

Minutes of a Board Meeting of Strategic Investment Board Limited

Held at 2 pm on Monday 22 November 2021 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)
Martin Spollen (MS)
Scott Wilson (SW)

Declarations of Interest and Board Terms of Reference

1. The previously stated declarations of interest were confirmed.
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 October 2021 Board meeting were approved.
4. It was noted that the action points were all complete.

Chairman's and Directors' Business

5. GMcG reported that he and BH had met with the First Minister, and the deputy First Minister's SpAd. The tone of the meeting had been positive. The First Minister had in particular expressed a desire to progress matters at Maze Long Kesh. They had not discussed the Infrastructure Commission.

Board Governance and Transition, Strategy Day and Infrastructure Commission

6. GMcG explained that since the topics of board governance and transition, the strategy day, and the proposed Infrastructure Commission were all interdependent they would all be discussed together.

7. BH gave a short presentation on three key determinants affecting SIB's business planning process:

First, the draft ISNI, if approved by the Executive, would require SIB to play an enhanced role in the governance of the delivery of the ISNI. This would include providing a secretariat to the Executive and NICS Board when these bodies considered infrastructure; developing the Executive Infrastructure Plan and working with DoF on the preparation and monitoring of the Medium Term Infrastructure Finance Plan,

Second, the creation of an Infrastructure Commission was now specifically referred to in the Executive's Covid Recovery Plan, although the precise form it would take was not yet decided. BH explained that he was a member of the working group tasked with progressing the implementation of the Infrastructure Commission proposal (and the relevant sub-group which was considering the different options for its governance and operation). He explained the principal options under consideration and the factors which were likely to be important in determining the outcome. At this stage it was impossible to determine the implications of the eventual decision for the future role of SIB.

Third, no formal decision had emerged from DoF/TEO in respect of the senior leadership team proposal. In the two years since the proposal was put forward SIB had further expanded, and the issues which the SLT proposal was intended to address had become more pressing. The outcome of the Infrastructure Commission discussions would have a bearing on consideration of the SLT proposal or any alternative.

8. GMcG suggested that in the light of the issues raised by BH, the discussion at the strategy day might require to consider a number of different potential scenarios, although he hoped the picture might be clearer in the New Year. He invited the views of board members. There was general agreement that it would be essential to prepare a one year business plan anyway, on the basis of the information available, and that it was unlikely that the Infrastructure Commission would come into existence within the next 12 months. It was noted that the

impending creation of an Infrastructure Commission might impact on the recruitment of suitably qualified new members to the SIB board. BH confirmed that he would keep staff updated as the position on the Infrastructure Commission developed.

Chief Executive's Report

9. BH updated the board on developments since the date of the CE Report. He noted in particular:

- Successful bids under the UK Levelling-Up Fund now totaled £12m;
- The High Street Support scheme had now closed to new applications. Although INI were dealing with a substantial number of applications requiring manual processing, this was apparently progressing in accordance with expectations.

10. The Board noted the Construction Excellence Awards granted to Arvalee Special School at Strule, and the SRC Campus at Banbridge.

11. BH explained that the Audit Committee was considering (subject to legal advice) a request from TEO to ensure that SIB's rules on taking up posts in private sector after leaving SIB were made consistent with those of the NICS when (as seemed likely) the NICS rules were changed to mirror those of the UK Civil Service.

12. The board noted the position on the "RED" and "AMBER" projects, as set out in the CE Report.

Review of Performance Management

13. BH explained that he had asked Denise Stockman to manage the review, taking into account best practice in other organisations and in consultation with staff and clients. GMcG said he would invite MTM and DMcS to the Remuneration and Personnel committee meeting in February so that the whole board would have the opportunity to discuss the proposal.

Media Pack and Finance

14. The contents of the media pack were noted.

15. BH confirmed there were no major finance issues to report.

AOB

16. GMcG confirmed that he would be holding one-to-one meetings/calls with board members between November and Christmas.

17. BH explained that Thursday 3rd February had been provisionally booked for the Staff Conference, although this might be subject to change to accommodate the diaries of the external invitees.

ISNI

18. MS and SW joined the meeting. MS updated the board on progress with the ISNI. He explained that he had attended a useful meeting with Jayne Brady and Denis McMahon, who were both now happy with the draft document, which had now been circulated to the permanent secretaries of other departments for final comments. Although it was possible that the draft ISNI would get through the Executive before Christmas, MS was confident that it would still be published for consultation in January, in advance of the pre-election purdah. In the meantime SW and the ISNI team would start work on the more granular 10 year infrastructure investment plan which translated the ISNI into a programme of specific projects, minimizing any disruption caused by the elections. DMcS noted the need to ensure that the 10 year plan did not eclipse the strategic vision of the ISNI itself. He suggested that it would be useful if some independent members were appointed to the various boards and groups charged with oversight of implementation. DMcS drew attention to two minor inaccuracies in references to Omagh Hospital and Primary Care Centre and the A5 WTC project.

Actions

Actions from previous meetings

Reference	Action	Responsible	Expected Completion
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Actions from November 2021 Meeting

Reference	Action	Responsible	Expected Completion
11/21/1	Minor amendment to draft ISNI	MS/SW	December 2021
11/21/2	One to one meetings	GMcG	December 2021