

# Strategic Investment Board

## Interim Chief Executive's Report – May 2011

### ISNI 3

There has been no change to the status of the draft ISNI during the election period. I understand that the new OFMDFM committee will wish to take evidence from SIB on the ISNI in the week commencing 13th June.

### Projects & Programmes

#### *Asset Management Unit*

The selection panel for the post of head of AMU interviewed four candidates. Each was impressive in his or her own way. Their technical knowledge was excellent and they had clearly thought carefully about the challenges of the post. It was, however, the unanimous opinion of the selection panel that only one of the candidates had both the experience and knowledge to be successful in the post and also the credibility and interpersonal skills required to work effectively with senior civil servants, ministers and other stakeholders.

The selection panel has now turned its attention to the two AMU Strategic Advisor Posts. A sift meeting identified those candidates that met the essential criteria and will proceed to interview. This process should be complete by 25<sup>th</sup> May.

The work of the interim asset management unit continues to focus on identifying disposals that will achieve the Executive's £10m target for this financial year. Work also continues on extending the use of ePIMS and planning a 'kick off' seminar/conference in the second half of the year.

#### *Maze/Long Kesh*

Kyle Alexander has submitted MLK's business plan for 2011/12 to OFMDFM. Once approved this will, in effect, establish the Development Corporation.

Although Ministers have approved the advertisements and general approach to the recruitment of a Chairman and Board for the Corporation, they have not yet approved the membership of the selection panel.

The independent Economic Appraisal for European funding for the Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Centre (PBCRC) has been completed and submitted. Although the report is confidential, I understand that it has made a positive recommendation.

#### *Lisanelly*

The Department of Education has, as expected, decided to appeal the judgement in the Loreto College Judicial Review.

The programme team is working with CPD to identify a suitable procurement strategy for the site decontamination survey.

#### *Waste Programme*

Alan McVicker will attend the Board meeting and provide a detailed report.

#### *NI Prison Infrastructure*

The Director General of the Prison Service has asked SIB to provide a project director for the forthcoming estates review. This will be an important study that will shape the future of the service for the next twenty years. Because of its significance the terms of reference are to be submitted to the Minister for approval.

#### *Rapid Transit*

A consortium of Arup, Atkins and KPMG has been appointed to advise the Rapid Transit team. This follows a very long (9 month) procurement. The new advisers will be responsible, under Ciaran de Burca's direction, for producing the OBC, managing the procurements and carrying out route surveys.

The statutory consultation process for 'Belfast on the Move', (the transport master plan for Belfast), has been completed and the funding is in place. The main aim of the proposals is to reorganise traffic management within Belfast city centre to facilitate a reduction in general traffic levels and encourage walking, cycling and public transport use.

The Public Transport Bill has received Royal Assent.

#### *London~Derry City of Culture*

Fiona Kane has been working with the new City of Culture Team and Derry City Council to help enthuse the local business community and attract sponsorship. She is also helping plan for the opening of the peace bridge in June. Wesley Emmett continues his work on the recruitment of senior staff to the Culture Company. I will be attending the inaugural meeting of the Culture Company Board on 17<sup>th</sup> May.

### *BMC*

Construction of BMC continues to proceed according to plan.

### *TQSP*

The operator contract for TQSP has now been signed.

### *Libraries*

The Whiterock Library refurbishment was completed on time and budget. The Falls and Shankhill projects are due to complete in June.

The Chief Executive of Libraries NI has written to SIB seeking assistance with 'E2' a project to replace the current Electronic Libraries for Northern Ireland PFI contract. They are specifically seeking legal support from Gregor Hamilton as an alternative to procuring specialist legal consultancy.

## **Governance, Finance & Administration**

### *Finance*

The external audit by the NIAO continues. The Audit Committee will see the draft accounts this month. The final draft, together with the NIAO's report, will be considered in June.

### *Customer Feedback & Performance Appraisals*

As part of the process of completing annual appraisals for the advisers and senior staff I wrote to SIB's customers seeking feedback on each individual's performance. This feedback has been extremely positive and demonstrates the high value that is placed on the work of SIB staff. Once the process is complete I will collate the comments and circulate them in confidence to Board members.

### *Meeting with First and deputy First Ministers*

A request has been lodged with the Ministers' Private Office for a meeting with the Board in June.