

Minutes of a Board Meeting of Strategic Investment Board Limited

Held at 10.00am on Tuesday 15th September 2015 at
Carleton House
Gasworks Business Park
1 Cromac Avenue
Belfast

Present: Marie Therese McGivern (MTM)
Bro McFerran (BM)
Chris Thompson (CT)
Brett Hannam (BH)

In attendance: Gregor Hamilton (GH)
Scott Wilson (SW)
Ronan O'Hara (ROH)(Item 16 only)
Mark Adam (Item 19 only)

Apologies: Duncan McCausland (DMcC)
Gerry McGinn (GMcG)
Frank Hewitt (FH)
Martin Spollen (MS)

Chair

1. In the absence of GMcG it was agreed that CT should chair the meeting.

Declarations of interest

2. The usual declarations of interest were taken as read. There were no particular declarations to note in light of potential discussions arising from the items on the agenda.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

3. The minutes of the August 2015 board meeting were approved.

4. CT asked BH for an update on the DSD inquiry into the whistle blowing letter regarding NIHE. BH said the inquiry was ongoing and he expected that SIB would have sight of the draft report before it was finalised.

Chairman's and Directors' Business

5. On behalf of GMcG, CT reported that two new board member appointments had now been confirmed (including one with a formal finance qualification).

6. BH explained that he and GMcG had met with the OFMdfM ministers and Malcolm McKibben to explain the issues that could arise as a result of the transfer of sponsorship to the proposed Department for Infrastructure. The meeting had been positive and Ministers had understood the issues CT reiterated his strong preference to remain with the Department for the Executive. BM and MTM agreed.

Chief Executive's Report, ISNI Report, AMU Report

7. BH spoke to the Chief Executive's report. In particular:

Desertcreat: BH noted that the likely outcome of the purely financial analysis of the various options currently being carried out was the Fire Service would require a new facility at Desertcreat, but it was unlikely that it would offer VfM for the PSNI or Prison Service to co-locate with them. However he noted that there would be wider considerations which might affect the eventual decision to be made by the Executive.

- Lisanelly: BH noted delay in appointment of the ITC contractor, and the departure of Hazel Jones from the post of Programme Director. Arc21: BH updated the board on the status of the planning application.
- Social Housing: BH reported the discussion on social housing reform in the Assembly. He noted that although the Assembly motion to stop the reform process had been

defeated, it would be important to ensure that all parties were kept fully briefed on proposals.

- Stadiums Programme: BH noted the discussions at the CAL committee. He explained a short term technical issue which the Department had in finding capital funding, but expressed confidence that this would be resolved.
- Shared Data Centre project: BH noted that the contract for the SDC had been signed and that the project remained on schedule. He commended the legal work of Anna Gray.

8. CT noted the content of the paper prepared by Paul Priestly regarding the input of the Civil Service Commissioners in respect of the deployment of SIB staff to Departments

9. BH noted the potential effect of the NICS early exit scheme on CPD.

10. BH noted the new intranet was up and running. He acknowledged the difficulty for board members in accessing it since they were not on the civil service system.

11. In the absence of MS, BH spoke to the ISNI Report. He noted the launch of the online procurement pipeline. CT said he had visited the web site and thought it a useful development.

12. BH reported that MS had attended a meeting with the DFP minister to discuss the findings and recommendations of the Innovation Lab on Data Analytics and the potential for greater use of Data Analytics across NICS. BM noted the increasing importance of this field.

13. BH explained proposals to create an infrastructure investment fund using FTC monies. He explained that the key issue was to ensure the fund was not classified as being within the public sector, and that the intention was to have it in place in time to take up this year's FTC balance. He noted that there were other proposals for the money in the event that the fund could not be set up within the current financial year.

14. SW explained to the board the key points of note from the AMU Action Plan progress Report. He noted in particular:

Reform of property management: a programme of workshops was ongoing focusing on functions and services, and a revised programme blueprint would be put to the programme board. CT asked if the SIB board could see the revised blueprint and SW agreed to circulate it for the next meeting.

- Collaborative Procurement: The programme had now largely been completed and achieved its aims, and little further AMU involvement was expected.
- Capital Receipts target: AMU had proposals to generate capital receipts but the eventual figure realised might be lower. However it was likely that the actual requirement from DFP would turn out to be less than the original.
- Invest to save: AMU were discussing with RPM the most efficient way to use the same personnel engaged on the Invest to Save programme on the RPM. There was considerable activity on the Invest to Save programme, and DRD had agreed to issue a PIN notice as a mechanism for seeking ideas from the market in relation to street lighting.
- Savings from PFI contracts: It was likely that the next contracts to be reviewed would be the water and waste water treatment projects..

Report from Audit Committee

15. CT formally reported on proceedings of the Audit committee including approval of the NIAO Report to those Charged with Governance, approval of the Internal Audit Report on Procurement and the review of the Risk Register.

Social Housing Reform Programme

16. Ronan O'Hara joined the meeting. He explained the background to the Social Housing Reform Programme.

Feedback on Board Effectiveness

17. BM gave a very brief summary of the feedback received on board effectiveness. He explained that he intended to prepare a detailed report for GMcG, which could be discussed at the Board Away Day. However he indicated that there were no major issues arising which would require to be addressed in advance of that (particularly in the light of the new appointments to the board).

Finance Report and Media Pack

18. The Finance Report and Media Pack were noted.

NI Prison Service Reform Programme

19. Mark Adam joined the meeting. BH explained that MA had just completed his duties with the Prison Reform Team of NI Prison Service. MA explained that the prison reform programme had delivered 36 out of the 40 recommendations of the Owers Report (the other 4 awaited statutory changes/political decision). He explained how the programme had delivered substantial financial savings to the Prison Service at the same time as addressing the issues raised in the report around prison conditions, rehabilitation et al. He outlined the areas where he believed more remained to be done. He noted in particular that the prison estate required capital investment, and that a good plan had been prepared to upgrade it. He attributed the success of the programme to a number of factors, principally:

- clarity of vision: the Minister, the Permanent secretary and the Director General of the Prison service had all given full backing to the work of the team in implementing the change programme;
- full integration of the change manager into the management team, allowing unmediated access to management; and
- a relatively small, but very focused team with responsibility for the programme.

Other Business

None