

Minutes of a Board Meeting of Strategic Investment Board Limited

Held at 10.00am on Tuesday 11th August 2015 at
Carleton House
Gasworks Business Park
1 Cromac Avenue
Belfast

Present:	Gerry McGinn (GMcG)(Chairman) Bro McFerran (BM) Frank Hewitt (FH) Chris Thompson (CT) Brett Hannam (BH)
In attendance:	Gregor Hamilton (GH) Scott Wilson (SW)(Items 16 and 17 only) Martin Spollen (MS) Paul Priestly (PP)(Items 13 and 14 only)
Apologies:	Duncan McCausland (DMcC) Marie Therese McGivern (MTM)

Declarations of Interest

1. The usual declarations of interest were taken as read. FH particularly noted his interests in NI Transport Holding Co in light of potential discussions arising from the items on the agenda.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

2. The minutes of the June 2015 board meeting were approved (subject to a deletion at Para 9 and an insertion at Para 19).

Chairman's and Directors' Business

3. GMcG reported that he and BH had met with the First and deputy First Ministers on 10 August.

4. GMcG noted that the appointment of two new non executive directors was expected to be announced very soon. In the light of the departure of BM in November and of CT and FH in December 2016 he noted the importance of retaining the continuity and corporate knowledge of the board, and ensuring that the committee structure still functioned efficiently.

5. GMcG asked board members whether they had any particular matters they wished to discuss with Sir John Elvidge when he met with the board. CT said it would be interesting to hear how Scotland had succeeded in bringing forward privately funded infrastructure projects. FH wanted to compare the scale of the infrastructure deficit which Scotland had faced and the structures they had put in place to address it with the current NI situation. BM wanted to discuss sources of finance and whether SIB would be better focusing more narrowly or broadening its scope.

6. GMcG noted that the new website was now up and running.

7. GMcG explained that BM was taking the lead on the review of board effectiveness. BM said the questionnaire would be issued shortly, for completion and return by the end of the month, so that it could be discussed at the next board meeting.

8. FH noted that representatives of Translink had a very positive meeting with SIB to see how certain Board-related IT issues were handled, and that they were keen to develop closer links more generally. He would be proposing a meeting between the new Translink Chief Executive and BH. BH agreed this would be welcome. FH explained that from his position with NITHCo he was aware of the very strong ministerial commitment to both the Belfast Rapid Transit project and the Transport Hub.

Chief Executive's Report, ISNI Report

9. BH spoke to the Chief Executive's report. He noted in particular:

Arc21: The planners had passed their recommendation to the minister, and a decision was awaited.

Stadiums Programme: DCAL had published results of a review carried out by the Major Projects Authority. BH explained that SIB provided the Programme Director who acted on behalf of the Department in ensuring that DCAL's requirements were complied with. However the Project Managers were employed by the sports bodies themselves – e.g. the project manager for Casement Park was a GAA appointee. BH confirmed that the Programme Manager had not been made aware at any stage of serious safety concerns in connection with Casement Park.

Government Data Centre Project: A preferred bidder had been identified for the data centre.

Forest Service Wind Farms: The proposed removal of government subsidy for on-shore wind farms would substantially change the economics of the project. Kevin Hegarty was working with DARD and DETI to assess whether and how it could continue.

10. MS reported on the ISNI. He noted that the Finance Minister had publicly launched the Projects Pipeline. GMcG asked if there were robust arrangements to ensure it was updated. MS explained that the responsibility to ensure it was updated had now been codified in a Procurement Guidance Note and it was expected that departments would comply with this. MS explained that the pipeline would be made available as a link from the ISNI portal, not published in hard copy. MS described strategic modeling work being done with DEL and data analysis work with DETI.

Report from Remuneration Committee

11. BM reported on the Remuneration Committee meeting. He noted:

The committee had received a presentation on the psychometric testing recently introduced by HR. It was considered something which was worthwhile and to be continued.

- The committee had discussed the proposed staff engagement survey, and had agreed that this now good practice and to proceed with the pilot.
- The committee had discussed the most equitable way to distribute the 1% overall increase in pay, and proposed to give a £500 increase to lowest paid staff and distribute the remaining amount amongst all staff. This would require departmental approval.

- The committee had ratified a number of decisions taken in the period since they last met.

Update: Review of Commissioning and Procurement

12. Paul Priestly joined the meeting and delivered a short presentation on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the Review of Public Procurement completed in 2014.

Draft SIB Benefits and Achievements Statement

14. PP gave a brief presentation of the key points arising from the draft Benefits and Achievements Statement, which had been prepared in advance of the (now delayed) SIB Review. He noted in particular the benefits arising by way of avoided costs, efficiency gains and additional investment. This was a better result than last year – largely because of better recording of the benefits. CT asked what had become of the proposed SIB review. BH said it would not now take place until after SIB had been integrated into the new Department for Infrastructure. GMcG thought the Benefits and Achievements Statement an important exercise in demonstrating the value of the organization.

Project Reports and Dashboards

15. BH drew the board's attention to certain key points from the project reports and dashboards. He noted in particular the successful completion of the e-cars project, progress with HMS Caroline, and that the EnergyWise project had now been adopted by DETI. He noted that the percentage of costs recharged had declined slightly over the quarter but explained that this was the result of certain relatively highly paid individuals leaving or completing their roles. GMcG invited comments from the board. FH asked if it would be appropriate to move the recruitment and retention risk on the risk summary sheet to the left. BH agreed that it would.

AMU Report

16. SW highlighted the key points from the Delivery Oversight Group Report. He noted that the provisional list of capital receipts had now been reduced, largely reflecting the decision to generate more income from Translink car parks rather than dispose of them.. SW noted that the Reform of Property Management programme had benefited from the appointment of Derek Kennedy, although resource remained an issue. SW noted that all Permanent Secretaries had approved in principle the creation of an Invest to Save, Reform and Restructuring Fund which be available exclusively for invest to save projects, and work was now progressing on a more detailed proposal for consideration in the budget by October.

Local Authorities: An Approach to Partnerships

17. BH explained that he proposed to host an event with the new local Authorities to explain the nature of SIB's work and its operating model. This event would be followed by a series of bilateral meetings with the new Chief Executives. The board agreed with this approach. GMcG enquired as to the scope for local authorities to work collaboratively. BH said that this was possible in principle, but that as yet there were not many ideas for collaborative working. CT asked if BH would also invite representatives of DoE to the event, and BH said he would, along with DFP and the Department for Communities.

Finance Report

The finance report was noted.

Media Pack

The Media pack was noted.

Other Business

None

Chairman