

LOCAL GOVERNMENT TASKFORCE
CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONS SUB-GROUP MEETING
NOTE OF MEETING
HELD AT 2.00 PM ON WEDNESDAY 14TH JUNE 2006 IN THE GALGORM
MANOR HOTEL, BALLYMENA

In attendance: Wavell Moore (Chair)
 Angela Fitzpatrick (Secretary)
 Colin Knox (UUJ)
 Stephen Finlay (SOLACE)
 Ken Webb (North Down)
 Esther Mulholland (Moyle)
 Andrew Hassard (Belfast)
 Barney Heywood (Omagh)
 Liam Flanigan (Limavady)
 Kate Lagan (SDLP)
 Liz Johnston (UUP)
 Stephen Huggett (Sein Fein)
 Michael Briggs (NICVA)
 Robert Heyburn for Victor Douglas (DCAL)
 Jim Wilkinson (DOE Planning)
 Stephen Martin (DSD)
 Gerry Arkins (DOE)
 Pauline Hughes (DOE)

Apologies: Lorraine Crawford (Craigavon)
 Alan Cardwell (Carrickfergus)
 Naomi Long (Alliance)
 Mervyn Storey (DUP)
 Eleanor Gill (GCCNI)
 Drew Haire (OFMDFM)
 David McCune (DETI)
 Nigel Carson (DHSSPS)
 Barry Jordan (DRD Roads Service)
 Seamus McCrystal (DFP)
 Richard Kemp (IdeA)
 Eleanor Kelly (IdeA)
 Colin Reid (IOD)

1. INTRODUCTION & WELCOME

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

2. NOTE OF THE MEETING 31ST MAY 2006

The note of the meeting on 31st May 2006 was agreed.

3. REVIEW AND COMMENT ON FINAL DRAFT REPORT

The Chair advised the group that as per the Note of the Meeting on 31st May 2006, a final draft of the report had been circulated to members for consideration in advance of the meeting. The Chair thanked members of the group for their contributions and input to the report to date and asked whether there were any further comments. Following a plenary discussion, it was agreed that a “final final draft” report would be produced to reflect comments and circulated to all members of the group for consideration/sign off. In light of the discussion, it was agreed the following areas would be addressed in the final version of the report:

- The reference to liquor licensing should be removed;
- The role of the Minister for Local Government and the Local Government Division should be extended to include responsibility for communities;
- There is merit in including alternative options in relation to nominating to the Partnership Panel;
- There is a need for some further consideration of the 4 year cycle to take account of political, budgetary cycles etc.;
- There is a need to reflect the need to maintain momentum in relation to relationships/culture (cross cutting issue – capacity building group); and
- There is a need to consider where the statutory power to nominate to the partnership panel lies;

- 3.1** Following the plenary discussion, The Chair asked the political party representatives on the Sub Group for their views on the final draft report. All those present advised that they were content with the report. Andrew Hassard advised that he had spoken with Noami Long in advance of the meeting and he could advise that she too was content with the report. The Chair advised that he intended to meet with Mervyn Storey later in the week to get his views.

4. NEXT STEPS

As a result of the feedback received during the plenary session, it was agreed that a final version draft of the report would be produced and circulated to members for consideration/sign off. It was agreed that due to the limited extent of comments, it would not be necessary to hold a full meeting of the group as planned for 21st June 2006. Instead, the report would be circulated to members early next week and individuals would be given until the end of the week to comment before the report would be signed off and submitted to the Taskforce and Political Panel.

5. A.O.B

The Chair took the opportunity to thank all members of the Sub Group for their valuable contributions and attendance at meetings.