

NI Water Ltd  
("the Company")

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board of Directors (the "Board")  
on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021 @ 11.00 am

<b>Present:</b>	Len O'Hagan Peter McNaney Belinda Oldfield Marie-Therese McGivern 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 Non Executive Director Chief Executive Finance & Regulation Director Director of Asset Delivery Director of Customer and Operations
<b>In attendance:</b>	Mark Ellesmere Rose Kelly Alistair Jinks Cathy Uprichard Anthony Lynn Dermot McCurdy Mark Mitchell	General Counsel & Company Secretary Director of People & Learning Director of Business Services Head of Safety, Health and Environment ( <b>Item 2</b> ) Head of Communications ( <b>Item 4</b> ) Head of Integrated Capital Delivery ( <b>Item 6 and 7</b> ) Head of Performance Management ( <b>Item 8</b> )
<b>Apologies:</b>	None	

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

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

- The minutes of the meetings on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020 were approved.
- The Chair provided a verbal update on recent meetings with Ministers and Senior Officials in relation to funding the PC21 Final Determination.
- There was one outstanding action which was on-going.
- The legal opinion in relation to the potential for a referral to the CMA was discussed in detail.

**2. Health and Safety Report/Attendance Quarterly Report**

- There was one contractor RIDDOR in period and progress on the health and safety action plan was noted.
- Revised reporting parameters for Board were currently being developed.

### 3. Main Board Report

#### Significant matters in month.

The CEO provided an update on the following matters:

- Engagement with the UR on PC21 via workshops
- Increased impact of Covid-19 on staffing levels - service provision has not been impacted at this stage.
- Recent engagement with the CEOs of the local councils on capacity constraints. Work was ongoing to consider what could be done to assist developers in the current circumstances - this would require close engagement with NIEA.
- NIW Pension Scheme - agreement has been reached with the Scheme Trustee on the parameters used to calculate the triannual valuation. Details of the deficit recovery and contribution rates were noted.

#### Colleagues

- A new winter wellness programme has been launched, new apprentices have been on-boarded and discussions with the WGTU on 20/21 pay reviews are close to completion.

#### Customer

- All measures on track for delivery apart from leakage.

#### Compliance and Environment

- Subject to audit, water quality and waste water compliance targets for 20/21 have been exceeded.
- The potential opportunity with external parties in relation to alternative use for water treatment residuals was noted - a more detailed update would be provided in due course.

#### Finance

- All targets on track for delivery, some slippage on the capital investment programme - substitute projects have been identified in the event of slippage in relation to current projects.

### 4. Engagement Strategy Update

- The Board welcomed the significant work completed and achievements made to date in terms of the engagement strategy.
- The Chair noted that the future areas of focus would be social media and the green agenda and that plans were underway to build capability in relation to the former.

### 5. Tactical Paper on Funding

- A detailed discussion ensued in relation to the tactical paper including the approach of the ONS in relation to the classification of public bodies. It was agreed that strong political support would be required to drive forward any changes in approach to the funding of the Company.

6. **Cost Governance - Position Paper**
  - The update paper was welcomed. Members asked for clarification of existing and additional assurance mechanisms in terms of delivery of the capital programme and the layers of control relating to it. It was agreed that this would be provided at the next appropriate opportunity.
7. **Benone Update of Vacuum Sewerage Network**
  - Approved based upon the information provided within the report.
8. **Tender Evaluation**
  - Approved based upon the information provided within the report.
9. **2021/22 Customer Tariff Submission**
  - Scenario 3 upon the recommendation of management was approved based upon the information provided within the report.
10. **Lime Direct Award Contract**
  - Approved based upon the information provided within the report.
11. **C1055 - Sludge Management Services**
  - Approved based upon the information provided within the report.
12. **Risk Committee Update**
  - The Chair of the Risk Committee provided a verbal update on its most recent meeting earlier that morning including an increased focus on health and safety risk and mitigation, additional reporting requirements on climate change and governance and innovation within the Company.
13. **Audit Committee Update**
  - The Chair of the Audit Committee provided a verbal update on its most recent meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021 including 4 satisfactory internal audit assurance reports completed in period, a paper on financial risks faced by the Company, the introduction of a new Audit Manager from KPMG and issues that will arise again this year in terms of “going concern”.
14. **Forward Look**
  - Forward Look was noted and it was agreed that the next PC21 briefing be deferred until the end of March.
15. **Any Other Business**
  - There were no items under AOB.