

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING OCTOBER 10TH 2022

Held in the Boardroom, 9 Lanyon Place at 10am

Present

Marie Therese McGivern (Meeting Chair)
Danny McSorley
Duncan McCausland
Brett Hannam
Kathryn Thomson

Notetaker: Helen McNeill

Presentations from: Scott Wilson (ISNI) and Jacqueline Fearon (Casement Park)

Appointment of Meeting Chair

Marie Therese McGivern was elected Chair for the meeting.

Apologies, Declarations of Interest & Board Terms of Reference

There were no apologies.

The Terms of reference were taken as agreed, and there was no change to the recorded declaration of interests from Board members.

Minutes of August 2022 Board Meeting (For approval)

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved, subject to line 24 being removed from the record.

Board members requested that a copy of the ISNI presentation from the August meeting be circulated or placed on the portal for reference.

Chairman's and Directors' Business

Board members reiterated how useful it would be to convene a conversation with the TEO Permanent Secretary.

Board members asked BH to try and arrange a telephone call to see if there is any possibility of finding a time when the Permanent Secretary might be able to attend one of the next meetings or respond to the points set out in the letter which was sent to him by the Board.

Report from the Audit Committee (For noting)

The Chair of the Audit committee (Duncan McCausland) reported back to Board members on the agenda items covered in the committee which preceded the Board meeting, noting it had discussed:

1. Annual Review of Audit Recommendations and
2. Annual review of 'Raising Concerns' policy.

The next audit committee meeting will be held in January 2023.

Reports

Board members raised the following points in relation to the items in the CEO's report:

Council Waste Programmes

Danny McSorley asked about the Councils and their waste programmes and said he would welcome a discussion with Alan McVicker. He would be particularly interested in understanding whether there is any consensus on waste policy.

All Board members agreed that a briefing from Alan McVicker on waste strategy would be useful.

Pay Policy Review

KT asked for clarification of the status of the SIB pay policy review. BH confirmed that it had been sent to TEO and was with the Permanent Secretary for review.

City Deals

MTM asked about the programme assurance work with DfE being undertaken and agreed to meet Pat O'Neill separately to understand the business case improvement model he is working on and how it might help DfE with the complexity of managing the large number of contracting authorities within the programme.

Danny McSorley asked about progress with and the potential risks to the Strabane area City Deals. BH explained that he had recently met with the CEO of Derry City and Strabane Council, and that a separate conversation with Brenda Burns, who is working for the Council might be useful to gain more detail on which projects are marked for inclusion in the programme.

Strule Shared Education Campus

The Board discussed the difficulties facing the progression of the Strule Shared Education campus. The reasons highlighted included the inflation costs of construction and supply costs, and the effect of having to re-tender. Board members were interested in seeing the piece of work being carried out by Mark Wishart which identifies the main causes of project delays in large projects and analyses the length of time for business cases to be completed. Board members expressed their concerns and the best possible mechanism for expressing these concerns to senior civil servants at DE.

Quarterly Programme and Project Reports, Dashboards

Board members welcomed the new style of presentation of the project reports. It was suggested that it might be helpful to brigade projects by Group.

ISNI Update (Scott Wilson)

Scott Wilson gave a presentation on ISNI and the development of the talks with all political parties and HOCS to give wider context. Consultation is complete, and the task of the team now is to complete the writing and finalise the length and style of the document.

Board members welcomed the idea of engaging Universities/academic experts who can be called upon to verify and update ISNI.

There was some discussion about the allocation of funds and the structure of departmental budget allocations, particularly in the context of funding being ring fenced for large scale projects and the effect this has on managing budgets for other (non-ISNI) projects.

Casement Park (Update from Jacqueline Fearon followed by discussion)

Jacqueline Fearon gave a presentation which highlighted the complexities of the project.

Board Strategy / Senior Leadership Team

The Board agreed to defer discussion of the Strategy and Senior Leadership Team papers to the Board strategy day in November.

CC&G Council Extraordinary Audit – Lessons Learned Report (For discussion)

Board members made two comments on the paper:

- It is important that NICS departments continue to place trust in SIB. SIB staff embedded in other organisations should maintain a caveat (written into the OPA) that ensures clarity regarding their position when it comes to offering ad hoc advice.
- It is important that the lessons learned should be disseminated across all of SIB.

AOB

Board members noted the draft TEO Partnership Charter which was included in the papers.

Board members noted and commended the NI Strategic Plan for Manufacturing.

Next meeting: November Strategy Day

The Board strategy day will take place on Monday 21st November. It was agreed that BH's office would arrange for this to be held in the NIAO offices, (106 University Street, Belfast).

The draft agenda for the day will be circulated by BH, to be agreed by Danny McSorley, who will chair the meeting on the day. It will then be circulated to all Board members.

It was agreed that an invitation should be extended to Gareth Hetherington from UU Economic Policy Centre for him to brief the Board on the current NI economic context.

Note: There was no Board Meeting in September 2022, December 2022, or January 2023 but there was a Board Away Day on 21 November 2022.