

BOARD MEETING NO. 87 – 27 JUNE 2024 @ 10:00AM

MINUTES

ACTING CHAIR: Maurice Johnston (MJ)

BOARD: Mark Adrain (MA); Diana Fitzsimons (DF – Left at 12:15); Kevin Gamble (KG); Cathy Gormley-Heenan (CGH)

STAFF: Bryan Gregory (BG – Chief Executive); Neil McIvor (NM – Director of Development); Rachael McCarthy (RM - Director of Finance & Corporate Services)

SECRETARY: Ian Spence

REF	DISCUSSION	ACTION BY
87.01	CONFIRMATION OF CHAIR MJ was confirmed as acting Chair for the meeting.	
87.02	APOLOGIES Áine Gallagher	
87.03	DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS MJ advised that he was a board member of the IFA Stadium Development Company Limited (SDCL). No other conflicts were reported.	
87.04	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING 87.04.01 Approval of Minutes The Board approved the minutes of the meeting held on 25 April 2024. (Proposed by CGH, seconded by KG) 87.04.02 Matters Arising AP86.06.01(2) – Closed: BG advised that the enablers flowed from the three key strands: i) Road, ii) Meanwhile Uses and iii) Projects not reliant on the road. AP86.12(5) – Closed: BG advised that political agreement on the way forward was needed before this could be progressed further. AP84.09(8) – Closed AP82.08(4) – Closed: It was agreed MLK would need sight of the revised RUAS vision and plans in advance of a presentation to the MLKDC Board, following which an invitation to present would be extended.	
87.05	CHAIR'S BUSINESS There was a brief discussion as to when the meeting with FM/dFM might be expected, and what would be required in terms of a	

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	<p>presentation. (Post Meeting Note – FM/dFM visit agreed for 10 July 2024.)</p> <p>AP1 – Draw up and agree a presentation for FM/dFM. (Post Meeting Note – Presentation to be signed off pre 10 July 2024.)</p> <p>MJ advised that he had attended the Chief Executives Forum along with BG, where budget pressures had been highlighted.</p>	BG/NM
87.06	<p>CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS</p> <p>87.06.01 AANI Update</p> <p>BG advised that no response had yet been received from AANI to the correspondence of 12 June 2024.</p> <p>BG also asked members to note the amended Board Standing Orders.</p>	
87.07	<p>RECRUITMENT PROPOSALS</p> <p>RM left the meeting for the discussion on the recruitment proposals for Director of Finance & Corporate Services and the Corporate Services Officer (Board Secretary).</p> <p>BG advised that by appointing a permanent full-time director there were savings over continuing with an agency appointment.</p> <p>Regarding the replacement for the Corporate Services Officer who was retiring, this was a like for like replacement.</p> <p>The Board approved an external recruitment competition for the Director of Finance & Corporate Services and the proposed approach for recruiting a replacement temporary Corporate Services Officer (Board Secretary). (Proposed by CGH, seconded by KG)</p> <p>AP2 – Progress recruitment of Corporate Services Officer, and the Director of Finance & Corporate Services, the latter pending confirmation of budget allocation.</p>	BG
87.08	<p>DRAFT PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH TEO</p> <p>Members pointed out the Development Corporation Board was short of a Chair and four board members and wanted this to be highlighted to TEO, due to the governance risk. Members also asked for legal clarification on the founding legislation which provided for the appointment of 10 board members and a Chair. AP3 – When submitting the Partnership Agreement to TEO, highlight the shortfall in board membership.</p> <p>AP4 – Obtain legal opinion on the status of the MLKDC Development Corporation operating without its full quota of 10 board members and Chair.</p> <p>The Board approved the final draft of the TEO-MLKDC Partnership Agreement for submission to TEO. (Proposed by MA, seconded by CGH)</p>	<p>BG</p> <p>BG/NM</p>

