



# Minutes of Meeting of the Authority of Broadcasting Authority of Ireland

**Date** 28/07/20014 **Time:** 9.30am **Venue:** 2-5 Warrington Place, Dublin 2

## Minutes

### Attendance

**Authority:** Bob Collins (Chairperson), Larry Bass, Paula Downey, Colum Kenny, Maria Moloney, Seamus Martin, Michael Moriarty.

**Apologies:** Michelle McShortall, Siobhán Ní Ghadhra

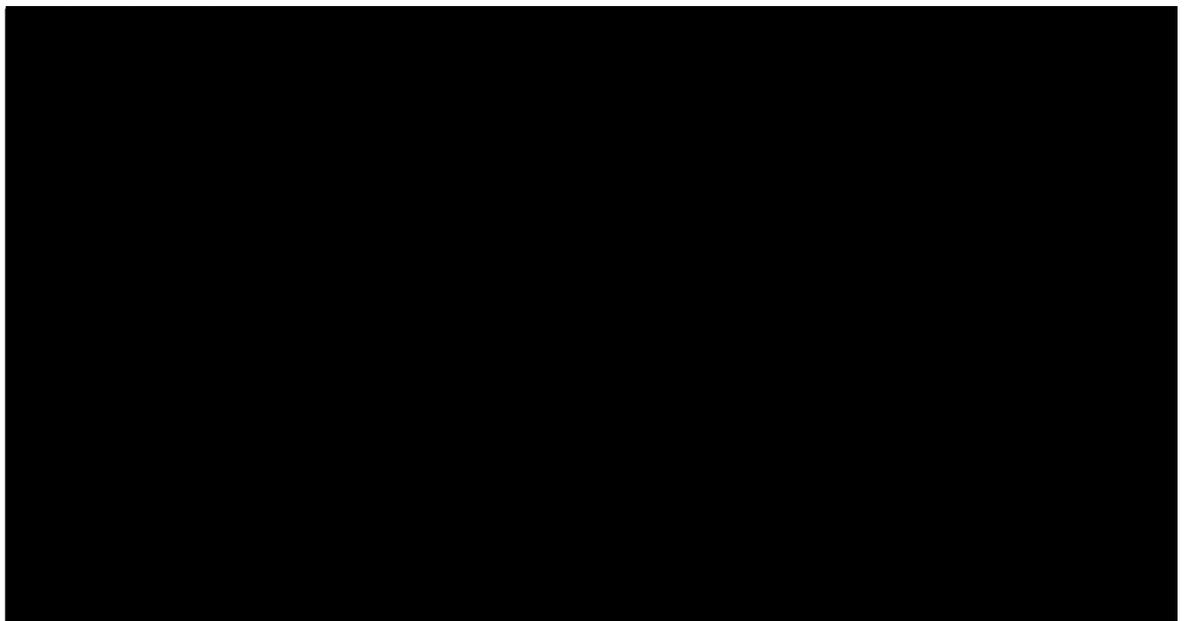
**Executive:** Michael O'Keeffe, Celene Craig, Aoife Clabby, Diarmaid Breathnach (item 2a), Ciarán Kissane, Stephanie Comey, Anne-Louise O'Donovan (item 3a), Nuala Dormer (item 2b), Ann Travers (item 5).

