

## Business Isle of Man Agency Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024

**Time:** 14:00 - 16:30

**Venue:** DfE Boardroom, St Georges Court

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

INVITED ATTENDEES - NON-VOTING	
Mark Lewin, Chief Officer, Department for Enterprise	ML
Hira Modan, Marketing Manager, DFE	HM
Katy Ashwell, Business Development Coordinator, DFE	KA

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

Agenda item	Owner(s)
<p><b>Chair's Welcome &amp; Introduction</b></p> <p>The two new board members were introduced, and the meeting began with Albion's video of the installation of their machines in the new on-Island premises.</p> <p>Before the meeting formally began, board members were asked to confirm if it is acceptable for the BIOM officers to listen over Teams during these meetings. DK raised this out of concern that not all board members were aware this was happening. All present confirmed this can continue.</p> <p>Chair reflected on the year and the progress made with the Local Economy Strategy and the E&amp;M Strategy, as well as the continuation of the Export Group and the creation of the Hospitality Board. Albion has now landed and Growlabs have secured their planning permission. Jobs creation has exceeded previous years and overall, it has been a successful year despite the challenging climate. The Chair thanked the board members and the officers for their work.</p>	SP

<p><b><u>Standing items:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apologies - RF, FM</li> <li>• Code of Conduct</li> <li>• Declarations of new/potential conflicts of interest - SPe: children working at Tesco part time. KA added to register.</li> <li>• Additions to Gifts/Hospitality Register - IY awards for excellence Orsted. KA has added to register.</li> <li>• Previous minutes to be signed off by board - October Board - taken as read</li> </ul>	<p>SP</p>
<p><b>Papers for Decision</b></p> <p><i>CC joined the room 14:20</i></p> <p><u>BB20241212 Business Improvement Programme</u></p> <p>CC spoke to presentation.</p> <p>TC added that there is continuous pressure to find schemes that support local businesses in a sustainable way. During Covid there was a helicopter approach with schemes open to all. Now the ask is to factor in businesses who have invested in their businesses against those that don't. There is the need for support for businesses to be leaner, and smaller businesses don't have the same experience of lean running as other sectors such as E&amp;M and Logistics.</p> <p>TC - as all members are potentially conflicted due to potentially wanting to apply to the scheme, asked for confirmation this is the right direction. DK clarified that the Challenge Fund is a dedicated pot available for such projects and supporting this projected wouldn't be depriving other areas like Health of money.</p> <p><i>DH joined via Teams 14:35</i></p> <p>Discussion followed, with all board members broadly supportive. It was debated whether the pilot businesses should be fully funded to ensure maximum sign ups, or whether it is more important that the business has to make some commitment to ensure their full participation. All agreed the importance of businesses seeing the value in taking part. A board member noted that no matter how good the consultation, the important factor is the implementation.</p> <p><i>ML joined 14:40</i></p> <p>TC confirmed that all applications will be review by a number of people and next steps is to tender for a supplier to see what options are available.</p> <p><b>No formal vote.</b> TC &amp; DK to take to department.</p> <p><u>BB20241213 Hospitality Support Training</u></p> <p>CC spoke to presentation.</p> <p><i>SP, JL, ON left conversation due to conflict</i></p>	

A board member questioned that this is benefitting a single supplier. TC confirmed that this is the case, however they have been appointed as a result of a tender process ran by the Department of Home Affairs for the licencing training provider which will be repeated at the end of the term.

TC reiterated that this support greatly reduces admin time for the hospitality businesses and mitigates the pressure from increased demand for training. The ask to the Board is to support continuation of the funding and to find a new long-term home for it.

ML agreed and explained an offline discussion can follow to find where this money will come from.

**Vote** - yes (unanimous from all present)

*14:54 CC left, KG joined. SP, JL, ON returned.*

#### BB20241214 Cup Re-Use Scheme

KG spoke to presentation.

A board member asked how this would fit with the Waste Strategy, KG explained that it is in line with the goal to actively reduce waste.

*ON left 15:05*

Discussion followed with board members raising a number of questions. KG explained that the paper is an overview, there will be a full business case that explains how the system would work including the cleaning of the cups and the potential for jobs creation.

The importance of engagement was discussed, with one board member recommending focusing on Douglas initially as a pilot. It was questioned whether the larger chain businesses would get involved, or indeed whether the franchises could use non-branded cups.

*JL left 15:15*

Further discussion speculated whether the public would return the cups, with a comparison made with a business that is currently operating a deposit scheme for reusable cups at a loss. KG explained that it would both be more expensive to the customer not to return the cup, and it made more convenient to return.

TC agreed that engagement is key and recommended passing this to the Hospitality Board in the first instance. If the Hospitality Board believed this was a key issue and worth supporting. KG would develop a proposition to be potentially funded by the Climate Change Fund.

*15:26 KG left RG joined*

#### BB20241215 Changes to POCA

RG spoke to presentation and discussed the reasoning for addressing this now.

ML described the role of The Financial Crime Strategic Board. Risk of doing nothing were discussed, with the possible impact on investment, and not missing out compared to other jurisdictions.

DK stressed the need to keep this entirely separate to recreational cannabis, otherwise concerned it won't get voted through.

*15:46 - AF left room due to conflict.*

**Vote** - yes (unanimous from all present) paper to be passed to the Finance Isle of Man Board and then if supported move to Cabinet Office for decision.

*15:50 - AF returned. RG left, SM joined.*

#### BB20241216 Construction IOM (CIOM) Funding Request

BB spoke to paper and explained the structure of CIOM, and the current difficulties in the sector. Established that businesses can't be asked for higher joining fees at this time and went through other funding options.

DK asked to understand tangible and intangible benefits of paying more.

BB - Training is the big factor. SM - industry needs to upskill and move forward not just keep standing still, and to be more environmentally together as an industry. One board member shared their experience of a lack of training on Island with regards to asbestos.

It was asked how funding CIOM helps those businesses in the middle. SM - CIOM provides a resource to get into the industry and make connections across Government. There is work to be done as an industry to make sure people coming out of education.

*16:08 BB left the room due to conflict*

The need for targets/KPIs was discussed and it was questioned as to whether CIOM should be self-sufficient as originally intended.

ML - there are other examples where the Department continues to provide funding as self-sufficiency isn't always achievable. It would be very challenging to the sector if we withdrew funding.

TC - was involved with the work in setting them up. Having three organisations united as one has been very beneficial to the Agency and Department. CIOM has tried for self-sufficiency, but sector isn't currently in a state to allow for this. Recommended that if funding was provided there would need to be KPIs. Noted that there are other avenues to funding in addition such as the Domestic Event Fund and the Climate Change Fund which could support other projects.

**Vote** - yes (unanimous from all present) providing KPIs and a three year are established.

TC asked the board if current funding plus inflation could continue until March 2025 while this is agreed.

**Vote** - yes (unanimous from all present)

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<b><u>Sector Updates</u></b> - <i>not covered. Project trackers available for each sector.</i>	
<b><u>Any Other Business</u></b> - <i>none</i>	
<b>Meeting Close 16:45</b>	SP