

NI Water Ltd
("the Company")

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board of Directors (the "Board")
on Thursday 25th February 2021 @ 9.30 am

Present:	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
In attendance:	Mark Ellesmere Rose Kelly Alistair Jinks Dermot McCurdy Paddy Cassidy Damien O'Mullan Caroline McGale	General Counsel & Company Secretary Director of People & Learning Director of Business Services Head of Integrated Capital Delivery (Item 4.iii) Head of Management Accounts (Item 4.v) Head of Energy (Item 4.viii) Head of Regulation & Business Reporting (Item 5)
Apologies:	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 meeting on 26th January 2021 were approved.
- Two outstanding actions would be closed at next month's meeting.

2. Health and Safety Report/Attendance Quarterly Report

- There were two contractor RIDDOR incidents in period, the details of which were provided, both incidents were currently under review.
- Progress in relation to the Health and Safety Action Plan was noted - the Risk Committee had requested more detail on the actions being taken to reduce compliance risk .

3. Main Board Report

Significant matters in month.

The CEO provided an update on the following matters:

- Budget 2021/22 - a submission has been made in relation to a recent DoF Budget Consultation document and engagement continues with DfI on the most appropriate figures to use for the 21/22 budgeting process. It was agreed the issue of funding water and wastewater services in Northern Ireland was a matter for the Northern Ireland Executive.
- Stakeholder Engagement - recent meeting with the new CEO of CCNI as well as participation in a "Building Belfast Back Better" seminar hosted by the Belfast Chamber of Commerce.
- Carmoney Taste and Odour incident - whilst the incident is now closed, engagement continues with DWI - enforcement action is likely as a result of this incident.
- Budget 21/22 and PC21 are separate Agenda items later in the meeting.

Colleagues

- The winter wellness programme continues and is proving popular with colleagues - the Chair welcomed the fact that the Company had been so proactive in this area.
- Annual Pay Reviews 20/21 have been submitted to DfI for consideration.
- Future Ways of Working - planning for a return to the office in the future is under way involving the consideration of a hybrid model where certain colleagues will continue to work from both the home and the office in the future.

Customer

- All measures on track for delivery apart from leakage.
- A desk-top mock exercise is currently ongoing with Irish Water in relation to mutual aid.

Compliance and Environment

- Water quality and waste water compliance are currently on target in year.
- In response to a question from the Chair it was confirmed that inspection regimes are carried out on the Company's assets in terms of physical security and potential access by third parties.

Finance

- All targets on track for delivery,
- Management focus continues in relation to delivery of the annual capital investment programme.

Governance

- No changes in risk ratings in period, outstanding Internal Audit actions are being managed appropriately.

4. Approvals

- 4.i. **Tax Strategy**
 - Approved on the basis that there were no material changes to the strategy.
- 4.ii. **Direct Award - Water Industry Research from the Water Research Centre**
 - Approved based on the information provided within the report.
- 4.iii. **Wastewater Pumping Station Base Maintenance**
 - Approved based on the information provided within the report.
- 4.iv. **Directors and Officers Insurance**
 - Approved based on the information provided within the report and upon confirmation that levels of cover remain the same or are better in certain instances compared with the previous policy.
- 4.v. **Operating Plan & Budget 2021/22**
 - Having discussed the draft Operating Plan & Budget 21/22 in detail the Board approved it for submission to Dfl.
- 4.vi. **Transformation Partner Wave 1 Business Case**
 - Approved based on the information provided within the report.
- 4.vii. **C1046 - Legal Services Framework**
 - Approved based on the information provided within the report.
- 4.viii. **Hydrogen Demonstrator Project**
 - The Board welcomed the progress in relation to this project and discussed how NI Water's delivery of such an innovative project might be communicated. The Board approved the matter to proceed as outlined within the presentation.
5. **PC21 Update**
 - Currently awaiting written confirmation of the revised date for the PC21 Final Determination - 13th May 2021.
 - Engagement with the UR continues in relation to areas of concern regarding the Draft Determination.
 - The Tariff Submission for 21/22 has been approved by the UR.
 - A detailed discussion ensued in relation to considerations between now and the PC21 FD and what might be required to make the FD achievable.
6. **Risk Committee Minutes**
 - The Chair provided a verbal update on matters considered by the Committee at its last meeting including health and safety compliance, cyber risk, impact of Covid-19 and Brexit.
7. **Forward Look**
 - The Forward Look was noted.
8. **Any Other Business**

- On behalf of the Board the Chair thanked the Executive Committee and their respective teams for continuing to deliver vital services in spite of the ongoing pandemic as well as dealing with significant additional workload including PC21.

Approved