

Minutes of Board Meeting LGMA

24th September 2020

Teams

Attendees:

- Mr. O. Keegan (Chair)
- Mr. M. Walsh
- Mr. J. MacGrath
- Mr. T. Lucey
- Mr. P. Carey
- Ms. Murrell
- Ms. S. Neary
- Ms. M. Hurley

In Attendance:

Mr. P. Dunne
Ms. N. McHugh
Ms. M. Kelly

Apologies: Mr. P. Gallagher

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd July 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July 2020 were approved and were signed by the Chairperson.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Chief Executive Report

The Chief Executive report was noted.

The Board was advised that NPPR had been discussed during the CCMA Executive meeting, particularly the drop in the income stream and potential issues regarding the ability to continue to collect monies from 2021 onwards. The CCMA Finance Committee will engage with DHLGH regarding an extension to the period of the regulations.

Following some issues during the SEO competition, PAS are to be asked to expand the number of candidates to be interviewed.

The Board noted that the 2% salary increase due on 1st October 2020 and were advised that, in respect of a new national agreement, DPER are proposing a pay freeze in 2021 followed by a small increase in 2022, which would be subject to economic recovery following COVID-19.

The Board were advised there had been 70 cases of COVID-19 across the sector. It was considered that this is a relatively low number and that it is being managed across the sector.

4. Our Public Service 2020

The Board noted the OPS2020 update and that work has commenced on OPS2030.

The meeting was advised that the local government sector has been asked to participate in an exercise to understand the implications of mega-trends on Our Future Public Service.

5. Decisions for Approval

5.1 Increase in charges – NWCPO

The Board approved the increase in the local authority annual contribution to the NWCPO.

5.2 Approval to tender for MapRoad

The Board approved the application to tender for the provision of development services for roads related ICT systems for local authorities.

5.3 Drawdown re Oracle Support and Maintenance

The Board approved the drawdown request from an approved tender in respect of Oracle support and maintenance for Core.

5.4 Approval for Finance and Business Charges 2021

The Board approved the annual Finance and Business charges for 2021 noting the increased charge in respect of the Agresso Milestone 7 upgrade.

5.5 Proceed with a Negotiated Tender with Unit4

The Board approved the proposal to proceed with a Negotiated Tender with Unit4.

5.6 HDCO Charges 2021

The Board approved the HDCO charges in respect of 2021.

5.7 LGOPC Charges 2021

The Board approved the LGOPC charges in respect of 2021.

5.8 Approval to tender for Dotnet Developers

The Board approved the application to tender for two dotnet developer resources.

6. Governance

Audit and Risk Committee

The last ARC meeting was 8th July 2020 and was reported to the 23rd July 2020 Board meeting. The Annual Report of the Audit and Risk Committee was noted and approved by the Board.

Finance Committee

The Board were advised that there is no proposed increase in the budget for 2021 and that the 2% pay award would be absorbed within the current budget. It was noted that as a result of the 2016 census, there are some small variances within the apportionment of charges.

PSROG

The Board were advised that a number of expressions of interest have been received for lead authority for the Dangerous Substance Licensing Shared Service.

A PID for the Asset Management ICT System was approved to business case development. The Business case for Data Gathering was approved to Peer Review stage. The Business case for localgov.ie was approved to second stage of scope, governance, maintenance and funding.

Change Management Committee

The CEO advised that the pertinent updates had been provided in his update above.

6.2 Health and Safety

The Board were advised that both LGMA properties had been prepared for a return to office working and that appropriate health and safety measures including signage and equipment had been put in place. The offices had reopened on 10th August 2020; however, following the announcement of additional restrictions, the Agency is now effectively working remotely.

Following a discussion on remote working, it was agreed that it would be useful to ascertain the views of employees re the remote working experience and to use that information to inform future working arrangements. It was noted that in the Programme for Government, a policy of 20% remote working is recommended. The LGMA will take this, amongst other measures, into consideration when deciding on future working arrangements.

The Board recorded its appreciation regarding the exceptional service provided from the Agency through working remotely.

7. Risk Management

The Board noted the Risk Register.

8. Any Other Business

8.1 Board Members

The Board acknowledged that it was the last Board meeting for Peter Carey, Pat Gallagher, Joe MacGrath and Moira Murrell. The Chair and Board members expressed their gratitude for the sterling contribution to the Board by the exiting members. The CEO also added his appreciation, noting he would lean on them for support in other areas.

Mr. Carey, on behalf of the exiting Board members stated it had been a pleasure to be a member of the Board and he paid tribute to the CEO and Executive Team for their work on the development of the new strategy.

8.2 Meeting with DHLGH

The CEO advised the Board that the LGMA had attended a Performance and Accountability meeting with DHLGH on 23rd September 2020. It was a worthwhile and positive meeting and reaffirmed the positive working relationship between the LGMA and DHLGH.

8.3 iHouse Charges 2021

The Board was advised that the sector will be asked to provide for a 7% increase in the iHouse charge for 2021. The Heads of Finance will be advised accordingly.

8.4 Council of the Board

The Board were advised that following the Council of the Board meeting in October, new Board members will be appointed.

9. Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 26th November at 11 a.m.

Signed: Chairman  Date: 26/11/2020.