

## **Minutes of a Board Meeting of Strategic Investment Board Limited**

Held at 10.00am on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 at  
FinTrU House  
Gasworks Business Park  
1 Cromac Avenue  
Belfast

**Present:** Gerry McGinn (GMcG)(Chair)  
Danny McSorley (DMcS)  
Marie Therese McGivern (MTM)  
Kathryn Thomson (KT)  
Brett Hannam (BH)

**In attendance:** Scott Wilson (SW)  
Martin Spollen (MS)  
Anna Gray (AG)

**Apologies:** Duncan McCausland (DMcC)  
Gregor Hamilton (GH)

### **Declarations of interest**

1. Declarations of interest were noted.

### **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

2. The minutes of the April 2017 Board Meeting were approved.
3. There was a discussion of the date for the next Board Meeting as KT observed that the SIB accounts needed to be signed off by the end of June 2017. BH confirmed that the Board should approve the accounts on foot of an audit committee recommendation. The date of 2pm on 27<sup>th</sup> June was proposed by GMcG for the next Board Meeting. GMcG advised that the Board could meet earlier than this if required.

### **Chairperson's and Directors' Business**

4. GMcG congratulated BH and SW for the successful SIB conference in May. It was noted that the venue worked well.

## **Board Room Apprentice**

5. GMcG noted that the Board Room Apprentice Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) appeared to address his previous concerns with the scheme. GMcG summarised his understanding of the process. It would begin with the scheme's organisers inviting expressions of interest. There would then be a BRA interview process. Successful candidates' CVs would be shared with the Board and further SIB interviews may be necessary. GMcG noted that the Board would require assurances in respect of confidentiality. If the individual coming forward was a suitable match for the SIB Board GMcG would be content to proceed with it and to act as the candidate's "mentor". The Board would not have to make a final decision until a successful candidate had been identified. GMcG noted that Business in the Community had conducted a similar scheme.

6. KT commented that she was content with the MoU and she noted that other public bodies have already reviewed and signed up to it.

## **Board Skills**

7. GMcG asked whether there were any areas that the Board felt it lacked necessary skills, given the nature of SIB's business. KT noted the difficulty presented by the open recruitment process for SIB Board Members. Whilst they could try to influence it with the role specification and the list of required skills, ultimately they had had no control over the end result. KT queried whether there was anything that could be done to counter this problem.

8. MTM commented that her own board was doing a similar exercise in order to fill skills gaps (e.g. HR). KT noted that if the Board felt that there were skills gaps there was the option to bring in external people to do the work or, alternatively, to give the Board training in those areas. GMcG highlighted the need to maintain a balance between public and private sector representation. MTM noted that private sector participation on boards was useful as it provided a different perspective, but the purpose of the Board was not to give advice as it had employees or consultants for that. DMcS mentioned that he was, in general, supportive of the comments made. He stressed the importance of the Board working collectively and not relying upon, for example, a Board Member with a legal background to lead on any legal issues. He also noted that the lack of private sector participation was a deficiency in this Board. GMcG stated that he hoped that this may be addressed through the recent appointment process for new SIB Board members. DMcS said that technical engineers or architects would also be useful members, given the nature of SIB's

projects. GMcG added that being politically savvy would also be a benefit. Making sure that the Board was fit for purpose would be one of the items for discussion at the workshop on strategy in October.

9. GMcG asked whether BH had any views on possible skills gaps. BH also hoped that the new appointments to the Board may address Board's lack of private sector experience. He added that someone with a finance background might be useful in order to deal with the complex financial / commercial instruments that SIB deals with. Experience of infrastructure delivery is also important. GMcG asked for other views. SW had nothing to add but looking forward it was important to recognise that SIB was more than just Projects, AMU and ISNI and this may be highlighted in the organisational review..

### **Chief Executive's Report, ISNI Report, AMU Report**

#### *Chief Executive's Report*

10. BH took the contents of the Chief Executive's report as read. He noted by way of addition/update:

14. Staff Survey: Brett explained that following consultation with the Staff Forum and a presentation at the Staff Conference he was implementing the action plan.

KT asked the Board to note that her husband works for SONI and she would update her declaration of interests accordingly. GMcG concluded with a query to BH as to how any future cuts to SIB's budget may be dealt with. BH stated that he would first need to see where the cuts fall when they are announced. *ISNI Report*

17. MS explained that Ministerial approval was pending. His team was currently working on a number of data projects for PSNI, EA and DfE. He also intended to recruit a post-doctorate researcher to assist the team. There would not be much further movement on ISNI until Executive approval was obtained.

19. The Board requested that BH arrange for Alan McVicker to present to the Board on his experience with the Councils.

20. SW also highlighted the Transport Hub. He noted that the business case was going through but the decision had been to put back by 6 months.

### **Audit Committee Report**

21. KT provided a report on the Audit Committee meeting. Amendments were to be made to the annual report before it would be presented to the Board in June. She introduced the Committee's annual report to the Board. DMcS proposed that the report was agreed. MTM seconded this and the report was accepted.

22. GMcG queried the FTC issue and whether legislation would be brought in to give departments the vires to make loans. BH reported that he had written to Andrew McCormick on the issue. GMcG expressed the view that it was important for the Board to progress, and be seen to progress, the matter. DMcS queried where the issue sits on the Department's risk register and SIB's risk register. If it wasn't addressed then it would be likely to remain a problem for SIB.

### **AOB**

23. GMcG asked that a list of attendees to the lunch with SIB staff be circulated in advance of the Board meeting.

### **Chair**

### ***SUMMARY OF ACTIONS***

<b><i>Reference</i></b>	<b><i>Action</i></b>	<b><i>Responsible</i></b>	<b><i>Timing</i></b>
	Arrange next Board Meeting for 27 <sup>th</sup> June	BH	June

Arrange meeting between SIB review team, BH and GMcG	BH	June
KT to update declaration of interests	KT	June
Alan McVicker to present to Board on experience with Councils	BH	Next Board 27 <sup>th</sup> June
Send reminder to Andrew McCormick re: FTC	BH	June
List of attendees to the lunch with SIB staff to be circulated in advance	HMcN	June