

Strand B Paper

Update on NILGA eGovernment Working Group

The members of the eGovernment Working Group (plus the sub-groups on Local Citizen View, IS Strategy and Mobile Working) were invited to the Strand B Away Day on 4th October. This replaced the eGovernment Working Group meeting that was due to take place on that day.

The Group is continuing to make progress with its work. The next meeting on 1st November will have a presentation from the Best Practice Group.

The Mobile Working sub-group is now working on the implementation of its 3 pilot projects in Building Control and Environmental Health. There is a high level of council participation in these projects with Greg Bradley leading one in Down District Council; John Farrell of Newry and Mourne leading a project with his Council and working closely with North Down; and a further project still being scoped out between Belfast, Ballymena and Lisburn.

The draft terms of reference for an IS Strategy for local government were sent to councils for consultation in August. Responses were received from 13 Councils. These were Antrim, Ballymena, Ballymoney, Banbridge, Belfast, Coleraine, Craigavon, Down, Fermanagh, Lisburn, Magherafelt, North Down and Strabane. There were also responses from the Finance Officers and IT Officers groups. The general tone of the responses was supportive of the need for an IS Strategy and positive about the draft terms of reference. There were some suggestions about clarifying the timescale of the Strategy (pre or post RPA); making sure that the consultants had wide discretion to make proposals on issues like shared services. Some respondents wanted the terms of reference to address the need for training of officers and elected members.

The Local Citizen View is continuing to make progress under the leadership of Moira McVeigh of North Down Borough Council.

The eGovernment Working Group projects are being supported by the Delivery and Innovation Division of the Department of Finance and Personnel. The business case submitted by NILGA for this support was approved by the Minister in September.

NILGA

16th October 2007