

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

Audit Committee

Minutes of Meeting held in County Hall, Dundalk on Monday 22nd February 2010 at 3.00pm

In Attendance:

Committee Members: Dr. Philip Byrne (Chairman)
Mr. Billy Doyle
Mr. Richard Bowden
Cllr. F. Maher
Cllr. J. Lennon

Officials: C. Murray, County Manager
J. McGuinness, Director of Services
F. Downes, Head of Internal Audit

At the outset of the meeting, C. Murray advised the committee that one case of fraud has been detected in one of the town authorities and that the person in question has been dismissed and the money repaid.

1. Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Lennon and seconded by R. Bowden, the minutes of the meeting of 18th January were adopted.

2. Matters Arising

Nil

3. Efficiency Drive to Date

J. McGuinness gave a presentation in relation to the work undertaken by Louth Local Authorities over the last number of years with regard to the efficiency agenda. A number of points were discussed subsequent to the presentation.

- Any staff savings achieved being utilised incorporating redeployments to address family friendly matters.
- P. Byrne requested any outsourcing proposals or works should be brought back to the Audit Committee to keep them advised of that area.
- Corporate Plan to be circulated to all Audit Committee Members.

P. Byrne, Chairman gave an update on the National Efficiency Review recently established and building on the McCarthy Report and Indecon Report which is likely to report within the next six months.

4. Strategic Audit Plan

J. McGuinness circulated copies of the above document. It was noted that this is the first document of its type published by the local authority and all agreed that the matter should be reviewed at the next meeting of the Audit Committee.

5. Operational Plan Template

The Audit Committee noted the new template and sought a copy in summary format of all Operational Plans having regard to risk levels.

6. Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy

The above document, which was recently adopted by Louth Local Authorities was circulated to the members and F. Downes gave a briefing on the background to the strategy. She pointed out that the Audit Review of reports in relation to cash handling will be circulated at the next meeting of Audit Committee.

7. Next Meeting

It was agreed that for the next meeting, scheduled for 19th April, the following items would be on the agenda:-

- Strategic Audit Plan
- High level view of risk
- 2008 Audit Report

That concluded the meeting.

Confirmed at Meeting held on: _____

Signed: _____

Chairman

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator