BOARD MEETING NO. 96 – 11 SEPTEMBER 2026 @ 13:00

PREVIOUS MINUTES OF 19 JUNE 2026 BOARD MEETING

ACTING CHAIR: Diana Fitzsimons (DF)

BOARD: Maurice Johnston (MJ), Kevin Gamble (KG)

STAFF: Neil McIvor (NM) - Interim Chief Executive (CEx) / Director of Development (DoD), Pamela Hubbard (PH) - Director of Finance & Corporate Services (DoF&CS)

MLKDC SECRETARY: Jon Craig (JC) - Corporate Services Officer (CSO)

REF	DISCUSSION	ACTION BY
95.01	**WELCOME CHAIR** DF was confirmed as Acting Chair for the meeting.	
95.02	**APOLOGIES** Cathy Gormly-Heenan CGH	
95.03	**DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS** None.	
95.04 95.04.01 95.04.02	**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** **Approval of previous Minutes** The Board approved the minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2026. **Approved: MJ Seconded: KG** **Matters arising from previous meeting** Several APs were closed as follows: **Board Meeting 94 – 20.03.26** **AP1:** Consolidate APs where appropriate. **Completed. AP closed.** **AP2:** Send TEO final email about PfG (Ref AP2 27/6/25). **Email issued by CEx. AP closed.** **AP3:** Ascertain if meeting FM/dFM is a private meeting and then decide on attendance. **Clarified. AP closed.** **AP4:** Chair to supply copy of FM/dFM letter to Board Members. **Completed. AP closed.** **AP5:** HR Matters to be added as standing item to Board Agenda. **Completed. AP closed.** **AP6:** Board Members to complete BCM Training Record Proforma. **Completed. AP closed.** **AP7:** Board to complete Board Self Evaluation Survey by 14 April 2026. **Completed. AP Closed.**	**APPROVED**

REF	DISCUSSION	ACTION BY
	AP8: Board to agree and advise MLKDC regarding the date of the next meeting. **Completed. AP closed.** **Board Meeting 93 – 12.09.25** **AP7:** RTTCWG Recommendations. **Completed. AP closed.** **AP11:** ARAC/Board effectiveness surveys. **Completed. AP closed** **Board Meeting 92 – 27.06.25** **AP2:** Close out PFG query (BG email 10 Oct) Check has TEO received submission from MLKDC. **AP Closed** **AP1 - Include dates of recent Board strategy meetings when closing AP2 (12/9/25)**	**CSO**
95.05	**CHAIR'S BUSINESS** The Chair updated the Board on wider engagement undertaken since the last meeting and reported there was positive support for regeneration and some of the points of discussion included: • a potentially relevant example of a project in Bosnia Herzegovina themed on the civil war there; • a reinvigorated Citizen's Assembly for NI to occur bi-annually. MLKDC could be proposed as an agenda item; • potential sports activities at MLKDC that may merit further discussion; and • the forthcoming agenda for the NI Affairs Committee which may include a debate on reconciliation in the New Year. The Chair also updated the Board about their meeting with Steve Harper, the new CEx of the Strategic Investment Board (SIB). The CEx reported to the Board that further to that meeting the MLKDC Executive team had met with the CEx of SIB and other SIB representatives and that it had been a productive meeting with early work commenced on updating of Service Level Agreement between MLKDC and SIB. The Chair reported on productive conversations between herself and (MJ) with Theresa Morrissey (Group Executive Director) at RUAS, the conversation centred on access road provision to the site.	

REF	DISCUSSION	ACTION BY
	The Chair's business was concluded by Board discussions in respect of the practical arrangements for the forthcoming meeting with FM/dFM. **AP2 – The CEx will lead on review and update of Service Level Agreement between MLKDC and SIB.**	**CEx**
95.06	**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS** Engagement - The CEx informed the Board that he had been engaged in the ongoing planning for the forthcoming meeting with FM/dFM. He reiterated that wider engagement mentioned by the Chair had been ongoing. Security – The CEx advised the Board that he was reviewing security to ascertain whether further savings could be made following an annual contractual increase and against the backdrop of an increasingly constrained budget position.	
95.06.01	**Update on Engagement/ Media/AQWs** The Board noted the contents of the paper and a focus on the spend on historical buildings which is reflected in the recent tabled AQWs. The CEx also reflected on the recent meeting between the MLKDC Executive team and the TEO Permanent Secretary/Sponsor Team Lead including discussions on the current budgetary situation which was a cause for concern for MLKDC given rising costs primarily within the resource budget. The Board was informed of the proposed dates of various forthcoming meetings and with TEO Officials. The CEx informed the Board that he had been contacted by a representative of a not for profit organisation regarding a major peace promoting musical event at MLKDC. The CEx undertook to progress this enquiry whilst keeping the Board informed on a regular basis and to revert back to Board when more is known about the proposal. The CEx informed the Board that RUAS had requested the MLKDC car park lands for potential overspill for the 2026 Belfast Fleadh Cheoil event in August, under the Smaller Events Protocol arrangement that had been in place for a number of years.	

