

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

September 2009

ISNI 2008-2018

This week we held the inaugural Investment Delivery Forum which was attended by all departments; albeit there was greater representation from the large capital spending departments. We hope that it will prove to be a useful forum although we will need to ensure that we are fully aligned with DFP. We had the opportunity to meet Richard Pengelly prior to the meeting to agree the principal messages. He suggested that we might do an interim ISNI (2.5) for the end of this year, prior to doing a complete new iteration (ISNI 3) which would align with the new CSR for the autumn of 2010 following the national elections. The idea of ISNI 2.5 met with broad acceptance at the Forum and we can discuss the way forward at the Board Meeting. We also received a letter from Peter Robinson regarding the concerns of a contractor and we responded following consulting CPD and OFMDFM.

CENTRAL ASSET REALISATION TEAM (CART)

We have had a further response on the draft report from dFM focussing on ensuring that equality issues are fully mainstreamed, to which we are now attending. In the meantime we are pressing on with our work and we will review this at the Board Meeting.

PROJECTS/ PROGRAMMES

Education – There is some further progress being made on Lagan and TorBank schools project with a view to the appointment of a preferred bidder – Denis McMahon and Leo McKenna have been working together closely to achieve this and it is hoped that this could be achieved prior to Denis' departure to DoE. We have a further Ministerial meeting next week regarding the Lisanelly site in Omagh, with the major issue being how the site might transfer from MOD. I mentioned last month that we received a letter from Peter Robinson enquiring about the next phase of the SPA at BELB.

Titanic Signature Project – We had anticipated that Ministers would consider the revised security package at the Executive meeting on the 10/9. Sadly we had to withdraw the submission as a result of an issue emerging on the car park arrangements put in place by Titanic Quarter Limited. We are now looking to find an acceptable solution that satisfies the shareholders, meets the requirements of planners and has the approval of the Belfast Harbour Commissioners. Time is very short and it is frustrating that this issue has appeared so late in the day. It was, however, encouraging that we received a letter of support from dFM in the week, albeit he was keen to emphasise that he believed this project was finely balanced against the many other competing priorities of the Executive and was therefore keen that it was discussed at the Executive. The next Executive meeting is on the 24/10.

MLK – Work continues on the Conflict Transformation Centre and with Ministers back we hope that progress will be made this month. On the wider site, Kyle has been undertaking some good work on the potential uses and we ran through these at the steering committee meeting. We also agreed that it would be useful to have a two day workshop with key stakeholders, including political advisers, to examine in more detail the way forward on the development corporation and learn from best practice elsewhere.

Commercialisation – Sam Waide’s work with Forest Service is proving very beneficial and the CEO, David Small, was very positive about it when I met him at the Chief Executive’s Forum business committee meeting.

Waste – It will be very helpful that Denis McMahon will be taking up the waste management post next month as there is a huge amount of work to do and with his drive we stand a good chance of success.

Odyssey – We had a further meeting with Paul Sweeney and Edgar Jardine and they would now like us to facilitate a workshop with the principals of OTC so that we might be able to find a win-win outcome for all parties.

MAC – DFP has now given its approval to the MAC. The Department and MAC are very appreciative of the help that we were able to provide in getting this project over the line.

Partnership Boards – We are making good progress on the work we have been asked to undertake in West Belfast and it is anticipated that the workshop we were asked to arrange with key stakeholders will take place later this month. We are also liaising with the EBP about further support to the Templemore Schools project that is being undertaken with the Prince’s Regeneration Trust. Ciaran de Burca presented the Rapid Transit scheme to both PBs this week and at both events the project was well received.

GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL SYSTEMS

Staffing. We are advertising the Finance Manager post again and hopefully we will find a suitable candidate.

GENERAL

British Irish Association – The BIA was held in Cambridge last weekend at Clare College in the new Gillsepie Centre. It was an excellent event with the highlights being talks by Roy Foster, Feargal Keane, and Judith Gillespie. The session that I was asked to chair with Dan O’Brien and Terry Neill went well and the latter was particularly thought provoking suggesting that there was a real need for leadership. Sadly Sir George Quigley was not able to join the event.

Boston- Derry Connection – Next month I am attending an event in Boston to promote London~Derry’s connection to Boston. This is a joint initiative with the City Council and Ilex and the Irish Echo. It could also be a useful opportunity to promote the work below.

Derry City of Culture Bid – We have been asked by Aideen McGinley to support Ilex and Derry CC with a bid for the UK City of Culture competition for 2013 which will be the 400th year Centenary of the building of the walls. The short-listing takes place next month and assuming that Derry is short-listed then the full bid needs to go in for the end of the year.

Prince’s Trust/ Prince’s Regeneration Trust (PRT) – Sir Nigel held a meeting of the Get into Construction group earlier in the month and there are some useful action points to follow up on; it is clear that as contractors are feeling the economic down-turn there are issues for young apprentices on this scheme. Peter Robinson has invited me to a dinner on the 8/10 which will highlight the interests of the PRT in Northern Ireland.

SIB/DNG

11/09/09