

Minutes of a Board Meeting of Strategic Investment Board Limited

Held at 11.00am on 15th February 2011 at
Clare House,
303 Airport Road West, Belfast

Present: David Dobbin (DD) – Chairman
Geraldine McAteer
Bro McFerran (BM) (Not Item 1)
Chris Thompson (CT)
David Waugh (DW)
Brett Hannam (BH)

In Attendance: Martin Spollen (MS)
Gregor Hamilton (GH) – Company Secretary
David Gilmour (Item 9 only)
Leo McKenna (Item 9 only)

Apologies: Frank Hewitt
Denis Rooney

There were no declarations of interest.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the January board meeting were agreed (subject to minor amendment).

2. Interim Chief Executive's Report

BH delivered the report. The board discussed in particular:

- the arrangements for management of the AMU. It was noted that there was a dual responsibility for the AMU between SIB and Ed Vernon. It was noted that while it was not possible to co-opt Ed Vernon to the SIB Board, there was no impediment to his attendance at SIB board meetings where AMU matters were to be discussed. It was agreed that the Chairman and BH should meet with

Ed Vernon and that a paper should then be prepared for the board setting out the management arrangements for the AMU;

- the ISNI - it was noted that as discussed at the previous board meeting OFMDFM intended to issue a draft for consultation.
- Lisanelly, in respect of which BH confirmed that there was substantial expenditure included in the budget for next year notwithstanding the legal and other uncertainties around the project.

3. Draft Corporate and Business Plan

BH gave a brief explanation of the background to the draft document, explaining that it was a sharper, more focused business plan with a shorter list of targets than its predecessors, as recommended by the SIB review, and that it envisaged a greater use of internal resources rather than external consultants, in accordance with Ministerial policy.

BH sought Board's view on a number of specific issues:

- the creation of an "infrastructure think-tank" function to look at strategic issues such as structural obstacles to successful infrastructure investment, horizon scanning etc;
- a proposed review of the process for preparation of the ISNI in the light of recent experience – in particular consideration of whether SIB could add value by having an earlier "bottom-up" involvement at the inception of projects at a departmental level;
- a proposal for SIB to provide information (possibly by way of an event) for MLAs (post election) to better equip them to understand the facts and issues around infrastructure investment and inform their decision making.

The board discussed these and approved them, noting that they were consistent with "strategic" role of SIB.

The board suggested a number of changes to the layout and content of the draft corporate and business plan.

It was agreed that BH would circulate an updated draft in advance of the next board meeting. Members could, of course, submit further comments at any time.

4. Alternative Funding Structures

The Board discussed the Background Briefing Paper on innovative financing structures. It was generally agreed that the paper was helpful and the models of interest. The paper would be useful background in the context of discussions with MLAs. The Board agreed that it would be useful to identify projects where these models might have practical application.

5. Audit Committee

GM reported on proceedings of the Audit Committee, which had been adjourned immediately before the board meeting. Although the Audit Committee's discussions had not yet concluded, the Internal Auditor had reported that, in respect of the whistle blowing allegations, there was no evidence of fraud and no evidence to support three out of the four allegations. There were, however, some issues regarding procurements which needed further discussion.

It was noted that there was a need to appoint a Chairman of the Audit Committee (also to reconstitute the Remuneration Committee, and possibly to appoint board members to project teams looking at particular issues). It was agreed that the Chairman and BH should speak to individual board members in that regard.

6. Quarterly Programme and Project Reports

The Quarterly programme and project reports were noted. BH noted that SIB would finish the year on budget.

7. Audit of Inequalities and Draft Action Plan

The Audit of Inequalities and draft Action Plan were approved.

8. Appointment of Temporary Finance Manager

The appointment of Stephen Jamison as temporary Finance Manager was approved.

9. Presentation on Commercialisation

David Gilmour and Leo McKenna joined the meeting and gave a presentation to the board on work carried out in respect of commercialisation at AFBI and NIFS. The Board discussed the presentation and it was agreed that a commercialisation strategy be reviewed and revised.

Chairman.