

MANAGEMENT BOARD MINUTES 9/10/2018

ATTENDANCE:

Chair – Kevin McCarthy - Secretary General, Bairbre NicAongusa - Assistant Secretary and Sheenagh Rooney - Assistant Secretary, William Parnell - Assistant Secretary.

Kenneth Jordan, Principal Officer and David O'Connor, Assistant Principal Officer attended for items 5.2 and 5.3

Stjohn O'Connor, Principal Officer and Jake Ryan, Assistant Principal Officer attended for 5.4

Secretariat - Lynda Crawford

1. STATEMENT OF INTEREST

No conflicts.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved with minor amendments.

3. MATTERS ARISING

No matters arising.

4. MATTERS FOR DECISION

5. PRIORITY ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

5.1 RURAL REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT FUND

Sheenagh Rooney informed the Board that a wide variety of State or public bodies have applied for funding – including Government Departments, Local Authorities, State Agencies, LEADER Local Action Groups, Higher Education Institutes and Education and Training Boards.

The Department is currently collating and categorising applications. Over 250 applications for funding received, under a range of policy area, including heritage, regeneration and public realm works, greenways, telecommunications, tourism, environment, recreation and sport, public transport, enterprise, community facilities and library development. The applications will be assessed by the project advisory board and recommendations for funding then made to Minister Ring.

MB noted that it is proposed to be in a position to make an initial announcement in relation to successful applications in November, with further announcements to follow.

5.2 ESTIMATES 2019

The 2019 estimates process was discussed.

Arrangements for budget day announcements and media briefing were noted.

The Joint Committee on Rural and Community Development's meeting on mid-term review of 2018 Estimates on the 17th October was discussed.

5.3 FINANCE REPORT

The expenditure report was noted and discussed.

5.4 RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPMENT UNIT

Stjohn O'Connor and Jake Ryan gave a presentation on the work of the Rural Telecommunications Development Unit to the MB.

MB noted the progress achieved by the unit on the appointment of local authority broadband officers, regular RAG meetings, digital readiness assessments and local digital strategies.

MB noted the identification of the 275 priority broadband connection points and the digital innovation programme.

6. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

6.1 HR UPDATE

The verbal HR update was noted.

6.2 COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

The Communications update was discussed. MB noted that the staff conference will be held in Mullingar on Friday 16 November 2018. A full agenda and travel arrangement details will issue shortly.

MB noted that DRCD is scheduled to transition to gov.ie in coming weeks.

6.3 UPDATE ON INTERNAL AUDIT FUNCTION

This item was deferred.

7. STANDING ITEMS

7.1 MINISTERIAL AND MANAGEMENT BOARD DIARIES

The diary for the forthcoming fortnight was noted.

7.2 GOVERNMENT MEMORANDA / CABINET SUBCOMMITTEES

A list of Government Memoranda currently circulated was noted.

7.3 WEEKLY SCHEDULE (DÁIL, SEANAD AND COMMITTEES)

The Oireachtas schedule was noted.

7.4 SOG'S / CABINET COMMITTEES

The MB noted the schedule of Cabinet Committee and Senior Officials Group meetings.

8. AOB

Sheenagh Rooney briefed the MB on the work of the Brexit Preparedness and Contingency Planning team within the Department of the Taoiseach. Sheenagh Rooney stated that DRCD's draft action plan for Brexit and Brexit assessment data is currently being finalised and will be submitted to the Department of the Taoiseach on 11 October.

The MB discussed the Department's and its Agencies input into the Brexit Contingency Framework.

Kevin McCarthy,
Secretary General