

Party Leaders Forum, 16th February 2012

Apologies

Robin Newton, Hugh Smith, Davy Brown

Given absence due to illness, it was agreed to give guidance only in broad terms

Role of the PLF

- PLF worked well together, with officers, and with partners over Investment Package
- Need to learn from this and capitalise on momentum
- Need to develop a lobbying strategy, individually and collectively
- Need to get consistent information to and from partners in a structured way
- Need to be clear about our long and short term ambitions
- Need to be outward looking, maybe engage in dialogue with forum and focus groups
- Needs to be formally described, both as individuals and collectively - leading to role description development - but must act at strategic level, integrate with groups and work with officers
- Need to think about discussion stages, supported by briefings by Chief, officers and JH as appropriate
- The relationship between PLF and other Governance structures needs to be evolved
- Discussion to be undertaken at next PLF - which should be an away day

Member Development

- Congratulations on Member Charter
- Need to think about impact of RPA
- PDP process due to start shortly - needs to begin with discussion between Party Leaders & JH, followed by process of 1-2-1 discussions between members and JH, together with Group Leaders
- The Belfast Members Academy should be delivered, tailored to different delegate groups, for example first term members, younger members, chairs and vice chairs etc.
- There should be a set of higher level courses, such as management, economics, finance and the environment, that could lead to an accredited qualification, maybe a Diploma

Next Meeting

- Should be an away day, possibly at Malone House
- The day should be split into two elements - part member only, part with officers
- To include an element of development
- Other possible elements for inclusion - role of PLF & governance; relationship with officers; ambition and vision for future; the economic climate; the impact of RPA (Individually and Corporately); delivering on the Investment Package