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87.09	<p>EQUALITY ANNUAL REPORT</p> <p>The Board approved the annual Equality Progress Report for submission to ECNI. (Proposed by KG, seconded by DF)</p>	
87.10	<p>SECURITY BUSINESS CASE</p> <p>BG presented this business case for a new security contract outlining the options and highlighting the shortfall in the current Resource budget to cover security and all MLKDC's other Resource-funded obligations. The budget shortfall had been highlighted to TEO along with the potential knock-on implications for security cover at the site. The Board confirmed that reducing the hours of security coverage was not an option, due to the impact on AANI and RUAS activities, and the risk of break-in when security would not have been present on site. AP5 – Provide the Board with proposals to reduce other Resource expenditure if TEO does not provide additional budget.</p> <p>The Board approved the Resource expenditure, as set out in the Security Business Case. (Proposed by DF, seconded by MA)</p>	RM
87.11	<p>EXECUTIVE TEAM DASHBOARD REPORT</p> <p>RM advised that confirmation of the 2024/25 Opening Budget allocation had just been received from TEO, however the outcome of the June monitoring exercise was still unknown.</p> <p>The confirmation of the Corporation's Capital budget would enable the Development Team to progress key projects such as the World War II Hangars rear doors. The expectation was that the budget would be fully utilised at 31 March 2025.</p> <p>It was highlighted again that the opening Resource budget allocation would not be sufficient for MLKDC to meet all of its currently forecasted obligations in 2024/25. Furthermore, should MLKDC's bid in the June monitoring round not be met, there would need to be further discussions with TEO in respect of the Corporation's ability to continue as a going concern, as per the assurance given in the Annual Report & Accounts.</p> <p>In discussion, concerns were expressed around the potential H&S risks within the World War II Hangars and the potential for MLKDC to be cited in any legal action. NM explained the licensing arrangements with the Ulster Aviation Society (UAS) and the various compliance checks undertaken by MLKDC. The upcoming work to the hangars would also present an opportunity to highlight H&S through the suite of risk assessments.</p> <p>NM advised that he had been asked by an MLA regarding a political party delegation visiting the site. The Board confirmed that it was content for the Executive Team to facilitate such visits, if approached.</p>	

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87.12	<p>SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS UPDATE</p> <p>The Update Report was presented, with points noted in discussion including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RUAS: RUAS to be asked to present its revised plans to the Board. • Potential Motor Sport Event: CGH advised that she had been approached about the potential of a motor sport event at the MLK site. It was noted that motor sport was part of the heritage of the MLK site. AP6 – Approach regarding motor sport event to be followed up by the Director of Development. • IFA Centre of Excellence: Prior to the update by NM, MJ again pointed out that he was also an IFA SDCL board member. Points noted by NM included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Based on the information provided by ARUP showing a potential layout on the MLK site, NM advised that he had instructed LPS to value the proposed site. ○ Following further liaison with IFA, it was highlighted that the IFA consideration for elsewhere was well progressed but that the MLK site was not discounted. ○ In discussion it was stressed that MLK was respectful of IFA options for elsewhere, with the understanding that these were now well advanced, with the aim here being able to table an alternative, following an approach. ○ It was further noted that any decision would ultimately be the responsibility of FM and dFM, if MLK was to be considered as potentially viable. ○ Members agreed that it would be worthwhile to formally offer the IFA a visit to the MLK site, if appropriate, at a date to be agreed. <p>(Post Meeting Note – Agreed that liaison continue at executive level.)</p>	NM
87.13	<p>ARAC CHAIR’S REPORT</p> <p>The Board noted this report</p>	
87.14	<p>QUARTERLY ASSURANCE STATEMENT</p> <p>BG advised members of the changes to his draft Assurance Statement following receipt of the recent budget letter from TEO.</p>	
87.15	<p>DOCUMENT CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM</p> <p>The Board noted this paper.</p>	

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87.16	<p>AOB</p> <p>CGH advised that she had recently been appointed to the NI Chamber of Commerce board. AP7 – Amend CGH’s Declaration of Interests to reflect her appointment to the NI Chamber of Commerce Board.</p> <p>The possibility of a Board strategy workshop in October 2024 was discussed.</p> <p>BG confirmed with members that they were content with the covering template used for the Security Business Case.</p> <p>BG advised that the board secretary would be retiring at the end of August 2024 and thanked IS for his work in supporting the Board and the Executive Team. MJ also added thanks on behalf of the Board and wished IS a long and happy retirement.</p>	RM
87.17	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING (S)</p> <p>26 September 2024 (10:00 – 12:30) was confirmed as the date of the next board meeting. Remote access would be arranged for any member unable to attend in person.</p> <p>The meeting concluded at 12:20</p>	