

**MINUTES OF THE INTER DEPARTMENTAL STEERING GROUP MEETING  
REVIEW OF THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY  
WEDNESDAY 15 OCTOBER 2008**

**Present:**

Paul Priestly	-	DRD
Mike Thompson	-	DRD
Paul Simpson	-	DOE
John McGrath	-	DE
Greg McConnell	-	DEL
David Ferguson	-	DSD
Edgar Jardine	-	DCAL
John McMillen	-	OFMDFM
Mike Brennan	-	DFP
Mark Pinkerton	-	DETI
Jim Thompson	-	DOE
Ian Raphael	-	DRD
Jim Hetherington	-	DRD
Alison McQueen	-	DRD
Pauline McParland	-	Secretariat

**Guest Speakers:**

Neil Gibson	-	Oxford Economics
Donald Rintoul	-	Experian
Colm Brodie	-	Experian
Johann Gallaher	-	SIB

**Apologies:**

Gerry Lavery	-	DARD
Richard Pengelly	-	DFP
Cynthia Smyth	-	DOE
John Cole	-	DHSSPS
David Sterling	-	DETI
David Gavaghan	-	SIB

**1. Introduction and Apologies**

Paul Priestly welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. He thanked Neil Gibson (Oxford Economics), Donald Rintoul (Experian) and Johann Gallaher for attending in order to present their findings on the studies which were undertaken.

**2. Minutes of previous meeting**

Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

### **3. Draft Terms of Reference**

The draft terms of reference which were circulated prior to the meeting were agreed with one amendment. Para heading - The Role/Terms of Reference of the IDSG - third bullet point should now read 'undertake a co-ordination role across their Departments and Ministers in providing advice and clearing papers.'

### **4. Update on progress to date and**

### **5. Update on analysis**

Mike Thompson explained the consultancy work had been completed. Analysis had been carried out on the Business Land Need and Key Settlement Studies and presentations would be given on these along with the work being done by SIB.

### **Oxford Economics – Business Land Need Study - Neil Gibson**

The presentation covered –

- The objectives of the study
- What has been learnt
- Forecast land requirement and market balance
- Gaps in information
- What next

### **Experian – Key Settlement Study – Donald Rintoul**

The presentation covered –

- The objectives of the study
- A hub approach – pros and cons
- Functional economic geographies
- Assessing strengths and weaknesses – drivers of competitiveness
- Future strategic direction and Implications

### **SIB - The 5Cs – Johann Gallaher**

The presentation covered –

- The research approach
- The 5Cs framework
  - Human capital
  - Societal capital
  - Natural capital
  - Human capital
  - Physical and financial capital
- Concepts underpinning spatial strategy

- Spatial planning issues emerging
- Citizen-focused approach to spatial planning

Paul Priestly opened the floor for discussion.

Edgar Jardine questioned whether under Social Sector, SIB had considered a role in the 5Cs framework for capital culture, which is increasingly recognised as a key dimension of a properly functioning society.

Johann Gallaher agreed that there needed to be a section on culture and this was being considered.

Further clarification was provided on the outcome of the studies to the Group.

## **6. Stakeholder Conference – Shaping our future: Reviewing Northern Ireland’s Regional Development Conference**

Mike Thompson informed the group that DRD and SIB were sponsoring a conference being organised by bmf Conferences. It will be held on Wednesday 5 November in the Stormont Hotel. Conor Murphy will give the Ministerial Address and Charles Landry, author and international cities expert will be giving the Keynote Address.

## **7. Sub-Regional Stakeholder Forums**

The Department is in the process of organising 11 sub-regional forums. The purpose of these events is to bring together key stakeholders to discuss their sub-regions and potential.

## **8. Any Other Business**

An External Working Group meeting will be taking place on Wednesday 21 October and the same presentations will be made to that group.

A meeting with the Regional Development Committee will take place on Wednesday 22 October.

The intention is to engage with Ministers through the Executive Ministerial Sub-Group at the beginning of the New Year.

Copies of the consultancy reports will be circulated once they are signed off by the Steering Group on Friday 24 October.

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place in January. The date and time to be confirmed.