

REVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM PROGRAMME STRUCTURES - DRAFT REPORT

Agenda: 6

Summary: This paper outlines the background to the review of LG Reform Programme Structures along with a summary of the key recommendations in the attached report.

Action Required: Presented for consideration.

BACKGROUND

1. A review of the organisational structures, in place for managing and integrating the Local Government Reform Programme, was commissioned at the Strategic Leadership Board (SLB) meeting on 22nd May 2009.
2. It was agreed that the review would:-
 - be taken forward by a team of officers drawn from the Joint Secretariat;
 - evaluate the progress, performance and future relevance of SLB, the Policy Development Panels (PDPs) and the Regional Transition Co-ordinating Group (RTCG); and
 - identify the appropriate structures and governance arrangements for managing and integrating the work necessary to ensure the effective and efficient transition to the new councils in May 2011.
3. It was also agreed that the team would present a draft report, outlining its key findings and recommendations, for consideration at the SLB meeting on 14th August 2009.

DETAIL

4. A copy of the draft report is attached at Annex A. The key recommendations are set out below.

SLB

The SLB should continue as is.

Regional Transition Committee

A new group, to be known as the Regional Transition Committee (RTC), should be established. This group would be accountable to the SLB and its membership comprise; an elected member from each of the eleven Statutory Transition Committees, the five political representatives on the SLB. It is proposed that the group be chaired by the vice-chair of the SLB.

It is accepted that there may be a need to increase the number of members to accommodate political representation. However, this is an issue for political parties to consider and advise on.

Regional Transition Management Team

It is proposed that a new Regional Transition Management Team (RTMT), consisting of officers acting as advisors to the RTC, be established. This group would comprise an officer from; each Transition Management Team (this would be the Chief Executive Designate, once appointed), the Chief Executive of the Local Government Staff Commission, the Chief Executive and two Directors from NILGA and a senior representative from each transferring function department. The group would be chaired by the DOE Deputy Secretary (Ian Maye) and it would meet directly after the RTC meetings

to co-ordinate implementation of agreed actions.

Task and Finish Working Groups

Task and Finish Working Groups (TFWGs) would be established to support the work of the RTC on specific projects as required. These groups would normally comprise officials. However, councillors may also form the membership where appropriate. Existing working groups should continue to operate and report to the RTC.

Regional Transition Co-ordinating Group

As a consequence of the creation of the RTC and RTMT, the RCTG should be dissolved.

Policy Development Panels

On the introduction of a programme management framework, the SLB should agree with the PDPs achievable target dates for each of their remaining tasks.

PDPs will end once they have completed any remaining policy development work.

Any unforeseen policy issues arising after the dissolution of the PDPs may be addressed by an ad hoc task-and-finish PDP as appointed by the SLB. Membership would consist of two representatives from each political party. The Chair of any ad hoc task-and-finish PDP should be a member of the SLB.

Secretariat

The Joint Secretariat should continue to ensure all bodies are serviced / supported.

RECOMMENDATION

5. The draft report is presented for the consideration of SLB. It will then be finalised and circulated to members by 19th August 2009.

Joint Secretariat