

# Chief Executive's Department



Your reference

Our reference KH/RPA

Date 22 April 2010

Mr Edwin Poots MLA  
Minister of the Environment  
Department of the Environment  
Private Office  
Room 717, Clarence Court  
10-18 Adelaide Street  
BELFAST BT2 8GB

Dear Minister

## **RPA LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM**

At a recent meeting of the Belfast voluntary Transition Committee (vTC) on 15 April 2010, it was agreed that there was an urgent need to write to you as Minister of the Environment seeking early clarification in respect of the future of RPA local government reorganisation.

Members of the Belfast vTC wish to express their concerns in regards to the current uncertainty around important implementation issues including agreeing the new local government boundaries; securing the necessary funding for reform and the release of the draft Local Government (Reorganisation) Bill.

The Belfast vTC would contend that such uncertainty is unsustainable, with any further delay or indecision putting the reform programme, in its current form, at considerable risk. Furthermore, it will inevitably have an adverse impact upon the continued commitment and morale of staff at the Transition Committee level.

Local government have already committed a lot of time, effort and resources into the RPA process over the last number of years. Elected Members and officers have actively worked together within their respective clusters to put in place the necessary foundations to enable local government reform to happen.

Belfast City Council has been fully committed and engaged within the RPA process at both a regional and local level albeit this has drawn significant resources and capacity from the delivery of other important priorities, eg improving service provision; maximising investment opportunities and implementing capital projects within the city.

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Mr Edwin Poots MLA  
Minister of the Environment  
Department of the Environment

The Belfast vTC is aware that discussions are ongoing within the NI Executive in regards to the Review of Public Administration and would urge you and your colleagues within the Executive to urgently agree the way forward for the RPA and the associated implementation timetable.

Yours sincerely



**Councillor Tom Hartley**  
**Chairman of Belfast voluntary Transition Committee**

CC:  
Members of Belfast voluntary Transition Committee  
Belfast City Council Transition Management Team