

Minutes of a Board Meeting of Strategic Investment Board Limited

Held at 10 am on Wednesday 8 August 2023 at 9 Lanyon Place

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

In attendance: Gregor Hamilton (GH)
Caroline Maxwell (Items 20-24 only)
Patrick McMeekin (items 20-24 only)
Jacqueline Fearon (Item 25 only)

It was agreed that KT should chair the meeting.

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 June and July 2023 Board meetings were approved. It was noted that all the action points (except the presentation on AI) were complete and/or to be discussed at the current meeting.

Chairman's and Directors' Business

4. It was noted that TEO had not progressed the appointment of a new Chair but intended to further extend by six months the appointments of DMcC and MTM.

Report from Remuneration and Personnel Committee

5. DMcC reported on the proceedings of the Remuneration and Personnel Committee. He noted that the committee had:

- approved the pay remit for 2022/3 and non-consolidated payment;
- discussed the proposed SLT and review of Pay Policy, both of which were now connected to the SIB Review;
- approved decisions taken out of committee;
- noted that 17 staff had left the organization in 12 months, a record high;
- discussed the budgetary position and the importance of ensuring that the 2022-23 budget allocation calculated in error by TEO did not form the baseline for allocation in future.

DMcC noted that the budgetary position was further exacerbated by not having absorbed or funded the Social Value unit as previously intended.

Board Effectiveness Review

6. DMcC briefly summarized the results of the Board Effectiveness Review.

7. It was noted that while the Board was able to conduct meetings on the basis of a rotational appointment of a Chair, the absence of a senior point of contact with the sponsoring department was a serious governance deficiency.

Chief Executive's Report

8. BH confirmed that the written report circulated with the Board papers represented the up-to-date position, and it was taken as read.

10. DMcS asked BH to expand on the position at Ebrington in respect of the hotel and concerts in the square. BH explained the current situation.

12. DMcC asked BH to pass on the Board's congratulations to Johnny Moore for the swift progress at Weaver's Cross.

13. DMcC noted the work being carried out for NI Screen. He asked if this would necessitate additional staffing. BH said this was not currently anticipated.

14. BH explained that there remained three possible sites for the relocation of SIB's offices.

15. The Board noted the position on the 'RED' projects. DMcC asked if the Green Growth Strategy should not also be RED given the lack of an Executive, but BH explained that the matter was still progressing.

Programme and Project Reports

16. The Board noted the content of the opening section of the reports regarding work done by SIB in relation to overruns in major capital projects.

17. The Board specifically noted the matters addressed to them in the Project Reports at:

- p8 (Climate Action Plan)
- p19 (Refugee Integration Strategy)
- p25 (Tackling Paramilitary Activity)
- p29 (Ebrington, as earlier discussed)
- p33 (Mobuoy Remediation) DMcC asked if a presentation could be given to the Board on this project.
- p39 (Northern Regional College)
- p40 (Armagh Observatory)
- p49 (Craigavon College)
- p52 (Strule)
- p53 (Urban Villages)
- p65 (Support to DoH on Digital Infrastructure)
- p73 (Project Stratum/Gigabyte)
- p82 (Comms resource)

Dashboards

18. BH reiterated the challenge SIB faced in operating within its budget after this had been cut by over 18%.

19. DMcC noted that there appeared to be a lot more AMBER projects on the dashboards than formerly. BH explained that this often reflected where progress could not be made in the absence of the Executive.

ISNI Update

20. Caroline Maxwell and Patrick McMeekin gave a presentation on capital planning for the ISNI.

21. CM explained that they had met with the political parties and explained the scale of the challenge and the ways in which it might be addressed.

22. PM explained that there was an issue around capacity to deliver projects even if the issue of investment capacity were resolved.

23. DMcS emphasized importance of consulting with all political parties, not just those who were expected to form the next Executive.

24. It was agreed that the presentation slides should be uploaded to Decision Time.

Casement Park

25. Jacqueline Fearon updated the Board on progress at Casement Park. She agreed to return and further update the Board in due course.

TEO Issues

26. In light of general lack of progress on TEO it was agreed that DMcC should raise these matters in his capacity as Chair of Audit (as per para 6 above).

27. BH agreed to draft a letter for the Board to send to TEO seeking assurance seeking assurances that the department would in future pass on all SIB's technical transfers and that the starting point for next year's budget calculations would include the £440k mistakenly removed this year.

28. It was agreed that HOCS and the TEO Permanent Secretary should both be invited to the Board away day in November.

Media Pack

29. The content of the media pack was noted.

AOB

30. DMcC asked for a Financial Report at the next meeting.

32. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 19 September.

Chair

Actions

New

DMcC to raise TEO issues with TEO Audit Committee in his capacity as Chair of the ARAC.

BH to draft letter for Board to send to TEO on technical transfers and the 2024-5 budget starting position.

BH to arrange a presentation for the Board on Mobuoy Remediation.

BH to upload ISNI Presentation to Decision Time.

Jacqueline Fearon to attend Board meeting in autumn.

BH to invite HOCS and TEO Pem Sec to Board away day in November.

Ongoing

Presentation for Board on AI to be arranged.