

Minutes of a Board Meeting of Strategic Investment Board Limited

Held at 10.00 am on Tuesday 14th August 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)
Adrienne Neil (AN)
Paul Priestly (PP) (Items 12-16 only)

Apologies: Marie Therese McGivern (MTM)

Declarations of interest

1. The usual declarations of interest were taken as read.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

2. The minutes of the June 2018 board meeting were approved.

Chairman's and Directors' Business

3. GMcG reported that a new Boardroom Apprentice (Conor Taggart) would start at the September meeting of the board.

4. GMcG reported on his conversation with TEO re board appointments.
5. BH reported that the SIB Review and the Letter of Expectation had been discussed at the NICS Board. The Letter of Expectation had been amended on the advice of DSO to show that it was being issued by the TEO accounting officer rather than the NICS Board, an entity that has no formal powers.
6. GMcG invited discussion as to the implications for SIB and its activities of the continuing political hiatus and the inability (in light of the Arc 21 appeal court decision and subsequent DSO advice) of NICS to take significant decisions. BH noted that a number of other major projects were at risk of significant delay or worse. The principal difficulties arose from the inability to take planning and funding decisions which would in normal circumstances be taken by ministers.
7. GMcG asked if there were any steps SIB should be taking to mitigate or draw attention to these issues. BH explained that SIB continued to provide support where projects were in development, but at the next stage, where decisions were required, the issue was for departmental accounting officers to deal with. Where appropriate, SIB project managers would formally notify departments of the adverse consequences of delay. BH reiterated that while SIB could make clear to departments the additional costs and other adverse consequences of delay in taking specific decisions, the issue was ultimately for departmental accounting officers.
8. KT noted that she would be unable to attend the January board meeting if it was held as provisionally scheduled on 15th Jan. GMcG asked board members to let him know if any of the provisional dates presented a problem.

10. GMcG noted the reference in the Chief Executive's Report to the Regional Infrastructure Plan. BH explained that the preliminary work was being undertaken notwithstanding the absence of ministers. This could inform any eventual ministerial decisions.

11. KT noted that the new Permanent Secretary at DoF was to attend the September Board Meeting. GMcG said he would canvass views among board members and meet with BH to prepare an agenda.

2017 Statement of Benefits and Achievements

12. Paul Priestly joined the meeting and gave a brief presentation on the main points from the 2017 Statement of Benefits and Achievements.

13. PP noted that the work done to support councils continued to grow apace

14. PP noted that the next phase of the AMU's work (post 2021-22) would be a significant driver of SIB's performance in future. He suggested that there should be an increased emphasis on showing SIB's contribution to achieving the specific objectives set out in the Programme for Government. BH agreed and said the business planning process would also focus on this linkage.

15. PP noted the real benefits now being derived from the Buy Social programme.

16. In the light of the very positive figures in the report KT and DMcC suggested that SIB might do more to broadcast the positive outcomes. BH and PP advised caution in this regard, lest SIB be seen as claiming credit for projects involving other parties. GMcG welcomed the discussion and said this was something to be considered in more detail at the October board meeting.

ISNI Report

17. In Martin Spollen's absence the ISNI Report was taken as read. DMcS noted the reference to a November start date on the A5. BH confirmed this was subject to a positive outcome on the judicial review.

AMU Report

18. SW briefly summarized some of the key points from the AMU Report. He noted in particular:

- Reform of Property Management: the RPM Programme Board had drawn a line under the current programme and agreed to proceed with two separate streams- one to oversee introduction of Agile working and a second focused on the asset management activities of Properties Division.
- Energy Management Strategy: This was on target for presentation to the NICS Board in October. It would be brought to SIB board in advance of that.
- Financial Transactions Capital: Discussions continued with departments exploring the best ways of utilizing FTC.
- Translink/Weavers Cross Regeneration:

Report from Remuneration Committee

Quarterly Reports and Dashboards

20. The contents of the Quarterly Reports and Dashboards were noted. In particular it was noted that a number of projects were running into difficulties as a result of the absence of ministerial decisions.

Finance Report and Media Pack

21. The content of the Finance Report and Media Pack were noted.

Other Business

22. GMcG invited board members to propose any particular areas or matters they wanted to be discussed at future meetings.

23. GMcG thanked AN for her contribution as boardroom apprentice.

ACTIONS:

1. GMcG to take soundings and prepare agenda for meeting with Sue Gray
2. Non-execs to confirm availability for provisionally scheduled board meetings
3. BH to circulate background briefing on ARAs

Chairman