

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Special Audit Committee Meeting held on Monday 13 September 2021 in the Mourne Room Downshire Civic Centre Downshire Estate Downpatrick, at 2.15pm.

Chairperson: Ms B Slevin Independent Chairperson

In attendance: **(Committee Members)**

Councillor P Byrne
Councillor C Casey
Councillor L Devlin
Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor A Lewis
Councillor D Murphy
Councillor D McAteer

Officials in attendance: Ms M Ward Chief Executive
Ms D Carville Director of Corporate Services
Ms S Taggart Democratic Services Manager
Ms L Dillon Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance: Ms C Hagan ASM
Ms L Gordon NIAO
Mr J Walsh Belfast City Council Legal Services (via Teams)

AC/070/2021: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The following apologies were received:

Councillor M Gibbons
Councillor K Owen

AC/071/2021: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest.

CLOSED SESSION

Items restricted in accordance with Part 3 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Devlin seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this matter which related to exempt information by virtue of Part 3 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during these items of business.

AC/072/2021: **REPORT FROM ASM INTERNAL AUDITORS
RE: GOVERNANCE REVIEW - NEWRY CITY CENTRE
REGENERATION PROGRAMME (NCCR)**

Read: Report dated 10 September 2021 from ASM Internal Auditors regarding a Governance Review - Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme (NCCR).
(Copy circulated)

On the proposal of Councillor Murphy seconded by Councillor Lewis it was agreed to come out of Closed Session.

When the Committee came out of Closed Session the Chairperson reported the following decisions had been taken on the item discussed:

AC/072/2020: **Report from ASM Internal Auditors
Re: Governance Review - Newry City Centre
Regeneration Programme (NCCR)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Casey seconded by Councillor Lewis it was agreed as follows:

- a) To note Report from ASM 'Governance Review – Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme'.
- b) To note the legal advices provided to the Committee.
- c) To report the Conclusions of the Report, as outlined in Section 6, to the Strategy Policy & Resources Committee, together with the recommendations contained in the Report, subject

to any redactions considered necessary by Officers.

- d) Officers to consider further any updates required to the Governance Statement contained in the draft Statement of Accounts and bring the necessary revisions to the next Audit Committee meeting.
- e) Officers to consider further any steps to be taken in accordance with Council's Anti Fraud Policy.
- f) Officers to consider further any additional measures required in the furtherance of Member/Officer relations to enhance governance and bring proposals to a future meeting of the Audit Committee.
- g) All Members be reminded of the confidentiality of the Report and of their responsibilities in this regard including their responsibilities with regard to the Code of Conduct.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 3.20pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 04 October 2021.

Signed: **Ms D Carville**
Director Corporate Services

Signed: **Ms B Slevin**
Independent Chairperson