

Strategic Investment Board

Chief Executive's Report – January 2013

As the Project Managers and Strategic Advisers have completed Quarterly Reports this month, this paper will cover only the most significant issues.

PFG PROJECTS

Belfast Rapid Transit (BRT)

Patrick McMeekin is working with Ciaran de Burca to assess the potential for BRT to access European funds under the Ten-T scheme.

City of Culture

The positive press coverage of the opening of Derry~Londonderry's year as UK City of Culture was outstanding. All the national TV channels, radio stations and major newspapers reported from the city in glowing terms. There was also good coverage in the European and American media.

The DSD Minister announced that 'The Venue' was handed over to the operator on time. The first concert, "Sons and Daughters", will be held on 14th January and broadcast live by the BBC.

Colin Regeneration

The CCMS has written to me asking for SIB's support in the delivery of a new post-primary school for the Colin area.

Brenda Burns delivered four public presentations to over 800 people on the outcome of the public consultation. 2,000 responses have been received to the questionnaire issued on the future of St Colm's secondary school.

Belfast City Council has agreed to join the project team.

Desertcreat College

The Business Case for the project is still compelling, despite the increased costs. It will be for the Department of Justice, however, to determine its affordability.

E-Cars

David Orr has requested that NIAUR discuss its position with the regulator in the South, who has taken a supportive position.

ESA

Gavin Boyd has written to me asking for additional support from SIB to assist the delivery of the Education and Skills Authority. The requirement is for a Delivery Support Unit to manage a project to recruit some fifty senior positions within the Authority. ESA will bear the costs.

Lisanelly

The Minister re-affirmed his support for the project.

MLK Development Corporation

Alan Clarke, MLK Development Director, will meet the RUAS in January to begin work on the event management plan for the 2013 show. He has begun to consult stakeholders on possible uses for the community zone within the site. Work has begun on a business case for the restoration of the aircraft hangers.

The draft application for Listed Building Consent in respect of the PbCRC went to the MLK Board for approval. The Board may seek input from Ministers before its submission. The Peace III funding for the project was spent on time.

NI Prison Service Estates Strategy

Work has begun to cost the options for Magilligan prison, with a decision expected in March.

Poultry Litter SBRI Project

The project remains on schedule. A full set of competition documents was approved by the Technology Strategy Board and the project was launched publically on 10th December as planned. A public notice was placed in several local papers before Christmas to advertise the competition. It is the intention to hold an open day for prospective bidders in early Jan 2013. The competition closing date is the end of February 2013. There will then be a shortlisting of bidders to enter 'Phase One - Proof of Concept', which will commence in early May 2013.

Primary Care Infrastructure Programme

The Department has asked for an additional option to be considered in the business case for the Lagan Valley facility. KPMG are scoping a soft market testing exercise.

Regional Stadiums Programme

Crusaders FC has served papers on DCAL indicating its intention to seek a judicial review of the Department's decision to award £22.5m to the redevelopment of Windsor Park stadium. The grounds of the challenge are that the grant gives unfair state aid to Linfield Football Club.

Strategic Sites

The Strategic Sites Oversight Board has completed a draft report to OFMDFM setting out a strategy for the management and disposal of the remaining Hillsborough Sites.

Strategic Waste Programme

The Executive has approved a grant of some £35m over ten years to the North West Regional Waste Management Group. This will reduce the gate fees for the councils involved in the projects to an affordable level. Before Christmas the Chief Officers of these councils agreed to recommend to their members that the project should proceed.

REVENUE FINANCED INVESTMENT (RFI)

Leo McKenna and I met with the DE Permanent Secretary and senior officials to discuss the Department's involvement in the RFI programme. This currently comprises the Lisanelly project and an undefined element of the schools construction programme.

OTHER PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

DVA Review

The DoE Minister has ruled out any major changes to the delivery model for MoT tests. DVA staff must continue to be responsible for carrying out the tests.

HMS Caroline

DETI has written to me asking SIB to provide a Project Director for the refurbishment of HMS Caroline and associated works.

A Heritage Lottery Fund Application has been lodged, and the NHMF has confirmed c£1m funding for emergency repairs. (This will also reduce the total quantum of the HLF application). Work is continuing on the HLF Application for the H&W Headquarter Building and Drawing Office under the newly announced Heritage Enterprise Scheme.

Forest Service Wind Farms

An advertisement will be placed this week to recruit a Project Manager in support of Forest Service.

MAC

LPS have accepted a rateable value of £397,000 for the MAC, of which £387,700 is exempt. The balance of £9,300 relates to the café/bar. The annual rates liability for the enterprise is therefore some £5,500. This is a very good result for the enterprise.

Safety Centre

Ten bids have been received for the construction contract. The project is still awaiting formal grant of planning permission.

Siege of Derry Heritage Project

The HLF application of £616k was approved in December. This has allowed work to begin on the appointment of Education Officer for early next year; the procurement of an outreach vehicle and the branding of the new visitor centre.

The Design team met with the Planning Service to investigate whether a new planning application could be fast tracked.

St Comgall's

David Gilmour met Sinn Fein and Belfast Council representatives to discuss a possible application to the Social Investment Fund for support.

Waterfront Exhibition & Convention Centre

Kieran Mooney and his team are assessing the PQQ questionnaires for this project.

DEL Line of Business Applications Business Case

John Adamson has answered DFP's queries and now awaits their decision on whether to approve the OBC.

GP Out of Hours Service

John Adamson has completed the contact centre modelling and telephony analysis and has written up a detailed draft report that has been discussed with the HSC.

RESEARCH & OTHER STUDIES

Social Clauses Toolkit

Work continues on the re-configuration of the toolkit as a set of case studies.

Community Consultation Toolkit

Following the approval of the business case for this work, Brenda Burns held a meeting with the DCAL MAG to discuss next steps.

Infrastructure Audit

Work continues to plan.

SME Access to Finance Study

The report was passed to the DETI Minister's Economic Advisory Group at the end of December. Johann will discuss her findings with the group on 10 January.

Review of Commissioning and Procurement

CPD has appointed of a Grade 7 official to support Paul Priestly. We will shortly advertise for an Associate Adviser with experience in business process modelling. This will enable Paul to begin a series of facilitated workshops to map procurement procedures.

Paul has provided an update on his work to the Procurement Board and invited Permanent Secretaries to appoint members of the advisory board.

GOVERNANCE, FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Staffing

Following an open competition, a candidate has been appointed as the administrator of the ISNI Delivery Tracking System on a three year contract.

Two people have started work as Finance Officer and HR Assistant respectively.

Finance Systems

The upgrade to SIB's financial management system Opera was completed successfully. The new system improves integration with HMRC systems, enables the better management of leave and makes it easier to produce financial reports.

Audit of the Provision of Advice

The final internal audit of the year, on the Provision of Advice, will take place in late January.

External Audit

I had an initial meeting with NIAO officials at which I briefed them on the work of SIB since their last audit. It seems that the audit may be sub-contracted to a commercial firm working under the direction of the NIAO.

Kurdistan

The DETI Minister has asked SIB to join a group she has established to develop relationships with the Regional Government of Kurdistan.