

Minutes of a Board Meeting of Strategic Investment Board Limited

Held at 10.15am on Tuesday 16th January 2018 at
Lighthouse Building
Gasworks Business Park
Belfast

Present: Gerry McGinn (GMcG)(Chair)
Danny McSorley (DMcS)
Duncan McCausland (DMcC)
Marie Therese McGivern (MTM)
Kathryn Thomson (KT)
Brett Hannam (BH)

In attendance: Gregor Hamilton (GH)
Scott Wilson (SW)
Martin Spollen (MS)
Adrienne Neill (AN)

Pre-meeting workshop

The board held a workshop to discuss the steps required in the light of the SIB Review. It was agreed that a number of the specific recommendations of the Review (and the underlying issues which they sought to address) would require action. It was agreed that GMcG and BH should prepare an action plan for the board's consideration in the light of the workshop discussion, which would set out the actions to be taken and allocate oversight responsibility for them to board members.

Declarations of interest

1. The usual declarations of interest were taken as read. There were no specific matters to be declared in the light of the items to be discussed.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

2. The minutes of the November 2017 board meeting were approved.

Chairman's and Directors' Business

3. BH explained that TEO had sought advice from central HR with regard to the status of the appointment of the new board members, and a response was awaited.

4. GMcG noted that he had been invited to attend an "innovation lab" by HOCS, which was to discuss how departments and arm's length bodies could work together more effectively, and he would report back.

5. GMcG asked whether the insolvency of Carillion would have a major impact in the region. BH said he had attended the All-party Working Group on the Construction Industry. It was noted here that the Housing Executive and NIE had substantial contracts with Carillion, but the principal negative impact was likely to be felt by NI based subcontractors working in Carillion's supply chain.

6. GMcG asked board members if there were any areas where they required training. DMcC noted that his preference would be for the board to receive any training as a group (as with previous corporate governance training) rather than individually.

Report from Audit Committee

7. DMcC reported on the discussions of the Audit Committee. He noted:

-The committee had reviewed the Risk Appetite Statement, and approved it (subject to minor amendment).

-The committee had reviewed and approved the Risk Register. It was specifically noted that GDPR was factored into the register (under information management) and that Brexit was covered at departmental level. GMcG said he would circulate a paper he had prepared re Brexit. -The committee had accepted internal audit recommendations regarding business continuity planning.

-The committee had considered progress in implementing outstanding audit recommendations.

8. DMcC requested (in the interest of avoiding duplication of discussion) that those board members who are not members of the Audit Committee attend the committee meetings when the accounts would be considered.

Chief Executive's Report, ISNI Report, AMU Report

9. BH said he had no specific matters to draw to the board's attention since his written report had been prepared.

10. GMcG asked if SIB was expected to meet its budget. BH said there was a lot of expenditure scheduled before the year end (mostly by AMU) but currently no expectation of an underspend. SW agreed that AMU currently expected to hit its target, subject to any unforeseen issues.

12. DMcC noted the potential traffic issues arising should the Rapid Transit, Transport Hub and York Street Interchange projects coincide.

16. BH explained that in the absence of budget certainty, he was working on an assumption of a cut for 2018/19. He updated the board on discussions regarding pay remit and additional responsibility allowances.

17. DMcS noted the reference in the report to a briefing on Buy Social. He noted the importance of offering similar briefings to other interested parties.

18. MS noted the quarterly ISNI update in the board papers, but explained that the main focus of the ISNI team was currently on Strategic Information Planning. He noted the work being carried out to prepare an SOC for funding an extension to the ECIT campus in Titanic Quarter. MS explained how work being carried out with the Education Authority had expanded as the full potential of utilising its assembled data became apparent. He explained that work was also being carried out on a risk assessment framework for the NI Charities Commission. DfE had asked SIB to set up a data analytics centre, and work was ongoing with QUB in that regard.

19. SW took the AMU report as read, but noted a number of points in particular:-

- Reform of Property Management: SW noted that the transfer of the bulk of Properties Division into CPD would make change easier in the rest of the organisation. The Estate Rationalisation project continued, and the option of co-operating with Belfast Council was being explored.

- The volume of estate strategy work generally had greatly expanded and some reorganization of resource might be required.
- Energy: While work continued in relation to public sector purchase and use of energy, the generation side continued to be hampered by lack of an energy policy. However one “over the fence” (which didn’t require a grid connection) solar energy project had completed for NI Water.
- Discussions on social housing reform were taking place so as matters could be progressed once a minister was in place.
- Work continued with Translink with a view to maximising revenue from their property and with councils on their regeneration strategies.

Draft 2018 Business Plan and Letter of Expectation

20. BH explained that the draft Letter of Expectation was intended as a basis to prompt discussion with TEO and ministers/NICS Board. KT asked why SIB had a Letter of Expectation at all when other ALBs didn’t. BH explained that it had been introduced at SIB’s instigation as a way of ensuring its business plan took account of, and embodied, Ministerial priorities. GMcG asked what the process would be for finalizing the Letter of Expectation. BH said he would discuss it with TEO and HOCS, and take soundings from the other NICS Board members before taking the final document to NICS Board for approval.

Quarterly Report and Dashboards

21. BH drew the board’s attention to the list of objectives which were classified as “at risk or not achieved”. He noted that there were no recent additions to this list.

22. DMcS noted a syntax error in the quarterly report on 111/GP Out of Hours.

Finance Report and Media pack

22. BH said spending would be within the tolerance.

23. The contents of the media pack were noted.

ACTIONS:

- Preparation of Action Plan out of Workshop (GMcG/BH)
- Circulation of Brexit Note (GMCG)