

The Public Service Delivery Challenge

Dr Malcolm McKibbin Head of the NI Civil Service 18 November 2015

2015 CIPFA Governance & Leadership Conference

1



Political Context

- Sustained period of devolution since 2007
- Stormont House Agreement December 2014
- Impasse on welfare reform
- Budgetary pressures
- Stormont House Talks 2015
- Four party Executive







3



Stormont Agreement & Implementation Plan

- Ending paramilitarism and tackling organised crime
- Tri-lateral Ministerial meeting
- Joint Taskforce
- Executive programme of additional measures
- Corporation Tax 12.5% from April 2018
- Financial envelope for welfare and tax credit enhancements
- Welfare Bill
- Flags and Parading
- Institutional reform
- Other outstanding commitments



Financial Package

£m	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Total
2015-16 welfare penalty refund	20	20				40
Invest to Save-fraud and error	25	25	25	25	25	125
OBR savings	30	30	30	30	30	150
2015-16 Legacy Underspend					30	30
PSNI Security	32	32	32	32	32	160
Paramilitary Security	5	5	5	5	5	25
Paramilitary Monitoring	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8		3.20
Shared Future	12	12	12	12	12	60
Total	124.8	124.8	104.8	104.8	134	593.2



Strategic Context

- Challenging fiscal environment
- Reducing the pay-bill
- Changing demographics & public expectations
- Economic resilience and competitiveness
- Social resilience reconciling a divided society
- Services for the convenience of customers
- Speed of communications & advances in technology



The Aspiration

- Supporting the Executive and implementing the Programme for Government
- Being fit for purpose
- Professional, respected, adaptable & skilled
- Energy, pace, compassion & resilience
- Improved social, education, health & economic outcomes
- Honesty, integrity, objectivity & impartiality

7



In other words...

A Civil Service which serves the government of the day well, delivers a Programme for Government that improves societal outcomes for citizens and taxpayers and remains fit for purpose to serve future governments effectively



The Challenge

- Burning platform
- Cannot deliver in same way
- Capability and skills
- Public confidence
- Business continuity
- Significant leadership challenges
- Reform and modernise

9



Not a standing start...

- An ambitious programme of Public Sector Reform already underway
- Designed to utilise available resources more efficiently and effectively
- Building on cumulative savings of over £3.5 billion since 2008



Delivering Reform - Achievements

- RPA: reduction from 26 to 11 councils
- 5 Health & Social Care Trusts from 19 bodies
- Shared Services: finance, HR, learning and development, IT and digital services, property and estate management
- Sectoral reform: NI Water, Prisons, DVA, Education

11



Shaping future Public Services

- Reduction in NICS staff numbers: 5,210 (16%) from 2014 - 2016
- Voluntary Exit Scheme: £150 million in 2015-16
- Public sector: 2,200 exits in 2015-16
- Reduce number of departments from 12 to 9
- Asset management
- Digital transformation: 16 by 16
- Cross-cutting reform
- OECD and Centre for Economic Policy reports
- Outcome-based Programme for Government













Coming up....

11



Looking forward

- Modernising and designing a Civil Service that is:
 - > coherent, agile, responsive, innovative and leaner
 - works collaboratively
 - delivers quality services and improved outcomes
- Being as good as we can be
- Society where individuals and communities can flourish through creation of a thriving balanced economy/successful tackling of disadvantage