 @ 11.00 am  
IOC Conference Room, Westland House

**Present:**

Len O'Hagan	Chair
Peter McNaney	Non Executive Director
Paddy Larkin	Non Executive Director
Marie-Therese McGivern	Non Executive Director
Belinda Oldfield	Non Executive Director
Maurice Bullick	Non Executive Director
Sara Venning	Chief Executive
Ronan Larkin	Finance, Regulation and Commercial Director
Paul Harper	Director of Asset Delivery
Des Nevin	Director of Customer and Operations

**In attendance:**

Mark Ellesmere	General Counsel & Company Secretary
Rose Kelly	Director of People & Learning
Alistair Jinks	Director of Business Services
Damien O'Mullan	Head of Energy (items 6i & 6ii)
Mark Turner	EY (item 6ii)
Tomas Murray	EY (item 6ii)

**Apologies:** None

There were no Conflicts of Interest declared at the beginning of the meeting.

**1. Minutes and Actions from Previous Meeting**

- The draft minutes of the meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023 were approved.

**2. Health and Safety Report and Attendance and Wellbeing Quarterly Update**

- There was one contractor RIDDOR incident in period the details of which were noted. Follow-up actions included further detailed engagement with the Contractor in relation to this matter.
- Positive progress in relation to the Health and Safety Programme was welcomed.
- Recruitment of all Members of the Health and Safety Team should be complete by the end of July.
- Attendance – the attendance target was achieved in period and appears positive going forward.

**3. Main Board Report**

- The current position in relation to the 23/24 budget and funding would be picked up in the second part of the meeting at Agenda Items 7-9.

## Significant Matters in Month

The CEO provided an update on the following matters

- **Dividend 22/23** – this matter would be brought forward to the next appropriate meeting for consideration.
- **Executive Recruitment** – Gary Curran is to be appointed Interim Director of Engineering and Sustainability with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September completing the recruitment process for 3 Executive Committee roles. It is expected that all 3 roles will work collaboratively in order to deliver the Company's strategy, deliverables and outputs linked to the PC21 FD and beyond.
- **Policy Under Review - Potential for Domestic Water Charging** – the CEO provided a verbal update on the establishment by DfI of a task force to inform NIO and the Secretary of State on this matter and the need for DfI to engage with subject matter experts within NI Water in this regard. The Board's position on domestic water charging was neutral – the primary objective of the Board remains for the Company to be fully and properly funded to meet its outcomes and service standards for customers linked to the PC21 FD and beyond.
- **Thames Water** – the Board noted recent coverage in relation to the viability of Thames Water and the potential for Government intervention in the context of the NI Water's current funding situation.
- **Sewage Discharges** – recent engagement with the Rivers Trust together with a plan to release information currently held by the Company in relation to sewage discharges was noted. DfI are to be briefed imminently on the plan and the associated reputational risks involved.

### Operations

- Positive engagement with the UR and CCNI in relation to net promoter score.
- Leakage should start to reduce from Q2 based on current analysis.

### Customer

- Drinking Water Quality and Wastewater Compliance targets achieved in period.
- Green Economy - £4.7m funding confirmed by DfE in relation to hydro and pump technology was welcomed by Members.

### Finance

- Overall financial performance is in line with the approved operating plan and budget – Members noted further engagement with DfI in relation to the road drainage charge for 23/24.
- Capital Investment is slightly ahead of plan in period and income remains positive notwithstanding the current economic environment.

## 4. Engagement Strategy Update

- The quarterly update was welcomed and, in particular, the video circulated in advance of the meeting with the focus on internal engagement and digital transformation.

## 5. ACE Update

- The quarterly ACE update was noted and, in particular, the 3 strands of transformation activity to enhance the capital works programme in Derry, Ballymena and Newry.

## **6. Approvals**

### **6.i New Solar Tender Award by Circulation in August**

- Approved based upon the information provided within the paper.

### **6.ii Windfarm Outline Business Case**

- A detailed discussion ensued in relation to the core reasons in support of the proposal as well as the potential to consider alternative options such as a joint venture with a third party. It was agreed that the proposal be further considered in light of feedback and that engagement should continue with DfI and SIB as appropriate.

### **6.iii IF182 – Professional Services Framework Strategy**

- Approved based upon the information provided within the paper.

### **6.iv KV244 – Newry WwTW Increased Development Fees**

- Approved based upon the information provided within the paper.

### **6.v. Science Centres at Gelvin Grange and Westland**

- Approved based upon the information provided within the paper.

In relation to agenda items 6iii – 6v, the Chair asked that Management consider how and when these matters are best brought forward to the Board for consideration and approval.