

THIRTY FIRST MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSION

29 October 2024

Attendees

1.2 Commissioners: 1.1 [REDACTED]

Nominated Commissioners: 1.3 [REDACTED]

1.5 Commission Unit: 1.4 [REDACTED]

1.7 Standing Observers: 1.6 [REDACTED]

Apologies: 1.8 [REDACTED]

Actions:

Action	Owner	Deadline
1. Short paper on the standing position in relation to the conversation on OS (Ordnance Survey) plans to move the national grid to ITM, and potential alignment with PBs (Partner Bodies) and DA (Devolved Administration).	1.9 [REDACTED]	23/11/2024
2. Relationship and Strategy session is being held on the 14 th of December with individual strategy leads from Partner Bodies. Update to be provided to the board following this meeting.	1.10 [REDACTED]	20/12/2024
3. For the next board meeting, we should have a refined set of project outcomes, articulating more precisely what the overall purpose and what the impact is in each of our projects?	1.11 [REDACTED]	30/11/2024

Overview of the GC Portfolio to be provided to the board.		
4. JC to share the comms wording around 'continuation of work but change in governance' with commissioners.	2.1 [REDACTED]	14/11/2024
5. GC to confirm to AN if there is anything they would like to brief on for the AGI Conference.	2.2 [REDACTED]	08/11/2024
6. Transition plan to be created by GC and shared with the board for review and comments.	2.3 [REDACTED]	15/11/2024

1. Welcome, Minutes and Matters Arising

The Chair welcomed both the attendees in the room and online. Apologies were received from 2.4 [REDACTED]

Minutes from July Board Meeting were approved with no further comments.

Actions reviewed from the meeting in Northern Ireland on the 24th of July 2024.

Action	Owner	Deadline	Update
1. Short paper on the standing position in relation to the conversation on OS (Ordnance Survey) plans to move the national grid to ITM, and potential alignment with PBs (Partner Bodies) and DA (Devolved Administration).	2.5 [REDACTED]	September board meeting - date TBC	Action carried forward as not completed. This is being looked at in the context of the work taking place with the Partner Bodies to assess where their data is and where it is heading, and this action will now form part of this will form part of this. Update to be provided to the board on this.

			Ben Carson- by 30/11/2024
2. If ^{3.1} [REDACTED] is unable to join the BoC meeting to provide an update on her meeting with the Minister, an update note should be provided to the Board.	^{3.2} [REDACTED]	August 2024	An update note wasn't provided following the meeting. SH updated the board at the mid-point meeting held in Sept. Going forward, SH to provide a real time note to ensure Commissioners remain updated. Action Closed
3. Arrange a joint strategy session with the GC board and the Geo6.	^{3.3} [REDACTED]	September 2024	Relationship and Strategy session is being held on the 14 th of December with Partner Bodies. This is with individual strategy leads to talk through and come back to the board with an update. Action carried forward ^{3.4} [REDACTED] by 20/12/2024
4. For the next board meeting, we should have a refined set of project outcomes, articulating more precisely what the overall purpose and what the impact is in each of our projects? If there is historical data, use this to show what has been achieved already? Provide context, where possible.	^{3.5} [REDACTED]	October 2024	Action carried forward. Portfolio overview to be issued to the board. Ben Carson- by 30/11/2024
5. Review the wording of the Strategic objectives/narrative.	^{3.6} [REDACTED]	September 2024	Action Closed

6. Add narrative in the draft Terms of Reference (7b) in relation to external facing expectations for the Commissioners.	4.1 [REDACTED]	August 2024	Action Closed
7. Add narrative in the draft Terms of Reference (7b) about Commissioners working in an advisory capacity outside of meetings.	4.2 [REDACTED]	August 2024	Action Closed
8. Return to detailed programme following completion of the zero-based review.	4.3 [REDACTED]	September 2024	Action Closed

SU made a general observation that if the board still exists and if we have meetings; actions should be taken and discharged.

2. Report from Director including update on the Future of the board

SH provided an update on DSIT and said they now have an official transition team looking at the 'new' DSIT now CDDO and GDS have joined. This team are looking at what the digital centre of government means. DSIT is responsible for what accountabilities and responsibilities sit within that and large parts of the data; landscapes and governance within that. SH said GC will be reviewed as to where it sits within this in terms of reporting lines. In terms of timing of this, SH said it would be another 3 months until any decisions are made as there is transitional design piece happening as well as resourcing around this. SH confirmed that the Geospatial Commission are part of these conversations.

SH updated on the National Data Library (NDL) and said this is a priority for both Minister Jones and the Secretary of State.

