

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 17 OCTOBER 2022

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No.	Item	Decision
1.	Apologies	<i>Councillor McGurk, C McQuillan</i>
2.	Declarations of Interests	<i>Nil</i>
	'In Committee' (Item 3)	
3.	Update on the Implementation of Recommendations Contained within the Extraordinary Audit Report	<i>Noted</i>

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA VIDEO
CONFERENCE ON
MONDAY 17 OCTOBER 2022 AT 7:00PM**

In the Chair : The Mayor, Councillor Wallace (C)

Present : Alderman Baird (R), Boyle (R), Duddy (C), Fielding (C),
Hillis (C), Knight-McQuillan (R), S McKillop (R), McLean
(R), McQuillan (R)

Councillors Anderson (R), Bateson (R), Beattie (R),
Callaghan (R), Chivers (R), Holmes (C), McCandless
(C), McCaw (R), McCorkell (R), MA McKillop (R),
C McQuillan (R), C McShane (R), P McShane (C),
Mulholland (C), Nicholl (R), Peacock (R), Quigley (C),
Scott (R), Watton (C), Wilson (R),

Officers Present : A McPeake, Director of Environmental Services (C)
P Donaghy, Democratic & Central Services Manager (R)
S Duggan, Civic Support & Committee & Member Services Officer (C)

Officers In Attendance : A Lennox, ICT Mobile Operations (C)

Key – C = Attended in the Chamber
R = Attended Remotely

The Director of Environmental Services undertook a roll call.

The Mayor advised Council of its obligations and protocol whilst the meeting was being audio recorded; and with the remote meetings protocol.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for Councillor McGurk, C McQuillan.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MOTION TO PROCEED ‘IN COMMITTEE’

Proposed by Councillor Mulholland
Seconded by Alderman McQuillan and

AGREED – that Council move ‘*In Committee*’.

The Mayor advised Council of its obligations and protocol whilst the meeting was being audio recorded.

The information contained in the following item is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

3. UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED WITHIN THE EXTRAORDINARY AUDIT REPORT

Confidential report, previously circulated.

Purpose of Report

The report updates Council in relation to the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations as contained within the Extraordinary Audit Report.

Background and Progress update were circulated within the confidential report.

Recommendation(s)

The Council is committed to further improving the weaknesses identified in the extraordinary audit report and acknowledges the oversight of the Department. It is recommended that:

- 4.1 That Council notes the updates to the Action Plan and progress to date on the implementation of the Recommendations.
- 4.2 That Council notes the various expenditure required for the delivery and implementation of the recommendations listed within this report as per paragraph 3.3.

The Director of Environmental Services advised Council has received written confirmation from the Department for Communities they are content with the procurement process for the appointment of the Independent persons to undertake the reviews relating to Recommendations 1, 2 and 5.

The Director of Environmental Services advised the Department for Communities has confirmed Council should consider the appointment of an Independent advisor to assist in the delivery of the Action Plan and lead Council's Implementation Team, this recommendation had been approved at the Council meeting held 10th October 2022. He advised officers will liaise with the Staff Commission regarding the appointment of a suitable person.

Council was reminded successful implementation of the Recommendations is dependent on Elected Members and Officers attending the training in respect of Recommendations 3 and 4.

The Director of Environmental Services referred to Table 3.3, and detailed the costs associated with the Actions to date.

The Director of Environmental Services updated Council with regard to Recommendations 1,2 and 5, confirming that an appointment had been made

to Integritas Consultancy, the lowest bidder to carry out the reviews associated with the three recommendations.

In response to questions by Councillor P McShane, the Director of Environmental Services clarified the timeframe submitted by Integritas to complete the reviews was 22.5 days.

In response to questions by Councillor P McShane, the Director also clarified that there was no further update on Recommendation 3, within Table 3.3 of the report (*Appointment of individual to carry out review of Records Management Policies and Procedures*); and clarified with regard to Recommendation 8 within Table 3.3 of the report (*Independent Advisor*), that Council had been provided with the name of a preferred Advisor through the Staff Commission, which had been agreed by the Department for Communities and officers were working through the Terms and costs for appointment.

Councillor Quigley stated concern surrounding the sale of the Dunluce Centre and queried whether the NIAO report had stated that no other land should be sold. Councillor Quigley stated she had contacted the Department for Communities and they had said it should not be sold and she had stated concern to the Department for Communities that they had not responded to the Director of Environmental Services. Councillor Quigley stated she would like the matter followed up with the individual at the Department for Communities and put in writing to Elected Members.

The Director of Environmental Services clarified that the NIAO Extraordinary Report did not make any comment on the future sale of land while the recommendations were being implemented. He further stated that he had contacted the Department in relation to this matter in order to obtain the Department's view but at this time had not yet received a response.

* **Councillor Holmes arrived in The Chamber at 7.11pm.**

Councillor Holmes requested clarification of the point Councillor Quigley was raising.

The Director of Environmental Services clarified the matter referred to was not in the report presented to Members on the update of the recommendations.

In response to queries from Members regarding the role of Council in relation to Recommendations 6 and 7 the Director of Environmental Services clarified the role of Elected Members. He advised the Staff Commission and those appointed by it will be responsible for following the process. The Director reminded Members of the confidentiality of the process.

The Mayor updated Council, that the Staff Commission were satisfied with progress to date.

The Director of Environmental Services advised that the Staff Commission would attend the next Special Council meeting on 14 November 2022 to update Council as appropriate.

RESOLVED – That Council note the update on the Implementation of recommendations contained within the Extraordinary Audit Report.

MOTION TO PROCEED ‘IN PUBLIC’

Proposed by Councillor Quigley
Seconded by Councillor Watton and

AGREED – that Council move *‘In Public’*.

This being all the business, The Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 7.27pm.

Mayor