



LOCAL GOVERNMENT TASKFORCE

COMMUNITY PLANNING SUB GROUP

Note of meeting, 2nd May 2006, Ramada Hotel, Shaw's Bridge, Belfast

Present:

Tom McCall – Chair
Peter Daniels – IDeA
Kevin Wilson – IDeA
Damian McKeivitt - DOE
Ciarán Rogan – Translink
Marie-Therese McGivern – Belfast City Council
David Jackson – NI Policing Board
Bill Majury – NI Fire & Rescue Service
Joan McCoy – Castlereagh Borough Council
Sharon O’Gorman – Armagh City & District Council
Peter Farrar – PSNI
Colin McClintock – Lisburn City Council
Angela Clarke – DSD
Barry Jordan – DRD
Sam Knox – CEHOG
Cllr Lynn Frazer – Alliance Party
Drew Haire – OFMDFM
Stewart Cuddy – NIHE
Cllr. David McClarty MLA – Ulster Unionist Party
Shirley McCay – NI Local Economic Development Forum
Jim Stewart – DOE
Gareth Harper - Rural Community Network (NI)
Colm Bradley – Community Technical Aid
Kieran Doherty – Coleraine Borough Council
Damian McAuley – Invest NI
David McCune – DETI
Robert Heyburn – DCAL
Dympna McGlade – Community Relations Council
Nick Mack – Rural Development Council
David Lennox – NIO, Community Safety Unit
Gillian Ardis – NIO, Policing Reforms Division
Alison McCullagh – Omagh District Council
Séamus McAleavey – NICVA
Greg Magee - DOE

Apologies: Chris Stewart – DE
Des Murray – APSE
Julie Cuming – OFMDFM CEPU
Karen McFarland – Strabane District Council
Angus Kerr – Planning Service

1. The Chair of the sub group, Tom McCall, welcomed all those attending and invited them to briefly introduce themselves and indicate the organisation they were representing on the community planning sub group. He then gave the meeting an overview of the context within which the sub group was established, outlining the background to the Review of Public administration, the decisions taken and the elements of the DoE Taskforce - which incorporates a Working Group, A Political Panel and nine sub groups, one of which was community planning.

Draft Terms of Reference

2. The draft Terms of Reference under which the community planning sub group is to operate was circulated to members in advance of the meeting. To ensure that all members had adequate time to fully consider the Terms of Reference the Chair suggested that any substantive comments members may have should be forwarded to the group secretariat in advance of the next meeting. A draft final version will be tabled for approval at that meeting.

Improvement & Development Agency

3. The DoE has provided a support resource to the sub group through the Improvement and development Association. The IDEA peers spoke at length about their experiences of Community Planning both in England and Scotland. Councillor Kevin Wilson provided a definition of Community Planning as 'planning to meet the community's needs and aspirations over a time frame'. He advised that the approach should be holistic and realistic but inspirational, and vision must be the key driver. He emphasised the importance of engaging with and gaining the commitment of all the key economic, social and environmental drivers (public, voluntary/community and private sectors).
4. Peter Daniels spoke about the development of Community Planning in Scotland detailing the achievements, lessons learned and the current position.

Programme of work / Research Requirements

5. The Chair suggested to the group that there were a number of major pieces of work that could be initially identified and which had to be completed within a tight timescale. For this reason he proposed to divide these amongst smaller working groups. Marie-Therese McGivern volunteered to lead on coordinating the preparation of a draft

paper which would provide background to the current legislative position regarding community planning in the UK and RoI. This will identify the key issues to be addressed in relation to specific legislative proposals to enable the duty of community planning and the power of well being to be devolved to local councils in Northern Ireland. Other group members were invited to volunteer to participate and assist with this work.

Study Visit

6. To inform the deliberations of the sub group it was agreed that a fact finding/study visit to Scotland would be arranged. This would allow representatives from all of the sectors participating in the sub group to meet with key figures within the Scottish Executive and Scottish local government to exchange ideas and experiences of community planning in Scotland. Peter Daniels has already done some preliminary work around this and has lined up some key people who would be very happy and eager to meet with representatives of the group. Their availability would mean that the dates for the study visit would be **May 21st to May 23rd**. Damian McKeivitt will contact members to assess their availability for these dates.

Stakeholder Engagement Event

7. The Chair acknowledged that there were a large number of groups and organisations who wanted to be involved in the community planning sub group. He therefore proposed a stakeholder engagement event towards the end of June 2006 to enable draft final proposals to be aired within the wider local government, business, community/voluntary and other key sectors. This would provide an opportunity for the sub group to take on board views and comments before drafting a final report. Sharon O’Gorman volunteered to lead on coordinating arrangements for this event. Other group members who wish to assist with this task are to contact Sharon.

Meetings Schedule

8. In order to allow people to plan their diaries the chair suggested that a number of dates for further meetings be agreed in advance. Dates for further sub group meetings were therefore agreed by the group members as follows:

18th May 2006 – Full sub group meeting.

1st June 2006 – Full sub group meeting.

Members were also asked to pencil **8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th June** into their diaries.

GREG MAGEE
DoE Local Government Division