REF	DISCUSSION	ACTION BY
95.06.02	**Business Planning** The Board noted and approved closure of the 2025-26 Business Plan. **Approved: MJ Seconded: KG** The CEx noted the draft 2026-27 Business Plan and recommended to the Board that consideration towards the 2026-27 Business Plan be deferred until after the meeting with FM/dFM. **The Board were content with the recommendation.** **AP3 – Per (DF) remove capitalisation of "Regionally Significant" in the Business Plan and any other relevant documentation, and make reference to clearly identify the significance of this phrase.**	**Approved** **CEx**
95.06.03	**Corporate Risk Register** The Board noted the update from both CEx and DoF&CS and related actions arising from the ARAC meeting to consider when reviewing and updating the register. **HR Matters** • Closed Session	
95.07 95.07.01	**FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES BUSINESS** **Finance Dashboard** DoF&CS provided an update to the Board on the current financial position. DoF&CS noted that while the dashboard reflects that MLKDC has profiled spend up to the indicative budget allocated by TEO, spend must be maintained within 45% of the indicative total until the Budget Bill receives Royal Assent (expected July 2026). DoF&CS reported to the Board that the finance risk register now reflected an increased risk in respect of 'Funding' due to rising costs including security and other areas without a commensurate increase in allocated budget. **The Board noted the update provided by (DoF&CS).**	

REF	DISCUSSION	ACTION BY
95.07.02	**Board Effectiveness Survey** DoF&CS updated the Board on the outcomes of the Board Effectiveness Survey. All Board members submitted a response. The survey returned an Overall Satisfaction score of 73.86% Feedback from the survey raised issues in relation to the restricted remit currently operating at MLKDC as well concerns around impact of a reduced Board complement on the overall effectiveness of the Board. **The Board noted the update.**	
94.08 94.08.01	**PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT MATTERS** **Development Dashboard** **The Board noted the updates**. **Balmoral Show 2026** The CEx updated on the success of recent Balmoral Show which attracted circa 100k attendees. Post event debriefs had taken place and there were no major issues identified. **RUAS** The CEx advised that a liaison meeting with RUAS had taken place. RUAS also had a forthcoming meeting with FM/dFM. Gaining direct slip road access from the M1 to the site of the RUAS is seen as critical to their ongoing business plans. **Air Ambulance NI (AANI)** CEx confirmed that MLKDC had received fundamental change requests from AANI in relation to title transfer before the buildings are completed, which are not acceptable. **The Board noted the updates.**	

REF	DISCUSSION	ACTION BY
94.09 95.09.01	**ARAC MATTERS** The ARAC Chair (MJ) provided a summary of business covered at the at the earlier ARAC meeting. **The Board noted the update.** **ARAC Annual Report** The Chair of ARAC recommended that the Board approve the ARAC Annual Report. **Approved: DF Seconded: KG**	 **APPROVED**
95.10	**ANY OTHER BUSINESS** • DoF&CS advised the Board that access to the Links training portal had been granted to Board Members and this would be trialled to support the training need of the Board. • The Board was advised by DoF&CS that the MLKDC's annual progress report to the Equality Commission was in the process of being completed and that approval by correspondence would be sought from the Board before the due date for submission of 31 August 2026.	
95.11	**Date of Next Meeting:** 11 September 2026	

The meeting closed at 14:30

Meeting Action Points

AP1	AP1 - Include dates of recent Board strategy meetings when closing AP2 (12/9/25)	CSO
AP2	The CEx will lead on review and update of Service Level Agreement between MLKDC and SIB.	CEx
AP3	Per DF remove capitalisation of "Regionally Significant" in the Business Plan and any other relevant documentation, and make reference to clearly identify the significance of this phrase.	CEx