



seminar

Public sector finance

learning to deliver more with less

agendaNi
magazine

Thursday 10th June 2010
La Mon Hotel, Belfast
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Public sector finance seminar

The scale of the challenge

There is little doubt about the scale of the challenge facing the public sector over the coming decade and beyond. The UK government is facing unprecedented levels of national debt and while the impact this will have on public spending is not yet fully determined, it is expected to be severe. HM Treasury has forecast that without tax increases, annual public sector expenditure could have to fall by up to £35 billion per annum if national debt is to be reduced by 50% by 2014. The impact of lower public spending is already being felt locally with Finance Minister Sammy Wilson, MLA outlining earlier this year how £367 million would be cut from the Northern Ireland budget next year, with the aim of ensuring that our public finances remain on a stable basis.

Ministers and their departmental officials now face the challenge of delivering more with less – finding ways of ensuring that priority frontline services can be protected while reducing their spending plans. Now is the time to look at ways of increasing the resources available for public services, cost reduction and implementing efficiency savings.

Finding new ways of delivering more with less

This seminar will address these three inter-related themes and will examine how a major transformation of Northern Ireland's public finances can be brought about. While the tough high-level decisions on where spending cuts should fall may lie with Ministers and high-ranking civil servants, the responsibility of implementing cuts and finding efficiency savings will impact across all those working in frontline service delivery roles across Northern Ireland's health, education and other public services sectors. It is the responsibility of everyone to learn to 'do more with less' and find innovative ways of working that can reduce costs while preventing a negative impact on vital public services. This seminar will be of interest to all those working across government and the wider public sector with an interest or role in tackling the financial challenges facing Northern Ireland government at all levels. It will also be of interest to those in the business and voluntary and community sectors who are working in advisory or service delivery roles.

Participating speakers



Marian Corcoran is the Head of Management Consulting practice in Accenture in Ireland and is global lead for Finance and Performance Management in Accenture's Government practice. She is responsible for helping clients develop, execute and operationalise their business strategies through using Accenture's management consulting services. Marian has twenty one years experience of designing and delivering large scale change programmes across a range of industries in Ireland, UK and across Europe.



Stephen Peover took up the post of Permanent Secretary for the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) in August 2009. He oversees the Department's responsibilities for public expenditure, public sector procurement, economic analysis and its relationships with HM Treasury and the European Commission.



Michael Smyth is Head of the School of Economics at the University of Ulster. He is also a member of the European Economic and Social Committee. He is one of Northern Ireland's foremost economic commentators and specializes in economic development and European-related issues.



Nigel Smyth has been Director of CBI Northern Ireland since 1991 with responsibility for preparing papers on a wide range of public policy issues. He has helped develop the CBI into an effective business representative body in Northern Ireland. Nigel is a member of the Economic Development Forum and the IBEC/CBI Joint Business Council.



Robert Watt is Assistant Secretary, Sectoral Policy Division in the Department of Finance in Dublin. During 2009 the McCarthy report, produced by a group advising the Irish Government known as 'An Bord Snip Nua' identified savings of up to €5.3 billion across the public sector along with a cut of 17,300 in staff numbers.

Thursday 10th June 2010

09.00 Chairman's welcome and introduction

Examining the public sector finance challenge

Stephen Peover, Permanent Secretary
Department of Finance and Personnel

Addressing Ireland's fiscal challenge

Robert Watt, Assistant Secretary
Department of Finance, Republic of Ireland

Death and taxes...

Are budget cuts the only option?

Michael Smyth
Head of School of Economics
University of Ulster

Questions and answers / Panel discussion

10.30 Morning coffee / networking break

11.00 *Delivering efficiencies through technology and innovation*

Marian Corcoran
Head of Management Consulting, Ireland
Accenture

Ensuring value for money in delivering public services

Eddie Bradley, Assistant Auditor General
Northern Ireland Audit Office

Taking a private sector approach to implementing savings and efficiencies

Nigel Smyth, Director
CBI Northern Ireland

Delivering cost-effective public sector procurement: The role of the Gateway review process

David Carson, Divisional Director
Central Procurement Directorate

Questions & answers / Panel discussion

13.00 Chairman's summary and seminar close followed by networking lunch

“some very difficult decisions will need to be taken to reduce the level of borrowing from 11.8% of GDP in 2009-10...Northern Ireland will not be immune from the effects of these decisions”

Sammy Wilson, MP, MLA
Minister of Finance and Personnel
24th March 2010



I wish to:

- Reserve _____ places at the *Public sector finance seminar*
Delegate fee £195 + VAT @ 17.5% = £229.13
- Discounted rate for the voluntary and community sector
£165 + VAT @ 17.5% = £193.88

Delegate details

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr): _____

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Organisation: _____

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Payment options

- I enclose a cheque for £ _____
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Cancellations / substitutions

For those unable to attend, a substitute delegate may be sent at any time for no additional charge. Alternatively a refund will be given for cancellations received in writing, by fax or email, up to 14 days prior to the seminar, less an administration charge of 25%. Regrettably no refunds can be made after that date.

Who should attend?

This focused seminar is aimed at key decision-makers and those across government and the wider public sector with an interest or role in tackling the financial challenges facing Northern Ireland government at all levels. It will also appeal to those interacting with the public sector, both in policy-making and service-delivery or advisory roles. Those interested in attending will include:

- Chief Executives / Directors / senior managers
- Finance directors / managers
- Central government / departmental officials
- Agencies, advisory bodies and NDPBs
- Frontline service delivery professionals
- Auditors / value for money specialists
- Local government officers and elected representatives
- Budget-holders / Corporate planners
- Voluntary / community sector leaders / NGOs
- Services organisations eg: IT / telecoms
- Financial and legal advisors

Benefits of attending

Delegates attending the seminar will:

- ✓ Understand the scale of the finance challenge facing the public sector
- ✓ Hear about innovative ideas for bridging the funding gap
- ✓ Gain insight into areas where revenue could be raised
- ✓ Learn where efficiency savings should be targeted
- ✓ Understand the role of technology in improving public service delivery

Acknowledgement of registration

Confirmation of registration will be sent to all delegates, following registration details. If you have not received your acknowledgement seven days prior to the date of the seminar, please contact Cathy Glenn at agendaNi to confirm your booking. Email: cathy.glenn@agendaNi.com

Other ways to book



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