

S4C Authority Bulletin

Meeting 348 – 15 September 2011

S4C, Cardiff

This bulletin reports on the meeting of the Authority held on 15 September 2011

1. Matters arising from minutes of meeting 347

The minutes of meeting 347 were approved.

2. Chairman's Report

The Chairman presented his report.

3. Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive presented his report including:

Report on the Restructuring – He presented papers which brought together the work which started in September 2010, when S4C's budget was cut, and the work of the "Root and Branch" review which includes:

- Vision 2012+
- Arshad Rasul's report on the Commissioning Process;
- Richie Turner's report on Innovation and Efficiency.

Two internal groups have been set up to deal with the recommendations of the last two reports. The Authority were also given recommendations on restructuring from the Management team down. It was agreed that these should be put on hold until there is a decision on the appointment of a new Chief Executive.

Report on S4C Estate – AEO presented a paper based on a review of S4C's estate by an external company. He asked the Authority to note the contents whilst suggesting that the officers should make recommendations to the next meeting of the Commercial Board in October. The Authority agreed.

Local Television

S4C had expressed an interest in the original proposals. The Authority agreed that the officers should present a response by 23 September, the closing date for the consultation.

DCMS/BBC/S4C

A draft of the document "Joint Position on S4C Future Governance and Accountability" was included with the Authority papers. S4C and the BBC Trust had presented their comments on the document to the DCMS. There was a discussion on the points where agreement had not yet been reached. The Secretary gave an update on the discussions in parliament on the Public Bodies Bill. The Chairman thanked the officers for their work whilst negotiating.

4. Report from the meeting of the New Media Forum

DJ presented an update on the report of the New Media Forum into the digital future of S4C. He will circulate the final copy of the report in order to have a full discussion on the report at the October meeting of the Authority.

5. Presentation on “Calon Cenedl” (At the Heart of Welsh Life)

JFR and AWP joined the meeting to give a presentation on the “Calon Cenedl” campaign. The meeting was shown examples of the campaigns in Pontrhydfendigaid, Pwllheli and Anglesey and the thinking behind them, particularly when considering how to target a specific audience. In addition they were shown campaigns for the Rugby World Cup, and the television trails for learners - "No Speaky? No Problem ". “Calon Cenedl” was to visit Blaenau Gwent between 26 September and 12 October.

6. Report of the Director of Commissioning

GR presented his written report including the following:

- The Rugby World Cup competition has started in New Zealand and S4C is covering the Wales games in the competition. S4C will also broadcast the Pro 12 and LV Cup games at the same time. S4C has not yet received any complaint about too much rugby within the timetable.
- Tribute programmes to the late Stewart Jones were broadcast recently. The intention is to broadcast a tribute to Huw Ceredig at the end of the year.
- The response to the series Cariad@Iaith was good. The series met several aims namely, promoting the Welsh language, attracting celebrities to contribute to programmes and encouraging interest from the press and multi platform media.

7. The Commissioning Process

GR gave an update on the first round of the commissioning process for the free hours for 2012 and beyond. The commissioning team has received nearly 1,000 proposals. A scoring system for each idea by genre was introduced. The short list is expected to be confirmed in early October. Direct feedback will be given to producers for each unsuccessful idea. The second commissioning window will open on 28 October and, in addition, the tendering process is underway for the magazine programmes and the Friday night show. Briefings on the content requirements are to be held in North Wales on 26 October and in South Wales on October 27. HJ thanked GR and the Commissioning Team on behalf of the Authority for their work.

8. Other Matters

The following matters were also discussed/noted:

- Research Report
- Compliance and Complaints Report
- Finance Report
- Report and recommendations from the Commercial Board