

North South Ministerial Council
Joint Secretariat



An Chomhairle Aireachta
Thuaidh Theas
An Chomhrúnaíocht

PAPER NSMC LAN 2 (12) JC

NORTH SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

NORTH SOUTH LANGUAGE BODY MEETING

NSMC JOINT SECRETARIAT OFFICES, ARMAGH

9 JULY 2012

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

1. The fifteenth North South Ministerial Council Language Body meeting was held in Armagh on 9 July, 2012. The meeting was attended by Carál Ní Chuilín, MLA, Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure, OFMDFM Junior Minister Jonathan Bell MLA and Dinny McGinley TD, Minister of State at the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Minister Ní Chuilín chaired the meeting.
2. The meeting dealt with issues relating to the Language Body and its two constituent Agencies, Tha Boord o Ulstèr Scotch (the Ulster-Scots Agency) and Foras na Gaeilge (the Irish Language Agency).

NORTH SOUTH LANGUAGE BODY PROGRESS REPORT

3. The Council received progress reports from Foras na Gaeilge and the Ulster-Scots Agency on collaborative work and other activities of the two Agencies including:

- a. ongoing collaboration on governance and promotion issues, including revision of the Equality Scheme, participation in joint showcase events and in the Young Ambassadors Programme and noted that the Chairpersons and the CEOs of the Agencies are currently in discussions on a schedule for joint Board meetings in order to focus on and progress joint projects.
- b. **The Ulster-Scots Agency** completed another very successful run of the 'Pat and Plain' drama series at 11 schools and launched the Ulster-Scots Foundation Certificate for Education in Highland Piping at Stormont in May, in conjunction with the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association. In conjunction with the Ulster-Scots Community Network, the Ulster-Scots Agency delivered Plantation Workshops to over 400 children at 17 schools in Ulster, 14 of which were held in the border counties of Cavan, Monaghan and Donegal.
- c. **Foras na Gaeilge** developed an online training network for translators and editors (details at www.aistear.ie) and provided accredited translators and editors with a new edition of the translation memory resource, encompassing both public service terminology and general terminology. Foras na Gaeilge also implemented improvements under its action plan for Áis, for example, orders can now be placed by e-mail and the introduction of an online ordering system is being examined. They continued to build links between Ireland and Scotland through both the Colmcille project and Tonnta which is preparing an inter-school link through podcasts between Belfast, Donegal and North Lanarkshire.

BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET 2012

4. The Council noted that discussions have taken place at Ministerial level on the 2012 Budgets with the focus on the delivery of key priorities and front line services. Once the budget allocations have been agreed, and following Finance Ministers' approval, the 2012 Business Plans and Budgets will be brought forward for approval at a future NSMC meeting.

ANNUAL REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS

5. The Council noted that the consolidated Language Body Report and Accounts for 2008 have been certified by the Comptrollers and Auditors General and will be laid in the respective Houses on 11th July 2012. The Council also noted the proposed timeline for laying the 2009 and 2010 Accounts in the respective Houses.

FORAS NA GAEILGE - REVIEW OF CORE FUNDING

6. The Council received a presentation from Foras na Gaeilge outlining progress on the development of a new funding model. The Council noted that 167 submissions had been received during the consultation process which ended in April 2012. The Council noted a revised implementation plan prepared by

Foras na Gaeilge and agreed that Foras na Gaeilge would provide final funding proposals at the next NSMC Language Body meeting.

FORAS NA GAEILGE – DICTIONARY PROJECT

7. Ministers noted recent developments in regard to the major new English/Irish dictionary and approved, within the existing budget, a revised timetable whereby the online electronic version will be published by end 2012 and the printed version will be published in 2015.

ULSTER-SCOTS AGENCY HAIRTLAN PROJECT

8. The Council noted proposals are being developed by the Ulster-Scots Agency to promote and support Ulster-Scots Hairtlan areas. The aim is to preserve, protect and present Ulster-Scots heritage through geographical designations. The Agency will, at a future NSMC meeting, present plans to develop and refine the Hairtlan project through partnership with key stakeholders.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9. The Council agreed to hold its next Language Body meeting at a date to be agreed in late 2012.

**Joint Secretariat
9 July 2012**