Minutes of a Board Meeting of
Strategic Investment Board Limited

Held at 2.00 pm on Monday 12th November 2018 at
Lighthouse Building
Gasworks Business Park
Belfast

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

In attendance: Martin Spollen (MS)
Gregor Hamilton (GH)
Scott Wilson (SW)
Conor Taggart (CT)

Apologies: Kathryn Thomson (KT)

Declarations of interest

1. The previously stated declarations of interest were confirmed. GMcG reminded all attendees to declare any specific matters arising in the course of the meeting which might give rise to a conflict, and noted the importance of keeping the register of interests updated. DMcC confirmed that the register would be formally recirculated in January.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

2. The minutes of the October 2018 board meeting were approved, subject to amendment to two items.
Chairman’s and Directors’ Business

3. GMcG noted that DMcS had received a 6 month extension to his appointment.

4. GMcG noted that the staff conference would be held on 22nd November.

5. GMcG explained his intention to invite Sue Gray to meet the board.

Chief Executive’s Report

7. BH explained that although the Chancellor had announced £350m over 15 years for the Belfast City Deal this was £100m short of the original sum sought, and would also have to be matched by the NI Government. MTM declared an interest in the Belfast City Deal.

8. DMcS asked if it would be possible for the Strule project to move forward in current circumstances. BH said that provided the business case addendum established VfM and affordability the accounting officer would be able to take the decision to proceed.

ISNI Report

9. MS spoke to the ISNI Report. He noted that the absence of an Executive meant there were now comparatively few developments in the report or new projects coming through the pipeline. As explained at previous meetings, the focus of the ISNI team was now largely on the data analytics field, and more staff were being recruited in this area, including a director for the Digital Catapult. He explained that there was a lot of competition from the private sector to get good staff in this area, and that SIB’s approach was to act as an intelligent commissioner of private sector input rather than trying to do everything itself.

10. MS updated the board on a number of the digital projects which were ongoing

11. GMcG observed that in the absence of ministers there was reduced scope for SIB to fulfil a “strategic advice” role in the context of ISNI. BH explained that Johann Gallagher would be working with departments to identify opportunities to provide input of that nature.

AMU Report

12. SW briefly summarised some of the key points from the AMU Report. He noted in particular:
• Reform of Property Management: SW reported on discussions at the RPM Programme Board on a paper AMU had produced (included in board papers) to explain the interrelationship and distinction between asset management and property management.

Energy Management Strategy: SW explained that the Draft Energy Management Strategy was now complete.

• Translink: SW expressed hope that the department would now be able to make a decision on the Full Planning Permission for the transport project even in the absence of a minister.

• Ulster University Belfast Campus.

Finance Report and Media Pack

19. The contents of the Finance Report and Media Pack were noted.

ACTIONS:

GH to amend October minutes.