

MINUTES

Meeting of: Scottish Futures Trust Board

Date & Time: 10.00am 25th February 2009

Place: 48 Queen Street, Edinburgh

Attendees: Sir Angus Grossart - Chair (AG)
Fiona Mackenzie (FM)
Colin Maclean (CM)
Graeme Bissett (GB)
Cllr Jim Fletcher (JF)
Peter Reekie – in attendance (PR)
Claire Phillips – in attendance part-time Item 3 (CP)
Andrew Bruce – in attendance part-time Item 4 (AB)

Apologies There were no apologies

Minutes The minutes of the previous meeting on 22 December were approved.

1. Chairs Introduction

The Chairman welcomed Fiona Mackenzie to the Board

The Chairman updated the Board on progress since the last meeting, principally around discussion with SFT's key stakeholders. The Board noted that engagement to date was very encouraging, with a general agreement amongst public sector organisations with infrastructure responsibilities that there were infrastructure financing and procurement challenges that SFT could help them address.

The Board discussed the need for SFT to develop its own action plan and priorities, against the background of the published document "Taking Forward the Scottish Futures Trust" which had been drafted by the Scottish Government rather than SFT itself. Members agreed that expectations on rate of progress for a new organisation with a CEO yet to be appointed need to be managed effectively, as does the positioning of independence from Government. Publication of an Interim Business Plan would secure these objectives.

2. CEO

The Chairman and CM had continued to pursue appointment of a high quality Chief Executive for SFT. The recruitment consultant MacDonald Kinnaird had attracted high-quality applicants and a preferred candidate had been identified. The Chairman reported that discussions were ongoing with Mr Swinney over the detailed terms and conditions of the appointment. Board members expressed their support to the Chairman in pursuing approval of terms and conditions required to attract the preferred candidate.

3. Schools / Combined Procurement (Claire Phillips)

CP updated the Board on work to date on a combined schools procurement between three Councils that had come forward to SFT seeking an opportunity to work collaboratively: Midlothian, East Renfrewshire and Angus. Board members agreed that the project was a good example of how SFT could add value and asked that further thought be given to developing a preferred procurement route. Board members further agreed that it would be important to get early clarity on funding for such a project from Scottish Government.

Action: CP to draft a concise paper on the project for SFT and the three Councils to present jointly to Mr Swinney.

4. HUB (Andrew Bruce)

AB updated the Board on the hub programme. Board members agreed that the rationale for hub, around joint service delivery to communities and generating convenience for users, operational and infrastructure efficiencies is sound and aligns with SFT's values. GB had been appointed to chair the hub programme board and reported that progress was accelerating in the two pathfinder hub territories. The Board agreed on the priority of this programme for SFT and asked GB to ensure that progress is maintained leading to the launch of a procurement as soon as practicable in summer 2009.

5. Waste

PR briefed the Board on the landscape of changing SG policy and stop-start implementation of residual waste treatment projects by Local Authorities. The Board discussed that the sector could benefit from SFT's support as the scale of infrastructure requirement and delivery challenges appeared significant. The Board noted that further scoping work would be required to determine what action SFT could best take to add value in the sector and asked PR to undertake a rapid review and scoping study.

6. Interim Business Plan

Board members discussed the draft interim business plan which had been circulated and agreed on both its importance for SFT as an early published document, and on the structure and priorities indicated in the draft. Members indicated that they had comments on detail which they would wish to see incorporated in an updated draft.

Action: PR to collect comments from all Board members, incorporate and recirculate.

7. Any Other Business

Management Statement and Financial Memorandum

The Board discussed the document at high level and agreed that some points of principle and high-level structure need to be addressed with Scottish Government prior to a more detailed view being taken on the document itself. Members agreed that the Chairman should meet with Stella Manzie on their behalf to discuss governance principles and then guide production of a revised draft for the Board to consider in detail.

Action: Chairman to meet with Stella Manzie and discuss governance principles

Meeting closed at 12:45 pm