Executive Board

6 October 2008

1100 – 1530

Viewing Theatre, Ground Floor, Pacific Quay, Glasgow

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Attendees

Present
Mark Thompson (Chair), Director-General
Mark Byford, Deputy Director-General
Jana Bennett, Director, Vision
Tim Davie, Director, Audio and Music
Chris Day, Acting Group Finance Director
Erik Huggers, Director, Future Media and Technology
Stephen Kelly, Director, BBC People
John Smith, Chief Executive, BBC Worldwide
Caroline Thomson, Chief Operating Officer
Marcus Agius, Senior non-executive director
Val Gooding, Non-executive director
Mike Lynch, Non-executive director
David Robbie, Non-executive director
Robert Webb , Non-executive director

With
Jessica Cecil , Head of the Director-General’s Office
Lynsey Tweddle, Head of the Executive Unit
Nicholas Eldred, General Counsel (items 1 and 5c)
John Tate, Director, Policy and Strategy (items 3, 6, 7 and 8)
Bal Samra, Director, Vision Operations and Rights (items 3 and 6)
Ken MacQuarrie, Controller, BBC Scotland (item 5)
William Greswell, Head of Vision Strategy (item 6)
Richard Halton, Programme Director, IPTV (item 7)
Rahul Chakkara, Controller, TV Platforms (item 7)
Gautam Rangarajan, Head of Policy and Development (item 8)
Ed Williams, Director of Communications (item 8)

Apologies
Zarin Patel, Group Finance Director
Samir Shah, Non-executive director
Agenda

1 Minutes of BBC Executive Board on held on 8 September 2008.

2 Director reports
   a) Audiences and all services
   b) Journalism
   c) Regulatory and industry
      • The Trials Register
   d) Commercial
   e) Finance
      • Finance report (August 2008)

3 Appointment of new Appeals Advisory Committee member

4 BBC Scotland: a current perspective

5 Management of BBC Content in On Demand

6 Public Service Broadcasting Review: draft submission and partnerships update

7 Any other business

For noting

8 Summary of papers and actions from Finance Committee meetings held on 18 and 25 July and 4 September 2008

9 BBC World News update

10 Draft response to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport consultation on implementation of the EU directive on Audiovisual Media Services

11 Revision of Editorial Guidelines
1 Minutes of BBC Executive Board held on 8 September 2008.

1.1 The minutes were approved and the summary for publication noted.

2 Director reports

a) Audiences and All services

2.1 Erik Huggers provided a short update on audience figures and services for the last month, noting key highlights for Vision, Audio & Music and New Media.

b) Journalism

2.2 Mark Byford provided an update on journalism matters.

c) Regulatory and Industry

2.3 Caroline Thomson provided an update on regulatory and industry matters.

2.4 The Board noted that the Secretary of State had proposed to extend the Digital Switchover Help Scheme to those in care homes and that a report into the operational and cost implications of the proposal had been sent to the Trust for their approval. It was agreed that Caroline Thomson should be able to agree any necessary amendments to the Scheme Agreement on behalf of the Board.

2.5 The Board also noted that BBC Alba (the BBC’s Gaelic service) had launched on 19 September 08.

The Trials Register

2.6 The Board confirmed that the Trials Register was up-to-date, accurate and comprehensive and approved it for onward progression to the Trust.

d) Commercial

2.7 John Smith provided an update on commercial matters and circulated a briefing to the Board.

e) Finance report

2.8 Chris Day introduced the finance report which summarised the 2008/09 financial results for the BBC for the year to August 2008 and highlighted the key points.

2.9 Chris also updated the Board on the financial planning work taking place with respect to the economic climate and it was agreed that it would be beneficial for the Executive Audit Committee to examine this further.

2.10 The Board noted the report.

3 Appointment of a new Appeals Advisory Committee member

3.1 This paper outlined the remit of the Appeals Advisory Committee (AAC) and reminded the Board of its responsibility with respect to making appointments to the AAC. Approval was sought for the appointment of one new AAC member, Linda Doull, to replace international development expert Ann Keeling, who had resigned from the AAC in August with effect from 30 October 2008 due to an overseas posting.
3.2 The Board endorsed the appointment of Linda Doull as a member of the BBC’s independent Charitable Appeals Advisory Committee.

4 BBC Scotland: a current perspective

4.1 Kenny MacQuarrie provided an update on the latest developments and key highlights from a BBC Scotland perspective. A DVD of BBC Scotland programming was also shown.

5 Management of BBC content in On Demand

5.1 No paperwork was circulated in advance but a presentation was tabled at the meeting.

5.2 The Board noted that the Trust had given a clear brief about the need to tell the story and demonstrate the link to the archive policy and strategy. The Board recognised the complexity around the issues and agreed that it would be beneficial to provide clarity around the history and context of the proposals.

6 Public Service Broadcasting Review: draft submission and partnerships update

6.1 This paper informed the Board that Ofcom had published phase 2 of its review of Public Service Broadcasting on 25 September 2008. The paper laid out the BBC’s two proposed major responses to the Review - an Executive paper documenting the extent of the value of the BBC’s proposed partnerships with the sector, and a joint Executive-Trust submission to Ofcom. A presentation was also tabled at the meeting.

7 Any other business

7.1 No other business was raised.

For noting

8 Minutes and Actions from Finance Committee

8.1 This paper reminded the Board that the Finance Committee (FC) was established under the delegated authority of the BBC Executive Board and that the purpose of the FC was to ensure the practice of good financial governance across the BBC and the enforcement of the BBC’s Investment Policy and Guidelines.

8.2 In line with the standing orders of the FC this paper provided the Executive Board with summary minutes of recent FC meetings, covering details of all business covered and key actions and outcomes agreed.

8.3 The Board noted the summary minutes and actions.

9 BBC World News update

9.1 The Director-General had agreed that an update should be provided to the BBC Trust Finance and Strategy Committee. This paper provided that update.

9.2 The Board noted the update, which was progressing to the Trust.
10 Draft response to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport consultation on implementation of the EU directive on Audiovisual Media Services

10.1 This paper explained that the EU Directive on Audiovisual Media Services, adopted the previous year, contained minimum content standards applicable throughout Europe. The UK Government was required to implement EU rules in national law and as such, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport had launched a consultation on the best way to implement the rules, on interpretation and on the appropriate level of detail. The BBC was required to respond by 31 October 2008. The Trust would be taking the lead, submitting the response on behalf of the whole BBC once the Executive Board had taken note of its approach.

10.2 The Board noted the response.

11 Revision of Editorial Guidelines

11.1 This paper set out the proposed timetable for the publication of the revised Editorial Guidelines and Online Guidance.

11.2 The Board noted the revised timetable.