

Response on behalf of the Social Democratic and Labour Party to the public consultation on the Draft EQIA on the Crumlin Road Gaol and Girdwood Park Masterplan



Do you consider that any of the policy impacts adversely on any of the Section 75 Groups?

No

If the answer to question 1 is "Yes" please tell us:

N/A

Which groups do you think the policy affects? And How do you think these groups would be adversely affected?

N/A

Which alternative action might mitigate or lessen any adverse impact on these groups?

N/A

What changes to the policy might better achieve the promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations?

Point 7.14.3 states that 'first phase development could focus on economic development tourism at the Gaol as a means of creating a shared space, job and wealth creation'. The SDLP believe that phasing, which does not place housing development at the heart of the initial phase, would be seen as a deprioritization of housing on the site. Therefore the SDLP would favour simultaneous development of the site, which places housing on an equal footing with economic development and leisure centre provision. This is in accordance with the opinion of the Equality Commission, which is made at point 7.11, "to the extent that public authorities perceive, in particular circumstances, a tension between the two duties, the primary duty of a public authority is its equality duty. The good relation duty cannot be invoked to justify a failure or refusal to comply with the equality duty".

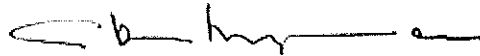
Do you agree or disagree with the overall conclusions in the EQIA?

Overall the SDLP is supportive of the findings of the EQIA but have a number of issues, in addition to point 7.14.3 which we have already raised, we wish to highlight.

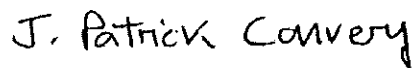
The most important point that the EQIA makes is 6.50 which clearly states that, "The data provided by the NIHE underlines that the level of housing stress in the Catholic community cannot be catered for within current and projected housing provision. New residential developments on the site will not have an adverse impact on the housing requirements of the Protestant community in this area." This point was reinforced by the

draft Masterplan findings, and is recorded at point 7.4 of the EQIA, "Housing stress in the area is a particular problem that has to be addressed. The provision of additional housing and particularly social housing will have an impact in addressing the housing need."

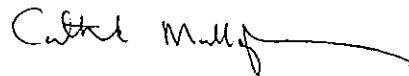
16th January 2009



Cllr. Alban Maginness MLA



Cllr. Patrick Convery



Cllr. Cathal Mullaghan