



Strabane
District Council
Comhairle Ceantair
an tSratha Báin
Strabane Destríck Council

Julie Gillespie
Legislation Progress Unit
Room A4.01
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast
BT8 3SR

02 April 2007

Re: Proposal for a draft Order in Council: The Public Authorities Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2007

Dear Ms Gillespie,

Following a meeting of Strabane District Council held on April 11 2007 it was agreed that a letter would be issued to the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) to outline Strabane District Council's concerns in relation to some aspects of the above named legislation.

Broadly, Strabane District Council is opposed to the proposed abolition of the Housing Council and the proposed removal of statutory representation obligations and obligations to consult with statutory bodies.

Strabane District Council asserts that the Housing Council has provided a layer of democratic accountability on matters of strategic importance to housing in Northern Ireland for over thirty years. Moreover, Council argues that any legislation should seek to uphold accountability and transparency in the management of public expenditure.

Strabane District Council recommends that OFMDFM should delay progressing this legislation pending consideration by the devolved assembly. Strabane District Council trusts that these considerations will be taken seriously and are grateful for the opportunity to engage in this consultation process.

Yours truly,

Philip Faithfull
Chief Executive

