

MEETING OF THE COURTS SERVICE BOARD
7th December 2020

The new Courts Service Board met for the first time on 7th December 2020.

Introduction of the Senior Management Team to the Board

The purpose of the Senior Management Team was outlined to the Board and the members of the gave a short overview of their roles and principle challenges.

Corporate Strategic Plan

The Board considered the draft before it and adopted it as the Corporate Strategic Plan for the next 3 years.

Corporate Recovery Risk Register

The Board considered the updated Corporate Recovery Risk Register and noted its contents. The meeting heard about the operational responses to Covid 19 and discussed the exposure of the Service to Brexit.

Finance Report

The Board considered and approved the Report by the Head of Corporate Services and noted that:

- there was a gross underspend of €9.690m, as against a budget of €122.926m. This underspend is made up of underspends on Pay of €0.570m, Non-Pay of €3.134m and Capital of €5.986m. Appropriations-in-Aid to the end of October shows a shortfall against profile of €13.617m, made up of shortfalls on Fee Income, €0.359m on Miscellaneous Income, and €0.010m on Pension Levy.
- The Service was actively managing the discharge of outstanding liabilities before year end.
- the Supplementary Estimates, together with the Further Revised Estimate (FRE), were considered by the Justice Select Committee on Tuesday 17th November and passed in the Dáil on the 18th November. This addresses both the shortfall in courts fees of €18m and the €5m Covid-19 Stimulus funding.
- the Service had broadly done well in the estimates campaign and that €8.92m was voted to support the modernisation agenda. While it was insufficient to do everything set out in the

Strategic Business Case, it would cover the cost of engaging a transformation partner and cover baseline ICT projects.

Governance of Court Funds and the audit of the financial Statements of the Accountant of the Courts of Justice

The Board noted a paper from the Audit & Risk Committee concerning its role in relation to the governance of Court Funds.

Board Effectiveness Review

The Board continued with its consideration of the Review conducted by the Institute of Public Administration

Minutes and Documentation from Committees of the Board

The Board noted minutes and reports of meetings of Committees of the Board as follows

- Minutes of the Finance Committee – 12th October 2020
- Minutes of Audit & Risk Committee – 12th October 2020
- Minutes of Modernisation Committee – 27th April and 10th June 2020
- Minutes of the Building Committee – 8th October 2020