

NI Water Ltd
("the Company")

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board of Directors (the "Board")
on Wednesday 24th March 2021 @ 11.00 am

Present:	Len O'Hagan Peter McNaney Belinda Oldfield Paddy Larkin Maurice Bullick Sara Venning Ronan Larkin Paul Harper Des Nevin	Chairman Non Executive Director Non Executive Director Non Executive Director Non Executive Director Chief Executive Finance & Regulation Director Director of Asset Delivery Director of Customer and Operations
In attendance:	Mark Ellesmere Rose Kelly Alistair Jinks Cathy Uprichard Ciaran Crozier Anthony Lynn Paul McGarrity Peter Johnston	General Counsel & Company Secretary Director of People & Learning Director of Business Services Head of Safety, Health & Environment (Item 2) Head of PPP (Item 4) Head of Communications (Item 6) Octave Digital (Item 6) Financial Controller (Item 8.i)
Apologies:	Marie-Therese McGivern, Non Executive Director.	

There were no conflicts of interests declared at the beginning of the meeting.

The Chair invited the Executive team to share their personal and professional experiences of the last twelve months in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. Minutes and Actions from Previous Meeting

- The minutes of the meetings on 25th February 2021 were approved.
- One outstanding action is on this month's Agenda and two remaining actions on track for delivery within agreed time scales.

2. Health and Safety Report/Attendance Quarterly Report

- The Chair welcomed the new reporting format for Board in relation to the Health and Strategy Action Plan.
- There was one NI Water KPI incident in period and two contractor RIDDOR incidents, all of which were subject to ongoing investigation. It was noted that

contractor incidents would be a heightened area of focus going forward given the significant increase in capital spend during the PC21 period.

- Progress in relation to the Health & Safety Strategy Action Plan across the three work streams was broadly on target.

3. Main Board Report

Significant matters in month.

The CEO provided an update on the following matters:

- The 2021/22 operating plan and budget has been submitted to DFI, Resource budget continues to present a difficulty from the Department's perspective.
- It was noted that the Minister had written recently to the Northern Ireland Executive in relation to the proper funding of water and waste water services within N.I.
- The positive outcome of the recent COVID expenditure bid via DFI was welcomed.
- PC21 - significant engagement with the Utility Regulator in relation to Opex, engagement on Capex is due to commence imminently.
- NI Water Supplier Day - the virtual supplier day was commended to the Board by the CEO with significant interest from a wide number of suppliers of goods and services.
- COVID surveillance - the Company is supportive of this project however significant additional funding will be required for this unregulated activity.

Colleagues

- The "Spring Forward" wellness programme has been launched with significant uptake by both front line and back office colleagues.
- Diversity and Inclusion - the Company has achieved bronze accreditation for the third year running and is targeting silver accreditation next year.

Customer

- All measures on track for delivery except leakage notwithstanding an improved position more recently.

Compliance and Environment

- Water quality and waste water compliance are currently on target year to date.
- A statement under caution in relation to a taste and odour incident in 2018 at Carmoney Water Treatment Works is being provided to DWI with the potential for further enforcement action.
- The recent engagement on development constraints was welcomed and a discussion ensued in relation to the strategy going forward.

Finance

- All targets on track for delivery - a significant increase in capital spend in period.

Governance

- No changes in corporate threats and opportunities since the last meeting.

- Key current risks remain PC21, COVID-19 and chemical supplies in the context of Brexit.
4. **PPP Quarterly update**
 - The update report was noted including progress on the Omega facilitation, handback considerations in relation to Kinnegar and future strategy in relation to Alpha.
 5. **ACE Update**
 - Members welcomed the video presentation circulated in advance of the meeting as well as the projected outcome of the PC15 ACE programme.
 - It was noted that capability had been created within the Company going forward including a focus on innovation which would be a good foundation for PC21.
 6. **Engagement Strategy Update**
 - The Board received a presentation from Paul McGarrity of Octave Digital on his input to the Company's social media strategy.
 - Members discussed the tactics involved in securing social media interest across key stakeholders as well as plans for social media champions within the Company.
 7. **Partnership Agreement**
 - The Chair set out the context of the paper and Members discussed the matters highlighted and options set out within the paper. Members confirmed support for option 2.
 8. **Approvals**
 - 8.i Approved based on the information provided within the paper.
 - 8.ii Approved subject to minor amendment.
 - 8.iii Approved based on the information provided in the paper.
 9. **Audit Committee Meeting 16.03.21**
 - The draft Minutes from the last meeting of the Audit Committee were noted. The Chair of the Committee highlighted a very positive external review of the internal audit function recently carried out by EQA with no material recommendations.
 - On behalf of the Board the Chair expressed his congratulations to the Internal Audit team for such a positive outcome.
 10. **Forward Look**
 - Forward look was noted.
 - The nature and outcomes from the forthcoming PC21 workshop were discussed in detail.
 11. **Any Other Business**
 - No items.