

Minutes of a Board Meeting of Strategic Investment Board Limited

Held at 10 pm on Tuesday 12 April 2022 at 9 Lanyon Place, Belfast

Present: Duncan McCausland (DMcC)
Danny McSorley (DMcS)
Brett Hannam (BH)
Marie Therese McGivern (MTM)
Kathryn Thomson (KT)

In attendance: Gregor Hamilton (GH)

In the absence of a substantive Chair, it was agreed that MTM should chair the meeting.

Declarations of Interest and Board Terms of Reference

1. The previously stated declarations of interest were confirmed.
2. The Board Terms of Reference were noted. Board members confirmed they had read the board papers.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

3. The minutes of the March 2022 board meeting were approved.

Chairman's and Directors' Business

4. None.

Report from Remuneration and Personnel Committee

5. DMcC reported on the proceedings of the Remuneration and Personnel Committee, which he had chaired. He noted that the committee had:

- approved the minutes of the previous meeting

- approved the decisions taken out of committee;
- reviewed the Covid Risk R and agreed this would now be subsumed in the main risk register;
- reviewed the Committee's terms of reference;
- reviewed Additional Responsibility Allowances and approved the annual report to TEO on their use;
- agreed the approach to the next Pay Remit;
- noted [one employee's] request for a period of unpaid leave;
- noted the CEO's fruitful discussions with NICS HR.

SIB Core Purpose and Role

8. The Board noted the response received from Denis McMahon, Permanent Secretary TEO to the former Chair Gerry McGinn's letter regarding the role and remit of the organization. The Board agreed that this made clear that TEO was content that SIB's work remains consistent with its remit and that SIB should continue to provide direct support to Departments and other bodies.

9. KT, DMcS and MTM were disappointed that the letter did not refer to two important issues raised by Gerry McGinn: the senior leadership structure and pay policy.

13. DMcC proposed that the Business Plan should be revised to include specific proposals to develop new proposals for a senior leadership team (SLT) and to commission an independent review of pay policy.

17. It was agreed that BH should update the Business Plan to include proposals for SLT and pay policy (and the related issue of user charging policy), and that a letter should be sent separately to TEO on these matters. KT agreed to prepare a first draft of the letter.

Draft Letter of Expectation and Business Plan

19. In the light of the previous discussion, BH agreed to update the draft Business Plan to include proposals for an independent review of pay policy and agreement and implementation of a SLT. Subject to these changes being made, the Board agreed the Letter of Expectation and Business Plan.

Review of Board Terms of Reference

20. The board reviewed its extant Terms of Reference. DMcC requested that contingency planning be added to the list of matters within the remit of the board. This was agreed. The Board endorsed the ToR.

21. DMcC noted that it was time to complete the annual board effectiveness review. As Chair of the Audit Committee, he would oversee the process.

Chief Executive's Report

22. BH updated the board on further developments since the date of the CEO Report.

- The ISNI consultation continued to progress well. A presentation to a joint seminar of the Chief Executives' forum and Chairs' forum had been well received.
- A draft hybrid working policy had been prepared and circulated to staff for comment. It would be brought to the board in due course.
- The judge in the Casement Park judicial review had indicated that a decision could be expected shortly after Easter.
- The Social Value Unit was expected to complete its transfer to TEO over the next few weeks, and it was expected that eventually the whole team would move into the NICS.

23. MTM expressed disappointment with the decision of the minister on the planning for the Arc 21 project.

24. In response to a query from DMcS, BH described the roles of SIB staff supporting the Strule project.

25. DMcS noted the potential abandonment of [a] Project. GH explained the background.

26. DMcS asked whether the “Commercial Delivery Group” being established by CPD was likely to take over functions previously carried out by SIB. BH explained that the new group’s functions were within CPD’s remit, albeit SIB had helped departments in these areas in the past. He would be meeting the Head of the new unit later in the week.

27. In response to a question from DMcS, BH expanded on the position at Ebrington set out in the report, outlining the rationale for any subsidy that might be provided to the Council by TEO.

28. DMcC asked whether SIB had met its budget for 2021-22. BH reported there was an underspend of £19K out of a budget of £13.2m.

29. DMcC congratulated Therese Hogg and Colin Stutt for their work on the Sport and Activity Strategy. The Board recorded its thanks to the departing Digital Catapult team.

30. The board formally noted the position on the RED/AMBER projects.

Finance Report and Media Pack

31. The contents of the Finance Report and Media Pack were noted.

AOB

32. MTM asked whether it would be possible to bring the proposed June board meeting (and attendant Audit Committee) forward a day from 14th to 13th June. BH agreed to try to reschedule.

Chair

Actions

Actions from April 2022 Meeting

Reference	Action	Responsibility	Expected Completion
04/22/1	Update draft Business Plan.	BH	May 2022
04/22/2	Draft letter to TEO in respect of SLT and pay policy.	KT	May 2022
04/22/3	Add Contingency Planning to the Board's remit in its ToR.	BH	May 2022
04/22/4	Initiate Board Effectiveness Review.	DMcC	[June 2022]
04/22/5	Reschedule June Audit Committee & Board.	BH	May 2022