

# **Strategic Investment Board**

## **Interim Chief Executive's Report – August 2010**

As the team has provided summary and detailed project reports, the CX report concentrates on only the most significant events of the last two months.

### **ISNI 3**

SIB has issued a letter to finance directors seeking detailed information on their current investment plans and priorities. The letter was drafted in consultation with OFMDFM and DFP and was announced at a meeting of Finance Directors. The ISNI team has offered Departments one-on-one support in completing the template form that will contain the required data. This approach should avoid the difficulties encountered during the drafting of ISNI2. The series of trilateral meetings with OFMDFM and DFP is also continuing.

Work continues on the drafting of ISNI3; the elements of the strategy that can be constructed at this stage include: the objectives and principles; funding context and introductory sections.

The team has, with DETI support, sponsored the construction of a new Strategic Energy Planning Model. The model is expected to be delivered in late August;

The ISNI Jobs Calculator is now complete. This enables the evidence-based calculation of the number of construction and related jobs delivered through the roll-out of ISNI. It will also inform decisions on alternative investment scenarios.

Edgar Morgenroth continues his work on the beneficial impact of infrastructure investment in NI (an interim paper is enclosed).

### **Projects & Programmes**

#### *MLK*

The announcement by OFMDFM that the MLK Development Corporation is to be established came as a welcome surprise. Kyle Alexander's PDU is now working hard to ensure that the new Corporation will be up and running within the six month deadline set by Ministers.

### *Derry City of Culture Bid*

The decision to award the 2013 UK City of Culture title to Derry~Londonderry was a triumph for all involved. I have received several letters of thanks from the principals highlighting the contribution made by SIB staff, particularly Fiona Kane (communications) and Michael Donnelly (business case). ILEX has asked us to assist them with the recruitment of staff to a new company being established to manage the cultural activities planned for 2013.

### *Desertcreat*

The future of this project remains in doubt. The Health Minister, in response to a press query (see media pack), did not commit himself to the project and emphasised the limitations of his capital budget. The planned meeting between the Health and Justice ministers, which was to discuss the project, has been put off for a third time. DHSSPS economists have still not approved (or rejected) the business case. The team is working on alternative approaches that do not involve the Fire & Rescue service, but these would take a further 9 months to reach the same stage of development for the smaller project as we are now at for the larger. The team is also investigating whether the college could be used by other public sector bodies for their residential training.

### *Asset Management Team (formerly CART)*

The Finance Directors of the respective Departments have agreed that DoJ, DETI, DE and DHSSPS will be the next to go through the CART process, following the completion of work on DFP and DARD.

Pat O'Neill is working with the CART and ISNI teams on a piece of enabling work that will take a holistic view of service need and delivery locations. This will inform DoJ's estates strategy. This work will use techniques SIB developed for its work on Ambulances, Libraries and schools.

The soft market-testing exercise for the Belfast Transport Hub has indicated that there is substantial private sector interest in the possibilities identified for this scheme. The Minister has approved moving forward and it is likely that DRD/NITHC will seek additional SIB support in the further development of the project.

### *Lisanelly*

Loreto College has begun judicial review proceedings against DE's decision not to fund its rebuilding programme. This will, at the very least, delay the involvement of the school in the programme. Masterplanning continues, with useful data being gathered on the topography

of the site. Decontamination is likely to be expensive. Although it is not possible to engage with the schools directly during their holidays, work has begun on a communications strategy. Work on the business case is being delayed by the lack of data on long-term enrolments for each of the participating schools.

#### *Stadia*

The RFU have revised their requirements for their stadium. It is SIB's understanding that these numbers cannot be accommodated on the Ravenhill site. This development would seem to throw doubt on the utility of the business case being prepared by DCAL, which is predicated on expanding Ravenhill.

#### *TQSP*

Work on site is proceeding to plan. The advertisement of the Chief Executive's post has attracted some interest. A new approach to the theatrical experience is being explored, as are options for selling the naming rights.

#### *Waste Programme*

Alan McVicker, Director of the Waste PDSU will brief the Board at its meeting.

#### *City of Derry Airport*

A contract has been signed which passes the operation of the airport from the council to a private sector partner. This ends SIB's four year involvement with the project.

## **Governance, Finance & Administration**

### *Report & Accounts*

The Report and Accounts were signed off and the required certificate issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General. The accounts have been presented to the Assembly and will be published on our web site shortly.

### *September Monitoring*

This exercise had to be completed in early-August. Proposals for the reallocation of money from the Operating to the Enabling budget are included in the Finance Report and I will brief the Board on these at the meeting.

### *Staffing*

██████ has retired after five years with the company.