

Strategic Investment Board

Chief Executive's Report – January 2014

PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

As the Board will this month receive quarterly reports on SIB supported projects and programmes, this report will note only the most significant issues.

STRATEGIC WASTE PROGRAMME

I have discussed the state of the Arc21 project with the bidder, the Permanent Secretary at DoE and his officials, the Chief Executive of Belfast City Council and the OFMDFM SpAds with the intention of negotiating a way forward.

SUPPORT TO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SIB and DE are jointly running a seminar on Lisanelly to discuss ways of accelerating delivery. Paul Sweeney (Permanent Secretary) and Fiona Hepper (replacement for John McGrath) will attend.

MAZE/LONG KESH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

CULTURE COMPANY

Derry~Londonderry's year as UK City of Culture is now officially ended and the company has begun the process of winding up its affairs. Fiona Kane is involved in bringing the Marketing and Communications activities to a close and handing these over to the council team. DCC has asked whether she could provide a day a week of ongoing support to its staff and the Visitor Bureau. I shall be insisting she takes a substantial holiday at the beginning of the year as she has worked tirelessly and without a break for more than a year.

The Downey Tribunal finished its hearings on 6th December. A judgement is expected to take a further twelve weeks to hand down.

ARMAGH GAOL

SIB has concluded its review of the Armagh Gaol Business case and has revised the estimate of the funding gap to between £5 and £13m, depending on the value of the site. Leo McKenna has sent both SpAds a copy of the revised Business Case.

BELFAST TRANSPORT HUB

There is significant all-party support for this project, which has been given new impetus by the availability of Financial Transactions Capital (FTC). Leo McKenna has prepared a paper for DFP and DRD officials and Ministers explaining how FTC could be deployed to support the project.

SOCIAL CLAUSES

Mary McKee is leading for SIB on this issue and has further meetings planned with SpAds and others to try and move the discussion along.

INFRASTRUCTURE SEMINAR

By now Board members should have received their invitations to the Infrastructure Seminar to be held at Titanic Belfast on January 23rd. The seminar will be addressed by, among others, the Finance Minister and the Commercial Secretary to HM Treasury, Lord Deighton. Carol Magill from SIB's Communications Team is organising the seminar.

RESEARCH & OTHER STUDIES

REVIEW OF COMMISSIONING AND PROCUREMENT

I discussed the review with Tony Doran, the independent member of the Procurement Board, who expressed his support for the paper and offered his services in taking it forward.

INFRASTRUCTURE AUDIT

I have passed the draft Infrastructure Audit to the OFMDFM SpAds and have agreed that we will discuss the paper once they have had a chance to read it. I stressed that it was still in draft and that, if there were ways in which it could be finessed to better meet their needs, SIB would be happy to consider such suggestions for its improvement.

GOVERNANCE, FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

QUERY FROM OFMDFM COMMITTEE

I have replied to the OFMDFM Committee providing it with the information it requested on salaries and SIB's use of consultancy. The Committee has not met since the note was submitted.

FINANCE TEAM

The successful candidate for the posts of Accountant has withdrawn for personal reasons. SIB is considering making an offer to the runner-up.

HR MANAGER

We will shortly re-advertise this post with a revised job description.

RECRUITMENT

A number of posts (c10) will shortly be advertised, including key positions within the HEaT, Lisanelly, T-BUC and Colin projects.