

Business Isle of Man Agency
Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday 20th June

Time: 14:00 - 16:00

Venue: DfE Boardroom, St George’s Court, Douglas

INVITED ATTENDEES - VOTING MEMBERS			
Steve Pickett, Chair, Business Isle of Man	SP	Mrs Diane Kelsey, Political Member	DK
Tim Cowsill, CEO Of Business Isle of Man	TC		
Alex Fray, Sector Champion, Biomed & Medicinal Cannabis	AF	Dave Hester, Sector Champion, Engineering & Manufacturing	IY
Ollie Neale, Sector Champion, Drink Production	ON	Findlay Macleod, Sector Champion, Food Production	CG
Ieda Yell, Sector Champion, CleanTech (Teams)	IY	Brian Butler, Sector Champion, Construction (apologies)	BB
Andy Sanderson, Sector Champion, Local Economy	AS	Scott Pearse, Sector Champion, Local Economy	SPe
Jamie Lewis, Sector Champion, Local Economy	JL	(Vacant)	

INVITED ATTENDEES - NON-VOTING	
Mark Lewin, Chief Officer, Department for Enterprise	ML
Hira Modan, Marketing Manager, DFE	HM
Thomas Richardson-Hall, Business Development Executive, DFE	TRH

Please note all available members of the Business Agency Team are able to join on Teams to support where required.

Timing	Agenda item	Owner(s)
14:00	Chair’s Welcome & Introduction	SP
14:05	Standing items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Apologies -BB, DH b. Code of Conduct – No issues to report. c. Declarations of new/potential conflicts of interest DK – requested that interest in planning register be noted as a potential conflict. d. Additions to Gifts/Hospitality Register - none e. Previous minutes to be signed off by board – April 2024 Board minutes – taken as read. 	SP

14:15	<p>Papers for Decision</p> <p>Papers for Decision</p> <p><u>BB20240620 – Draft Local Economy Strategy</u></p> <p><i>TC invited RG and ABD to join.</i></p> <p>TC & RG presented the document and Board Members raised the subsequent points and questions which will be collated to the inform the next draft.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clarification that the strategy is looking at increasing the number of hospitality jobs, and increase the hospitality offering to attract more workers to the island. RG explained that it will be both. - Net Zero was not linked to each objective but instead the climate change plan will be kept in mind as schemes and initiatives are developed. A board member mentioned the value of the Biosphere status and recommended this be featured more. - More narrative around the strategy as a starting point and will be used to inform decision making on future projects. - How the risk of relying on other organisations will be managed. TC agreed there is a risk, but funding will be available, and it would be surprising not to see a take up of that. ADB’s job will be to bring these groups together and help lift them up. Additionally, we want to enhance the trader groups as well and then bridge the gap between trader groups and the local authorities. - What additional enablers will be available to address factors outside of funding such as legislation, skilled works etc? Could it be clearer in the strategy that BIOM will not be responsible for all the actions. - A discussion followed around the inclusion of car parking in the strategy, with DK noting the strong response to the issue in the studies. RG agreed that it is always mentioned as a priority during engagement. It involves a significant amount of work with other Government Departments, TC agreed, noting that ultimately the issue needs its own strategy. - A board member commented on the size of the document and advised that a 2-3 page executive summary is needed. TC confirmed this will be done, and advised the next steps, following board approval the format will be finalised and the polished draft taking to the sectors for feedback. The target for this is the end of July. 	TC



	<p>Vote to progress with publication of the draft: YES (all present)</p> <p><u>BB20240621 – Local Economy Fund</u></p> <p>Board members agreed that the majority of the content of this paper had been addressed in the above discussion. TC confirmed that following board approval, the next steps will be to take the paper to Department and then ESB.</p> <p>Vote – Yes (option 1)</p> <p><u>BB20240622 – Domestic Event Fund – Additional Funding</u></p> <p><i>JL, ON, SP, SPC left the room due to potential conflict.</i></p> <p>TC explained the options in the paper to the remaining members. A board member questioned the limited take up in previous iterations of the fund and how this will be addressed. TC advised that previously there wasn't much take up around Christmas, but now businesses are calling for support with entertainment over this period.</p> <p>Vote – Yes.</p> <p><i>JL, ON, SP, SPC returned to the room.</i></p> <p>A board member requested an update later in the year to see the success of the schemes. TC agreed and advised it will form part of regular dashboards.</p> <p>Paper for Noting</p> <p><u>BBMEMO202406 E&M Review Phase 1 Report</u></p> <p><i>RH joined.</i></p> <p>RH spoke to presentation, giving an overview of the report.</p> <p><i>ML left 15:57</i></p> <p>It was questioned whether the participants have had sight of the report yet. RH replied that not the final report but they have seen all the constituent parts.</p> <p>TC asked the sector representative their thoughts. They confirmed they have been working closely with RH and Gemserv and the work will inform Government of the best ways to grow the sector. They feel the report is an accurate reflection of the current situation.</p> <p>RH added that there are 10 individual company reports as part of this and they do call out in these reports' recommendations to these businesses as well as Government.</p> <p>Decision Papers for Review</p> <p><u>20240529 Meet Your Street</u></p>	<p>TC</p> <p>RH</p>
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	<p>TC explained that the funding was allocated to help keep the initiative rolling.</p> <p><u>Licensing Bid</u></p> <p>TC explained that this was outside of normal powers, and was a result of political input and involvement with the Chair and the local economy hospitality representative.</p> <p>Regarding the TT staffing scheme TC provided a brief update, explaining it has had 30-40 applicants and it is yet to be finalised who is paid. This scheme was created as an initial reaction at the time. A range of options were put to the politicians and that's the one that came through.</p> <p>Some discussion followed around frustrations of application processes and lack of digitisation. TC explained that there is a whole digitalisation of Government that is needed which is wider than outside of just DFE.</p> <p>DK added that GTS are working really hard on the digitisation but it is a huge process. So, it is a well understood issue but the solution is not fast and not easy to do.</p>	
<p>15:00</p>	<p>Agency Update:</p> <p>A. Chair -</p> <p>Innovation challenge looked to be very successful and has seen some good engagement. Attendees to IFE from the export development group have shared strong feedback. Board members who were in attendance shared their successes including a large wholesale order was received from a Dutch company as a result of attending and they are continuing to follow up on smaller leads. It was discussed whether to attend the event again, with the value of a repeat presence to build exposure being highlighted.</p> <p>B. DfE Chief Officer;</p> <p>TC provided update on behalf of ML, explaining the Department has been focused on immigration in the last couple of months, with considerable resource committed to this. Focus is on doing it safely and not ignoring the risks while getting these people in who are waiting to relocate.</p> <p>C. CEO of Business Agency;</p>	<p>SP</p> <p>ML</p> <p>TC</p>



	<p>Attended Cannabis Europa with GSC and now starting to build some leads off the back of it. Interest is growing from this sector and the focus is on engaging with the right contacts. TC confirmed that we are now in a position where a cannabis producer set up and trade on the Island now.</p>	
15:45	<p>Standing Item: AOB</p> <p>It was noted that IY will be attending Cambridge Cleantech with RH to represent Business Isle of Man.</p> <p>The results of the UK General Election were discussed with the implications of a Labour victory being questioned. TC confirmed politically there may be impacts to the Island, but UK civil servants don't change so all our existing contacts will remain.</p> <p>DK explained the next steps that Cabinet Office are currently involved in.</p>	
16:00	Meeting Close 16:35	SP