
Minutes of the Board Meeting, 29 September 2017

Present:

Permanent Secretary (Chair)
Gawain Evans
Natalie Pearson
Elan Closs Stephens
Adrian Webb
Peter Kennedy
Owen Evans
James Price
Andrew Goodall
David Richards
Jeff Godfrey
James Turner
Gillian Baranski
Joanna Jordan
Sarah Rhodes

In attendance:

Jo Salway / Toby Mason (Item 1)
Tom Brown (Item 2)
Des Clifford / Piers Bisson (Item 4)
Sioned Evans / Peter Ryland (Item 5)
Helen Cargill (Internal Audit – observer)

Apologies:

Ann Keane

Secretariat:

Jamie Jenkins

Welsh Government Performance

1. **Monitoring Delivery Progress: Prosperity for All – the National Strategy [Board(17)049]**
 - 1.1 The Permanent Secretary and the Board thanked Jo Salway (Deputy Director, Cabinet Office), Toby Mason (Head of Strategic Communications) and their teams for their work on the Strategy up to and including its publication and launch. The Board also thanked Natalie Pearson (Deputy Director, Organisational Development and Engagement) and her team for their role in the launch, development and delivery of Strategy communications as well as the planning and delivery of SCS and Executive Band events.
 - 1.2 The Permanent Secretary and Natalie provided the Board with an overview of the key messages from the First Minister's speech at the recent Executive Band event in which he outlined how the Strategy provided a clear vision and agenda for the organisation.
 - 1.3 Jo and Toby were invited to provide the Board with a summary of the key points from their paper. Board discussions focussed on the First Minister's expectations and the pivotal role Directors and staff at Executive Bands will have going forward in delivering the Strategy.

1.4 The Board also discussed Strategy matters in relation to communications and further engagement with staff and stakeholders, cultural changes and challenges and future governance, as well as monitoring and reporting arrangements.

2. Realising the Benefits of the Well-being of Future Generations Act [Board(17)050]

2.1 David Richards (Director of Governance) provided an overview of his new role as Board Champion for the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

2.2 The Board heard that some members have already had positive discussions with stakeholders on the opportunities the Act and Prosperity for All presented. The Board agreed the importance of ensuring continued communication and strong engagement between Welsh Government and stakeholders.

3. Finance report [Board (17)051]

3.1 Gawain Evans (Director of Finance) updated the Board on the latest budget position and outturn projections in addition to summarising the key points from his paper.

3.2 The Board discussed matters in relation to the current apprenticeship scheme cohort.

Corporate

4 EU Transition

4.1 Des Clifford (Director of the Office of the First Minister) and Piers Bisson, (Deputy Director – European Transition), provided the Board with an oral update on EU Transition progress including the current position of the Withdrawal Bill.

5 Structural Funds Risk Management [Board (17)052]

5.1 Sioned Evans (WEFO Chief Executive) and Peter Ryland (WEFO Deputy Director, Programme Performance & Finance) were invited to provide the Board with an overview of the key points from the paper. Discussions focused on the current and future funding allocation position and internal and external risks being managed by WEFO.

5.2 The Permanent Secretary requested Sioned and Peter provide future finance and risk updates on a bi-monthly basis.

6 Corporate Business Continuity [Board (17)053]

6.1 Peter Kennedy presented his paper drawing the Board's attention to the current and future continuity planning arrangements for Welsh Government.

- 6.2 Joanna Jordan (Director of Mental Health, NHS Governance and Corporate Services) endorsed the plan to further streamline corporate and Departmental documents and indicated Operations Committee would welcome the opportunity for further discussion on proposals as they were developed.

Regular items

7 Permanent Secretary's Items and Exception Reports

- 7.1 Natalie provided an update on the Capability and Strategic Risk discussions which have taken place. An update was also provided on 'TEDX' events.
- 7.2 Peter Kennedy informed the Board of the latest Pay Offer - confirming it was now with Trade Unions for consideration.
- 7.3 The Board discussed the recently published (recruitment) Wales Audit Office Public Interest Report.
- 7.4 The Board was informed of the current position on the following strategies: Education in Wales, Housing and Welsh Language.

8 Sub-Committee Updates

- 8.1 David provided an update on the governance review work being undertaken by Internal Audit. A proposal paper informed by the findings of internal audit work would be presented at the next Board meeting.
- 8.2 Joanna Jordan informed the Board of recent Operations Committee discussions including the Location Strategy and Flexible Working.
- 8.3 Joanna confirmed the Committee were considering options as to how they could further support the work of the Board and feed into bigger strategy work on (for example) budgets and workforce planning. An options paper would be presented at a future Board meeting.

9 Any other business

- 9.1 The Permanent Secretary drew Board member's attention to the papers to note.

Board Secretariat, 29 September 2017