

Belfast Party Leaders
13th March 2013, Malone House

Present

Councillors J Kyle, J Rodgers, W Humphrey, M Hendron, D Hargey
Apologies - J McVeigh & T Attwood

Present - Item 1, A Hassard
Facilitator - J Huish

0. Leisure Strategy

- A Hassard provided an update on the process relating to the Leisure Review, and the emerging strategic context and future delivery options
- A paper had been recently presented to SP&R outlining process, including the Deloitte Review
- SP&R will receive two papers in April outlining resourcing in staff terms, and a high level paper surrounding financing (£80m)
- A members working group has been established, involving Party Leaders or nominees
- Party Leaders will engage with their groups to establish positions

Members comments

- that the review and resultant paper needs to focus on wider outcomes than just health
- needs to build in on-going revenue and maintenance costs
- needs to be integrated across partners and jointly funded with real cost savings
- needs to be strategic in approach - not duplicate, be sustainable - a map showing service provision would be welcomed
- need to manage expectations
- needs to focus on health and well being rather than leisure per se
- provision needs to be balanced across the City - the smaller centres may be essential as part of the strategy, but need to be costed and sustainable

2. Governance

- Party Groups have now all had briefings on potential governance options - status quo, streamlined committee and cabinet models
- Individual briefings held with most Party Group Leaders
- Party Groups have begun their deliberations, and in some cases are awaiting legislative guidance and feedback from wider Party Groups.
- A paper will be brought to the next meeting of the Party Leaders Forum in May outlining an update on the legislative process and timetable relating to RPA, the Boundary Review and the position relating to emerging Severance and Salary policies.
- The paper then needs to be taken forward in June to SP&R
- Area Working Groups, Community Planning, and Planning need to be included in any emerging governance framework

3. Next meeting

The next meeting will be a joint session with The Lord Mayor, Party Leaders and Committee Chairmen.