

## **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

**May 2009**

### **ISNI 2008-2018**

Following a very helpful engagement with Finance Directors, we are hopeful that the Delivery Tracking System will be more or less fully operational in the next few weeks. This will enable us to, in turn, launch the Investment Strategy portal which will be available at the Construction Procurement conference that is being organised by the Construction Employers Federation on the 11 June. Bruce Robinson has invited us to attend PSG this Friday to update everyone.

We have also made good progress on agreeing the format of a forum which will enable departments to consider the potential implications of the changing nature of the capital investment programme in the next Budget cycle and beyond. It is, however, critical that such a forum does not alter the normal process that departments need to agree any changes in their investment programme with DFP in the first instance and then the Executive.

Following the Budget last month we are doing some preliminary work on potential scenarios for capital investment. Once these are more fully developed we will meet John McMillen and Richard Pengelly to discuss the potential ramifications. We anticipate that we will be in a position to update the Board next month.

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

Good progress is being made on the interim report; I will update when we meet.

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

There is an Interdepartmental session on the RDS later this week; we have commented on the first draft. We will update the Board when we meet.

### **PROJECTS/ PROGRAMMES**

- **Education** – Denis McMahon has commenced the secondment to the Department for 6 months following the expiry of his secondment with the Department of the Environment. In relation to the potential educational campus at Lisanelly in Omagh, the Minister of Education called a meeting which Denis and I attended with Eugene Rooney. She is very committed to seeing this project happening. The principal issue that remains outstanding is the disposal/transfer of the land but in the meantime she is proceeding with work on a more detailed feasibility plan and also an active engagement with

stakeholders to ensure full buy-in. There is much to do in education and Denis will be fully occupied. We have, however, helped reach financial close on Down and Connor Schools, scheduled to occur shortly. We will now need to turn our energies to Lagan and TorBank, albeit there are greater obstacles to overcome. We are also aware that there are some impending difficulties in the funding arrangements for Integrated Schools and we are assisting IEF to determine a better way forward.

- **Health** – Enniskillen Hospital is due to achieve financial close in the week commencing the 18/5. We are waiting for confirmation from Barclays Bank that they have group sign off which should be later this week. We believe that the four other funders have their approvals in place so we should be able to reach close; this will be an amazing achievement in the current market.
- **Further and Higher Education (FHE)** – Belfast Metropolitan College achieved financial close at the beginning of April with the formal launch held last week. The Minister gave the keynote speech and he was generous in his praise for the support we have given the Department. Pat O’Neill is to be congratulated and he continues to work with Tom Redmond to look at future opportunities in the FHE.
- **Titanic Signature Project** – We are making good progress on this project too. We hope that we might be in a position to sign also next week albeit there is one issue that may delay us with HMRC sign-off.
- **MLK** – Mary McKee continues to work hard on the Conflict Transformation Centre. Kyle has also been liaising with SpAds and officials in OFMdFM on how we can now best give effect to Minister’s wishes for the site and we hope that we are going to see some significant momentum in the coming months. An important ingredient in the mix will be how Invest NI will seek to promote the site.
- **Stadia** – DCAL has asked us to support them in looking at the options now the stadium at MLK is no longer proceeding. Bill Reid and Pat O’Neill are taking this work forward.
- **Odyssey** – DCAL has also asked us to assist them further in looking at potential ways forward in relation to the Odyssey. This will be an interesting assignment; Michael Donnelly and I will be undertaking this exercise.

## **GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL SYSTEMS**

**Staffing.** [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have resigned to take up new appointments. [REDACTED] benefited enormously from his attendance at the Federal Executive Institute residential course in Washington and has returned much enthused.

## **GENERAL**

**European Investment Bank** – Tom Barrett was keen to highlight at a recent meeting the appetite that EIB has to increase its loan exposure to NI; the bank at the moment is a period of significant expansion and he would like to help us wherever possible. I have suggested that we might arrange a dinner with Tom.

**Construction Industry Council Report** – I circulated last week an initiative that the CIC has taken in the RoI and we are now exploring how we might try and see if something similar can be done here. I will raise this at our meeting.

**SIB/DNG**

**12/05/09**