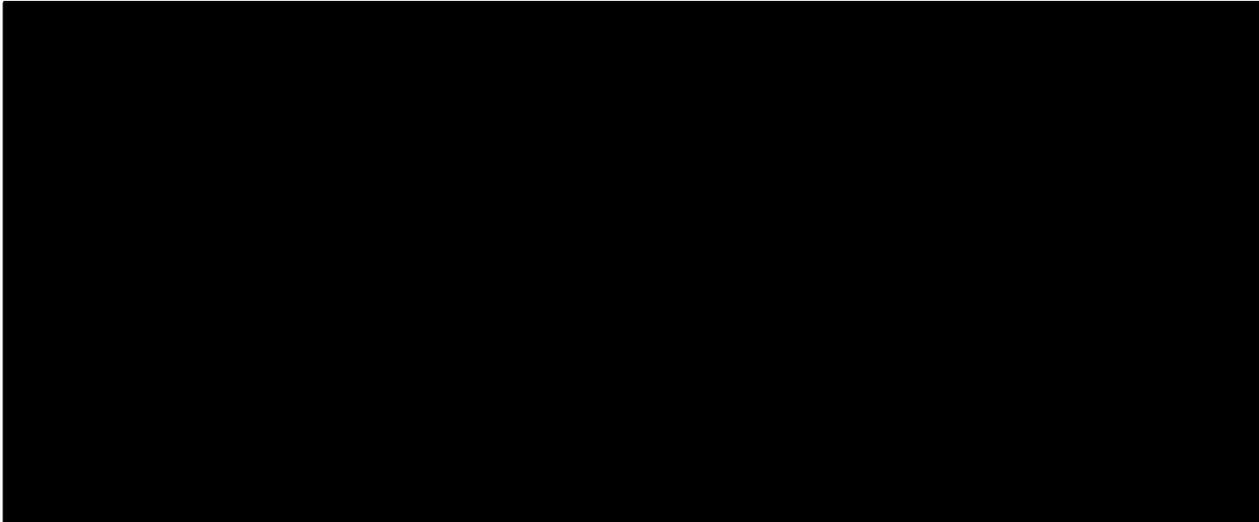
### 1. Minutes of Previous Meetings and Matters Arising

Minutes of the previous meetings held on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and July 2<sup>nd</sup> were approved by the Members and signed by the Chairperson.

#### a. CEO Contract

*The CEO and other members of the Executive, other than the Deputy CEO, recused themselves from the discussion on this matter.*





**b. Draft Code of Programme Standards**

Members were provided with an update on the draft Code of Programme Standards consultation. It was noted that a workshop with broadcasters on the draft Code had been well attended and that the general approach to the re-drafting of the Code had been broadly well received by those in attendance. Members were advised that the outcomes of the consultation process and proposals for the final Code would be brought to the September meeting for consideration.

**c. BAI Access Rules**

Members were advised that the outcomes from the public consultation on the draft Access Rules would be brought to the September meeting of the Authority for consideration.

