

Report from the Transition Arrangements Working Group

Agenda Item: 4

Summary: Report from the Transition Committees Working Group

Action Required: For discussion

Transition Arrangements Working Group

A Transition Arrangements Working Group was established at the last Strategic Leadership Board, made up of representatives of SOLACE, NILGA and DOE. This group met in May to take forward the issues in relation to establishing and providing guidance to Transition Committees.

Group members: Nora Winder, NILGA; Ashley Boreland, SOLACE; James Hutchinson, Local Government Policy Division, DOE.

Background

It is clear that Transition Committees may be established under existing provisions for the creation of joint committees.

However, it is also apparent that if Transition Committees are to carry out tasks associated with the establishment of new councils such as appointing senior staff, setting budgets and so on, that specific legislation will be required. Such legislation will be drafted and passed through the Assembly.

The group therefore considered that the issues fall into two separate timelines: those to be pursued in advance of legislation, and those which will be pursued with appropriate legislative underpinning.

The next phase for study will set out in more detail the range of tasks which Transition Committees should carry out in each of the phases described above, and how these areas will interface with other implementation structures. Initial guidance in the form of a letter from the Minister has issued (15 June).

The work carried out by Deloitte to complete the Strategic Outline Case for the Modernisation Programme, and the work commissioned by SOLACE from PWC to consider how the sector should manage the change programme, will be instrumental in developing detailed guidance for Transition Committees. The Working Group will consider these reports and factor in their findings to the next phase of development of guidance.

It is also clear that councils which will combine to form Transition Committees may seek some guidance from SLB on structures and composition. The Transition Working Group will examine and bring forward guidance to a future meeting of SLB.

Next Steps

The Working Group will meet in July to consider the next phase and begin the development of more detailed guidance.