



S4C Board Meeting Minute
10 December, 2020 - Zoom Meeting

Meeting No. 445

Present:

Non-Executive Board Members:

Rhodri Williams (Chairman)

Hugh Hesketh Evans (Board Member)
Anita George (Board Member)
Siân Lewis (Board Member)

Executive Members:

Owen Evans (Chief Executive)
Elin Morris (Chief Operating Officer)
Amanda Rees (Director of Content)

Also present:

S4C staff:

Gwyn Williams (Director of Communications)
Owain Lloyd (Board Secretary)
Bethan C. Williams (Assistant to the Board Secretary)

Apologies

Owen Derbyshire (Board Member)

STANDING ISSUES:

1. **Welcome and Declarations of Interest**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to S4C's Unitary Board meeting. He had received an apology from OD.

The Chairman asked any members with an interest in the business of the meeting to declare their interest. There were no declarations other than RhW's own declaration with respect to Ofcom.

See the Register of Interests in S4C's Unitary Board section of the S4C website for general declarations.

2. **Chairman's Report**

RhW presented his report orally.

Membership of the Board

RhW reported that there were a number of very good candidates from different backgrounds. The list had gone to the Secretary of State with interviews due to take place the following week. It is hoped that it will be possible to appoint by the end of January or early February with the new members then starting by April.

Update on the BBC's Statutory Supply

[Summary: RhW outlined the background to the discussions including the meeting in early September with Tim Davie, BBC Director General. In early December a discussion paper had been received from BBC Wales expanding on the topics raised at the meeting.

OE and EM were due to meet Rhodri Talfan Davies and Rhys Evans the following week to respond to the paper. There would then be a further meeting with Tim Davie in early January. It was therefore necessary to ascertain the Board's views on the issues involved.

The different elements including Newyddion, The National Eisteddfod, Pobol y Cwm and Sport were discussed. Everyone agreed that a process of due diligence was needed and transparency of the costs and risks before the Board came to any decision.]

3. **Chief Executive's Report**

OE presented his monthly report including the issues below.

Co-location

[Summary: An update on the co-location project was presented by EM and OE. It was noted that there had been two days of dummy running the week before and on the whole things went well. Moving at the end of January 2021 looked like a possibility.

The Board would need to be updated at the January meeting when it was hoped that the officers would be in a position to recommend 'Go Live'.]

Staffing over Christmas

It was noted that a staffing timetable over Christmas and the New Year had been agreed, with members of the Management Team available each day over the period just in case.

National Broadcasting Archive

[Summary: An update was given on the National Library's plans to archive S4C's material and to employ someone to work with S4C. A paper was being prepared for the Board.]

Brexit

There was a report as part of the papers on S4C's readiness for the end of the transitional period in the wake of Brexit. The paper was noted.

4. **Strategy 2022**

RhW submitted a discussion document for Strategy 2022. From April 2022 it was essential that the service looked different and that this was obvious and clear to the audience.

[Summary: It was noted that the staff response to Morgan Lloyd's work showed that there was agreement on S4C's purpose and that the document was consistent with what the Board had been considering over the last few months.

OE introduced a slide that sought to summarise the strategic direction and what needed to be done. SL was pleased to see education as part of the discussion. OE agreed adding that an education plan was needed working in partnership with others.

OE noted that access and prominence are vital in the digital world. Our services must be welcoming in terms of language and quality.

Some Members felt that there was no clarity on the timescale or funding required. OE noted that that work was currently taking place and there would be more details in January including an outline of the application that would go to DCMS.]

5. **Content Update**

It was noted that the intention was to present an update on the Digital News project, S4C Lleol, and the Content Collector at the Content Committee in January.

6. **The Board's Work Programme**

A draft of the Board's Work Programme for 2021 was presented. There would be slightly fewer meetings and the intention was to try to be more strategic in terms of what is presented to the Committees and the Board. This was a live document which will be adapted and updated during the year.

The document was accepted as the 2021 work programme, whilst accepting that things are changing and adapting especially with the appointment of new members.

OLI intends to speak to the Non-Executive Members before preparing a paper on a scheme/welcome pack for the Board to consider in January.

7. **Content Committee**

An oral report was presented on the meeting of the Content Committee held on the 9th December.

8. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 November 2020**

The minutes of meeting number 444 held on the 19 November were presented. The minutes were approved as correct by the Board and no issues arising from the minutes were discussed.

9. **Action Points and Decisions Register**

The register was noted.

With respect to a pay settlement, it was noted that BECTU had agreed to the recommendation made, and therefore a 1.6% pay settlement will be payable from August 2020.

10. **Any other business**

The Chairman referred all to Channel 4's new five-year strategy (Future4), and Ofcom's Consultation on the Future of Public Service Media. It was noted that S4C would respond to the consultation in due course. EM noted that we will continue to discuss and collaborate with the other PSBs on issues such as visibility.



The good news that S4C would be moving to slot 104 on Virgin Media in Wales in the new year was welcomed.

RhW thanked everyone and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.