

## STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING – 8 JANUARY 2008

### UPDATE ON BILATERAL MEETINGS

**Agenda Item:** 3

**Summary:** Providing members with an update on Minister Foster's bilateral meetings with Ministerial colleagues to discuss the transfer of functions strand of the review following the process of stakeholder engagement on the Emerging Findings Paper.

**Action Required:** For information

During the first weeks of December 2007 Minister Foster met with Ministerial colleagues, some on two occasions, to discuss the transfer of functions strand of the Review of RPA local government decisions.

These discussions between Ministers touched upon a number of key issues including:-

- the feedback from the stakeholder engagement process which registered the disappointment and concern expressed by stakeholders, particularly in the local government sector, about the limited scale and nature of the transfer package outlined in the Emerging Findings paper published on 19 October 2007;
- the potential to augment the transfer package with additional functions; and
- the possibility of introducing innovative service delivery models, though group systems and other approaches, which would enhance local

government accountability for functions but also take account of efficiency considerations.

Following this series of bi-lateral meetings a further meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee was held on December 17<sup>th</sup>. This meeting of the ESC considered the collective position in respect of the Transfer of Functions package taking into account also the position of the other strands of the review.

A further meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee will be convened in mid-January 2008. This meeting will be attended by other Ministers to consider the totality of decisions required in respect of all elements of the review so that a consensus on final recommendations can be agreed to present to a meeting the Executive at the end of January 2008.