

Strand B Paper

Strategic Leadership Board – Sub Group B Away Day on 4 October 2007

Present

Cllrs Alan McDowell, Tony Hill, Gary Stokes, Eddie Rea, Myreve Chambers, Dermot Curran and Ald Gordon Dunne

Alan Hanna, John Price, Lorcan O’Kane, Danny McSorley, Damian Dean, Claire Devlin, Con Donnelly, Rose Crozier, Marie McCrory, Paul Gribben, Angela Gardner, Uel Harvey, Canice O’Rourke, Moira McVeigh and Diana Stewart

Speakers –Ray Wright, Tim Willoughby and Danny McConnell

Overview

Cllr Curran opened the meeting and welcomed members to the Away Day for the Strand B group.

The joint secretariat Alan Hanna, NILGA and John Price, DoE Local Government Reform Division explained the background to the reform and modernisation process and the role of the Strategic Leadership Board and the Modernisation sub-groups.

The meeting was attended by members of the Strand B group and members of the NILGA eGovernment Working Group and associated sub-groups. Following the introductory session there was a series of presentations.

There were three presentations delivered during the morning. The subject matter for these were NI Direct, Local Government Computer Services Board (LGCSB), and Shared Services. These were all thought provoking and generated a lot of discussion. The three presentations were on:

1. **NI Direct** – delivered by Ray Wright from Delivery and Innovation Division (DFP). Following discussion it was recommended that engagement with NI Direct should begin as soon as possible to ensure that Local Government is involved from the outset.
2. **LGCSB** – delivered by Tim Willoughby, Assistant Director in LGCSB. Following discussion it was recommended that exploration of a closer working relationship with LGCSB should begin as soon as possible. Local Government in Northern Ireland could benefit from lessons learnt, benchmarking carried out, etc within LGCSB.
3. **Shared Services** – delivered by Danny McConnell, Technology Partner with Deloitte. It is clear that introducing a shared service

environment is going to be an extremely complex and difficult process. The early commissioning of a feasibility study to explore and appraise all options was recommended following discussion.

All presentations will be available for viewing on the Sub Group B 'Smart Community' website.