

**Minutes of Board Meeting of  
Strategic Investment Board Limited (Company)**

**Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company held at 10.50am  
March 15th 2006 Workplace 2010 the Gas Works 1 Cromac Avenue Belfast**

**Present:** Tony Watson (TW) (Chairman)  
David Dobbin  
David Gavaghan (DG)  
Brett Hannam  
James Stewart (JS)

**In attendance:** Richard Goodfellow (RG)  
John Miskelly (JM)  
Bruce Robinson (BR) (Observer)

**Apologies:** Nigel Hamilton  
Greg Sparks

**1 Previous Minutes**

The February board minutes were approved, subject to a minor alteration.

**2 Action Points**

The action points arising from the previous Board meeting, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, were addressed.

**3 Chief Executive's Report**

The Chairman welcomed BR as an Observer to the Company.

DG presented to the Board on the planned transport projects in the Republic of Ireland (RoI). This led to a constructive discussion on how projects were assessed for viability in RoI and NI. It was also noted that these projects assisted the growth of the whole island and it was resolved to keep a watching brief on these projects.

It was noted that the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland (ISNI) and the Comprehensive Spending Review (CoSR) would have congruence and that the CoSR was welcome as it assisted in firming up spending over the next three years.

DG led a discussion on the health programme. JS explained the background as to why acute hospital schemes in GB were making headlines and why PFI would continue to be an option when it came to building new acute hospitals. The Board noted that there was empirical evidence that both the Alpha project and the Roads Package 1 project were better value as PFI's in comparison to traditional spend projects.

DG and BR then led a discussion on the Civil Service Reform (CSR) programme and the Company's role in Reform generally, whether it was through the CSR or otherwise. It was explained that the CSR was wide ranging and included a lot of areas where the Company was expressly involved, including ISNI, the RPA and Workplace 2010.

It was agreed that SIB's main role in Reform was implementing discrete Reform programmes, such as Workplace 2010. It was also agreed that SIB had an active role in informing policy discussions as well. For example, the implementation of a ground breaking Reform project often meant that new policy issues were highlighted as part of that project. These projects could also lead to best practice being highlighted and the highlighting of the main blockers to successful delivery of projects.

DG then led a discussion on the Programme Delivery Service Units (PDSU). It was explained that the idea behind PDSU's was to allow departments to have dedicated specialist resource to implement programmes. It was further explained that the Company was partially funding the start up costs of various PDSU's and it was resolved to reconsider the Company's role when a PDSU was functioning effectively.

#### **4 Finance**

The finance report, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, was noted.

#### **5 Media Interest**

The Board noted the media interest report, which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

#### **6 Freedom of Information (FOI)**

RG gave a verbal update on the FOI enquiries made to the Company.

#### **7 Presentation by Tony McKenna and Philip Irwin on Broadband Aggregation project**

Tony and Philip gave a presentation on the Broadband Aggregation project. The Board thanked Tony and Philip for a stimulating presentation.

The Board also took the opportunity to thank Tony McKenna for the work that he done for the Company and in particular thanked him for his aptitude in several different disciplines.

#### **8 Any Other Business**

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 2.30 p.m.

Chairman