



21st December 2007

Ms. Melanie McGuinness
Economic Policy Unit
E5.20
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BT4 3SQ

Dear Ms. McGuinness

RE: Draft Budget 2008 – 2011

Ilex, the Urban Regeneration Company for Derry~Londonderry welcomes the opportunity to respond to the consultation on the draft Budget 2008 - 2011.

We understand that the Programme for Government is used to determine the Budget and the Investment Strategy and to assist with the allocation of resources and capital investment yet it is unclear how these documents all fit together given that the draft Programme for Government refers to priorities and 23 PSAs, the Investment Strategy to pillars and 23 sub pillars and the Budget to individual government departments. There is no clear cross referencing between each of the three documents and the priorities, pillars and departments therein.

Ilex supports proposals to secure greater efficiencies in public expenditure however we would be concerned that this will be achieved at the expense of service delivery.

It is not clear from the draft Investment Strategy and the draft Budget whether PPP or PFI will be used as a mechanism for taking forward capital projects. If this is the case it is important that it is clearly specified. If projects are being taken forward through these mechanisms it is important that this is factored into revenue budget allocations so as to ensure that service delivery, particularly in the health and education sectors, is not adversely affected.

Under the Department for Regional Development budget allocation no reference is made to the proposed dualling of the A6 between Derry~Londonderry and Dungiven nor does it set out any plans to upgrade public transport links between Derry~Londonderry and Belfast.

Under the Department for Social Development section, whilst there is a budget heading urban regeneration/community development there is no reference made to the significance of urban regeneration and strategic sites including Ebrington and Fort George in the preamble to the section.

Ilex has valued the opportunity to respond to this important consultation on the draft Budget and trust that our comments will be taken into consideration.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gerard McCleave". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Gerard McCleave
Director of Strategy and Regeneration

Cc Martin Spollen, Strategic Investment Board
Tom Reid, DFP