

## **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

### **January 2009**

#### **ISNI 2008-2018**

The 3 Health Investment Delivery Plans (IDPs) still remain outstanding. In the meantime we are making progress with the Delivery Tracking System but it has not gone as smoothly as it might. We are going through a further round to garner support at a senior level in the hope that there is a robust MIS across the 11 government departments for the next financial year. This will be an invaluable tool for both the Executive and also stakeholders who are frustrated at the lack of clear information.

We had a follow-up meeting with the Construction Employers Federation to address the concerns that their members have. We agreed to have a further meeting next month to discuss the prospects for the following financial year. We will need to have further meetings with stakeholders to ensure that they feel that we are addressing their concerns as well as we can in the circumstances.

In relation to the Long Term Capital Planning Group, we will try and arrange a meeting next month. We will then also have the benefit of the Delivery Tracking System which will hopefully mean these new arrangements will allow, in time, better management of the programme.

#### **CENTRAL ASSET REALISATION TEAM (CART)**

Ed Vernon's review of the CRT report is now fully underway and we have had a couple of useful sessions with him in the past week. We will give the Board an update when we meet.

#### **REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (RDS)**

Good progress is being made on the RDS and Johann will run through the latest developments. I think the RDS team at DRD and Paul Priestly are pleased with our input and we are due to update a sub-committee of the Executive later this month.

#### **PROJECTS/ PROGRAMMES**

This quarter the advisers have provided case reports so I will be brief:

- **Education** – We have written to John McGrath with the outline for the workshop to determine a strategic way forward on the educational estate. The intention is that this workshop will be attended by key stakeholders with a view of setting out as clearly as we can a solid programme of work following the litigation that has delayed the programme (albeit single procurements are now under way).
- **Health** – Progress continues with the selected partner on Enniskillen and we are still aiming to achieve financial close by the end of March 2009. In terms of the funding of the hospital, Leo and I will be meeting with the banks that have been shortlisted following the issuance of an Information Memorandum last. John Cole from DHSSPS will also join these meetings.

We will also meet Cheryl Fisher at EIB to update her on the progress being made and ensure that we are in the best place possible to close this project in this financial year. Based on these discussions we will need to provide the Accounting Officer with a letter to substantiate the rationale for proceeding, notwithstanding the deterioration in pricing in funding for this major project.

In terms of Omagh Local Hospital, Health Estates is still reviewing the business need and in particular the mental health provision.

- **Belfast Metropolitan College** – Progress has been slow on the funding of BMC although on Friday we were advised by TQL that Ulster Bank is prepared once again to fund the project. We are awaiting a term sheet which is due imminently.
- **Titanic Signature Project** – We will update the Board when we meet.
- **Omagh/ Lisanelly and St Lucia** – Although there has not been anything concrete, it does seem that this project is moving forward and dFM made a very positive statement about it at the City Regions Conference in Derry (see below). The Minister of Education will chair the Steering Committee for this project.
- **Belfast City Council** – We have a further meeting with BCC on the North Foreshore next week and hope that we might agree a method for us to work fully with them in taking forward this project.
- **Workplace 2010** – We held a Steering Committee meeting on Monday to examine what we do following the acquisition by Telereal of the Trillium business. There has been one conversation with the purchaser and the indications are that they see little prospect of proceeding with the estate transfer given today's markets. Nevertheless they are keen to find some new way to keep an on-going relationship. We agreed that we would need to consider carefully the position and consult closely with the Minister and HOCS on how best we should proceed, mindful that we want a clean exit in the event that this is the decision. We also spent some time considering the implications on public expenditure if an off-balance sheet transaction did not proceed.
- **MLK** – It looks as if we will have to extend the procurement for a further period which is disappointing. We however are working on a major potential opportunity and we will apprise the Board when we meet. Mary McKee and other colleagues in OFMDFM have been in Brussels meeting key stakeholders on the potential for a conflict transformation centre that is causing much interest at a political level.

## GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL SYSTEMS

- **Staffing/ Recruitment** – Ciaran de Burca has started as Project Director of the Rapid Transit project. He is currently working his way round the principal stakeholders and will meet the Board, probably next month.



## GENERAL

- **Scottish Futures Trust** – The dinner arranged in London for Sir Angus on the 15<sup>th</sup> January proved very useful. It will be interesting to note how matters develop with the SFT in the coming months.
- **City Region Conference** – The first of four conferences around the island of Ireland was held in Derry on the 15/1. It was well attended and there was some excellent presentations including a person from LSE whom we will follow-up with in relation to our work on the RDS. I gave a short speech which I think was well received.
- **Engineers Ireland** – I attended the first of a series of meetings in Dublin on the 16/1 on the implications on the island's infrastructure, assuming that the island's population grows to 8m people by 2030 which is being forecast by a number of reputable forecasters. Liam Connellan is chairing these meetings and the first session was very insightful. There are four representatives from Northern Ireland with about ten in attendance.
- **All Island Infrastructure Investment Conference 2009** – Owen has finalised the arrangements for AIIC on the 11/12 March in Belfast at the Waterfront Hall. It has come together well and I hope you all have it in your diaries.

SIB/DNG  
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