

Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee

Monday, 19th June, 2023

MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BELFAST WATERFRONT AND ULSTER HALL LTD. SHAREHOLDERS' COMMITTEE HELD IN HYBRID FORMAT

Members present: Councillor Bower (Chairperson); and
Councillors Brooks, Cobain, Doran, Duffy, Flynn,
Ferguson, Gormley, Maghie, McAteer, McCabe,
McDowell, Nelson and Ó Néill.

In attendance: Ms. J. Corkey, Chief Executive, ICC Belfast
(Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd.);
Mr. I. Bell, Director of Finance, Risk and Corporate
Services, ICC Belfast (Belfast Waterfront and Ulster
Hall Ltd.);
Mr. J. Greer, Director of Economic Development; and
Ms. V. Smyth, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman Copeland and Councillor Canavan.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 13th March 2023 were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd April.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Restricted Item

The information contained in the reports associated with the following item is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Resolved – That the Committee agrees to exclude the members of the Press and public from the meeting during discussion of the item as, due to the nature of the item, there would be a disclosure of exempt information as described in Section 42(4) and Section 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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Quarter 4 Performance Report

The Chief Executive, ICC Belfast (Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd.), introduced herself to the new Members and advised that the company's performance was reported to the Committee on a quarterly basis. She referred to the report which included a review of the business performance and an analysis of actual performance against the budget for the year-to-date 2022/23.

The Chief Executive, ICC Belfast (Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd.), reported a positive year with quality events. Actual performance was above target for conferences and entertainment. She highlighted low staff turnover and provided an update on the venue's sustainability journey whereby silver status had been achieved.

The Director of Finance, Risk and Corporate Services provided the Committee with a brief update on Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd.'s (BWUH Ltd.) financial performance for Quarter 4 2022/23. He reported that income was up and in turn overheads had increased.

Discussion ensued in relation to the Capital Sinking Fund. The Director of Economic Development provided the Members with clarity in relation to the fund which provided capital spend to maintain ICC Belfast (Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall).

A Member queried the reference to labour shortages. The Chief Executive, ICC Belfast (Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd.), clarified that this referred to under-represented groups, specifically women, in the crew and production team. She advised that initiatives were in place to promote these areas as career choices with a 'no bar to entry' approach.

A Member commended The Chief Executive, ICC Belfast (Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd.), the Director of Finance, Risk and Corporate Services and ICC Belfast team on the positive financial position. The Member welcomed the education outreach initiatives and requested that thought be given to providing GCSE students with work experience opportunities. The Chief Executive, ICC Belfast (Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd.), confirmed that she was keen to support this.

The Chief Executive, ICC Belfast (Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd.), provided the Members with clarity around the expenditure for casual and permanent staff which she advised was kept under review. In response to a Member's query, she provided an explanation around the reference to the Covid-19 2024/25 and 2025/26 sales pipeline gap which was high due to the impact of Covid-19 on Association rotation schedules and decision making.

The Members noted the contents of this report.

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Tour of ICC Belfast

The Director of Economic Development advised that ICC Belfast would host a tour of the venue at the next Committee meeting on 14th August 2023 and details of the arrangements would follow in due course.

Chairperson