

agendaNi

Rethinking Government seminar

...coping with budget cuts?
...smaller government?
...bigger private sector?
...impact on services?
...stronger social economy?

Sponsored by

Deloitte.

Tuesday 26th October 2010
Grosvenor House Conference Centre, Belfast

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Asking the difficult questions...

At a time when the Northern Ireland public sector is facing significant spending cuts, with an initial challenge to identify £128 million in savings, there is an opportunity to ask some of the bigger questions about the role and scope of government here and whether it is sustainable in the current stringent spending environment. This half day seminar has been organised to consider some of these questions, including whether government can continue, into the future, to do everything that it does at present or whether there are different, perhaps better and even cheaper ways of delivering services.

Size of government...?

Northern Ireland has been engaged in the Review of Public Administration for almost a decade but yet some of the major reforms have not been implemented, or in some cases even agreed upon so far. With harsh spending cuts imminent, now is the time to seriously consider the size of government in Northern Ireland and where and how this could be reduced in order to make efficiency savings.

Bigger private sector...?

Northern Ireland will have to take its share of the overall cuts in the UK Budget but the implications here will be even more significant than elsewhere with an economy which is so dependent on the public sector. It is accepted that the private sector in Northern Ireland is too small and that there is a need to rebalance the economy. With the likelihood of fewer public sector jobs and the decrease in public spending, now is the time to start looking at ways of growing the private sector by considering areas where private sector expertise could be deployed to assist with service delivery.

Stronger third sector...?

One of the key policy areas for the new coalition government is that of the 'Big Society' – the idea that people should be more involved in their local community and public services necessitating the redistribution of power away from central government towards local government and beyond to communities and neighbourhoods. The voluntary and community sector in Northern Ireland already have an important role in providing core services and it is important to examine the future of these services as budget cuts hit.

Seminar programme

This morning seminar will examine all these issues and more by way of an expert panel of local and visiting speakers. A key feature of the seminar will be a round-table discussion, featuring representatives from the local political parties, who will share their views on issues around the size and scope of government. The seminar represents an excellent opportunity for all those with a role or interest in the key issues around providing better public services, tackling budget cuts and making efficiency savings to come together for discussion and debate.

Participating speakers



Simon Hamilton, MLA represents Strangford for the DUP. He was first elected to the Northern Ireland Assembly in 2007. He is the Chair of the Social Development Committee at the Assembly and also sits on the Finance and Personnel and Assembly and Executive Review Committees. He is also Vice Chair of the All Party Assembly Group on Energy. Simon has been a member of Ards Borough Council since 2005.



Jackie Henry is a Partner with Deloitte and leads the firm's public sector practice in Northern Ireland. She is a chartered accountant by profession and has over 20 years experience and knowledge of public sector organisations. In recent years she has supported the Northern Ireland public sector in a number of key reorganisation and reform projects.



Chris Lyttle, MLA succeeded Naomi Long as Alliance MLA for East Belfast on 5th July 2010. Chris, who previously worked for Naomi Long, is Vice-Chair of the East Belfast sub-group of Belfast District Policing Partnership for 2009-2010. He was educated at Queen's University and Harvard University.



Seamus McAleavey is Chief Executive of NICVA, the representative body for the voluntary and community organisations in Northern Ireland. He is a member of the Commission of Inquiry into the Future of Civil Society in the UK and Ireland, established by the Carnegie Trust, whose report was published in March 2010.



Basil McCrea is an Ulster Unionist MLA for Lagan Valley, elected to the Northern Ireland Assembly in 2007. He is a member of the Education Committee at the Assembly and is the party's education spokesman. He has been a member of Lisburn City Council since 2005 and a member of the Northern Ireland Policing Board since 2007.



Mitchel McLaughlin is Sinn Féin MLA for South Antrim, elected in 2007. He previously represented the Foyle constituency in the Assembly. He is a member of the Northern Ireland Assembly's Finance and Personnel Committee and Public Accounts Committee and is the Sinn Féin economy spokesperson. He is a former member of Derry City Council and has served as Sinn Féin Chairperson and General Secretary.



Joanne Stuart was appointed as the Chairman of the IoD Northern Ireland division in May 2008. With 20 years experience working in the IT industry for a number of multi-national corporations, including Oracle, Joanne branched out to form her own business, in 2006, specialising in providing business and IT consultancy services to large corporate IT companies. Joanne is also a non-executive director of Sentinus and a Trustee of the Integrated Education Fund.

09.00 Chairman's welcome & introduction

Delivering excellent public services in challenging times

Bruce Robinson

Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Big Society v Big Government?

Dr Eamonn Butler, Director

Adam Smith Institute

Reshaping the public sector for an age of austerity

Jackie Henry, Partner, Deloitte

Questions and answers / Panel discussion

10.30 Morning coffee / networking break

11.00 *Smaller Government, bigger private sector*

Joanne Stuart, Chairman

Institute of Directors Northern Ireland

Examining the social and economic impact of public sector budget cuts

Seamus McAleavey

Chief Executive, NICVA

Delivering public services through the social economy

Anne Graham, Director

Social Economy Network

Questions & answers / Panel discussion

12.15 Political panel discussion: What should be the size and role of government in Northern Ireland?

Mark Durkan, MP, MLA, SDLP

Simon Hamilton, MLA, DUP

Chris Lyttle, MLA, Alliance Party

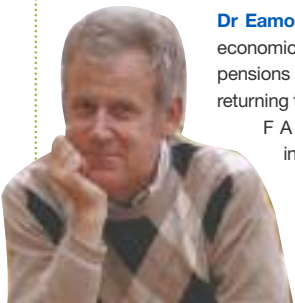
Basil McCrea, MLA, Ulster Unionist Party

Mitchel McLaughlin, MLA, Sinn Féin

An opportunity to hear the views of, and put questions to, the local political parties.

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

Visiting keynote speaker



Dr Eamonn Butler is director of the Adam Smith Institute, rated one of the world's leading policy think-tanks. He has degrees in economics, philosophy and psychology, gaining a PhD from the University of St Andrews in 1978. During the 1970s he worked on pensions and welfare issues for the US House of Representatives, and taught philosophy in Hillsdale College, Michigan, before returning to the UK to help found the Adam Smith Institute. Eamonn is author of books on the pioneering economists Milton Friedman, F A Hayek, Ludwig von Mises and Adam Smith, and co-author of *Forty Centuries of Wage and Price Controls* and books on intelligence testing.

He contributes to the leading UK print and broadcast media on current issues, and his recent popular publications *The Best Book on the Market*, *The Rotten State of Britain* and *The Alternative Manifesto* have attracted considerable attention. He has also contributed articles to national magazines and newspapers on subjects ranging from health policy, economic management, taxation and public spending, transport, pensions, and welfare.

I wish to:

- Reserve ____ places at the Rethinking Government seminar
Delegate fee £175 + VAT @ 17.5% = £205.63
- Discounted rate for the voluntary and community sector
£155 + VAT @ 17.5% = £182.13
- Discounted rate for local government sector
(Elected representatives and officers)
£155 + VAT @ 17.5% = £182.13

Delegate details

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

Job title: _____

Organisation: _____

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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 the key issues around 'Rethinking Government'. 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 – IT / telecoms
- Financial and legal advisors

Benefits of attending

Delegates attending the 'Rethinking Government' seminar will:

- ✓ Engage in debate on the optimum size of government in Northern Ireland
- ✓ Hear more about the potential role for the private and voluntary sectors in service delivery
- ✓ Understand the implications of proposed budget cuts in Northern Ireland
- ✓ Participate in a Q&A session with local MLAs

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



By fax
028 9261 9951



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