

Belfast Lord Mayor, Party Leaders & Committee Chairs
13th February 2013, Malone House

Present

Councillors G Robinson, T Attwood, J Rodgers, W Humphrey, J McVeigh, M Hendron, D Hargey, C Stalford, J Hussey, G McCabe, L Patterson
Facilitator - J Huish

1. Planning - Presentation by N Dunlop

- Neil provided an update on the current position of the transfer of the Planning Function to Local Authorities
- Further, he gave a broad outline of the nature of what those powers might look like, both in terms of strategic planning for the City and the development control function, and its links to Community Planning and delivery of Council Programmes.
- Neil also noted the need for a wide range of member development activities linked to the new powers and a new style planning committee
- Members welcomed the presentation, noting the significant impact such measures will have, and echoing the need for extensive training in this area

2. Community Planning - Presentation by S Wylie

- Suzanne provided an update on the current position of the transfer of Community Planning Functions to Local Authorities, linked to the complementary power of well being also being introduced
- Further, she gave a broad outline of the current regional approach, including the role of the pilot proposals and Community Planning Workgroup
- The Foundation Programme is to look at understanding Community Planning, and explore governance structures and partnership working linked to engagement, performance, accountability and the creation of a Community Plan.
- It is anticipated that the draft legislation will be put before the DOE in March 2013.
- Belfast City Council is already preparing for the introduction of Community Planning - developing an outcome focus, area working, a community development strategy, a solid evidence base, partnership working etc.
- Clear within the proposals are the need for new partnership relationships, structures and activity - leading to the development of a shared Belfast Community Plan and outcome and delivery agreements.
- A wide range of member development activity, including workshops, study trips and seminars are already being planned and undertaken
- Members welcomed the presentation, and noted that the role for members was changing - especially when linked to the new Planning powers also discussed earlier.