

Belfast Party Leaders
13th February 2013, Malone House

Present

Councillors T Attwood, J Rodgers, W Humphrey initially,
J McVeigh & M Hendron joined the discussion later
Facilitator - J Huish

1. Governance - initial group feedback

- All groups were still considering the information presented to them at the special party briefings and agreed that follow up one-to-ones with Jonathan Huish would be useful in helping to inform discussion at the next Party Leaders Forum meeting in March.

2. Anti-Poverty Task Force

- Noted that the council carries out a range of functions that contribute to tackling issues of poverty and deprivation already - request for this activity to be mapped
- Noted that the council works with a range of partner organisations already to tackle anti-poverty - request for these relationships to be mapped and reviewed, with further consideration given to structures required in the emerging public landscape, such as an overarching strategic partnership and thematic partnerships.
- Noted that the issue was soon to be raised at development committee, and there is a need to link the work at PLF & development
- Concerns were raised about the narrow remit under current council powers to directly tackle poverty, together with possible need for extra capacity to deal with such issues, though also noted that these powers will grow under RPA with the onset of Community Planning and Planning Functions.
- Also noted that the Council could have greater influence over such matters through partnership and lobbying.
- An ability to look at what other organisations are delivering in relation to anti-poverty and related matters would be welcomed - possibly some form of scrutiny
- The establishment of a body to look at, lead and tackle such issues was raised, though further information and discussion is needed to define and get agreement over the structure and remit of any such group, linked to further discussion at Development Committee.