

**MINUTES OF PERMANENT SECRETARY GROUP MEETING  
HELD ON FRIDAY 19 AUGUST 2005 IN ROOM GD14, STORMONT CASTLE  
AT 8.45 AM**

**Present:** John Hunter (Chair)  
Billy Gamble  
Will Haire  
Edgar Jardine  
Andrew McCormick  
John McGrath  
Stephen Quinn  
Bruce Robinson  
Eddie Rooney  
Paul Sweeney  
Cynthia Smith  
Pat Toal

**In Attendance:** Mary Bunting  
Rosalie Flanagan  
Stephen Grimason  
Pauline Boyle (Secretary)

1. **Apologies:** Nigel Hamilton, Aideen McGinley, Gerry McGinn,  
Stephen Peover, Alan Shannon,

2. **Minutes and Summary**

The Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 5 August were agreed with a few minor amendments.

3. **Matters Arising**

Equality Commission

Nigel Hamilton has written to Evelyn Collins regarding the Equality Commission Press Release. The letter was copied to Bob Collins. It has been acknowledge, but no substantive reply has been received to date.

Dublin Meeting

Nigel Hamilton has written to Dermot McCarthy about a possible working lunch with PSG members. PSG are holding 29 September from lunchtime in their diaries but this is very much provisional at present as the Secretaries General Away Day is still at the early stages of organisation.

**[Update: Meeting now cancelled, may be arranged at a later date.]**

#### 4. **Multi-Sports Stadium**

Edgar Jardine rehearsed the background to the work in relation to the proposed multi-sports stadium. He reported that in order to assist major sports in NI – Soccer, Rugby and Gaelic – plan for their future facility requirements, the SIB, on behalf of DCAL, completed an initial business plan in May 2004 on the viability of a multi-sports Stadium for Northern Ireland. This report concluded that such a facility could be operationally viable provided the capital costs of construction are met and all three sports are engaged.

Following completion of an initial site selection report in September 2004, it was decided that an economic appraisal, business case and business planning exercise should be carried out on the Stadium. In parallel, a site selection study was commissioned which resulted in an initial pool of 12 sites, subsequently short-listed to 3. A Stadium Steering Group comprising DFP, DCAL, the Sports Council of Northern Ireland and the SIB was established to oversee progress on the business plan and economic appraisal. It was announced in a press release in March 2005 that 2 of the 3 short-listed sites had been ruled out on grounds of cost, technical feasibility and acceptability to the three Sports and consideration is now focusing entirely on the Maze/Long Kesh.

The economic appraisal and business plans have been finalised and have been submitted to DFP for consideration and approval. Edgar confirmed that the plans also covered infrastructure costs. Following DFP approval, detailed negotiations will take place with the governing bodies of the 3 sports on operational and management issues and the associated financial models.

Paul Sweeney circulated a coloured map of the Maze/Long Kesh site. He explained the colour codes on the map and explained that the red zones were listed buildings ie H Block, former prison and administration block and chapel which were ear marked to be a Centre for Conflict and Resolution; the Blue zone was a former compound and was also a listed building; the Green/Yellow zones were two World War II aircraft hangars and two MOD buildings which are scheduled buildings.

Mott MacDonald have been commissioned to undertake a master plan of the site and their report is expected at the end of October. Jeff Rooker has written to the four main political parties to invite them to make nominations to the Maze Monitoring Group.

Edgar and Paul's work will come to a head in the Autumn. Jeff Rooker and David Hanson will meet with officials and the SIB in October to take stock on progress at that time and to give a steer on the way forward.

#### 5. **A Shared Future**

Mary Bunting reported that following a Ministerial Dinner on 18 July to discuss A Shared Future it was agreed to re-launch the document in the Autumn at which Ministers could deliver key messages. Mary is to initiate discussions with all Government Departments on a Triennial Action Plan as soon as possible in preparation for the Good Government meeting in October.

**[Action: Mary Bunting]**

## 6. **Migrant Workers**

Will Haire led discussion on this. His paper set out to identify the key issues for Government in relation to increased numbers of migrant workers arriving in Northern Ireland. He believed there were three major challenges around migrant workers: race and community relations; fair access to public services; and the need for central co-ordination on issues that overlap Departments' responsibilities, UK policy areas and policing. He recommended the inter-Departmental group addressing A Shared Future would be best placed to deal with non-Labour Market issues. Following discussion on the breadth of issues John Hunter asked Will Haire to prepare an aide memoir and to discuss and follow up with Mary Bunting and Billy Gamble.

**[Action: Will Haire]**

## 7. **Employability as Key Focus of Economic and Social Policy in NI**

Will Haire led discussion on this also. His paper focused on the promotion by Government of the development in the Labour Market overall, over the last decade. The message presented should be that NI has made significant strides in combating community based Labour Market inequalities. Will suggested a series of linked speeches made in the Autumn, setting out the overall Economic Vision/Strategy and by the end of September/October a second speech to report on Labour Market dynamics focusing on disadvantaged communities/poverty. PSG agreed.

**[Action: Mary Bunting]**

## 8. **Tour de Table**

### Grasping the Opportunity Investing in Our Future

Rosalie Flanagan reported that Machinery of Government Division will pull together any inputs from Departments on the Secretary of State's Speech and will forward a draft to Phil Taylor.

PSG members felt a more strategic approach was needed when preparing speeches for SOS and the Ministerial team. With a high volume of announcements due in the near future, John Hunter suggested that Stephen Grimason draw up a set of proposals and submit to Ministerial team for their approval. Rosalie Flanagan and Stephen Grimason to discuss with Nigel Hamilton on Monday.

**[Action: Rosalie Flanagan & Stephen Grimason]**

### Departmental Private Offices

Rosalie Flanagan reported that the OFMDFM Departmental Board gave approval for a Private Office to be set up to support Jeff Rooker which is resourced by two staff with no room for expansion. She is to undertake a review of Private Office across all Departments with a view to rationalisation. She will write to all Departments.

**[Action: Rosalie Flanagan]**

### ISNI Launch

Paul Sweeney discussed the handling of the ISNI launch planned for 21 September.

### Sperrin Lakeland Trust

Andrew McCormick gave an update on the Sperrin Lakeland Trust.

### Appleby Review

He also reported on the Appleby Review which is to be published on 31 August

### BSE

Pat Toal gave an update on BSE and gave a progress report on beef exports.

### Funding of Women Centres

John McGrath reported on Funding of Women Centres

### A Level Results

Eddie Rooney reported on yesterday's announcement on the 'A' level results.

### Councillor Allowances

Cynthia Smith reported on District Councillors participation in companies following removal of councillor allowances.

### Phoenix Gas

Bruce Robinson gave an update on Phoenix Gas.

**PAULINE BOYLE**