



Minutes of the meeting of the Board of the Local Government Management Agency held Thursday 28th March 2019 at 11.00 a.m. in Local Government House, Ushers Quay, Dublin 8.

Present: Mr. P. Carey (Chairperson) In Attendance: Mr. P. Dunne
Mr. J. MacGrath Ms. N. McHugh
Mr. S. Neeley Ms. M. Kelly
Mr. T. Lucey Mr. D. Keating
Mr. P. Hynes

Apologies: Mr. O. Keegan
Ms. J. Maguire
Mr. M. Walsh
Mr. B. Quinlan

No member expressed a conflict of interest with any item on the agenda.

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th January 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th January 2019 were agreed, proposed by Mr. P. Hynes and seconded by Mr. J. MacGrath.

2. Matters Arising

IPBMI

The Board was advised that the PWC Summary Report and IPB Value for Money Steering Summary Report were released to PAC. At the High Court hearing, the judge indicated that he would make a ruling in the next month.

3. Chief Executive Report

The Chief Executive report as tabled was noted, in particular:

Water Services

A meeting took place with the management side on 27th March and a meeting is scheduled in the WRC on 11th April 2019 to discuss the Single Public Utility (SPU). It is not anticipated that there will be significant progress in the short term.

Retained Fire Service – Matzak Case

It was noted that three cases have now been heard at Adjudication and outcomes of same are awaited. It was further noted that, regardless of the outcome, there may be an appeal to the Labour Court and then to Europe.

Common Recruitment Pool (CRP)

The Board was advised of a meeting that had been held with FORSA re the CRP. It was agreed by the WRC Conciliation Officer that if management make an offer, that FORSA will present it to their members.

4. Audited Financial Statements

The Board was advised that the Local Government Auditor met with the Audit and Risk Committee and advised them his findings were of a clean audit of the LGMA Financial Accounts 2018. The meeting was advised of the €1.2m provision to meet the anticipated costs of restructuring. This had also been agreed by the Finance Committee. The management response to the auditor's recommendations will be brought to the next Audit and Risk Committee and Board meetings.

The Board noted the Protected Disclosures Annual Report and that no protected disclosures had been received.

5. Update on Organisational Review

The Board was advised that the LGMA is moving to the Implementation Phase of the Organisational Review. Workstream leads have been appointed, 20 activities have been mapped out and Committees are transferring under the new pillar structures. Responsibility will be placed on Business Leads to deliver the work of each committee.

The Board noted that €1.2m had been set aside to provide for the costs of restructuring, which will largely apply in the ICT area. It is estimated that the future annual cost to local authorities of outsourcing ICT activities will be in the region of €1.1 - €1.8m.

The meeting was advised that the Agency cannot attract the calibre of ICT staff that would be required if the Agency was to continue to provide ICT services. The Board discussed potential outsourcing options.

While the Board welcomed the direction of travel, it noted the need to retain a skill set to understand ICT, with the agility to manage outsourcing, to design and understand

contracts and the procurement process, in order obtain best value for money. There is also a challenge to buy an advisory service who are continuously up to speed.

The Board were advised that a Human Resource Executive has been appointed and that recruitment is underway for an Assistant Chief Executive and a temporary Assistant Chief Executive.

6. OPS 2020

The meeting noted the update on OPS2020 which had been circulated. The Board were advised that Ms. Maguire was attending the Leadership Board re OPS. Actions are ongoing. A request for a resource to assist with OPS2020 has been made to PSROG.

7. Decisions for Approval

7.1 Drawdown from Tender- Roads Related ICT System

The Board approved the drawdown from a tender for the 'Provision of Development Services for Roads Related ICT systems.

8. Governance

Finance Committee

The Board were advised that the Finance Committee reviewed the Audited Financial Statements, the twelve months Management Accounts and the Risk Register.

ICT Committee

The Board were advised that the ICT Committee meeting planned for February was deferred and rescheduled for April 2019.

Audit and Risk Committee

The Board were advised that the Audit and Risk Committee met with the Local Government Auditor to review his findings re the 2018 Audited Financial Statements. The annual report of the Committee was also approved.

PSROG

The Board were advised that the PSROG meeting had been deferred and that there were no outstanding issues.

Change Management Committee

The Board were advised that a mechanism is to be developed to address issues raised re Fire Services Training. A strategy is required to broaden it across the sector.

9. Risk Management

The meeting noted the Risk Register and noted there were no red risks. Risks re the outcome of the ICT Review have been added to the Register

10. Any Other Business

Oversight Meeting

The Board was advised of an Oversight Meeting that had taken place between LGMA and departmental representatives regarding compliance and the Oversight and Performance Delivery Agreement. The department representatives received a presentation on the Organisational Review. Filling of vacancies was also discussed. The Board was notified that Mr. Barry Quinlan, Assistant Secretary and Ms. Sarah Neary, Principal Officer have been nominated to the Board. It was noted that further discussions would take place with the Department in relation to an additional vacancy on the Board.

Returning Officer Fees

The Board was advised that a small group of Chief Executives have been asked to review Returning Officer Fees.

Plebiscites on Directly Elected Mayors

The Board was advised of a communication that had been received from DHPLG regarding a Plebiscite on Directly Elected Mayors and the intention to establish a Committee to oversee the dissemination of information to the public. The Department requested that a nominee from the Agency sit on the Committee. It was noted that Ms. P Butler would be the Agency's nominee.

Retirements

The Board was advised of the retirement of two long serving members of staff – Mr. Donal Singleton and Ms. Jackie Russell. The Board wished them well in their retirement.

11. Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 23rd May 2019 at 11 a.m. in Phoenix House, Conyngham Road, Dublin 8.

Signed: Chairman  Date: 