

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND, AUTHORITY FOR UTILITY REGULATION (THE 'BOARD') HELD ON THURSDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2025 IN MILLENNIUM HOUSE, BELFAST, AND ONLINE, AT 08.30 A.M.**

**Present:**

Rosamund Blomfield-Smith (Chair), John French (Chief Executive), Isolde Goggin, Claire Williams, David de Casseres, Anthony Pygram, Paul McGowan

**In attendance:**

Peter Russell, Barbara Cantley, Elaine Cassidy, Brian Mulhern, Colin Broomfield, Roisin McLaughlin, John Mills, Barbara Stevenson, Jillian Ferris, Sinead Dynan, Leigh Greer, Sarah Teer, Marie-Therese Campbell, Shauna McAuley, Jean-Pierre Miura, Paula McCann, Lynda Russell, Greg Irwin.

Katrin Busch/Debbie Quinn/ Lisa Birt (agenda item 5), Rachel Allister (agenda items 9 and 10).

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1 Kevin Shiels.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

2.1 None.

**3. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PROVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES TO THE UTILITY REGULATOR (UR)**

3.1 Shauna McAuley introduced this item which sought the Board's approval to undertake a procurement exercise, in line with legislative requirements, for the provision of legal advisory services for UR.

3.2 The Board discussed the proposed procurement arrangements, internal legal expertise and the market for externally procured legal advisory services.

3.3 The Board approved the procurement of a legal services framework for a period of 3 years (with a possible one-year extension) up to a value of £4 million and approved delegated authority to the CEO to approve an extension to the current framework, if required, of up to one year to ensure continuity.

**4. EPNIE UPDATE**

4.1 Shauna McAuley introduced this verbal update on litigation relating to EP NI Energy Ltd (EPNIE). Barbara Stevenson also provided a process update on provisional orders and associated matters relating to EPNIE. Colin Broomfield also briefed the Board on further items of detail.

4.2 The Board availed of the opportunity to clarify aspects of the update which were addressed in discussion.

## **5 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2026-2027 UPDATE**

5.1 John French introduced this information paper, which provided an initial overview of proposed projects. Sarah Teer outlined the process for developing the Forward Work Programme (FWP).

5.2 Board members provided feedback on proposed new projects and discussed the broader context for some of these projects. Board members also clarified some of the drafting of some projects.

5.3 The Board noted the initial list of proposed projects and the intention that a draft Forward Work Programme would be presented at the December Board meeting.

## **6 MINUTES**

6.1 The minutes of the Board meeting on 23 October 2025 were approved for publication subject to a minor amendment.

## **7 ACTION POINTS**

7.1 The action points were reviewed by the Board. A further update was requested on the SEM Committee's Strategic risk register.

## **8 OFFICE REPORT**

8.1 John French introduced the Office report. He noted his recent speaking engagements and the emphasis on providing data.

8.2 The Chair updated the Board on her recent Economic Conference presentation. It was agreed that his recent Energy Forum presentation, along with the Chair's Economic Conference presentation should be circulated to the Board. A UR 'At a Glance' brochure was provided to the Board.

8.3 A query in relation to staff mid-year reviews was addressed.

8.4 The Board noted the management update in the Office report.

## **9. FINANCE REPORT SUMMARY**

9.1 Rachel Allister provided a report on the financial outturn to 31 October 2025, noting key variances. Items relating to salary costs, outstanding debt and office dilapidation were briefly covered in discussion.

9.2 The Board approved the finance report summary.

## **10. CORPORATE RISK REGISTER 2025/2026**

- 10.1 The Board noted the changes to the risk register since the last review. There was a discussion on new and emerging risks, and proposed changes to risks on the register and wording changes were accepted.
- 10.2 The Board approved the corporate risk register subject to consideration of comments made by Board members.

## **11. UPDATES**

- 11.1 Updates were provided on the following:
- a) Single Electricity Market (SEM)  
Colin Broomfield provided an overview of the forthcoming SEMC meeting agenda.
  - b) Security of Supply update  
Leigh Greer briefed the Board on the latest situation regarding security of supply, and the Board noted that a further update would be provided at the December Board meeting.
  - c) Litigation  
Shauna McAuley provided a brief update on litigation issues.
  - d) Compliance and enforcement  
Barbara Stevenson also provided an overview of the latest Compliance and Enforcement report. Board members briefly discussed enforcement procedures.
- 11.2 The Board noted the updates.

## **12. CORRESPONDENCE**

- 12.1 There was no other correspondence to report.

## **13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 13.1 As a member of staff sitting in on the Board meeting, Lynda Russell provided feedback on her experience. Other attendees provided feedback on the meeting, noting the more manageable agenda.
- 13.2 The Board discussed matters relating to the treatment of corporation tax consultation, a recent meeting with the Office for Environmental Protection, and a payroll adjustment, in closed session
- 13.3 There being no other business, the meeting concluded at 11.50 a.m., to enable the Board to hold a risk management workshop.