

Minutes of a Board Meeting of Strategic Investment Board Limited

Held at 10.00 pm on Tuesday 22nd January 2019 at
Lighthouse Building
Gasworks Business Park
Belfast

Present: Gerry McGinn (GMcG) (Chair)
Danny McSorley (DMcS)
Duncan McCausland (DMcC)
Marie Therese McGivern (MTM) (Items 1- 11 only)
Brett Hannam (BH)
Kathryn Thomson (KT) (Items 1-14 only)

In attendance: Martin Spollen (MS)
Gregor Hamilton (GH)
Scott Wilson (SW)
Conor Taggart (CT)
Paul Priestly (Items16-18 only)

Apologies: Martin Spollen (MS)

Schedule of Future Board and Committee meetings.

GMcG circulated a schedule of proposed board and committee meetings and asked board members to revert to him by end of the week if they were unable to attend.

Declarations of Interest

The previously stated declarations of interest were confirmed. MTM noted an additional matter regarding her role with DfE on creating a communications strategy for the further education sector (where SIB were to be asked to carry out work).

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the November 2018 board meeting were approved. The note of the board away day was also approved subject to minor amendment. It was agreed that the 4 points summarized at the end of the note should be borne in mind in consideration of SIB's future planning.

Chairman's and Directors' Business

GMcG noted that the director's appointments of GMcG, MTM and DMcC would all expire in September 2019, while the extensions to the appointments of KT and DMcS would expire in March/April 2019. He said it was unclear what steps TEO would take in current circumstances, but probable that they would simply extend current appointments again. It was agreed that DMcC should remain as chair of the Audit Committee at least until the June sign-off of the accounts, and possibly beyond.

GMcG noted that he would attend the Buy Social event and other board members were welcome to attend too.

Report from Audit Committee

DMcC reported on the proceedings of the Audit Committee.

The committee had reviewed the risk register and agreed that the risk around Additional Responsibility Allowances could be downgraded and that GDPR risk could be merged with data protection provided the forthcoming internal audit of these areas was satisfactory.

The committee had considered two internal audit reports into (i) Travel and Subsistence, Gifts and Hospitality and (ii) Income and Debtors, both of which had been rated satisfactory, and the two recommendations were being implemented.

NIAO had confirmed that they would be subcontracting out SIB's external audit to Deloitte.

Fraud procedures were to be updated to reflect the HM Treasury checklist.

The committee had discussed the procedure for TEO approval of the pay remit.

Chief Executive's Report

BH updated the board on developments since he had circulated his report.

GMcG asked if Strule was one of the projects being held back by the absence of a decision to proceed. BH explained that it was not yet at decision point. The board briefly discussed the possibility, referred to in the CE report, of the Scottish Government introducing a directly employed construction unit in the light of problems arising on privately constructed projects. BH confirmed that CPD were aware of the Edinburgh Schools issue. DMcC noted importance of ensuring that proper measures were in place to ensure that dangerous defects in schools and other buildings were identified and rectified in order to avoid problems of the type seen in Scotland and RoI. DMcS noted the importance of a proper Clerk of Works role being performed rather than relying on self-certification. BH agreed, and noted that Councils were moving in this direction themselves.

ISNI Report

In the absence of MS the ISNI Report was taken as read and there were no specific issues Directors wished to raise.

AMU Report

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

- Reform of Property Management:.
- Energy Management Strategy: SW explained that the Energy Management Strategy was now agreed with DoF.
- Asset Performance management Data;
- Local Authority Asset Management Support
- Translink.
- Ulster University Belfast Campus

Quarterly Reports and Dashboards

BH noted a number of recurring themes in the Quarterly Reports:

- City Deals, where SIB was involved in advising the Derry/Londonderry Bid, the Universities and Belfast City Council.
- Construction cost inflation now at a level where business cases had to be framed with a more pessimistic outlook.
- Impact of Brexit on private sector investment decisions.

Letter of Expectation and SIB Review

GMcG noted that there was little that was new or unexpected in the Letter of Expectation.

SIB Review: Draft action Plan

Paul Priestly joined the meeting and there was a discussion of the update on the draft Action Plan for implementation of SIB review recommendations.

It was noted that the review of SIB's own structure was not within SIB's own gift, although it would be informed by the strategic discussion in which SIB was participating. It was agreed that SIB's input to this organizational review would be discussed at the next board meeting.

Most other recommendations depended on the willing participation of client departments.

Draft Business Plan for 2019-20

DMcC suggested a number of minor amendments and clarifications to the draft. BH agreed that he would incorporate these and recirculate the document with a request for written comments.

Finance Report and Media Pack

The Finance Report and Media Pack were noted.

ACTIONS:

- BH to amend Board Away Day Note to remove names where appropriate.
- BH to recirculate revised Draft Business Plan for discussion at next meeting.
- Board Members to confirm board calendar dates to GMcG.