

### **Institutional Meetings:**

- The NSMC meets in Institutional format to consider institutional and cross-sectoral issues, including in relation to the EU.
- Traditionally Institutional Meetings have been held sporadically. There have only been ten to date, the last being hosted by The Executive in February 2015 in Stormont Castle.
- Attendees were advised that an urgent Institutional Meeting may be required to make urgent decisions associated with Board vacancies.

### **5. Updates from Departments**

- The Joint Secretary acknowledged that there are lots of issues that will need addressing at future sectoral meetings but that only urgent decisions will be brought to the first round of meetings.
- Co-ordinators for each sector were invited to provide a brief high level update of key activities/issues.
- Co-ordinators representing NSIBs indicated that they had outstanding corporate issues with Business Plans and Corporate Plans being common. In some instances Board vacancies were also problematic. Some Bodies required CEO appointments and were experiencing difficulties with salary budgets, overall budget provision, and funding ratios.
- An update was given on an ongoing Equal Pay claim been taken by a former CEO. The outcome will need to be considered in light of any read across to others.
- Dominic McCullough provided an update on Peace Plus, managed by SEUPB.
- Co-ordinators representing the AOCs illustrated what the key policies were in each sector and noted developments during suspension and ongoing issues in each sector.
- Sectoral Managers will continue to engage directly with appropriate Co-ordinators on ongoing issues.

**LUNCH-***(officials dealing with Areas of Co-operation departed following lunch)*

### **6. North South Body Updates**

- **NR** DOF advised that a template for the Financial Memoranda had been agreed and issued and that considerable progress had been made in getting these completed. A number of Financial Memoranda have now been agreed and formally signed off by DoF Supply or are about to be agreed with the exception of one where a particular issue is being considered (JS to liaise with DPER and DfE as necessary). **NR** is content to attend future Working Group Meetings.
- **NR** DOF led discussions on Business Plans, Budgets and Funding Ratios. In respect of Business Plans, Guidance for 2017, 2018 and 2019 has been

agreed at DOF/DPER official level. This Guidance will need to be agreed by both Finance Ministers. The Business Plans for 2017, 2018 and 2019 will then require retrospective NSMC approval.

- The Business Plan for 2020 and Corporate Plan 2020-22 Guidance is being developed by both Finance Departments, following which the Plans will require NSMC approval.
- **NR** confirmed that contingency arrangements for “cash” for 2020, for all bodies had been approved.
- In discussing budgets she acknowledged that Departments should have identified pressures on north/south budgets in their input to Budget 2020 considerations.
- It was also recognised that there may be an appetite to review future funding ratios in respect of a number of Bodies.
- **NR** confirmed her intention to attend future Working Group Meetings.
- **NR** from NICS HR confirmed he was aware of the matter of a number of CEO appointments and reminded sponsor Departments of the process including that DPER and DOF require at least six weeks for the approval process. He encouraged sponsor Departments to engage with him at the earliest opportunity.
- He also advised that it was NICS and ICS policy to appoint for a four (in NI) or five year max (in Ireland) fixed term, with no automatic renewal or automatic extension options.
- Sponsor Departments were reminded that to exceed the agreed headcount is in breach of a NSMC decision and that engaging staff in a “temporary” capacity could have an impact under employment legislation.
- **NR** is to consider potential attendance at future Working Group Meetings.
- The Joint Secretariat acknowledged the staffing issues and advised they are deliberating if a review of the Bodies should be considered.
- Donal Moran addressed Board Appointments and advised that the Joint Secretariat have a recommendation to FM/dFM for filling Executive vacancies based on the d’Hondt approach. He acknowledged he was aware of some urgent vacancies on the southern side and arrangements were being considered on how to fill those vacancies, possibly through an Institutional Meeting next month.
- **Name Redacted** advised of the intention to establish a SEUPB Steering Group to address the new Peace Plus.

## 7. AOB

- Donal thanked all for their attendance and participation and advised that a further Co-ordinators Meeting would be held later in the year.

**Name Redacted**