

# **Strategic Investment Board**

## **Interim Chief Executive's Report – August 2011**

### **ISNI 3**

At the request of the Executive's Budget Review Group I have drafted two papers on revenue funded investment. These will be discussed at the Board meeting. They will go forward as joint SIB/DFP papers, having been agreed by DFP.

### **Projects & Programmes**

#### *Asset Management Unit*

Scott Wilson and Jaqueline Fearon will join the AMU on 22<sup>nd</sup> August. For contractual reasons, Michael Donnelly will not be able to leave his current employer until October. Plans are in place for a structured handover from the interim team.

The DCAL Board is considering its draft Assets Management Strategy. We are in negotiation with DARD as to the level of AMU involvement in the implementation of its strategy.

I met Gerry Lavery, Permanent Secretary at DARD and gained his agreement that SIB should take an initial 'quick look' at the private sector proposal to build an 'energy from forests' plant in the west of the region.

The ePIMs implementation continues with data from DoE being loaded onto the system.

#### *Lisanelly*

Work continues on an ownership model that will command the support of all stakeholders.

### *Maze/Long Kesh (MLK) Development Corporation*

The profile of the MLK Development Corporation will be raised over the coming weeks with the publication of advertisements for the roles of Chair and Board members. A media crew has visited the site in connection with programmes about the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of internment. Ministers have also agreed that the site should open to the public for tours over the European heritage weekend.

Work on the spatial strategy continues. Consultation meetings have been held with the CBI, Chambers of Commerce, councils and other stakeholders.

The RUAS business case is with OFMDFM and is expected to be passed to DFP by the end of the month.

Market testing for the PBCRC began on 8<sup>th</sup> January and will inform a revised business case.

Mary McKee has been invited to visit New York for discussions with the UN and the US State Department regarding the PbCRC.

### *NI Prisons Service*

The first draft of the NIPS estates strategy has been completed and will now be reviewed. It identifies a range of underperforming assets as well as setting out a strategic plan for the next twenty years.

The Permanent Secretary at the DoJ has asked SIB to assist with the recruitment of a Strategic Change Manager.

### *Commercialisation*

Johann Gallagher and Patrick McMeekin have been working with DCAL on the Libraries Strategy.

### *Belfast Bicycle Scheme*

The Outline Business Case for the scheme has been submitted to DRD and Belfast City Council.

### *Derry City of Culture*

The 'Peace Bridge' was opened on 25 June at a very successful launch event which was choreographed by Fiona Kane and one of our interns, Lisa Nelson. I spent some time in the City helping the company's Chief Executive develop a business plan and negotiating with the main sponsor, Derry City Council, over the provision of corporate services.

### *The Museum Arts Centre*

At short notice DCAL asked us for assistance with the Museum Arts Centre (MAC) Project about which they were having concerns. Bryan Gregory has stepped into the role of SRO. One of the contractors has fallen into administration but the other partner has, however, taken over its obligations and work continues. Some sub-contractors may suffer as a result of the failure. Among the challenges Bryan identified was a catering procurement competition which he has restarted. There are also problems with the estimates for VAT and Rates contained in the venture's business plan.

### *TQSP*

The construction of the Signature Project continues to plan. Bryan Gregory is leading a group from the public and private sectors that is investigating how to tie together the various attractions within the Titanic Quarter (e.g. the Signature Project, SS Nomadic, Thompson Dock etc) into a single visitor proposition. As part of this work he is preparing terms of reference for a DETI study into the future of HMS Caroline.

### *Belfast Metropolitan College (BMC)*

BMC will be handed over from the contractors to the college on 12<sup>th</sup> August. I visited the new building in July and was very impressed by the design and by the standard of the fit out. I hope that the Board will hold its November meeting there.

An issue has arisen over the provision of a bus service to the college from central Belfast. This is the responsibility of the contractor and was a condition of planning permission. Pat O'Neill and Gregor Hamilton have been working with all parties to achieve a satisfactory solution before the start of term.

### *Belfast Rapid Transit (BRT)*

The team are currently identifying routes for the priority bus lanes. These will inevitably be controversial for both car drivers and shopkeepers because of their likely impact.

In view of the funding pressure on DRD, a market testing exercise has begun to determine whether there is any private sector appetite for involvement in the project.

The Minister will visit Nantes shortly in order to see a working example of rapid transit that exemplifies the benefits BRT seeks to deliver. Ciaran has also held update meetings with MLAs and other interested parties.

The Minister has appointed Ciaran to be the SRO for the 'Belfast on the Move' project and he has also been appointed to the Board of the Belfast City Centre management company.

### *Social Regeneration*

Interviews will be held shortly for the Associate Adviser roles working on Social Regeneration. These appointments will be on the basis of 'zero hours contracts' which will improve our flexibility and reduce our reliance on consultants.

Mary McKee and I met Paul Maskey, the MP for West Belfast, and had a very constructive meeting during which we gained a better understanding of the needs of the constituency and discussed ways in which SIB might be able to support the regeneration of the area. Linked to this, on 10<sup>th</sup> August Mary and I will be meeting the Permanent Secretary of DSD, Will Haire, to discuss how SIB's support for regeneration can be better aligned and prioritised with the work of DSD and OFMDFM. As agreed with the Board, I will suggest that SIB ceases to sit on partnership boards.

### *Social Clauses*

The initiative has strong political support and OFMDFM SPADs and the DRD Minister are pressing us to roll it out quickly across government.

## **Governance, Finance & Administration**

### *Recruitment*

I had hoped that Wesley Emmett, SIB's strategic recruitment advisor, would have been able to present a report to the Board this month. Unfortunately he is heavily involved in the recruitment of Associate Advisers for Social Regeneration, but will attend a meeting later in the year.

The Remuneration Committee has approved the following appointments: Desertcreat Procurement Manager; Plugged in Places (e-Cars) Project Manager; Associate Adviser MLK; and Development Director, Colin Town Centre. It has also approved an increase in the rate of Motor Mileage Allowance from 40p per mile to 45p per mile.

### *Communications*

Fiona Kane has made good progress with EIS on the development of a branding strategy for MLK. She will shortly be meeting with OFMDFM Special Advisers to agree the terms of reference for a contract to develop a visual identity and branding for the company.

The branding for the Desertcreat project has been agreed and will be launched shortly.

Fiona has supported the London~Derry Culture Company in the appointment of a Communications Team and is helping them develop their Communications Strategy.

The SIB web site is undergoing a refresh, with new and updated project reports.