SH informed the board that she now meets with Minister Jones jointly with colleagues from UKGI on the Ordnance Survey sponsorship front. SH said there is much greater thinking around our role as a sponsor of OS and engagement with the OS Board which is an extremely positive move forward in which the Minister supports. The board discussed the potential conflicts in the GCs role in being the custodian and purchaser role of the assets. SH said shareholders' sponsorship, and the customer function separation is important but have always come together at the leadership level. The DSIT leadership team are aware of the potential conflict, conflict and are focusing in with OS and having open conversations in relation to this.

The Commissioners asked where they can help most in terms of Digital Centre or the Science and Innovation parts of the business. SH said the digital centre has not yet

been defined and within this there will be the consideration of resource following the spending review but would appreciate Commissioner views on this as more detail emerges.

Under the requirements of the Charter, the Minister has written out to consult Ministerial colleagues in relation to the closure changes to the governance model for the GC including the potential dissolution of the Board. Following the period of consultation, a decision will be made and communicated accordingly.

The Board highlighted the importance of external voices in policy development. JC confirmed that should the decision be taken for the Board to be dissolved a new governance structure would include a series of advisory groups that will be flexible in their nature in terms of being stood up/down as required to ensure relevant stakeholder voices are used to shape the work of the business unit. Participation in these will be done on a voluntary basis and will incorporate representation from the current Geo6, Devolved Governments, an expanded set of Partner Bodies and the eco-system at large. These changes will bring the GC into line with DSITs broader policy development approach. JC confirmed use of the term 'expert Committee' will cease, and the Board discussed the ongoing use of the Geospatial Commission brand.

ACTION- JC to share the comms wording around 'continuation of work but change in governance' with commissioners once a decision has been reached.

SH updated on the SR. This has now been submitted, and we are awaiting the outcome of this following the budget announcements.

3. Report from the Nominated Commissioners

5.1 provided an update on the GEO 6's joint work on a potential SR bid on improving the links between topographic, and hydrographic data together along the coastal ribbon to support activities that cross between the land and sea including renewable energy.

AN suggested MG to talk to the Digital Planning Programme team. AN to send contact to MG.

LH said to contact DSNEZ as this fits in very closely with the work they are doing. LH to send MG contact.

4. NDL engagement

BC provided an overview of the National Data Library (NDL) paper, and highlighting the three areas of current engagement that the GC was having with the NDL team:

- Overall policy of what the NDL should be,
- Cross- governments governance- how we set up a programme
- Specific projects they could tie into the NDL to demonstrate progress and tie in some ideas. This is the most urgent and is the area we have been feeding into the most.

On this final point CMG added some further detail and said we have been involved in setting the direction of the NDL and that it should have a strong geospatial component to it. They are looking to identify programmes where quick progress can be made and start testing hypotheses for the NDL to start to scale, so we have been looking at ways that we can connect in things we have been doing and can scale in partnership.

Relationships are in a good place, and we will be working with the NDL team going forward into the next round of SR bidding.

The board discussed the paper and GS commented that the paper does not focus on the application side as much and more on ambition and that the solutions need to be by what is trying to be achieved and for who. SH confirmed the Data Library kick starters are to test our response to systemic data access barriers such as incentive, trust, co-ordination and investment to make priority data access available more readily. The Board agreed that accessibility and purpose do need to be considered and incorporated.

LH asked what is it the GC offers, that other parts of DSIT aren't doing? What is the way into the NDL as an offer? JC said there is not necessarily a distinct offer, but we can look at the whole spectrum. We have a lot of experience in this area that others don't have. We are keeping an open mind on routes into this that get us the best SR settlement to do as much as we can.

Update on SR

Paper provided to the board updating on the Spending Review. GS commented that much of the content is around procurement and a discussion was held in relation to demand side and Use cases.

SM asked about a decision in relation to the PSGA type agreement for Northern Ireland as this is not listed in the spending review for phase 2 and whether this was still going to be investigated further or not as they are actively working on this. The board confirmed it is still of interest but must be of value. SM to pick up with JC after the meeting.

5. Any Other Business

AN said she will be attending the AGI conference on the 28th of November and will be joining a round table with housing associations about the use of data. AN said if the GC would like to highlight anything for this conference to let her know.

ACTION- GC to confirm to AN if there is anything they would like to brief on for the AGI Conference.

SU asked that we keep the board updated on the comms and narrative in liaison with the Government transformation team.

Transition plan to be created and shared with the board for review and comment once a decision is received from the Minister.

ACTION- Transition plan to be created by GC and shared with the board for review and comments.

The board confirmed that they would like to write to the Minister if the decision is made to close the board. This will be reviewed and discussed further following the decision in November.

Date for the next board meeting will be confirmed once we receive an outcome from the Minister in November.

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Redaction Summary

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Redaction 5.1

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