

North South Ministerial Council
Joint Secretariat



An Chomhairle Aireachta
Thuaidh Theas
An Chomhrúnaíocht

NORTH SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

SEVENTH INSTITUTIONAL MEETING

ROYAL HOSPITAL KILMAINHAM, DUBLIN

27 APRIL 2012

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

1. The seventh Institutional meeting of the North South Ministerial Council (NSMC) was held in the Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Dublin on 27th April 2012.
2. The Irish Government was represented by the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Eamon Gilmore TD who chaired the meeting. The Northern Ireland Executive was represented by the First Minister, the Rt Hon Peter Robinson MLA and the deputy First Minister, Martin McGuinness MP MLA.
3. Ministers exchanged views on the current economic situation and the budgetary challenges and discussed opportunities to build on existing co-operation particularly on the economy, service delivery and tourism. Ministers noted opportunities to maximise tourism gains during 2012 and 2013 including 'ni2012 Our Time - Our Place', Derry~Londonderry UK City of Culture and 'The Gathering 2013'.
4. Ministers launched the NSMC 2011 Annual Report which summarises work taken forward by the NSMC across all areas of cooperation in 2011.

EU MATTERS RAISED WITHIN THE NSMC

5. Ministers discussed the challenges and opportunities associated with the Irish EU Presidency in 2013. They reaffirmed their commitment to securing a further round of PEACE and INTERREG funding and stated that this is a priority for them.
6. The Council welcomed collaboration that had taken place to maximise the drawdown of EU funding, particularly for Research and Development and agreed that it was important that this collaboration continued.

NORTH WEST GATEWAY INITIATIVE

7. The Council welcomed progress on a range of initiatives delivered and planned which aim to deliver economic and social benefits in the North West including:
 - the Northern Ireland Executive's Programme for Government commitment to develop the One Plan for Derry ~ Londonderry;
 - collaborative work between Derry City Council and Donegal County Council to develop synergies between the One Plan and An Stráteis the Donegal County Development Plan;
 - construction of the new £70m Radiotherapy Unit at Altnagelvin planned to commence in 2013 and be operational by 2016;
 - commitment to the upgrade of two sections of the A5 with NI Executive funding of £330m including the Irish Government's commitment of £50m;
 - commitment to date of over €120m from EU Programmes in the North West including the flagship projects such as the €30m Project Kelvin and €16m Peace Bridge;
 - commitment to maximise the economic tourism potential of the City of Culture and the Gathering 2013. The Northern Ireland Executive has committed £12.6m, subject to completion and approval of appropriate business cases, to support the delivery of the City of Culture programme, including the hosting of the Turner Prize, Stirling Prize and All Ireland Fleadh; and
 - the North West has been allocated £18.5m under Axis 3 of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme.
8. The Council agreed to review progress on the North West Gateway Initiative again at the next NSMC Institutional meeting.

NORTH SOUTH BODIES AND TOURISM IRELAND LTD ISSUES

9. The Council discussed matters relating to the North South Bodies, including progress on Corporate and Business Plans, implementation of cumulative efficiency savings and the ongoing review of the Bodies' Financial Memoranda.
10. The Council noted that Liam Nellis, Chief Executive of Inter *Tradel* Ireland, is due to retire and thanked him for his contribution to the work of Inter *Tradel* Ireland.

ST ANDREWS AGREEMENT REVIEW

11. Ministers discussed progress on consideration at NSMC meetings of a number of proposals concerning the North South Bodies. They looked forward to further discussion on this and on the other elements of the St Andrews Agreement Review at the June 2012 NSMC Plenary meeting.

**Joint Secretariat
27 April 2012**