

## **Strategic Investment Board**

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

August has been a relatively quiet month, with many staff and Civil Servants taking leave.

#### **ISNI 3**

The team has begun a programme of bilateral meetings with Departments to obtain detailed information on the nature of their committed expenditure as well as their plans for years 5-10 of the ISNI.

Work on the introductory sections of the ISNI continues, as does the assessment and evaluation of spending plans. Even at this early stage it is possible to conclude that the plans coming forward are unrealistic in that they far exceed the capital funding that was expected to be available in ISNI2 and take no account of the scale of likely cutbacks under ISNI3. The plans also comprise a large number of small projects rather than programmes or large projects. This might indicate a lack of focus and vision.

DFP seems likely to prepare a draft budget for the Minister of Finance to present to the Executive, even though not all Departments have cooperated fully in the information-gathering stage of the exercise.

The first set of Delivery Tracking System (DTS) reports were supposed to go out to MLAs on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, but Departments asked for extra time to update their projects so they will now be issued on 10<sup>th</sup> September.

#### **Projects & Programmes**

##### *Maze/Long Kesh Development Corporation*

The PDU continues to work on the establishment of the new Development Corporation. This includes ensuring the correct corporate governance arrangements are in place. The legislation that will establish the Corporation is to be debated in the Assembly on 14<sup>th</sup> September. Wesley Emmet is working on a recruitment plan for the senior positions within the Corporation and for its Chairman and Board. The procurement of legal and other advisers will start shortly.

Mary McKee is working hard to ensure that the bid for European funding for the Conflict Transformation Centre is ready on time. This detailed proposal must be submitted by 7<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

Sadly, BURA (the British Urban Regeneration Association), which provided a very useful report for Ministers on mechanisms for the regeneration of the Maze/Long Kesh site, has entered into voluntary liquidation.

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

The resignations of Scott and Michael have led to the reallocation of their work to other SIB staff. The implications of this, and the strategy for the long-term staffing of the unit, will be discussed at the Board meeting.

Terms of Reference have been agreed with DCAL and DoJ for the production of their Asset Management strategies. The DoJ is beginning a wide-ranging programme of reform in which estates management will form a separate strand.

The NIAO, in the course of their review of the operation of the CART, has sent a very useful questionnaire to all Departments and their NDPBs asking a series of searching questions regarding their current asset management strategies and practices.

#### *Derry City of Culture Bid*

Wesley Emmett is helping ILEX with the recruitment of staff for the Culture Company being established with Derry City Council. Fiona Kane continues to provide strategic advice on communications issues. The ILEX Chief Executive has asked SIB to support the production of a business case for the proposed corporation.

#### *Desertcreat*

There has been no change in the status of the Desertcreat project during the last two months. The Business Case remains with DHSSPS, whose Minister has yet to meet the Minister for Justice. In the meantime, the team has made good progress with issues such as IT and governance. Work has been done on the impact of de-scoping the project to bring down the capital cost, however, the business case for the centre would be weakened severely if the Fire Service was not to be part of the project.

### *Lisanelly*

There has been little movement over the holiday period, although work continues on scoping the decontamination requirement and on the development of an initial business case.

### *Stadia*

DCAL have issued a list of questions to Sport NI regarding its proposals for three new stadia. Until these are answered satisfactorily the business case will not be considered fully by the Minister or passed to DFP.

### *TQSP*

Work on site continues to proceed according to plan. Interviews have begun for the position of Chief Executive. Negotiations continue with a single bidder for the operating contract. These are progressing well.

### *Waste Programme*

The three waste projects are all continuing broadly to plan. There remain two key risks; the difficulties of gaining planning permission within a reasonable time and the affordability of the investments in the light of available funding. Alan McVicker's team is carrying out a commercial review of all three projects to ensure that they are taking a consistent and coherent approach to the negotiations.

### *Belfast Rapid Transit*

Ciaran will brief the Board in detail at the meeting.

## **Governance, Finance & Administration**

### *Staffing*

Scott Wilson and Michael Donnelly have left the company.

An open competition has identified two recent graduates who will each take up six-month internships with the company in October.

██████████ has qualified as an Accounting Technician. ██████████ is awaiting the result of his final Chartered Accountancy exam.