

Appendix 2: Legislative Programme

Local Government (Contracts) Bill

The proposed contents of the Bill are as follows.

- (1) Provision to clarify Council's powers to contract with the private sector;
- (2) Powers to purchase land compulsory for waste management facilities.

The purpose of the Bill is to clarify Council's PFI powers to permit them to comply with EC landfill directives.

Timing: The indicative timescale is introduction to the Assembly February/March 2009 with a planned operative date of July 2009.

The Bill is presently drafted and is with the Executive Committee for approval. It is proposed that there will be consultation on the draft Bill from August-September 2008 with the Bill introduced to the Assembly in February 2009.

Local Government (Finance) Bill

The proposed contents of the Bill are as follows.

- (1) Modernisation of finance provisions for Local Government.
- (2) Provisions relating to Councillor remuneration and severance.
- (3) Provisions relating to transition committees giving powers of direction to the Minister during the transitional period when Councils are set up.
- (4) Introduction of controls over borrowing, disposals, contracts and the application of capital receipts and reserves by existing Councils prior to reorganisation.

Timing: The Department are currently awaiting Executive approval to have the Bill drafted. It is proposed to introduce it to the Assembly in September 2009 with a planned operative date of April 2010.

In relation to the severance proposals the Minister has asked officials to investigate whether these proposals could become part of the Local Government (Contracts) Bill so that they will become available to Councils in mid-2009.

Local Government (Modernisation) Bill

The Bill will deal with the following.

- (1) Ethical standards;
- (2) Provision of emergency planning arrangements
- (3) Bye-laws;
- (4) Cremations;
- (5) Supervision of Councils;
- (6) Street Names.

Timing: At the moment it is proposed to introduce this Bill to the Assembly in January 2009. It was made clear by the Department that this Bill is not viewed as essential/as important as the other 3 bills.

Local Government (Re-organisation) Bill

This Bill is proposed to deal with the following.

- (1) Deal with the transitional arrangements from the old council structure to the new structure i.e. by transferring the current functions, staff and assets/liability from old Councils to the new Councils'
- (2) Governance;
- (3) Human Resources;
- (4) Community Planning;
- (5) Power of well being;
- (6) Performance Management;
- (7) Central/local government relations.

Timing: Policy development will have to be complete by November to enable:

- consultation to be carried out from February-April 2009;
- policy to be finalised and the Bill drafted by the end of 2009.

The Bill will have to be introduced to the Assembly by no later than May 2010 to ensure that it passes its Assembly stages and receives Royal Assent before the next Assembly elections (expected in May 2011).

The Bill will come into operation by May 2011.