

Strategic Investment Board

Interim Chief Executive's Report – October 2011

ISNI 3

Martin is preparing a further paper on funding the ISNI which will be available for the Board meeting. He and I will be meeting Richard Bullick and Paul Kavanagh on 12th October to discuss these emergent ideas.

We have provided OFMDFM with drafting suggestions for references to the Investment Strategy in the Programme for Government. We have also suggested adding additional references to 'Social Clauses'.

I met a number of London-based pension fund and insurance investment managers and discussed what they looked for when considering investing in public sector infrastructure projects. In summary; they are looking for 25 yr projects that have stable, sustainable income flows which are also inflation-proof. They have little interest in accepting construction, technological, regulatory or political risk. This position is significant, given that banks (pos-Basel III) will be unable/unwilling to offer long-term finance, but might be prepared to fund the construction phase of a project if it could then sell it on once it had entered the steady state operational phase. These factors have a bearing on the types of project that will be suitable for private financing in the future.

Projects & Programmes

Asset Management Unit

The team has obtained agreement from DFP to changes in the standard NI Lease. This is significant as there is considerable disquiet in the market over the terms of the current government lease which, developers argue, makes it difficult for them to attract institutional investors.

The AMU Seminar will be held on 13th October in the Stormont Pavilion. 36 senior staff from the NICS have agreed to attend. If any Board member would like a place, please let Terri or Scott know.

Health Programme

Patrick and Leo expect to have the Strategic Business Case for the programme complete by the end of October and, subsequent to the required approvals, intend to go to market in the first quarter of 2012.

The team visited Wales, which has recently delivered its twentieth facility using the model we intend to follow. There are significant opportunities to benefit from their experience, particularly in the development of documentation.

Maze/Long Kesh (MLK) Development Corporation

OFMDFM has approved the business case for the Peace Building and Conflict Reconciliation Centre (PbCRC) at MLK.

The procurement has begun of a design team for the centre and discussions continue with stakeholders.

The advertisements for a Chairman and Board for the MLK Development Corporation have engendered an encouraging response which OFMDFM is now processing.

Fiona Kane met Stephen Grimason and the Chief Executives of SEUPB and RUAS to discuss a coordinated communications effort to support announcements on the future of the site.

A motor festival, 'The Motorsport Festival of Speed' has ambitious plans to use the MLK site in April 2012.

Lisanelly

The DE Ministerial policy announcement was particularly helpful to Lisanelly as it stressed the importance of all the concepts that this project embodies and means that it is now a flagship for the Department's new approach.

The design work for the new campus is progressing well and it will be capable of supporting a planning application by November.

Desertcreat Training College

DFP have approved the Business Case and, subject to Programme Board approval tomorrow, work can begin in earnest.

DVA Contract

David Gilmour has prepared a scoping document setting out the negotiating strategy for the four key areas that require agreement from the current supplier. A meeting will be held this week with the Permanent Secretary at DoE to gain his endorsement for this approach.

Derry~Londonderry 'One Plan'

I met Aideen McGinley to discuss her requirements for support for the implementation of the Derry~Londonderry 'One Plan'. Her staff are to provide a detailed list of these needs, which will include help on the development and marketing of the ex-Military sites; soft market testing; legal assistance; and help with engagement with departments. This is likely to require considerable resources and I will discuss the detailed requirement with the Programmes and Projects Committee when it is available.

Education

Martin Spollen is carrying out work to analyse the future requirements for primary schools and Further Education colleges.

Titanic Quarter

The TQ Signature Project continues on schedule.

The operations staff have been successful in already meeting some 50% of their Year 1 targets for visitor bookings. These include some 20,000 confirmed bookings from tour operators.

NI Prisons Service

The Estates Strategy is now in final draft form, following a discussion of its contents with the Director-General. Further work is being carried out to examine the feasibility of using Mazarene barracks to address significant overcrowding issues.

Holylands

Our GIS adviser is preparing an interactive map showing potential sites for student accommodation in Belfast. We intend to make this available to all stakeholders through the SIB web site.

G-Cloud

Following the positive results of an initial consultation exercise, we are now drafting a Strategic Outline Case for this project.

Commercialisation

Further meetings are planned with Forest Service and DCAL to agree their commercialisation strategies.

Derry City of Culture

I attended a Culture Company Board Meeting and a briefing for local business leaders. Now that the team is in place it is making good progress on the initial draft of the cultural programme and the development of sponsorship and grant opportunities. The Board approved the draft business plan and this has now been submitted to DCAL.

Belfast Metropolitan College (BMC)

SIB is assisting BMC with the disposal of its former sites in central Belfast.

Social Regeneration

Mary, Wesley and I ran an induction day for the new Associate Advisers. They have a range of relevant skills, experience and knowledge which will be a great asset to SIB. Kenny Knox is their manager and is drafting a work-plan for the next six months.

Mary and I met Denis McMahon, the new Deputy Secretary in OFMDFM who has asked for support with the evaluation of proposals made under Peace III and the new Victims and Survivors Service.

Plugged in Places (e-Cars)

Planning for the location of the first charging points is complete and the first one should be operational by December. The plans envisage at least one charging point in each county by the end of Year 2. The Minister will launch the project brand on 12th October and substantial publicity is expected. The project has obtained new sponsorship from SAP and Intel which will enable detailed cloud-based data analysis of the outcomes of the pilots.

Museum Arts Centre (MAC)

Bryan will report to the Board this week. The project completion date has slipped from November to January and there are still a number of issues to resolve regarding the business plan. Bryan is meeting the DSD Permanent Secretary today to provide a report on the project's deliverability.

Minister of Justice

I will be meeting the Minister of Justice on October 23 to discuss the work that we are doing with his Department.

Governance, Finance & Administration

Recruitment & Staffing

The Remuneration Committee has been asked to approve the appointment of the following posts:

- Strategic Adviser - Educational Investment
- Associate Legal Counsel
- Project Manager - Community Regeneration
- Associate Strategic Advisers;
- Waste Programme - Temporary Project Accountant
- Internships (DoE)

Admin Review

Julie Monahan and I have begun a review of SIB's requirements for administrative support.