MINUTES of Strategic Investment Board Meeting
Held in the Limavady Suite, Ebrington Hotel, L'Derry
5th AUGUST 2025 at 11am

Present
Duncan McCausland (Chair)
Steve Harper (CEO)
Marie Therese McGivern
Kathryn Thomson
Danny McSorley
Helen McNeill (notetaker)

In attendance
Scott Wilson (for agenda item 6)
Ciaran Doherty and Noel Conway (for agenda Item 9)

Apologies
There were no apologies.

Declarations of Interest
There were no new or amended declarations of interest.

1. **Minutes of the previous meeting**
   The minutes of the June meeting were approved, subject to the correction of a few minor typing errors.

2. **Chairman and Directors' business**
   The Chair reminded Board members of their duty to register their details with Companies House. Any queries on instructions to complete this should be addressed to SIB's legal Director.

   The Chair informed the Board that he was approving an invitation received by the CEO to attend an event in New York in September.

3. **TEO Issues:** Updates following meetings with TEO to progress the Action Plan created from the recommendations of the SIB review report.

The following three items were discussed:

SIB/TEO Partnership Agreement

TEO Ministers have reviewed the agreement and noted two points for amendment:

- The wording on the appointment of any future Chief Executive.
- Further consideration by TEO of the income generated by SIB and whether or not it should be retained by SIB.

Board members expressed their support for the SIB finance Manager and CEO to arrange further meetings with TEO corporate business/finance team governance to be able to make the point that SIB should retain income generated.

Recruitment of new Chair and Board members

The draft candidate pack for the recruitment of a new Chair and Board members has been informally shared by TEO with senior SIB staff. The positions are unlikely to be advertised before the end of September (at the earliest). New Board members and a substantive new Chair are not anticipated to be in place until January 2026. The Board considered the timing of the current Board membership and the incoming new appointees. It was concluded that a staggered approach would be suitable in order to allow for a handover.

All Board members confirmed that they would be content for their term of office to be extended by one year, if required, and subject to the timetable for the recruitment of new members.

The Chair confirmed that he had undertaken annual assessments of each of the current Board members.

The **draft Memorandum of Direction** was shared with the Board, which will be submitted to Ministers by TEO imminently with a response expected in September.

Board members welcomed the document as very helpful for the progression of an agreed focus on the strategic work of SIB. It will allow a more focused direction for SIB's purpose and future work. Board members agreed that the written memorandum establishes a very useful outline for the CEO to strategically align any future work requests for SIB with the specific areas as directed in the Memorandum and assess any work requests through the identified priorities.

Action Points:

- CEO to write to TEO to ask about the letters of extension for current Board members and Chair.
- CEO to present an initial draft of the SIB Senior Leadership Team proposal to the remuneration and personnel committee in September. All Board members agreed to attend the committee.

4. **CEO Monthly report**

Board members noted the following items in the CEO report:

- Requests for Strategic Support Unit work: demand remains high.
- The proposed recruitment for a social license advisor for the expansion of the Magee UU campus.
- The continued progress/launch of public consultation with DAERA on the Mubouy remediation scheme.
- The Board asked for their congratulations to be passed on to Andrew Cassells, SIB Waste advisor, for the successful outcome of his work on the Plastic and packaging scheme.
- The Board discussed the merits of the AI Garage proposal, noting the success of other broadly similar schemes which had been successfully launched (eg Google garage/digital sandbox tools).
- The continued absence of a suitable financial arrangement for the redevelopment of Casement Park.
- The CEO updated Board members on the introductory meeting which he attended with the Civil Service Commissioners.

There was a discussion about the SIB entertainment policy with particular reference to the CEO's attendance at networking events. The Board verbally endorsed this as a requirement of the CEO's job in order to further SIB's interests. It was agreed that the gifts and hospitality policy would be reviewed and updated to include international travel and entertainment. The updated policy will be presented to the Audit and Risk committee for approval.

5. **ISNI Report**

[Redacted]

6. **<u>Finance Update</u>**

The Board asked for their congratulations to be passed on to the SIB finance team for getting the annual report and accounts laid before the assembly.

The Board noted the finance update and asked for it to be presented again in the same format at the October meeting.

7. The **media pack** was noted.

8. **Presentation**

Two SIB staff gave a presentation on the role which SIB has played in the development of capital project development and public realm works at Ebrington Square from the inception of the project to current status. This was followed by a walking tour.

AOB

None.

Date of next meeting

9th September 2025 to be held at the Strule shared education campus, Omagh.