

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

June 2009

ISNI 2008-2018

The Delivery Tracking System is now fully operational and the ISNI portal is now available to the public. As scheduled, this was launched at the Construction Procurement conference that was organised by the Construction Employers Federation on the 11th June and it was generally well received.

Much hard work took place prior to the launch. It is important that departments see the DTS as something that is dynamic and to be nurtured rather than something that is static. In many respects it is effectively a "shop window" for the outside world to look into a department's capital programme. We are proposing to adopt a few "mystery shoppers" who can both give us feedback on what they see but also to do some sampling of what they can glean from other places so that we can make further improvements to the DTS/ ISNI portal.

We committed to FM and dFM to produce a short review of progress by departments over the last 14 months in delivering ISNI projects and programmes. The theme of the review will be 'Delivering for You', emphasising the way in which devolved government is making a difference on the ground, and very much linking in and supporting our work with EIS on a wider communications strategy for the Executive's ISNI. Work is well progressed on the format and visual presentation of the document, further work is in hand to agree/sign-off content with individual departments, and a final version should be ready by Friday 26th June.

In addition to highlighting major achievements at project level, the document will also present a 'scorecard' comprising all 38 Milestones listed in the ISNI document across the six pillars. Progress against each will be reported graphically. Taken together, there is much to celebrate in a year of record investment. We are also working in delivery of cross-cutting objectives, viz. economy, society and environment. A key objective is to deliver a readily accessible document that will inform MLAs, the construction industry, media and wider stakeholders - and this is reflected in the design brief for a concise, readable and visually-led presentation (as opposed to a traditional report format).

.CENTRAL ASSET REALISATION TEAM (CART)

Ed Vernon is seeing HOCS and SPADS this week as part of the finalisation of the report which he anticipates submitting early next month. We have a high degree of agreement on the work ahead but there still remain one or two issues which need resolving before the final report is submitted.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (RDS)

The RDS team in DRD are due to circulate a further draft of the RDS.

PROJECTS/ PROGRAMMES

Education – Leo and I had a meeting with John McGrath, Denis McMahon about Lagan and TorBank. We are also in Omagh at the beginning of next month and it will be good if we can now make some substantial headway on this important project.

Health – Enniskillen Hospital achieved financial close last month; this is an amazing achievement. We will need to assess how we can best support the health programme hereon in.

Titanic Signature Project – We hope that we might be in a position to sign next week; Harcourt Construction has commenced work on site in order to not imperil the programme.

MLK – There is more work being done on the Conflict Transformation Centre which will need to come to a head in the next period. In terms of the rest of the site there is work being done on the establishment of a Programme Board to take forward the development of the site. This will be a prelude to the establishment of a more permanent arrangement.

Commercialisation – We had a positive meeting with Malcolm McKibbin on the work that we have been doing to support the commercialisation of AFBI and Forestry Service. Both organisations are very appreciative of the work of the team and we hope that we can build on this in the coming months.

Waste – For Arc 21 much will depend on the re-run of the vote as to Belfast Council's decision on the nature of the treatment; there will be a critical decision for Arc 21 if the second vote also goes against the EFW solution.

Stadia – Bill Reid and Pat O'Neill are taking this work forward and we are currently responding on the terms of reference that have been drafted by the department. The key issue at present is the need to understand the strategic needs of the three sports. This is something that we are being asked to ensure is not overlooked.

Odyssey – As previously mentioned DCAL has also asked us to assist them further in looking at potential ways forward in relation to the Odyssey. We had a meeting with the principals of the OTC and are due to meet them again with Paul Sweeney.

MAC – We have been asked by DCAL to support it in trying to help OMAC (Old Museum Arts Centre) with its new and exciting project in Cathedral Quarter. OMAC has been presenting contemporary theatre and dance of the highest quality, invention and energy from Northern Ireland and around the world, as well as music, comedy, visual art, workshops and other events for audiences of all ages and background. The project is ready to be launched once we can overcome some of the business case issues that have arisen. A workshop is being arranged for the end of this month which will hopefully finalise a way ahead.

Titanic Quarter – Both Paul Priestly and Stephen Quinn would like SIB's support on how we should interface with TQL and BHC on the ongoing infrastructure issues in TQ. This is a critical issue for all stakeholders notwithstanding that the onus on the delivery of this falls to the developer but there are clearly public interest issues including BRT referred to below.

Belfast Rapid Transit – One element of this clearly relates to TQ, but the significant elements fall in East and West Belfast. We have begun an active engagement with both communities as well as with the private sector. This project is potentially of enormous significance to the City.

Partnership Boards – There is increasing concern among some of the partnership boards about delivery mechanisms and we are being asked to assist. In particular both the East and the West PBs are keen to obtain some direct SIB support. It would be useful to discuss this at the Board Meeting.

GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL SYSTEMS

Staffing. We are about to appoint a Finance Manager following a recruitment exercise. There were some good candidates and we believe that the best candidate will be a good replacement for [REDACTED].

GENERAL

Chief Executives Forum – Creative Industries. An event was held last week by CEF and IOD to look at how both public and private sectors might help meet the target set in the Programme for Government. There was a good discussion and there are a number of avenues to follow up, one of which could involve TQ.

Forum for Alternative Belfast – We were invited to attend an excellent event in Cathedral Quarter held by this forum looking at the impact of our infrastructure on communities across Belfast.

Construction Employers Federation Construction Procurement conference –The author of the Construction Industry Council Report presented the work to the gathering and hopefully the industry here will consider a similar exercise. It was also interesting to hear the story of how Lagan Construction took the decision to go overseas more than 10 years ago

Seeing is Believing – We are sponsoring, for the second year, the next series of Seeing is Believing events which is being held across Northern Ireland. The first included a visit to Knocknagoney Primary School and the Boys Model in North Belfast. Both visits were immensely powerful in outlining the challenging issues that face the communities and clearly the role that business can play is significant.

SIB/DNG

14/06/09