



Department for
**Social
Development**

5th Floor
Lighthouse Building
1 Cromac Place
Gasworks Business Park
Ormeau Road
BELFAST
BT7 2JB

Fax: (028) 9082 9548
e-mail: private.office@dndni.gov.uk

Tel: (028) 9082 9034

Mr Alex Maskey MLA
Chair Committee for Social Development
Room 412
Parliament Buildings
BELFAST
BT4 3XX

Our ref: COR/1493/2011

5 December 2011

Dear Alex

GREEN NEW DEAL

Thank you for your letter dated 16 November 2011 seeking confirmation of a date when a decision is expected on the allocation of the £12m Green New Deal money and the criteria being used to examine the economic appraisal of the Green New Deal Group's business plan and other alternative plans in informing that decision.

As you are aware a Cross Departmental Group which includes DSD, DETI and DFP are in the process of examining options for the delivery of the programme. The Cross Departmental Group is currently developing a full economic appraisal to examine different models for the delivery of a programme to support improving the energy efficiency of domestic building stock in Northern Ireland and have agreed to consider the Green New Deal Group's business proposal as one of the options within the full business case.

The full economic business case will be developed adhering to the guidance in the Northern Ireland Guide to Expenditure Appraisal and Evaluation (NIGEAE). The criteria being used will determine the most cost effective way of spending the £12m, ensuring that the maximum benefit is realised from the expenditure. This means that the options being developed, including the Green New Deal Group's business proposal option, will be assessed on the basis of what they propose to deliver in the context of improving energy efficiency in domestic properties, any associated benefits or costs and any associated risk around the potential to deliver the proposal including where those risks may lie.



INVEST IN PEOPLE

Together, tackling disadvantage, building communities

The economic appraisal should be available within the next 4 to 6 weeks with a decision on the delivery of the programme expected shortly after that.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Nelson McCausland

NELSON McCAUSLAND MLA
Minister for Social Development