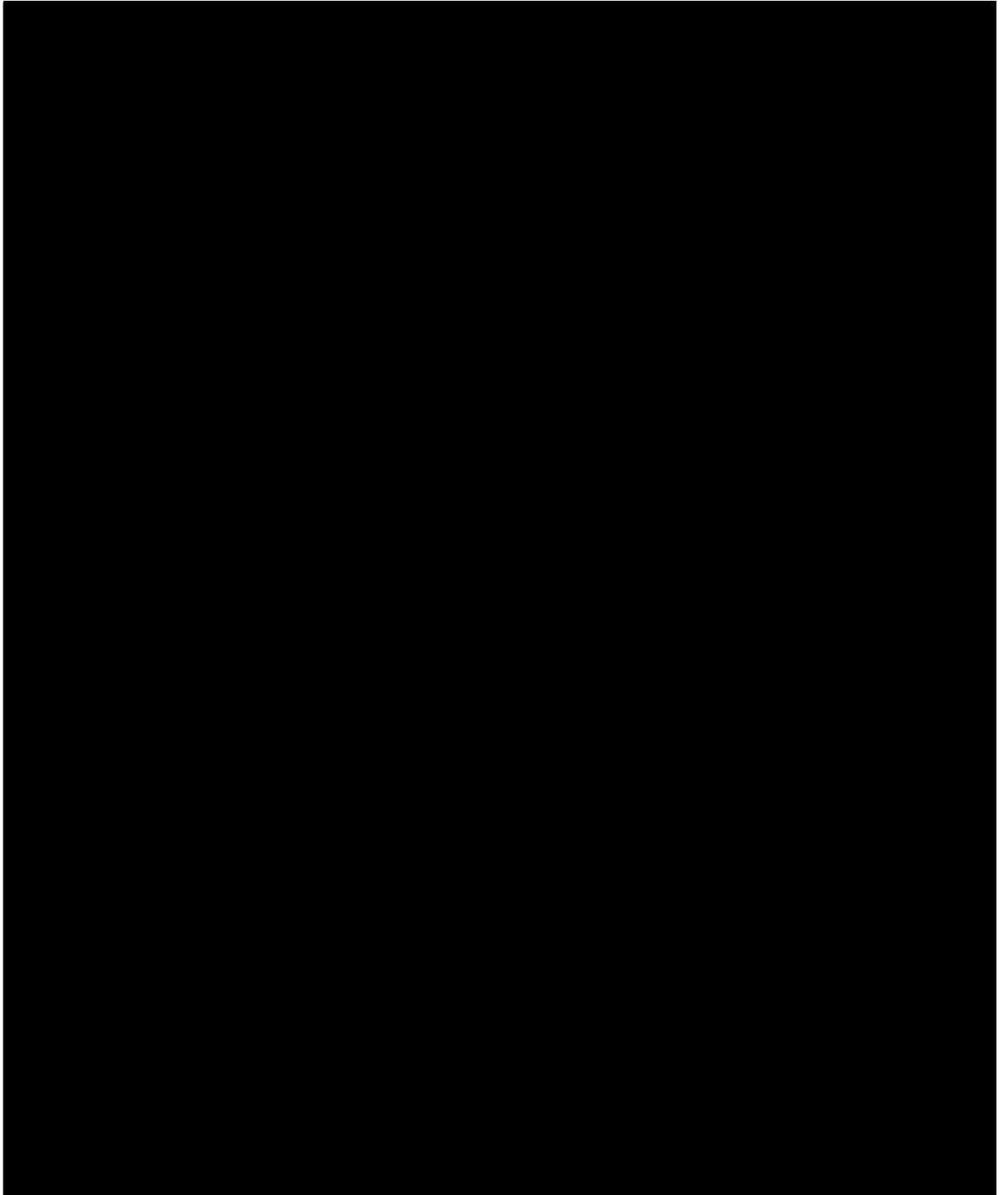
**d. Review of the Functioning of the Authority and Committees**

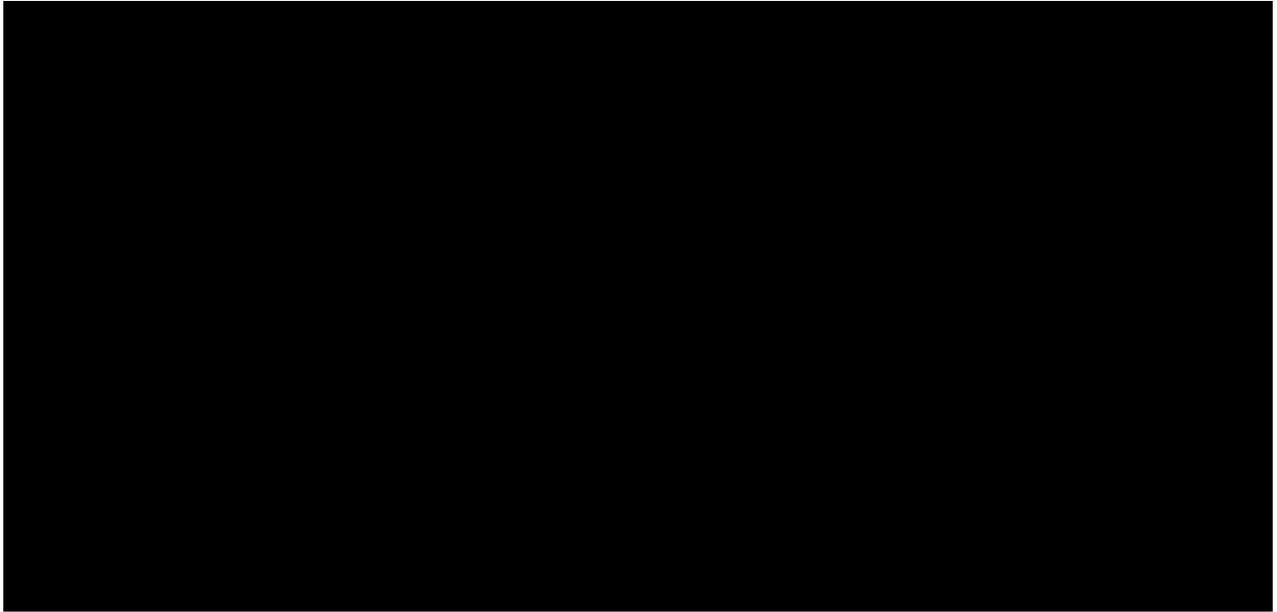
Members were informed that work was progressing on a report detailing the outcomes of the review of the functioning of the Authority and Committees, following the conclusion of workshops with members and staff, facilitated by Colin Catney of Opes Consulting. It was noted that a copy of the report would be circulated for consideration in advance of the September meeting.

