

Minutes of a Board Meeting of Strategic Investment Board Limited

Held at 11.00am on 13th April 2011 at
Clare House,
303 Airport Road West, Belfast

Present: David Dobbin (DD) – Chairman
Geraldine McAteer
Bro McFerran (BM)
Chris Thompson (CT)
Frank Hewitt (FH)
David Waugh (DW)
Brett Hannam (BH)

In Attendance: Gregor Hamilton (GH) – Company Secretary

Apologies: Denis Rooney

There were no declarations of interest (other than provisionally by FH in the event that any matters were to be discussed concerning ILEX).

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

2. Interim Chief Executive's Report

BH delivered the report. The board discussed in particular:

- Lisanelly: BH updated the board in relation to the recent Judicial Review. He noted that the Department had now taken over the site, and that it had been agreed with DE that work on the design and the business case should be put on hold pending the appointment of a minister after the election.
- Arc 21 Waste Project: BH noted that in the light of the increased recycling targets announced by the Minister, the lower than expected total waste tonnage resulting from poor economic growth, and a change in the definition of municipal waste, the requirement for the new facilities had been called into question. He

observed that in difficult financial conditions there would be a tendency to take an over-optimistic view of how much recycling would be achievable, and it was agreed that SIB should be doing everything to ensure that any decisions are taken on the basis of a proper examination of all the available evidence.

3. Asset Management Unit

DD updated the board on discussions held with ED Vernon and Noel Lavery in relation to issues raised by the SIB board re Ed Vernon's appointment.

The board discussed the draft terms of reference for Ed Vernon's appointment and it was agreed that they should be amended to emphasise that his main responsibility is to provide advice to the SIB board (in practice through the AMU committee) and to the head of AMU. DD and BH would make appropriate adjustments to the draft, and an organisational chart would be prepared to clarify the relationships of the various parties. With regard to remuneration, it was agreed that BH and DD should propose the normal non-executive rate.

A number of board members expressed concern that Ed Vernon's appointment was to be by way of single tender action, notwithstanding the actual or implied instruction to that effect from OFMDFM contained in Alan Maitland's memo of 6th April. The importance of obtaining CPD's advice in that regard was noted.

It was agreed that further clarity should be sought from OFMDFM as to Ed Vernon's role.

DW queried whether it was appropriate for Ed Vernon to be engaged in the recruitment process for AMU staff to whom he would be providing advice. It was noted that this was unusual but probably unavoidable given his role in the project to date.

It was agreed that DD and BH should discuss the matter further with OFMDFM.

4. Review of ISNI3 Process

The board discussed the “lessons learnt” paper prepared by BH.

BH drew attention to a number of specific recommendations and the board discussed them. In particular it was agreed:

- that the draft ISNI delivered to FM and DFM could be improved by the inclusion of a number of different “what if” options based around different political prioritisation of outcomes, rather than simply SIB’s preferred option (although a preferred option would still be indicated);
- that SIB’s advice should be provided at an earlier stage, well in advance of the agreement of the budget; and
- that SIB should offer to speak to Permanent Secretaries with regard to the relevant sections of the draft agreed with their Departments.

It was generally agreed that the paper was a valuable contribution to the improvement of the process and that its recommendations should be implemented.

It was suggested that the process should be distilled into a flowchart which could be shared with FM and DFM.

5. Review of SIB Performance in 2010/2011

The draft review was discussed and generally approved.

It was agreed that, there being a natural tendency to concentrate on implementation of individual projects, it is important to keep in mind the overall strategic plan for infrastructure and to re-assess progress against original intentions and against changing global context. It was noted that the Strategy Committee was intended to consider the overall strategic context and consider innovative ideas.

6. Quarterly Programme and Project Reports

The Quarterly Programme and Corporate Reports were approved. The report to OFMDFM was approved.

The board discussed the projects or topics where they would like to receive briefings from staff at future board meetings. These were Social Clauses, Waste, Titanic Quarter and Social Investment Fund.

7. Finance Report

The Board reviewed the Finance Report and noted the £5,000 underspend on the year.

8. Media Update

The Board noted the media pack.

9. AoB

It was agreed that some future board meetings should take place away from Clare House, allowing board an opportunity to see particular projects or sites at first hand.

Chairman.

APRIL 2011 BOARD – SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

Action	Owner	Status
BH and Chairman to adjust terms of reference for Ed Vernon, and organisation chart to be prepared showing AMU structure	Chairman Brett Hannam	Complete
Further clarity to be sought from OFMDFM re AMU single tender action	Brett Hannam	Complete