

## **Belfast Party Leaders Forum, 7th June**

### **Attendance**

W Humphrey, M Hendron, J Kyle, T Attwood

Apologies - J McVeigh, D Browne

J Huish (facilitator) - welcomed members new to PLF, provided background and context

### **On-going Role of PLF**

- Crucial in giving joined up strategic leadership and developing longer term vision for City
- Develop into a strategic and co-ordinations function
- To provide guidance to policy development and process, including political engagement
- NOT decision making - need to protect the role and integrity of chairs of committees
- A role in lobbying, influencing, communicating and promoting the Council and City - need to link with ministers and partners in a co-ordinated way, with PGL's speaking for the Council
- An opportunity to engage informally around sensitive issues
- Needs to meet monthly, linked into work programme of SP&R, needs to be scheduled
- Want to engage with Chairs of Committees every 2nd / 3rd meeting
- Need to do away days as a group, also with chairs

### **Forward Work Programme**

- Delivering on Investment Package
- Thinking through future governance arrangements - RPA / AWGs / Scrutiny / Planning / strategic partnerships / social partners forum (JH to bring forward paper)
- Developing a vision for Belfast
- Developing lobbying strategy
- AWGs - making them more strategic, build in other funds - dealing with capital programme

### **Member Development Update**

- Now approaching 40 PDPs undertaken
- Generic needs - public speaking, media, time management, prioritising
- Knowledge Bite programme - specific briefings around hot topics prioritised by members - perhaps to reduce Party Briefing workload
- Want to promote opportunities for members to work informally across party and with officers - not a "newer" members forum - but an integrated approach to development - members academy - building in informal space
- Women's Steering Group strongly valued and upheld as a good example