**2. Policy**

**a. Annual Reviews of Public Funding for RTÉ & TG4: Presentation by O&O**







**b. BAI Right of Reply Scheme: Proposed Approach to Review**



**c. Community Radio Licensing Plan**

The Authority considered a proposed approach to the development of a community radio licensing plan for the 2015-2017 period, including a proposal to extend the contract of Dublin City FM by one year and to direct the Contract Awards Committee to seek applications for the provision of a community sound broadcasting service in the Kilkenny City and Environs franchise area.

In considering the proposals made, the Authority had regard to the BAI Broadcasting Services Strategy and in particular to the manner in which the licensing of community



radio services is catered for. The Authority noted that the licences of a large number of existing community radio contractors were scheduled to expire by 2017, in addition to which a smaller number of potential new applicants was envisaged. Of these new applicants, it was considered that Kilkenny Community Communications Co-Operative Society (KCCCS) was the most advanced of the aspirant groups with regard to readiness to apply for a full-time licence.

Following discussion, the Authority was satisfied to approve the executive's proposal that the BAI should proceed with a process to advertise a community radio service in the Kilkenny City and Environs franchise area and that the process would be done on a pilot basis, to allow for the development of various licensing documentation. Subsequent to the licensing of a community radio service in this franchise area, the Authority noted that the executive would then proceed to licence those community radio services whose contracts were scheduled to expire in the 2015-2017 period. On this basis, the Authority was satisfied to extend the contract of Dublin City FM by a period of one year, in order to align the service within the envisaged timeframe proposed for re-licensing. The Authority was further satisfied to direct the Contract Awards Committee to invite applications for the provision of a community sound broadcasting service in the Kilkenny City and Environs franchise area.

### **3. Organisational Matters**

#### **a. Draft BAI and BF reforecast 2014 and 3 Year Estimates 2015-2017**

The Authority considered a note outlining the key issues arising from the Finance Audit and Risk (FAR) Committee's detailed review of the draft BAI and BF reforecast 2014 budget and the draft three-year estimates for the period 2015-2017.

Having regard to the 2014 BAI re-forecast, the rationale for the main variances across the areas of Finance, Governance and People, Communications and Compliance were outlined to the Authority.





[REDACTED]

**b. BAI Libel and Slander Insurance**

[REDACTED]

**4. Contractual Matters**

**a. Ratification of Contract Awards Committee Decisions/Recommendations**

**(i) Competitive Licensing Process-Sligo/North Leitrim/South Donegal franchise area**

*As a member of the Contract Awards Committee, Larry Bass recused himself from the discussion of matters under this agenda heading.*

Members considered the recommendation of the Contract Awards Committee that the Authority enter into a contract with North West Broadcasting Limited (t/a Ocean FM) for the provision of a local, broad-format sound broadcasting service for Sligo, North Leitrim and South Donegal. It was noted that the award of the contract was subject to the submission by Ocean FM of additional detail in respect of proposed new programming proposals for inclusion in the Programme Policy Statement. The Authority was satisfied to ratify the recommendation.

