

**Sustainable Development Strategy Implementation Plan Steering Group
(SDSIPSG) Meeting - Tuesday, 30 March 2010
GD14, Stormont Castle**

Present:

Junior Minister Kelly, Junior Minister Newton,
John Bradley (OFMDFM), Olive Hill (Invest NI), Philip Irwin (DFP), Jim Kitchen (SDC),
Andy McClenaghan (deputising for John French, Consumer Council), Anne-Marie
McDevitt (RSPB), John McMullan (Bryson Charitable Group), Geoff Smyth (Carbon
Trust), Jim Sutherland (OFMDFM), Heather Whitney (OFMDFM)

Apologies:

John Armstrong (CEF), John French (Consumer Council), Seamus McAleavey
(NICVA), John O'Farrell (ICTU), Nigel Smyth (CBI)

1. Introduction

Minister Newton opened the meeting by welcoming the Members present and invited Jim Sutherland to take the lead on Members' introductions.

2. Opening Statement by Co-chairs

An opening statement was made by Ministers. Ministers requested as open a meeting as possible and encouraged Members to speak their mind.

3. Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes were agreed with minor amendment.

Jim Sutherland addressed the action points allocated to OFMDFM and informed Members that all actions had been taken forward by his Unit.

It was confirmed that Ministers had approved John Armstrong's membership of the Steering Group.

Members discussed communication with stakeholders and feedback to date from their respective sectors.

4. SDU Update

Jim Sutherland updated Members on work progressed since the first meeting of the Steering Group.

In addition to the Steering Group Meeting of 26 February, meetings took place of the Sustainable Champions Network, 25 March and the Sustainable Development Stakeholder Group, 26 March.

The purpose of these meetings was to:

- Introduce the Implementation Plan model and initiate discussion
- Through facilitated workshops, take the views of Champions and Stakeholders on the Implementation Plan model and on the Priority Areas for Action and Strategic Objectives within it.

- To work towards agreement on 'Column1' on Priorities and Objectives by 26 April

The Sustainable Champions Network meeting brought broad agreement on the Objectives and the Priorities were deemed workable. There was recognition that some fine tuning of the Objectives may be required. Bi-lateral meetings are to be set up between departments and OFMDFM to take forward development.

Action: SDU to offer, and attend, bilateral meetings with Departments

The Stakeholders' meeting allowed for a strategic overview of the Plan. Useful comments and information were brought forward in respect of the Objectives.

The commonalities across both meetings and the consensus to keep the number of Objectives to a minimum, was discussed. No additional Objectives were presented at these meetings but feedback from these meetings may lead to minor amendments to the Objectives.

The read across with the Programme for Government was recognised. Complementarity between the Implementation Plan and the next iteration of the Programme for Government was discussed. The methodology of scoping the Objectives was discussed.

It was agreed that Stakeholders be provided with access to a list of the Members of the Sustainable Champions Network.

Action: Sustainable Development Unit to post list on website.

The consultation process for the Plan was discussed and timing issues were raised. Advance dates for consultation are to be scheduled.

Action: Sustainable Development Unit to coordinate.

Members were updated on progress to date of the Sustainable Development Strategy Consultation Report and revisions to the Strategy document falling out of the consultation process.

5. Representatives Update

Members updated the Group on their engagement work to date from their respective sectors.

Action: OFMDFM will, as required, attend sectoral meetings organised by Steering Group Members

Action: OFMDFM will contact NI Assembly to discuss the Assembly's contribution to carbon neutrality on the Public Sector Estate

6. Way Forward

Jim Sutherland indicated OFMDFM's willingness to engage Stakeholders in the Implementation Plan development process and the need for sectoral organisations to provide input through sectoral representatives on the Steering Group. Meetings with sectoral organisations are anticipated and will further support the Plan's aim to promote a partnership between government and organisations signing up to the challenge, by populating the 'Everyone's Involved' Column.

Minister Kelly welcomed the opportunity afforded through the Steering Group to move the SD agenda forward and highlighted the need to keep up the momentum.

An opportunity to embed SD in to future investment was discussed, giving due consideration to whole life costs through appropriate and targeted resourcing. Taking in to account whole life costs in construction projects was also discussed. Smart procurement with Executive support was identified as supportive.

7. AOB

None

8. Date of Next Meeting

TBC, after 26 April.