

Minutes of a Board Meeting of Strategic Investment Board Limited

Held at 10.20am on Tuesday 13 October 2020 by videoconference

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

In attendance: Gregor Hamilton (GH)

Declarations of Interest and Board Terms of Reference

1. The previously stated declarations of interest were confirmed. MTM drew particular intention to her roles with INI and NIW in light of possible matters to be discussed.
2. The Board Terms of Reference were noted. Board members confirmed they had read the Board papers.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

3. The minutes of the September 2020 Board meeting were approved.
4. The actions outstanding from the previous meeting were reviewed. GMcG noted that action 1/20/3 (Training Records) had been pushed out to March 2021, and encouraged Board members to share information and materials on relevant training they had received. He explained that arrangements were being made for training for DMcS in light of his appointment to Audit Committee and that GMcG would be meeting with KT to bring her up to speed with the activities and issues for the Remuneration and Personnel Committee. He would also formally provide them both with the respective terms of reference.
5. The minutes of the Audit Committee were noted. DMcC drew particular attention to the consideration given by that committee to issues arising from the Covid pandemic.

6. The minutes of the Remuneration and Personnel Committee were noted. The committee had also discussed the impact of Covid, as well as the annual leave position and the group structure.

Chairman's and Directors' Business

7. GMcG noted that the dates of Board and committee meetings were now in the diary.

8. BH explained the nature of the support the DARE unit was giving to the development of the tracking and tracing effort for Covid.

9. The Board discussed recent recruitment activity.

10. GMcG asked BH for an update on ISNI in the light of SIB's discussions with the Ministerial Panel on Infrastructure and with the political parties. BH explained that the current focus was on dealing with the health issues around Covid and the resultant economic problems, although work continued on the ISNI in the background. The Board discussed the report of the Ministerial Advisory Panel on Infrastructure (published on 12 October) and in particular the proposal to create an Infrastructure Commission. GMcG proposed that the matter be discussed more fully at the November Board once everyone had been able to read the report. He noted that by November the PAC report on the Delivery of Major Capital Projects would also have been published. The discussion would inform the Board's objectives.

Chief Executive's Report, ISNI Report

11. BH noted that the funding had now been confirmed for Project Stratum and contract signature was expected shortly. He noted that the agreement for a further loan to Ulster University was expected to be signed on 22 October.

12. DMcS welcomed the confirmation of funding availability for Strule which was outlined in the CE Report

13. KT noted the reference of the CE Report to SIB seconded staff taking up senior specialist roles for departments after Civil Service Commissioner rulings. She thought it would be better for departments to recruit such specialist staff directly themselves in the first place. DMcC noted that demand for specialist recruitment in fields such as data analysis was only likely to increase.

14. BH updated the Board on each of the 4 “RED” or “AMBER” projects listed in the report. It was noted that ministerial approval for the grant of planning permission for Casement Park had been announced during the course of the meeting.

15. The Board extended congratulations to the SIB staff who had obtained passes in their NEC4 accreditation and Agile Change Management courses.

Quarterly Reports and Dashboards

16. The Quarterly Reports and Dashboards were noted.

Finance Report and Media Pack

16. The Finance Report and Media Pack were noted. BH explained that SIB remained broadly on target to achieve its budget. DMCC noted the increasing extent to which costs were directly recovered rather than funded from SIB core funding.

Private Meeting of the Board

17. DMCC summarized principal points arising from the Board Effectiveness Review.

18. GMcG explained that he would be meeting the Permanent Secretary at TEO and sought the Board’s views on the nature and balance of skills required for the new Board members. A number of skills were identified, including: strategic planning; leadership and management (including financial management); understanding of local government and private sectors; organizational development and change management skills; public finance and governance; and IT/digital.

19. GMcG invited a discussion on Board effectiveness and in particular any changes which might be put in place before new chair and members take up their role. GMcG agreed to produce a summary of the discussion in consultation with BH for further discussion. BH noted the importance of having a clear common understanding of the function of SIB and the respective roles and responsibilities of the executive, Chair and Board.

Chair

Actions

Actions from previous meetings

Reference	Action	Responsible	Expected Completion
1/20/3	Record training by Board members in personal logs	Board members	Deferred to March 2021
1/20/5	Write to Mark Browne re SLT proposal	Chair and CEO	TEO clearance awaited
8/20/3	One to one meetings with Board members	Chair	Complete
9/20/1	Circulate proposed dates of 2021 Board meetings	Chair	Complete

Actions from October 2020 Meeting

Reference	Action	Responsible	Expected Completion
10/20/1	Send Committee ToRs to DMcS and KT	Chair	November 2020
10/20/2	Summary of Board effectiveness changes to be prepared for discussion	Chair and CEO	November 2020