



Rodney Connor B.Sc. (Econ) D.M.S.  
Chief Executive



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Our Ref: EmcG/JW

20thDecember 2007

M sMelanie McGinnis  
Economic Policy Unit  
OFMDFM  
Rm E5.22  
Castle Buildings  
Stonmont  
Belfast BT4 3SR

Dear M sMcGinnis

re: **CONSULTATION ON DRAFT BUDGET-TOURISM**

The Council has considered the Consultation Document on the Draft Budget for Tourism, which was received from the Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board on 3rdDecember 2007.

The Council would like to make the following comments:-

1. Fermanagh District Council welcomes the increased level of commitment to the tourism industry announced by Minister Dodds.
2. The Council is strongly of the view that the development of tourism in Fermanagh over the next ten years, as envisaged in the Destination Fermanagh Strategy, should be allocated significant resources, particularly for tourism marketing. The current uncertainty with regard to the availability of future funding for regional and destination marketing is of great concern and needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency.
3. The Council is concerned at the undue prominence given to the Signature Projects in the Budget Documentation and seeks clarity as to the funding resources that are proposed to be allocated to these. The direction of resources towards the Signature Projects should not be to the detriment of investment in the large area of Northern Ireland, including Fermanagh, that does not have such projects.

Robert Ponds B.Sc. (E.H.) F.R.C.S.H. F.R.C.P.H.  
Director of Environmental Health

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Director of Building Control

Ms Melanie McGinnis

20 December 2007

4. The Council is also concerned at the inadequate time allowed for the consultation process, particularly in view of the fact that the Christmas holidays fall during the consultation period.
5. The Council wishes to know if an equality impact assessment has been carried out in relation to the proposed funding.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Gibson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**ROBERT GIBSON**  
**DIRECTOR OF LEISURE, TOURISM AND ARTS**