

Minutes of a Board Meeting of Strategic Investment Board Limited

Held at 9.00am on Thursday 4th December 2014 at
The Boardroom, Belfast Metropolitan College
Belfast

Present: Gerry McGinn (GMcG)(Chairman)
Frank Hewitt (FH)
Bro McFerran (BM)
Marie Therese McGivern (MTM)
Chris Thompson (CT)
Brett Hannam (BH)

In attendance: Martin Spollen (MS)
Gregor Hamilton (GH)
Michael Donnelly (MD)
Helen McNeill (HM)

Apologies: Duncan McCausland (DMcC)

Declarations of Interest

1. The usual declarations of interest were taken as read. There were no particular interests thought to give rise to a specific need to declare, given the items on the agenda.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

2. The minutes of the November 2014 board meeting were approved.

Chairman's and Directors' Business

3. GMcG noted the positive feedback received following the stakeholder engagement dinner on 2nd December. He noted that events such as this were an important part of SIB's "thought leadership" function.
4. GMcG noted that the non-executive directors would meet in closed session for 20 minutes before the next Board meeting.

Chief Executive's Report

5. BH spoke to the Chief Executive's report. He noted in particular:

Desertcreat : The terms of reference for the business case review had been agreed. CT emphasized the importance of keeping ministers up to date with progress and with the reasons for any delays.

Craigavon House: BH noted that DSD had made money available to fund a business case for Craigavon House.

Local Authorities: BH expected an increased requirement for SIB's support from the new Local Authorities. He would develop this analysis in the course of the away-day.

PPP/PFI Reviews: SIB had submitted a proposal for funding support work on PPP/PFI reviews from the "Invest to Save" fund.

ISNI Report and AMU Report

6. MS noted that current plans envisage total investment of approximately £3bn over the next three years, and a list of proposed projects was to be published shortly. GMcG queried whether sufficient capital would be available for these. MS said all the projects on the current list would be fundable in capital terms, the squeeze being much more severe on the revenue side. CT asked if it would be possible highlight those projects where a start date was envisaged within the next three months⁷. MS tabled a short paper setting out details of the proposals for a "Northern Ireland Investment Fund". He explained that work would be undertaken with Departments to identify suitable projects.⁸ MS noted the proposal in the Autumn

Statement for a “sovereign wealth fund” to be created for English regions using proceeds arising from ‘fracking’. He intended to discuss the potential for a similar arrangement in NI with DFP and DETI.

9. MD spoke to the AMU report. He noted in particular that AMU were on target to utilise fully the Invest to Save allocation , although there was always a risk of vendors pulling out during the course of final negotiations. MD noted that the Reform of Property Management and Social Housing reform projects were broadly on track.

10. MD explained that initial signs from the review of PFI/PPP projects indicated that there were savings to be made in that area. MTM agreed on the basis of experience with BMC.

Progress against Ministerial Letter of Expectation

12. The Board noted the progress report against the Letter of Expectation. He explained that the format of the letter would not be substantially different from last year’s, and that the all of the expectations set out should be achievable. CT and MTM expressed concern that confusion could arise on reading the status report insofar as “green” status might be afforded to SIB’s contribution, notwithstanding potential problems arising at the sponsor level for the project itself. BH agreed to amend the report to make clear this distinction.

Other Business

13. GMcG noted that dinner with Geraldine Mcateer would now need to take after Christmas.

14. The meeting was followed by the Board’s annual away-day.