**(ii) Section 71 Applications**

Members considered and approved recommendations received from the Contract Awards Committee to enter into two content provision contracts, further to section 71(4) of the Broadcasting Act 2009. It was noted that Teilifís Mhaigh Eo Teoranta, would provide a local and international service with some current affairs programming, targeting the global



Irish diaspora, while Eurasian Broadcasting Enterprise Limited (Ire) would provide sports programming in the Russian language on a pay-TV basis, targeting audiences in the Baltic and Eurasian regions.

**(iii) Section 68(1) Applications**

The Authority was satisfied to enter into six temporary sound broadcasting contracts, further to section 68(1) of the Broadcasting Act, on the recommendation of the Contract Awards Committee.

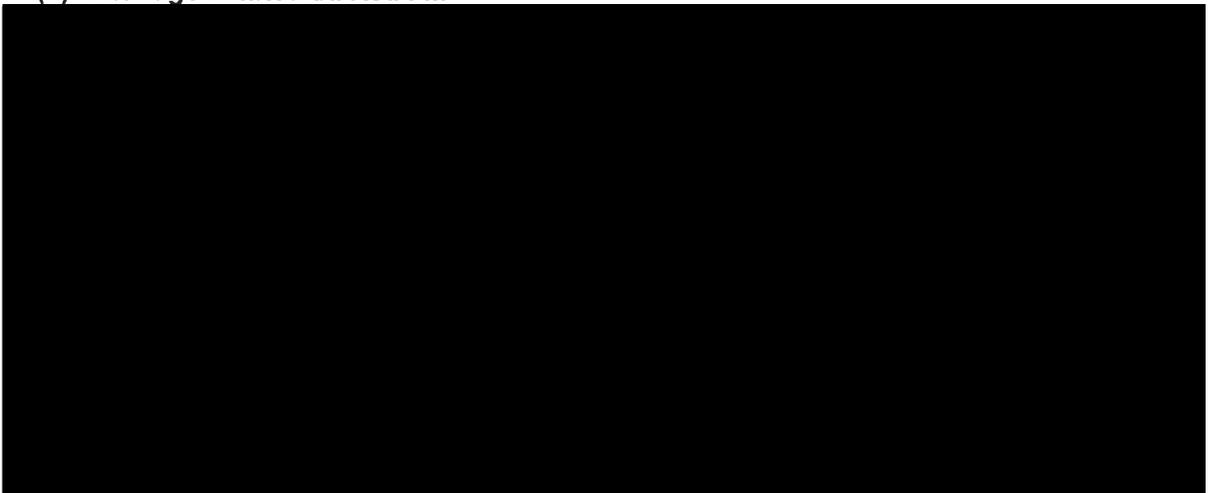
**b. Contractual Variations**

**(i) Radio Two Thousand Limited t/a 98FM**

The Authority considered a submission received from Radio Two Thousand Limited (t/a 98FM) seeking approval for the appointment of Mr. Keith McCormack as its new Chef Executive Officer. In considering the proposal, the Authority had regard to the relevant criteria set out in the *BAI Ownership and Control Policy (2012)*, specifically those relating to character, expertise and experience.

The Authority was satisfied to approve the proposed appointment of Mr. McCormack, as submitted.

