

DRAFT PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT 2016-21
COMMITTEE FOR THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE – RESPONSE TEMPLATE

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General Comments on the 14 Outcomes	Libraries NI is of the view that the proposed Outcomes set out, in straightforward terms, the conditions of wellbeing that we should aspire to attain for all our citizens and is supportive of them and the approach being taken.
Delivery Plan – Indicator 26, 31 and 35: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Respect Index 	<p>Libraries NI welcomes the commitment to developing a Respect Index and awaits further information on the approach that will be taken. It would be important that the three indicators being used to measure progress in relation to these outcomes complement, but do not duplicate each other and that they provide a comprehensive picture of progress being made.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % who think leisure centres, parks, libraries and shopping centres in their areas are shared and open to both Protestants and Catholics 	<p>Public libraries are widely recognised as welcoming, accessible, trusted and shared spaces, embedded in communities and used by people of all ages, cultures and backgrounds. Since its inception in 2009, Libraries NI has undertaken a number of public consultations and each time respondents have emphasised that the library is a shared space – in some areas the only shared community facility – and that it contributes to community cohesion. This is confirmed by the results of the Northern Ireland Life & Times Survey and this indicator. This is welcome.</p> <p>However it is our view that in our increasingly multi-cultural society the current indicator, with its focus on Protestants and Catholics, is too narrow. Public spaces should be welcoming and</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % the population who believe their cultural identity is respected by society <p>Primary Indicators for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome 7: We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other • Outcome 9: We are a shared society that respects diversity • Outcome 10: We are a confident, welcoming outward-looking society • 	<p>accessible to all sections of the community and consideration should be given to extending this indicator to include the percentage of people who think that these spaces are shared, open <u>and welcoming</u> to all sections of the community.</p> <p>As with the previous indicator it is our view that the definition of cultural identity should be broadened to encompass all sections of the community, and recognise the increasingly multi-cultural nature of our society.</p>
<p>Delivery Plan – Indicators 30 and 40:</p> <p>Total spend by external visitors</p> <p>Nation Brands Index</p>	<p>No comment</p>

<p>Primary Indicators for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome 10: We are a confident, welcoming, outward-looking society • Outcome 12: We have created a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest 	
<p>General Comments on the Outcomes-based Approach to the Programme for Government</p>	<p>Libraries NI is supportive of the outcomes-based approach and the emphasis on conditions of wellbeing for individuals and society as a whole; the focus on impact on people; the commitment to working across government and breaking down silos; and the recognition given to the importance of partnership and collaboration in both the design and delivery of the actions necessary to realise the aspirations in the draft Programme for Government.</p> <p>This approach correlates with Libraries NI's method of working as demonstrated, for example, by the various partnership agreements and Memoranda of Understanding that it has implemented with other organizations in the public, voluntary and community sector, reinforcing the role of libraries as a local access point to their services and helping to facilitate joined-up approaches to service delivery.</p> <p>Delivery of the outcomes in the Programme for Government will require a concerted effort by everyone involved and recognition that this is the start of a process which entails a long-term commitment if real change is to be effected.</p>