

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING – 15 JANUARY 2007

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP BOARD AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT PANELS

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

AGENDA ITEM: 5

SUMMARY: **Setting out proposals on role of the Strategic Leadership Board and its the Terms of Reference.**

ACTION REQUIRED: **Agreement on Terms of Reference.**

Introduction

1. The Local Government Taskforce was established by the Department of the Environment in March 2006, to develop a programme of local government modernisation and implement decisions flowing from the Review of Public Administration. The first phase of this work is now complete and the Taskforce subgroups have produced proposals to inform policy and legislation as well as identifying key tasks for implementation.
2. In order to move into the next, implementation phase, there was consensus among all stakeholders that a review of the Taskforce structure and its delivery mechanisms was required. This review is now complete and agreement has now been reached between the Department of the Environment and local government that the Taskforce should be reconfigured into a Strategic Leadership Board supported by five Policy Development Panels.

Strategic Leadership Board

3. The Strategic Leadership Board will be the sponsoring group for the overall local government modernisation and RPA implementation programme. It will be the pinnacle of and driver for the modernisation and reform programme, and will be chaired by the Minister with responsibility for the Department of the Environment. Its vice chair will be the President of the Northern Ireland Local Government Association.

4. The remit and functions of the Strategic Leadership Board will be to:

- agree a joint overall vision for local government;
- be the pinnacle of and driver for the overall local government modernisation and RPA implementation programme;
- agree the detailed remit, functions, priorities and composition of the Policy Development Panels;
- approve the programme of work to be taken forward by the Policy Development Panels and others, monitor the progress of programme delivery, ensure co-ordination across the Policy Development Panels, and provide visible leadership and commitment to the programme and clarity on the expected outcomes;
- approve the programme communication strategy and monitor its delivery;
- advise the Minister on key decisions in relation to the programme.

Policy Development Panels

5. The Strategic Leadership Board will be supported by five Policy Development Panels, each of which will be chaired by an elected member from the Strategic Leadership Board. The Policy Development Panels will be responsible for the following work areas:

- Human Resources and Capacity Building
- Shared Services, Finance and Estates
- Community Planning and Governance
- Central/Local Government Relations and Performance Management
- Transfer of Functions

6. The detailed remit and functions of Policy Development Panels will be determined by the Strategic Leadership Board, but the general remit and functions of the Policy Development Panels will be to:
- lead the development of a detailed programme of work within their policy areas and to agree that programme with the Strategic Leadership Board;
 - commission projects on specific areas and key work streams;
 - to report regularly on progress to the Strategic Leadership Board;
 - to identify and manage linkages within their own as well as other Panel policy areas;
 - to develop, where appropriate, proposals for local pilots in specific geographic areas.

Secretariat Support

7. The Strategic Leadership Board and the Policy Development Panels will be supported by a Secretariat provided jointly by the Department of the Environment and the Northern Ireland Local Government Association.

Review

8. The operation of the Strategic Leadership Board and Policy Development Panels will be subject to external review within a year of their establishment and annually thereafter.