

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Special Audit Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 24 November 2020 at 3.30pm via Microsoft Teams.

Chairperson: Ms B Slevin Independent Chairperson

In attendance: **(Committee Members)**

Councillor P Byrne
Councillor C Casey
Councillor L Devlin
Councillor C Enright
Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor A Lewis
Councillor G Sharvin

Also in attendance: Councillor T Andrews
Councillor W Clarke
Councillor H Reilly
Councillor W Walker

Officials in attendance: Ms M Ward, Chief Executive
Ms D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
Mr J McBride, Acting Director of Neighbourhood Services
Ms K Bingham, Head of Performance & Improvement
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
Ms L Dillon, Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance: Ms C Hagan, ASM
Mr B O'Neill, NIAO
Ms D McKim, NIAO

AC/070/2020: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The following apology was received:

Councillor K Owen

Councillor Clarke left the meeting at this stage – 3.36pm

AC/071/2020: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest received.

(3.40pm - Mr B O'Neill, NIAO left the meeting at this stage)

AC/072/2020: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING – THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2020

AGREED: It was agreed to defer the Action Sheet arising out of the Audit Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 24 September 2020 to the Audit Committee Meeting to be held on Tuesday 12 January 2021.

EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEMS

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

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Devlin, 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/073/2020: ASM INTERNAL AUDIT (DRAFT) REPORT RE: SINGLE TENDER ACTIONS

Read: ASM Internal Audit (Draft) Report on Investigation into Council's use of Single Tender Actions. **(Copy circulated)**

AC/074/2020: UPDATE RE: INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2020-21

Read: Report dated 11 November 2020 from Ms D Carville Director of Corporate Services regarding an update on the Internal Audit Plan 2020-21. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon seconded by Councillor Sharvin it was agreed to come out of closed session.

(4.34pm - Councillor Walker left the meeting during the above discussions)
(4.55pm - Councillor Enright entered the meeting during the above discussions)

When the Committee came out of closed session the Chairperson reported the following decisions were taken:

AC/073/2020: ASM Internal Audit - (Draft) Report re: Single Tender Actions

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed to accept the recommendations contained within the report.

Agreed: It was agreed to retain this item as a standing item on the Audit Committee agenda going forward.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, that ASM do a follow-up report for the Audit Committee next September.

(5.01pm - Councillors Devlin, Lewis and Reilly left the meeting during the above discussions)

AC/074/2020: Update re: Internal Audit Plan 2020-21

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Sharvin, it was agreed that the Procurement Audit be removed from the 2020/21 Internal Audit Plan and that the allocated 10 days are used to offset the cost of the Single Tender Action investigation which is being carried out by ASM Internal Auditor.

Noted: Councillor Hanlon asked for it be recorded that she was concerned Councillors were not being given enough time to digest the contents of reports as information was not being sent out in time.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 5.10pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 07 December 2020.

Signed: Ms D Carville
Director Corporate Services

Signed: Ms B Slevin
Independent Chairperson