

North South Ministerial Council
Joint Secretariat



An Chomhairle Aireachta
Thuaidh Theas
An Chomhrúnaíocht

PAPER NSMC LAN 3 (14) JC

NORTH SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

NORTH SOUTH LANGUAGE BODY MEETING

STORMONT CASTLE

18 DECEMBER 2014

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

1. The twenty-third North South Ministerial Council Language Body meeting was held in Stormont Castle on 18 December 2014. The meeting was attended by Carál Ní Chuilín MLA, Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, Seán Sherlock TD Minister of State with special responsibility for ODA, Trade Promotion & North South Cooperation and Minister Simon Hamilton, MLA, Minister for Finance and Personnel. Minister Ní Chuilín chaired the meeting.

**LANGUAGE BODY BUSINESS PLANS AND BUDGETS FOR 2014 AND 2015,
AND CORPORATE PLANS 2014-2016**

2. Ministers noted that Foras na Gaeilge and the Ulster-Scots Agency, as constituent agencies of the Language Body, have applied the efficiency savings to the Corporate Plans 2014-2016 and the Business Plans and Budgets for 2014 and 2015 in accordance with the guidance issued by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and the Department of Finance and Personnel.
3. Ministers approved:
 - the 2014 Business Plans for Foras na Gaeilge and for the Ulster-Scots Agency and recommended budget provisions for 2014 of €15,358,645 (£13,208,435) for Foras na Gaeilge and £2,475,734 (€2,878,761) for the Ulster-Scots Agency;

- the 2015 Business Plans for Foras na Gaeilge and for the Ulster-Scots Agency and recommended the budget/grant provisions of €15,193,498 (£12,306,734) for Foras na Gaeilge and £2,449,114 (€3,023,597) for the Ulster-Scots Agency; and
- the Corporate Plans 2014-2016 for Foras na Gaeilge and for the Ulster-Scots Agency and recommended indicative budget/grant provisions of €14,532,911 (£11,771,658) for Foras na Gaeilge and £2,342,630 (€2,892,136) for the Ulster-Scots Agency in 2016, which will be subject to budgetary considerations in both jurisdictions.

OTHER MATTERS

WATERWAYS IRELAND BUSINESS PLANS AND BUDGETS 2014 AND 2015 AND CORPORATE PLAN 2014-2016

4. Ministers noted that Waterways Ireland has applied the efficiency savings to the Corporate Plan 2014-2016 and the Business Plans and Budgets for 2014 and 2015 in accordance with the guidance issued by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and the Department of Finance and Personnel.
5. Ministers approved:
 - the Waterways Ireland 2014 Business Plan and recommended Budget provision of €28.04m (£24.11m) for 2014;
 - the Waterways Ireland 2015 Business Plan and recommended Budget/Grant provision of €27.12m (£21.96m); and
 - the Waterways Ireland Corporate Plan 2014-2016 and noted the indicative draft budget/grant provision of €25.94m (£22.31m) for 2016 which will be subject to budgetary considerations in each jurisdiction.

SEUPB BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET 2015

6. Ministers noted that the key priorities for the SEUPB for 2015 are:
 - the management and delivery of the 2007-13 PEACE III and INTERREG IVA Programmes ensuring all targets are achieved to maximise EU receipts;
 - the development and implementation of the PEACE IV and INTERREG VA Co-operation Programmes;
 - ensuring that SEUPB services are delivered efficiently and effectively; and
 - supporting North South engagement with the EU funded Transnational and Interregional programmes to maximise North/South participation.
7. They also noted that SEUPB has applied the required efficiency savings to the 2015 budget in accordance with agreed guidance issued by the Department of Finance and Personnel and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

8. Noting that Finance and Sponsor Department Ministers have approved the Business Plan and Budget/Grant, the NSMC approved the SEUPB 2015 Business Plan and recommended the 2015 budget/grant provision of:

- Administration Costs: £1.887m (€2.330m)
- EU Programme Expenditure: £90.220m (€111.383m).

FOOD SAFETY PROMOTION BOARD (SAFEFOOD) BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET 2015

9. Ministers noted that Safefood has applied efficiency savings to the 2015 budget in accordance with agreed guidance issued by the Department of Finance and Personnel and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

10. Noting that Finance and Sponsor Department Ministers have approved the Business Plan and Budget/Grant, the NSMC approved the Safefood 2015 Business Plan and recommended the 2015 budget/grant provision of €7.820m (£6.334m).

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR TO THE FOOD SAFETY PROMOTION BOARD ADVISORY BOARD (SAFEFOOD)

11. Ministers approved the appointment of Mr Paul Gibbons to serve as Chair on the Advisory Board of the Food Safety Promotion Board from 12 December 2014 to 12 December 2015.

NEXT MEETING

12. The Council agreed to meet again in Language Body sectoral format in Spring 2015.

**Joint Secretariat
18 December 2014**

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