Executive Board

7 July 2014
1030 - 1530
Room 3028, Old Broadcasting House

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Attendees

Present
Tony Hall  Director-General (Chair)
Helen Boaden  Director, Radio
Anne Bulford  Managing Director, Finance and Operations
Danny Cohen  Director, Television
Tim Davie  CEO, BBC Worldwide and Director, Global
James Harding  Director, News and Current Affairs
James Purnell  Director, Strategy and Digital
Simon Burke  Non-executive director
Nick Hynter  Non-executive director
Alice Perkins  Non-executive director
Fiona Reynolds  Senior Non-executive director
Sir Howard Stringer  Non-executive director

With
Alan Yentob  Creative Director
Clare Sumner  Chief of Staff, Director-General’s Office
Phil Harrold  Company Secretary
Tanya van Niekerk  Business Manager (Secretary)
Gautam Rangarajan  Director of Strategy
Ben Stephenson  Controller Drama Commissioning (for item 3)
Bal Samra  Commercial Director (for item 4)
Andrew Bott  Chief Financial Officer, BBCW (for item 4)
David Moody  Director of Strategy, BBCW (for item 4)
Rebecca Hoyle  Controller of Commercial Strategy (for item 4)

Apologies
James Purnell  Director, Strategy and Digital
1 Updates & Live Issues

DG Update

1.1 Tony Hall noted the outstanding coverage of sporting events across the piece over the last few weeks and said that he would be writing to BBC Sport staff to thank them for their fantastic contribution.

1.2 Tony outlined the main planks of his upcoming speech on 10 July which would focus on starting a debate about the way we produce BBC television programmes and at the same time explain the steps being taken to make the BBC as simple, efficient and effective as any broadcaster in the UK.

1.3 James Harding provided an overview of the News & Current Affairs savings and investments plans outlining the strategic rationale which would see a re-structure of the newsroom into three departments - a new 24/7 live and connected department which would include all of the international 24 hour channels, mobile and social activity; a daily programmes and bulletins department; and a current affairs department.

1.4 Anne Bulford provided an update on ongoing IR issues, noting that the ballot was due to close on 15 July.

NED Appointment

1.6 Executive Board made the appointment of Dharmash Mistry as an Executive Board non-executive director from 1 September 2014 for a period of three years, with the term ending 31 August 2017.

Update on W12

1.7 An announcement would be made to staff later in the week about moving the remaining occupants of the Media Centre out of the building, with some roles relocating out of London and others moving elsewhere within the BBC’s London properties.

Efficiencies and Headcount

1.8 Work on the BBC’s efficiency and headcount was progressing well, with an update expected later in the year.

2 Regular reports

BBC Management Pack

Summary: This report presented the consolidated pack of management information for the Board. Discussion focussed on the dashboards. There was also some more general feedback on the format of the report.
Equality Information Report

2.6 The Board reviewed and approved the progress against objectives for 2013, the objectives and key actions for 2014, the EIR itself and the report on Equal Pay and Bullying and Harassment.

3 Drama Presentation

3.1 Over lunch the Board took part in a presentation and discussion session about BBC Drama. The session focussed on views from the industry; the current status and achievements of BBC Drama; and the differences between how Drama is produced in the US versus the UK.

4 Commercial

BBC Worldwide Proposal

Summary: The Board was provided with a summary of the progress made by BBCW to address some of the points raised at the June meeting. The Board discussed the proposal. Various comments were made and it was agreed that a revised proposal would return to the Board for consideration.

Natural History Unit

Summary: The Board received an oral briefing on a BBC Worldwide content risk investment.

5 AOB

There was no other business.

Papers for offline approval/noting

The following papers were circulated for offline approval/noting this month. Unless otherwise indicated below, the papers were approved/noted:

- Minutes from June Executive Board meeting
- Appeals Advisory Committee - New Appointments
- Pensions Litigation
- TV's Exit Plan from Media Centre
- Refinancing of BBC Commercial Holdings