

**MINUTES OF THE OFMDFM DEPARTMENTAL BOARD MEETING  
ON 6 MARCH 2008**

**PRESENT:** Sir Nigel Hamilton (Chair), Mary Bunting  
Frank Cushnahan, Rosalie Flanagan, George Gray,  
Stephen Grimason, Jackie Kerr, Deirdre Kenny and  
John McMillen

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Kyle Alexander, Mark Higgins (Secretary),  
Alan Maitland and June Wilkinson.

**APOLOGIES:** Eddie Rooney.

**Maze/ Long Kesh**

1. Sir Nigel Hamilton welcomed the Regeneration Sites Team to the meeting and invited the team to provide an update on the current position regarding the Maze / Long Kesh Regeneration Programme Level, Outline Business Case (OBC) which is being processed by the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) along with the affordability assessment.
  
2. The Board discussed the OBC for the regeneration of the site with particular focus on the context, i.e. the changed authorising environment with the transition from direct rule to devolution and the methodology used whereby the Non-Monetary Assessments were assessed as outweighing the very significant Net Present Cost in the recommended option (5). The Board also discussed the affordability aspect, particularly the significant and as yet unresolved issues around "on-off" balance sheet; sunk costs; unavoidable infrastructure schemes and in relation to capital costs

the significant differences in assessed capital costs between the two consultancy exercises.

3. In terms of the stadium the Board's discussion focused on the inter-relationship between the overall plan viability, the scheme, and the considerations of the stadium issues. The Board also considered the importance of reputation and particularly the relative comparisons of the impact on Northern Ireland's image, reputation etc of either proceeding as planned or not proceeding as planned. The risk associated with the OBC was also discussed with emphasis on the essential requirement to have risk assessed at every point in the process, and in respect of every working assumption made and methodology used.
4. It was agreed that the Regenerations Sites Team would make an early submission to Ministers which would highlight the key points discussed by the Departmental Board and seek confirmation from Ministers on the overall aims of the project. **Action: John McMillen/ Alan Maitland.**

### **Review of Structures and Functions**

5. The Board discussed a paper from Jackie Kerr which would be subject to further development and will form the basis of a submission to Ministers on the Department's structures, functions, and staffing levels for the Programme for Government (PfG) 2008-11 period and beyond. The paper included a summary of a compilation of all returns made by Directorates to the February 2008 exercise conducted by Finance Division to identify efficiency savings.

6 Jackie Kerr's paper advised that as the Department is continuing to operate on the model and structures established in 1999 there is a need for the Board to critically re-evaluate current Directorate, Divisional and Branch structures in the current Devolved context, severe financial constraints and 9 years into the existence of OFMDFM. The paper made some suggestions for the Board's consideration.

7. It was agreed that:

(1) further consideration would be given to possible structures by the Directors in four key Directorates, i.e. Executive Information Service, Executive Services Directorate, Equality Directorate and Resources, Regeneration RPA and International Relations Directorate;

(2) relevant Directors would submit their revised proposals for re-structuring to John McMillen and Jackie Kerr to evaluate and challenge, in addition to proposals submitted previously; and

(3) a further paper on efficiency savings with revised proposals for re-structuring would be submitted to the Board for early consideration by correspondence or a special meeting. **Action: John McMillen /Jackie Kerr.**

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

8. The next meeting is re-scheduled from 27.3.08 to Wednesday 9.4.08 at 13.30 p.m. in Room 233, Dundonald House.

**Mark Higgins**

21 March 2008