**(ii) Siteridge Limited t/a Red FM**



**(iii) St. Ita's Hospital Radio**

Members considered an executive proposal to extend the contract held by St. Ita's Hospital Radio under section 68(2) of the Broadcasting Act 2009, by a period of five



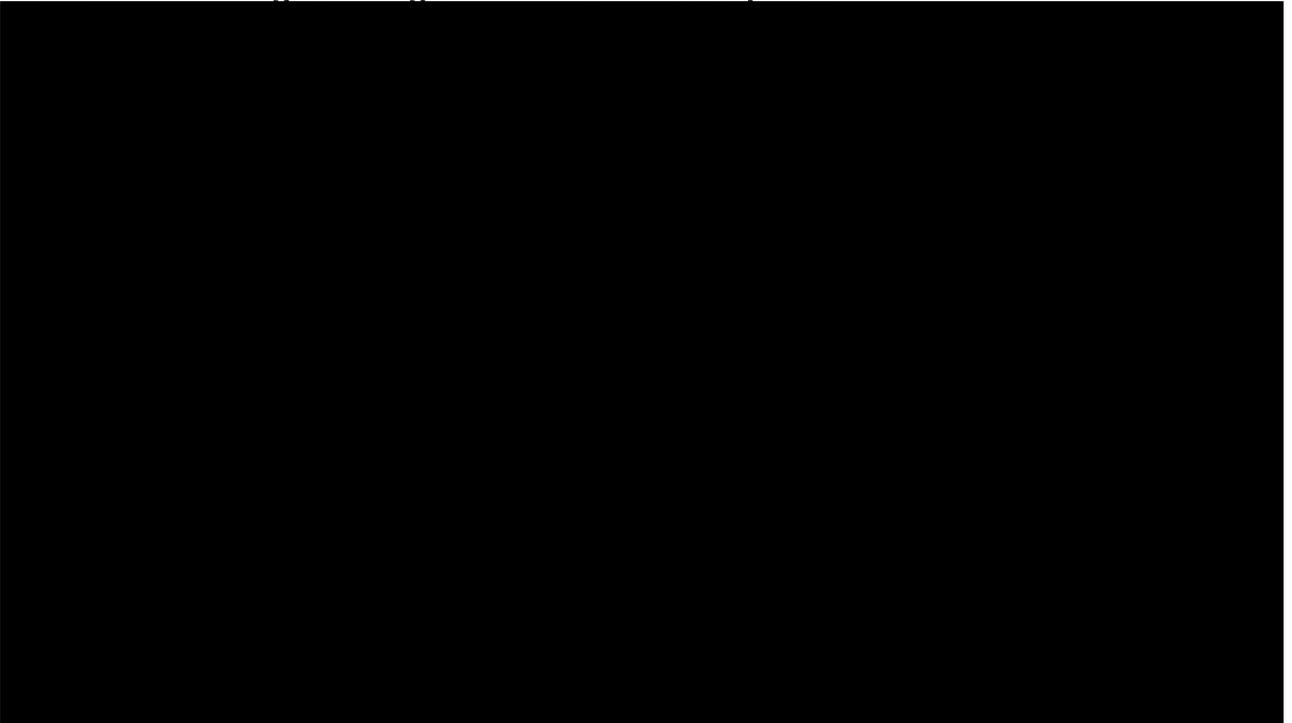
months, in order to facilitate the assessment of the application submitted by the Contractor. It was noted that an administrative error on the part of the Contractor had led to a delay in the application being submitted. The Authority was satisfied to grant the extension, as requested, to 29<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

#### **5. Sectoral Development-SDGI Funding Proposal Q4 2014**

Members considered a funding proposal received from the Screen Directors Guild Ireland (SDGI) for a programme of events aiming to up-skill directors with a view to enhancing knowledge sharing and communication within the film and television sector through dialogue and networking. The Authority noted the SDGI had not been in a position to submit a proposal earlier in the year, due to internal resource difficulties.

Following consideration and discussion of the proposal, the Authority was satisfied that the proposal received was in line with the BAI's Sectoral Learning and Development Policy. The Authority was further satisfied to approve the proposal submitted by SDGI at the level of funding requested.

#### **6. Broadcasting Funding: Sound & Vision 3 Update**





**7. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Authority will be held on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> September at 2.30pm, in the BAI offices.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Collins', is written over a horizontal line.

**Bob Collins,  
Chairperson  
15<sup>th</sup> September 2014**