

Minutes of a Board Meeting of Strategic Investment Board Limited

Held at 10.00am on Tuesday 15th March 2016 at
Carleton House
Gasworks Business Park
1 Cromac Avenue
Belfast

Present: Gerry McGinn (GMcG)(Chair)
Frank Hewitt (FH)
Marie Therese McGivern (MTM)
Chris Thompson (CT)
Kathryn Thomson (KT)
Danny McSorley (DMcS)
Duncan McCausland (DMcC)
Brett Hannam (BH)

In attendance: Gregor Hamilton (GH)
Martin Spollen (MS)
Paul Wilson (PW) (Item 15 only)

Apologies: Scott Wilson (SW)

Declarations of interest

1. The usual declarations of interest were taken as read. In the light of the items potentially open for discussion: FH particularly noted his interest in NI Transport Holding Co; KT noted interest in NMNI; DMcS noted interest in DCAL Safety and Technical Group for Casement Park; and MTM noted interest in Bombardier.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

2. The minutes of the February 2016 board meeting were approved (subject to typographical amendment to clarify that DMcC is chair of the *audit committee* of MLKDC). GMcG asked if the ministerial direction referred to at item 5 of the minutes had been obtained. BH indicated that this had proved unnecessary.

Chairman's and Directors' Business

3. GMcG explained that he would be holding one to one meetings with board members shortly. He commended BH on a successful staff away day. DMcC and DMcS agreed.

4. GMcG noted that the process to replace board members retiring later in the year would not now commence until after the Assembly elections.

Chief Executive's Report, ISNI Report, AMU Report

5. BH updated the board on some of the projects referred to in the Chief Executive's Report. In particular:

- Desertcreat: BH noted that the revised proposal had been approved by ministers and that enabling works could now commence. A new "OBC2" process would now commence. BH suggested it would be preferable if the three services' projects now progressed under separate business cases, although this would be for ministers to determine. CT asked if the revised scheme would still enable joint training of police and fire (and ambulance) staff. BH said it would.
- Primary Care: BH noted that the minister had now approved the appointment business case.
- Urban Villages: BH noted that this was a large and complicated project with tight deadlines and high political expectations, and that it was likely to require considerable support from SIB outside the Urban Villages team themselves (particularly from AMU).
- Regional Art Gallery: BH noted position in respect of the project.

- Procurement Review: BH explained that the DFP minister had commissioned a review of implementation of the action plan arising from the review of commissioning and procurement. CT welcomed this as a positive development.
- Budget: BH noted that the core budget allocation for 2016-17 had been 4% lower than for the previous year – a smaller cut than had been anticipated.

7. DMcS asked BH to explain the nature of the design changes at Strule.

8. FH noted the reference in the board papers to the risk if the Belfast Transport Hub project did not proceed for any reason. He noted that there was no reason to suppose that the project would not proceed given the high level of political, cross departmental and council support it enjoyed. FH expressed the thanks on behalf of the Translink management team for the assistance provided by SIB.

9. MS updated the board on progress with the ISNI. He explained that OFMDFM had written to all of the departments to initiate the process and that the team was holding briefing sessions with each of the Permanent Secretaries. He hoped that a group would be established comprising SIB and Permanent Secretaries to co-ordinate the ISNI with the Programme for Government. The key date for publication of the ISNI would be at the beginning of September.

10. MS noted that an agreement was being concluded with Innovate UK to have a node of the “Digital Catapult” set up at NI Science Park.

11. In the absence of SW, BH presented the paper prepared by the AMU for the permanent secretaries group.

Report from Audit Committee

12. CT reported on the Audit Committee held immediately before the board meeting.

- The committee had discussed the process for preparation and approval of the annual report and accounts. The external audit was being carried out (as previously) by RSM on behalf of NIAO. The draft report and accounts would be brought to the board for approval in June.
- CT noted that a “substantial” assurance had been received from the internal auditors in relation to accounting for FTC

- The committee had discussed the internal audit plan for 2016/17. A new item had been included in the plan to deal with grants.
- The committee had considered the Audit Committee self assessment, and had been broadly satisfied. The only change was that a formal assessment of performance at audit Committee was to be included as part of the annual board assessment.
- The committee had noted a possible attempted external fraud. No SIB funds had been at risk at any point.
- The committee had considered the implications of OFMdfM's bureau in China.
- The committee had considered a report on the security of board papers. It had approved a recommendation that board papers should be encrypted, but otherwise procedures would remain as before. It was noted that there was an expectation that board members would take normal reasonable precautions with papers (e.g. deleting all back papers). The position would be reviewed in six months time. DMCS queried whether board papers had to be released under FoI. BH explained that all the papers went on the website, after redaction of confidential matters.

Corporate and Business Plans (incl Letter of Expectation)

13. BH noted that the Ministerial Letter of Expectation had now been signed. He noted that the SIB review was scheduled to be carried out during 2016-17, and that the Management Statement and Financial Memorandum were also to be reviewed. The board formally approved the Corporate and Business Plans.

Finance Report and Media Pack

14. The Finance Report and Media Pack were noted.

Government Data centre and Network NI

15. PW joined the meeting. He gave a short presentation on the Shared Data Centre project, explaining the background to the project and the advantages to be derived from the shared

centre (resilience, cost savings and flexibility). He explained how the next stage would be the considerably more complex Shared Network Project. The board noted with approval SIB's role in implementing these projects.

AOB

None