



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Minutes of the Board Meeting, 15 December 2017

Present:

Permanent Secretary (Chair)
Andrew Goodall
Tracey Burke
James Price
David Richards
Gawain Evans
Natalie Pearson
Elan Closs Stephens (Items 1 – 4)
Ann Keane
Adrian Webb
Peter Kennedy
Jeff Godfrey
Dean Medcraft
James Turner
Gillian Baranski
Sarah Rhodes
Catherine Ashford

In attendance:

Katie Antippas
Simon Jones (Item 1)
Des Clifford (Item 3)
Piers Bisson (Item 3)
Paul Sullivan (Item 4)
Sharon Cross (Item 5)
Angharad Reakes (Item 5)

Secretariat:

Sarita Marshall

Welsh Government Performance

1. **Transport – Challenges & Opportunities [Board(17)084]**
 - 1.1 James Price, Deputy Permanent Secretary, EPS, reflected on his time in the Welsh Government and thanked the Board for the support and challenge they had provided over the years.
 - 1.2 Simon Jones, Director, Economic Infrastructure, presented the trends, challenges and opportunities around transport in Wales.
 - 1.3 The Board heard that Transport for Wales (TfW) would be taking on a range of transport functions on behalf of the Welsh Government. A business case analysing the functions for transfer was under development. It was agreed that the business case should be brought to a Board meeting in the near future.

2. **Finance Report [Board(17)077]**

- 2.1 Gawain Evans, Director of Finance, outlined the in-year financial position.

Corporate

3. **EU Transition Update [Oral]**

- 3.1 Des Clifford, Director of the Office of the First Minister, and Piers Bisson, Deputy Director - European Transition, provided an update on progress around EU Transition matters.
- 3.2 The Welsh Government had published its fourth policy paper in the *Securing Wales' Future* series. The fourth paper was entitled *Regional Investment in Wales after Brexit* and set out the case for continued regional investment as well as the lessons learned from the management of EU regional policy. The team were congratulated on their excellent policy papers.

4. **Location Strategy [Board(17)078]**

- 4.1 Paul Sullivan, Head of Facilities Management, provided an update on the implementation of the Location Strategy 2015-20 and the benefits and efficiencies that had been achieved.
- 4.2 Task Groups would be established with representation from the business and Trade Union Side to develop the business cases for the remaining estate rationalisation proposals.
- 4.3 The Board agreed that it should take stock of the decisions made so far and revisit the cases for the remaining proposals in the context of *Prosperity for All* and the planned rollout of Flexible Working. This would enable the Board to agree a set of core principles on which future decisions would need to be based.
- 4.4 Paul Sullivan and his team were congratulated on the excellent progress made to date.

5. **People Survey Results [Oral]**

- 5.1 Natalie Pearson, Head of Engagement & Innovation, and Sharon Cross and Angharad Reakes of Corporate Research, presented the high-level results of the 2017 People Survey, along with an outline of action to be taken to address areas of lower performance.
- 5.2 The number of staff who said they had experienced bullying and harassment in the last 12 months was slightly below that for the Civil Service as a whole. The Board requested a breakdown to show the figures for alleged internal bullying/harassment as opposed to that from external parties.

5.3 It was agreed that the presentation slides should be circulated to Board members for information, and that the Board should consider areas for specific focus in the new year.

6. **Senior Decision-making Structures [Board(17)079]**

6.1 David Richards, Director of Governance, presented a paper setting out proposals for a future senior decision-making structure aligned with the requirements of *Prosperity for All*.

6.2 The Board discussed the proposed changes to the Board's sub-committees and agreed that changes to the governance structure should be paused until the new Directors General were established in their roles.

6.3 It was agreed that, prior to being brought back to the Board, the revised proposal should be considered at a Senior Team meeting.

7. **Challenges Facing the Board [Oral]**

7.1 Adrian Webb, Non-executive Director, who was stepping down from the Board, reflected on future challenges and how the Board may wish to address them.

Regular Items

8 **Permanent Secretary's Items & Exception Reports [Oral]**

8.1 The Permanent Secretary's items and exception reports had been covered during the course of the meeting.

9 **Sub-Committee Updates [Oral]**

9.1 Dean Medcraft, Chair of Operations Committee, reported on the last meeting, which had included updates on governance and future-proofing work, as well as items on apprenticeship recruitment and Freedom of Information compliance. The Committee had also considered the senior decision-making structure proposals.

9.2 James Turner provided an update on the last Senior Civil Service (SCS) Remuneration Committee meeting. The ratio of SCS in the organisation was lower than that in other Governments, and a further discussion on this would be held at a later date.

Permanent Secretary's Private Office, 19 December 2017