

At a meeting of the PORT BOARD held remotely using Microsoft Teams and livestreamed on YouTube on Thursday, 21st May, 2020 at 9.00 a.m.

Present: -

Councillor Miller in the Chair

Councillors M. Mordey, G. Smith and Wood.

In Attendance: -

Matthew Hunt (Port Director), Peter McIntyre (Executive Director of City Development), Paul Wilson (Assistant Director of Finance), Jonathan Rowson (Specialist Lead Commercial Law) and Karen Mould (Principal Governance Services Officer).

Part I

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillor McClennan.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

The meeting took place by way of a remote hearing using TEAMS due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Minutes

49. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Board held on 23 January 2020, Part I were approved as a true record.

Review of Port Governance Options

The Port Director and Executive Director Of City Development submitted a report which reviewed the existing governance model for the strategic management of the Port.

The Board was advised that DfT had issued updated guidance in relation to port governance arrangements in 2018. Whilst the guidance was not legally binding, it

was recommended good practice. Therefore it was considered that it was appropriate to review the existing governance arrangements in place for the Port taking into account the 2018 Guidance and other key considerations.

Jonathan reported that based upon the key considerations outlined in section 3, it was considered that the existing Port Board structure continues to be fit for purpose, meets the up to date requirements of the DfT's 2018 Governance guidance and is consistent with the other key considerations. It was therefore recommended that the current Port Board structure should be retained.

Members' attention was drawn to the two external vacancies on the Port Board following the recent departure of the two previous co-opted members who had served on the Board for almost ten years. It was recommended that the role profiles for these two posts should be reviewed and updated in line with the DfT Guidance to ensure they reflect the most up to date requirements for the Port and the relevant skills and experience that were now required to support the next phase of the Port's development. Jonathan went on to say that once the new role profiles had been reviewed, a recruitment process would need to be undertaken at the appropriate time (the timing of which would need to be considered in light of COVID-19) and the subsequent appointments to the two posts would be subject to approval of Full Council.

In response to a question from Councillor Mordey regarding the recommendation to refresh board appointments, Jonathan explained that this was primarily about the external co-optee positions which are to provide an appropriate degree of scrutiny and independence.

Councillor Wood commented that a mix of experience and new membership must be considered during the review to ensure continuity. Whilst supporting the recommendations he was disappointed by the departure of the two previous co-opted members, as was Councillor Smith.

50 RESOLVED that:

- (i) The contents of this report be noted and agreed; and
- (ii) The Port Director, in consultation with the Chair of the Board and the Executive Director of City Development, shall update and finalise the role profiles for the two vacant co-optee positions on the Board, subsequently undertake a recruitment process for the two posts and thereafter make a recommendation to Full Council regarding appointments to the two posts.

Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation Order) 2006

51. RESOLVED that in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 the public be excluded during consideration of the remaining business as it was considered to involve a likely disclosure of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority) (Paragraph 3 of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

(Signed) G. MILLER,
Chairman.

Note: -

The above minutes comprise only those relating to items during which the meeting was open to the public.

Additional minutes in respect of other items are included in Part II.