

Party Leaders Forum, 9th January 2013

Present

Members - T Attwood, W Humphrey, M Hendron, J McVeigh, J Rodgers

Apologies – D Brown, J Kyle

J Huish (Facilitator)

C Wilson present for item 2

1 – Governance

- SP&R agreement to explore Cabinet Model and Streamlined Committee Model
- Party Briefings to be held later this month, supported by JH
- Need to ensure time given to consider options, but be ready for RPA
- Any best practice planning visit should be delayed until more certainty of timescale and knowledge of future membership

2 – Leisure Strategy

- Briefing by Caroline Wilson
- Report welcome and timely
- Deloitte report to go to PLF & party briefings
- Need to consider health outcomes as well as leisure
- Other principles for consideration should include the balance of investment across Belfast; economies of scale; link with partners and multi-use facilities; and sustainability over the long term
- Sense of urgency noted around elements of the programme, with support for the phased approach recommended

3 – Striking the Rate

- A brief discussion held around potential rate levels
- At present, a rate freeze or 1% reduction were put forward for discussion, without consensus at this point
- Officers should continue to find efficiencies where they can
- Clear evidence needs to be brought forward to support the debate

4 – Political Climate

- The current political climate was acknowledged as difficult
- All members were clear that the forum needed to continue to meet to ensure that Council Business be a focus and maintained for the good of the Council and the people of Belfast