

Strategic Investment Board

Interim Chief Executive's Report – January 2012

ISNI 3

The Special Advisers signed off the ISNI EQIA on 6th January. This enables the public consultation phase to go forward for both documents. The first presentation is taking place in Omagh on 9th January.

The First and deputy First Ministers will attend the Board meeting in February. The timing is fortuitous as by that time the ISNI should be approaching its final form and this will provide an opportunity to discuss any residual issues. It also fits well with the business planning cycle and provides an opportunity for the Ministers to consider the direction they wish SIB to take in the coming year.

Projects & Programmes

The Programmes and Projects Committee meets this month and will consider reports from each of the projects SIB supports.

Maze/Long Kesh (MLK) Development Corporation

The SEUPB have indicated that the bid for €20m for the PbCRC has been successful. This is an excellent result which recognises the hard work that Kyle and Mary put into this exceptionally sensitive project.

The lack of a Board for the Development Corporation is now holding up progress; for example, Kyle is unable to begin the consultation process on the draft spatial framework. Kyle spoke to the First Minister in the margins of another meeting, who confirmed that the competition would be run again before any board appointments are made.

Asset Management Unit

Scott Wilson will brief the board on his current estimates for the sums he expects the unit to raise this year.

Efforts are continuing to resolve outstanding issues with LPS regarding the respective responsibilities of it and the AMU. These are not, however, delaying progress.

Jonathan Moore, Property Advisor and Sarah O’Hanlon, a data input clerk for the ePIMS system have joined the team.

Waste Programme

A series of meetings are planned for January to consider how best to assess the viability of the programme at the strategic, as opposed to WMG, level. This work is required urgently in order to inform decisions on the NWRWMG contract.

Health Programme

The Health Infrastructure Board has approved the first Primary Health Centre within the new programme. This will be built in Banbridge using conventional capital funding. The Board has also agreed to take forward the third party funding model proposed by Leo for the majority of the remaining centres. The business case for the programme is likely to be problematic and may require Ministerial intervention. There are also accounting treatment issues. Leo will brief the Programmes and Projects Committee on the detail of these problems.

Lisanelly

The Minister has launched the next round of public consultation on the indicative campus designs.

The outcome of the Department’s appeal against the judicial review proceedings brought by Loreto College should be known shortly.

Stadiums

Pat, Wesley and I have spent considerable time working with SNI and DCAL on the Stadiums Programme. I provided DCAL with a report on my assessment of the deliverability of the programme which identified a lack of evidence on which to base any definitive conclusions. I did, however, recommend that SIB appoint a Programme Director to work within SNI and that in the period before this appointment is made an advisor should support the existing project team. DCAL accepted these proposals and Wesley has identified a very capable individual to fill the advisor role (subject to business case approval). An advert has appeared for the Programme Director role.

Desertcreat Training College

Design and Budget Reviews have taken place which confirmed there has been no scope or cost creep. The detailed design will now begin. An options appraisal for the facilities management contract is underway.

Ilex: Derry~Londonderry 'One Plan'

John Adamson is assisting Ilex with a business case for a demountable pavilion.

A meeting has been arranged to agree the terms of reference for a joint Ilex/DRD/SIB/DFP study into the potential for using asset based vehicles in the region.

NIPS

Geoff Rossington has been appointed as project manager to implement the NIPS Estates Strategy. Colin Bennet has been appointed to be the NIPS Change Programme Director. Both have already started work.

Titanic Signature Project

The NIAO report on the NITB Signature Projects generated some negative publicity but it was gratifying to see several newspapers and opinion formers re-emphasising their support for the project. Tickets sales are ahead of target. A third of these are from outside the region.

Colin Regeneration

I met Jenny Pyper (Dep Sec, DSD) and discussed the outline of the plan Brenda Burns has compiled. She was very supportive and Brenda will now move forward to engage with the other Departments who will have an interest in the scheme. Separately, Brenda briefed the Colin Partnership Board and local politicians. Sinn Fein is very supportive of the proposals and has arranged for it to be discussed by the party's Ministers. Public Consultation on the outline plan should start shortly.

Social Clauses Toolkit

The final draft of the toolkit is now complete. Mary and Kenny met the OFMDFM Ministers to brief them on it and they have agreed to sponsor its launch in Parliament Buildings. I will inform the Board when the date for this has been set and ensure members receive an invitation.

Mary and Kenny have briefed DCAL officials on how to integrate social clauses into the contracts for the stadiums programme.

Plugged in Places

The period January to March 2012 will be particularly important for the e-cars project, with the installation of the first street charging posts. Their use will depend on the new IT control system being ready and agreement being reached with NIE and the regulator regarding the payment regime. The public sector has so far agreed to buy 30 vehicles during the pilot.

Safety Centre

Pat O'Neill met the Justice Minister and briefed him on the project. He has further meetings arranged with the Permanent Secretaries of other departments who may have an interest..

DEL

SIB has signed an OPA with DEL covering our work on FE Colleges and the AMU. This is the first formal relationship we have had with DEL and means that SIB is now actively supporting projects and programmes in every NICS Department.

Governance, Finance & Administration

Finance Team

Patricia Mallon (Finance Manager) has returned from maternity leave. Stephen Jamison has returned to his role as Assistant Accountant and Grace Bartley, temporary Assistant Accountant has left at the end of her contract, happily for another position.

Internal Audit

The internal auditors have completed their review of Recruitment. The results will be reported to the Audit Committee.

NIAO

Patricia, Stephen and I had a useful initial meeting with the new audit team in the NIAO who will be working on our accounts.

OFMDFM

Alan Maitland has moved to another post within OFMDFM. Tim Losty has taken over his role.