

BOARD MEETING OF ILEX Urban Regeneration Company Limited HELD IN EXCHANGE HOUSE on Friday 9 January 2009

PRESENT: Richard Sterling (Chair)
Richard Barnett
Tom Fanning
John McDaid
Matt McNulty
Valerie Watts
Bill Kirk

IN ATTENDANCE: David Ferguson, Alan Maitland, Gerard McCleave, Brenda Fraser, Mary O'Dwyer, Mo Durkan

MINUTE TAKER: Deirdre More

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Sir Roy McNulty and Michael Heaney.

2 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

John McDaid declared a potential involvement in the Fort George site as he is a Director of Inner City Trust who have expressed an interest in the hub building on the site. However, the Chief Executive stated that as this issue was not being dealt with in detail at present, his expression of potential conflict would be sufficient.

Mary O'Dwyer asked that it be noted that Michael Heaney is a Director of the Errigal Arts Festival, a group who were involved in the recent drive-in movie at Ebrington, but that he had no involvement in selection of the company to provide services.

3 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Agreed.

4 ACTION LIST

As read;

- Item 1 – Still awaiting document. **Action Chief Executive**
- Item 5 – Plans to raise high H&S standards at Ebrington to be presented to February Board Meeting – Outstanding. **Action Brenda Fraser**
- Item 7 – Comments & suggestions re Additional Board Members to be passed to Chairman – Outstanding. **Action: All**

Following a request from the Chair, Mary O'Dwyer provided an update on the current VAT issue relating to the Bridge.

5 CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Richard Sterling went through the update which Sir Roy McNulty had earlier provided.

Mark II Regeneration Plan: The Chair paid particular attention to the Mark II Regeneration Plan and requested confirmation that the Executive Team is fully geared up to meet the timeline of the Plan. The Chief Executive said he was positive that, provided approvals are in place, the timeline could be met but only with secondees support. Alan Maitland provided an update on the approvals currently being sought; it is expected that it will be another few weeks before they are all in place and this will, according to the Chief Executive, put pressure on the timeline which the Chairman has set out. David Ferguson provided an update from his Department's standpoint and stated that the setting up of an inter-departmental group, chaired by DFM, is key to his Department providing a full endorsement of the Plan.

Equality: Board were asked to give consideration to the provisional list of seminars/conferences and visits. **Action: All**

City of Derry Airport: Following the Chairman's update, Valerie Watts provided a further update on the how things are moving and promised to keep the Board up-to-date with progress.

CEO Resignation: The Chair expressed the regret of the full Board that the CE had resigned his post but added that they fully understand the reasons. The Board has an urgent need to seek a replacement and this issue will be discussed further under Reserved Business.

6 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

The Chief Executive went through his report; the following items were additionally discussed:

Integrated Transport Strategy: This document is now available and copies will be sent to Board Members shortly. The ITS will be a substantial item for February's Board Meeting. **Action: Gerard McCleave**

Tourism Development Strategy: With the aim of achieving wider buy-in, a seminar will be held in the City on 12 January.

OECD/LEED Programme: The Chief Executive requested Board support to join the LEED Partners Club at an annual cost of €4,900. The Chairman's update had suggested engaging the OECD in carrying out a Peer Review of the Mark II Regeneration Plan at a cost of €35,000 on a single tender action basis. Board Members agreed this action.

Programme Management: Brenda Fraser distributed the current programme and the draft pro forma report. This will be dealt with in more detail at the February Board Meeting.

Integrated Development Fund: First Presbyterian Church now has a Letter of Offer and St Columba's Cathedral's LoO is expected shortly.

Board noted the report.

7 FOOT/CYCLE BRIDGE

Brenda Fraser provided an update on the upcoming Bridge Project Board and Bridge Steering Group meetings. There was discussion on the Design & Build contract for the bridge.

8 FORT GEORGE/EBRINGTON

Ebrington

Regarding the delivery strategy, Brenda Fraser updated on the recent, first meeting, with NWDO and SIB and stated that it was very helpful. Future meetings will include OFMDFM.

With regard to the design of the Parade Ground, Board agreed to progress this through the secondary framework route rather than through OJEU; this would save approximately 3 months. Matt McNulty suggested that prior consultation on the design be held with possible end users.

Fort George

There was discussion on the decontamination issue. Board noted that there is an allocation of funding in the 2009-2010 Business Plan for this exercise; expenditure will be incurred and then re-claimed.

With regard to the 1st Phase Knowledge Economy, Board were asked to approve a single tender action on the grounds of speed and utilizing the unique knowledge of the existing design team. If no negative comments are received from Board Members by the start of w/c 12 January, this will be regarded, subject to CPD's agreement, as approved. Richard Barnett stressed the importance of involving NISP in this process. **Action: Brenda Fraser**

9 BUSINESS PLAN/CORPORATE PLAN 2008/12

Mary O'Dwyer reported that the draft Business Plan is about to go to the Liaison Team. Once this has been agreed, the 4-year rolling Corporate Plan will be amended accordingly. Board Members are asked to comment before the end of January. **Action: Board Members**

David Ferguson and Alan Maitland stated their hope to have the BP & CP agreed before the end of March 2009.

10 CAPITAL & REVENUE SPLIT

Mary O'Dwyer stressed the importance of this issue and the possible serious consequences of it. She outlined what Ilex feels is a way forward. The Chair requested that Mary carry out an economic benefit exercise to show the potential

impact. Concern was expressed by some Board Members regarding the legitimacy of the approach in relation to VAT. **Action: Mary O'Dwyer**

Alan Maitland explained how the issue came about and assured Board that he would try to resolve it.

11 YEAR END FORECAST

As read.

12 EMPLOYMENT PLANS STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

Gerard McCleave distributed this paper. He stressed the recommendation that Derry City Council will facilitate the job brokerage issue and asked that Board commit to the initiative subject to NWDO agreement. Richard Sterling shared the Chairman's comments and views on the paper. While Board Members were fully supportive of the recommendation, David Ferguson reserved his position until he gets a full briefing.

13 EQUALITY SEMINAR

As read.

14 COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

As read with further discussion on:

World Heritage Status: Matt McNulty asked that Ilex and DCC reserve their position until he speaks with Lord Donal Hanky.

Foyle Public Art Project: John McDaid declared an interest as a relation of his is a finalist. (However, it was noted that John McDaid has no involvement in the judging.)

15 BANK OF IRELAND CONTRACT EXTENSION

As read & agreed. Matt McNulty declared an interest as his daughter is the Legal Officer at Bank of Ireland Headquarters

16 HOSPITALITY REGISTER

Nothing to report.

17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 12 February (non-major project Board Meeting) at **10.30am**.

The meeting ended at 12.30pm.

