

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

February 2010

ISNI 3 2011-2021

We are holding a workshop on the 19/2 with officials in DFP and OFMDFM to agree a modus operandi hereon in; it will hopefully iron out any of the issues that frustrated parties in delivering and settling ISNI 2.

We are still awaiting confirmation from Ministers regarding the production of consumer leaflet but hopefully as part of the backlog we will soon be asked to get this moving.

CENTRAL ASSET REALISATION TEAM (CART)

The second report remains with FM and dFM. We are however making good progress to make some headway on our two pilot projects with DFP and DARD. We will also cover CART at the workshop above as receipts will clearly be an element in the next ISNI and we do need some traction in terms of agreeing amounts et al.

PROJECTS/ PROGRAMMES

Education – As you know, we are holding the Board meeting at The Girls Model on Thursday and attached is a short report that captures the key deliverables. We are also seeking to ascertain more precisely what the impact of this new shared facility will be on the community and how it will directly improve people's lives. Obtaining these metrics will inform future investment decisions, something which has perhaps been lacking hitherto.

The appointment of a preferred bidder on **Lagan and TorBank schools** project is imminent.

I attended **two workshops** in the past few weeks that the Department has held chaired by John McGrath. The first was on the way forward with **Lisanelly** and there is now a clearer direction on what needs to be done to engage with the schools in Omagh. The second was on the **Belfast Schools** estate following the difficult discussions we had last year with the private sector partners. It is readily apparent that the task ahead is considerable and John is very keen for additional SIB support given the size of the task. I would like to discuss this on Thursday.

Titanic Signature Project – An update to the project was held in Titanic Quarter at the end of last month with all stakeholders present. It was very well received and the Board will get the chance next month to see the site as we are in Titanic House for the Board meeting and the first ISNI seminar on finance.

I mentioned previously that work is being undertaken to look at a co-ordinated programme for 2012; Len O'Hagan is very kindly hosting an event with Peter McNaney and others to start to agree an action plan. The "Tall Ships" event was a good example of what we have in mind to ensure that we showcase Belfast and indeed all the region to maximise the experience for all in 2012.

MLK – Kyle is organising a dinner with RUAS, AFBI, DARD and OFMDFM to see what potential there might be to establish an Agricultural Centre of Excellence with AFBI's commercial operations at MLK as part of this.

AFBI – We had a meeting with the Chair and Deputy Chair last month to discuss the arrangements they are pursuing to recruit a new CEO. There is an alignment here with the work we have been doing for AFBI on **commercialisation**. They have asked us to produce a short report that they would like to discuss with their Board. We will then meet Malcolm McKibbin in DARD.

Belfast Central Library – The Minister has yet to revert on the Strategic Outline Case which he received prior to Christmas. Hopefully he and the new Permanent Secretary, Rosalie Flanagan, might be able to advise us on how they would like to progress matters. I am concerned that we will lose another quarter and I have been liaising with Edgar Jardine.

Belfast City Council – Girdwood – Peter McNaney has asked us to help his team in responding to the requirements to produce an Economic Appraisal for the SEUPB bid where they have been short-listed. Leo McKenna is supporting this as he was on the original team that sat a couple of years ago under the aegis of Roy Adams.

West Belfast and Shankhill (WB&S) – We are waiting for date to arrange a meeting with key stakeholders in WB&S. We have also had an internal meeting with DE on the first project that we have been asked to help deliver.

East Belfast Partnership (EBP) – Scott Wilson attended the EBP Away Days and is making good progress on a number of fronts.

GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL SYSTEMS

Funding – Following the February monitoring we have carried out a further review and have provided OFMDFM with an assurance for the year end. Brett will update the Board.

SIB Away Day – We held a very constructive day at Castle Espie last month. There was some fruitful discussion and some excellent presentations by the Deputy Chief Constable, Judith Gillespie, and Máirtín Ó Muilleoir. I will apprise the Board on Thursday.

GENERAL

Belfast – City of the Quarters March 26th 2010 – Arrangements for the conference being organised by Belfast Media Group seem to be in good shape.

Belfast – The Forum for Alternative Belfast – BCC have held two events in the past few weeks with presentations by FAB. Both have been well attended and it is readily apparent that there is some real interest being generated in how to bring “great spaces” back to Belfast.

Royal Society of Ulster Architects – We have also agreed to co-sponsor a sustainable buildings award with the Sustainable Development Commission in OFMDFM. This is the first time this award will be made.

Infrastructure (Ireland) 2030 Taskforce Report – The report, undertaken by Engineers Ireland/ Irish Academy of Engineering, looking at the infrastructure needs on the island of Ireland to 2030 and commissioned by Intertrade Ireland, is being presented by Liam Connellan, the Chair, to the Taoiseach on the 24th February in Dublin. He has kindly invited me to attend this event and he has also written to FM and dFM to present the report here in Belfast as soon after this date as possible. It would be great if this happened as the report is likely to gain some attention.

Infrastructure UK – Leo and I attended the major launch event last month in London. It was well attended; particularly noteworthy were comments made by Lord Davies, Minister of State for Trade as well as a number of interesting comments made by the Shadow Economic Secretary, David Gauke MP (2005) on the Conservative Party's view on PFI et al.

Infrastructure Investment Conference March 11th 2010 – Details of the conference are available on <http://www.infrastructureireland.com/5thannual/programme.html>.

SIB/DNG
07/02/10