

Note for the Record

Meeting on 23 August 2010 between The Joint Team and Department of Justice on the Belfast Strategic Regeneration Frameworks

Present: Mark Goodfellow (DoJ) Elaine Wilkinson (DSD)
Colin Scott (DoJ) Mark O'Donnell (DSD)
Geraldine McAteer (WBPB)

1. Elaine Wilkinson welcomed DoJ colleagues. She explained that she, Geraldine and Mark were representing a tri-partite group (the Joint Team) made up of DSD, the Belfast City Council and the Belfast Area Partnerships, formed to take forward statutory engagement on the Strategic Regeneration Frameworks for Belfast. The City Council representative, Siobhan Watson was not able to attend due to a prior commitment, but had agreed to share any material that would be useful following the meeting.
2. Mark O'Donnell provided a brief report on the process of engagement to date. The process was expected to culminate in the next few weeks in a paper to the Executive from the DSD Minister.
3. Geraldine McAteer explained that issues of community safety came out strongly in the SRFs and indeed in every expression of priorities for disadvantaged communities in Belfast. She said the Belfast City Council had picked up the recommendations in this regard given its responsibilities under its Safer Belfast Plan. There were clear relationships between community safety and health and wellbeing, economic competitiveness and other issues. The SRFs were an holistic expression of priorities with wide-ranging recommendations on issues such as design and street lighting to more programme-based work.

4. Mark Goodfellow confirmed that responsibility for the planning and operational delivery of community safety measures was delegated to district councils by DoJ (formerly NIO). The Belfast Council area received an annual allocation of around £400,000 from DoJ to implement the Safer Belfast Plan; the Council had been successful in leveraging further funding from other partners, including DSD, and added a significant contribution from its rates revenue. Mark Goodfellow agreed that the SRFs were a useful contribution to the process of planning and that this would be of particular importance when the new Community Safety Strategy was launched. A commitment had been made by the Justice Minister that this would happen by next March. The type of holistic approach described by Geraldine was likely to feature in the new strategy. It was still to be decided the extent to which individual Community Safety Partnerships would be asked to set their own priorities, however, there would be a need to demonstrate the cross-cutting impact of community safety measures.

5. It was agreed that the Joint team would share with DoJ details of the Belfast City Council analysis of community safety issues in the SRFs.

Department for Social Development

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