

Causeway Coast & Glens

Borough Council

To: Leisure & Development Committee

Date: 12th January 2016

Correspondence report

1. Policy Forum for Northern Ireland Keynote Seminar

Correspondence has been received from Policy Forum for Northern Ireland inviting Members to attend a seminar on Infrastructure in Northern Ireland - Priorities, Funding and Investment Strategy to be held on Monday 4th February 2016 at the Stormont Hotel, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3LP (Agenda attached). (Cost £210 plus VAT)

Policy Forum for Northern Ireland Keynote Seminar: Infrastructure in Northern Ireland - priorities, funding and Investment Strategy

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 4th February 2016

Venue: Stormont Hotel, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3LP



**POLICY FORUM
FOR NORTHERN
IRELAND**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Trevor Clarke MLA, Northern Ireland Assembly
- 9.05 - 9.30 **Delivering infrastructure projects through the Infrastructure Investment Strategy: progress and future challenges**
Dr Martin Spollen, Chief Investment Officer, Strategic Investment Board (SIBNI)
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 - 10.25 **Priorities for infrastructure in Northern Ireland**
- Building a stronger grid infrastructure*
Robin McCormick, Director of Operations, Planning & Innovation, Eirgrid and General Manager, SONI
- Developing cross-border electricity interconnectors*
Bob Hanna, Chief Technical Advisor, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Republic of Ireland
- Meeting the demand for effective and affordable public transport*
Clive Bradberry, Infrastructure Executive, Translink
- Airport capacity: competitive and investment opportunities*
Graham Keddle, Managing Director, Belfast International Airport
- Maintaining and enhancing utilities for economic growth and environmental health*
Ronan Larkin, Director of Finance & Regulation, Northern Ireland Water
- Encouraging the development of A-grade office space to support business growth*
Brian Lavery, Managing Director, Belfast, CBRE
- Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 - 10.45 **Case study: regeneration through infrastructure investment**
Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive, Belfast City Council
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 - 10.50 **Chair's closing remarks**
Trevor Clarke MLA, Northern Ireland Assembly
- 10.50 - 11.15 Coffee
- 11.15 - 11.20 **Chair's opening remarks**
Fearghal McKinney MLA, Northern Ireland Assembly
- 11.20 - 12.00 **Public sector infrastructure in Northern Ireland - investment, priorities and ensuring value for money**
Des Armstrong, Director, Central Procurement Directorate, Department of Finance and Personnel
- EU funding opportunities for infrastructure investment in Northern Ireland**
Colette FitzGerald, Head of Office, The European Commission Office in Northern Ireland
Questions and comments from the floor with Des Armstrong, Director, Central Procurement Directorate, Department of Finance and Personnel
- 12.00 - 12.55 **Effective planning and funding of large-scale infrastructure projects**
Has local government reform implemented in 2015, which saw the transfer of planning powers to local authorities, succeeded in further facilitating and speeding up the development of infrastructure projects? What further steps should the Northern Ireland Executive take to encourage private investment in infrastructure; and what lessons can be learnt from the use of Private Finance Initiatives (PFI) and Public Private Partnerships (PPP)? What public infrastructure projects are needed in order to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) and encourage economic growth? How can the Northern Ireland Executive, local authorities and other stakeholders ensure effective use of investment funds to promote value for money in infrastructure projects? What priorities need to be considered when developing the strategic direction of the Northern Ireland Investment Fund? In what ways can European Structural Funds (2014-2020) and the European Investment Fund be used to fund infrastructure projects in Northern Ireland; how can European Funding successfully interact with the proposed Northern Ireland Investment Fund?
Chris Williams, Director of Project Finance, Northern Ireland, Bank of Ireland
William Curry, Partner, Corporate and Commercial, Arthur Cox
Liam Hannaway, Chief Executive, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Bill Scott, Executive Director, International Business, Invest NI
Frank McManus, Head of NI Wholesale Sales, BT Ireland
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Northern Ireland closing remarks**
Fearghal McKinney MLA, Northern Ireland Assembly
Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Policy Forum for Northern Ireland