

## TASKFORCE POLITICAL PANEL

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 26th JUNE 2006

#### AT DUNDONALD HOUSE

#### ATTENDEES:

David Cairns MP	DOE Minister of State (Chairperson)
Stephen Peover	DOE Permanent Secretary
Sean Neeson	Alliance
Maurice Morrow	Democratic Unionist Party
Alex Maskey	Sinn Féin
John O’Kane	Social Democratic & Labour Party
Sam Gardiner	Ulster Unionist Party
Cynthia Smith	DOE
John Ritchie	DOE
Grace McGuinness	DOE
Liz Walker	DOE
Joanne Bunting	DUP NILGA Representative
John Mathews	Alliance NILGA Representative
Dermot Curran	SDLP NILGA Representative
Arnold Hatch	UUP NILGA Representative
Heather Moorhead	NILGA
Michael Rickard	NILGA
Malcolm McKibbin	Roads Service
Geoff Allister	Roads Service
Jim Wilkinson	Planning Service
Marianne Flemming	Planning Service

#### Action

1. The Chair welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

#### 2. Minutes of Last Meeting

A member advised that his name had been omitted from the previous minutes.

**DoE**

A Member raised the issue concerning Finance Sub-group bullet point in relation to estimated costs of 7, 11 and 15 model. They requested that actual figures should be provided to show the costs associated with the various models.

### 3. **Task Force Work on Transfer of Functions and Restructuring the Task Force**

The Chair advised the group that these two agenda items were closely linked as they are both concerned with the work required post June 2006.

A DoE official gave an overview of the work associated with the Transfer of Functions now that the Department has responsibility for taking forward the Local Government (Transfer of Functions) (NI) Order 2007. The group were advised that an inter-departmental group has been established which meets fortnightly and that Working Group and Political Panel meetings have also been arranged for August, September and October to enable the Departments to put forward emerging proposals and final proposals to both groups.

Members asked that consultation should take place between local government and departments as they want to be involved in the process.

DoE

NILGA tabled two papers (Annexe A and B) on 'Proposals for arrangements post June' and 'Building strong local government – seeking assurances'. The chair thanked them, invited them to outline the key aspects of their proposals and advised the group that these papers should be tabled for a future agenda item once members have had adequate time to consider them.

### 4. **Roads – Service Delivery Model**

A representative from Roads Service gave a short presentation outlining their proposals for a service delivery model.

Key issues raised by members:

- Elaboration on responsibilities
- Funding
- Development of public transport
- Parking enforcement and blue badge – simplify the process for the end user
- Transferring of staff – ensuring appropriate range of skills to carry out the work
- Distinction between trunk and minor roads
- Vesting Order powers
- Proposals on consultation with local government
- Claims and public liability
- Bridges over motorways
- Responsibility for ferries

**5. Planning – Service Delivery Model**

A representative from Planning Service gave a short presentation outlining their proposals for a service delivery model.

Key issues raised by members:

- Article 31 appeal
- Major development tensions
- Governance issues
- Costings
- Financing

**6. Any other Business**

The chair asked if there was any other business that members wished to raise. Members raised the issue of 'A Shared Future' and how it doesn't fall into any of the present sub-groups. They asked if this could be addressed at a future meeting. The issue of a dual mandate was also raised. Discussion took place surrounding the date of the elections and the timescale for the shadow councils. Members were advised that elections were at present being scheduled for early autumn 2008.

**7. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the group will take place on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2006 in Hilton Hotel Templepatrick.

