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FROM: Trevor Cooper

DATE: 26 June 2014

TO: 1. Andrew Crawford
2. Arlene Foster MLA

ADDITIONAL & UPDATED BRIEFING FOR SUPPLY RESOLUTION DEBATES

Issue: DFP has commissioned updates to existing briefing and additional briefing which will be used by the Finance Minister for the Final Supply Resolution Assembly debate in support of the Budget Bill scheduled for the Assembly on Monday 30 June 2014.

Timing: **URGENT.** DFP has just requested updates on the briefing that was cleared by you on 27 May 2014 and some additional briefing. The DFP Minister requires this in advance of the Debate on Monday 30 June 2014.

Need for referral to the Assembly N/A. We are providing background briefing for the DFP Minister.

Presentational Issues: None.

Freedom of Information: Disclosable.

Programme for Government /PSA Implications: None identified at this stage.

Financial Implications: Assembly approval is required to provide the appropriate authority for departmental spending in 2014-15.

Legislation Implications: Assembly approval required for Budget Bill and Main Estimates. DFP is in the lead.

Statutory Equality: Considered in budget settlement and as part of in-year monitoring. HLIAs are completed for changes made through in-year monitoring.

Recommendation: That you consider and approve the attached briefing material.

Background

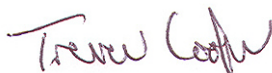
1. DFP has asked for updates to existing briefing material and additional briefing which will be used by the Finance Minister for the Supply Resolution Debates in the Assembly, in support of the Budget Bill and the 2014-15 Main Estimates, which is scheduled to take place on 30 June 2014.
2. Estimates set out the detailed spending plans of Northern Ireland departments and form the basis for the authorisation by the Assembly of sufficient funding and resources for services as detailed in the corresponding Budget Act.
3. Debates on the Supply Resolution and Budget Bill tend to be wide ranging as questions can be raised on any services covered by the Estimates.

Briefing Material

4. You have already approved briefing material for this debate. However, DFP Supply has asked for updates to existing briefing and additional briefing, which is attached at **Annex A** - items 1-21
5. Items 1 & 2 are new briefing and items 3-21 reflect tracked changes to the briefing you cleared earlier.

Recommendation

6. That you consider and approve the additional and updated briefing material at **Annex A** for the Supply Resolution Debate in the Assembly.



TREVOR COOPER

cc David Sterling
Eugene Rooney
Alastair Ross, MLA, Assembly Private Secretary
Bernie Brankin
Jeff Partridge

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UPDATED BRIEFING MAIN ESTIMATES DEBATES

- 1. Tourism Policy – The Open Golf Championship**
- 2. Tourism Policy – Review of NITB and Wider Tourism structures**
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- 4. Telecoms – Current Broadband Projects**
- 5. Telecoms – Future Broadband Projects**
- 6. HSENI – Farm Safety**
- 7. Minerals – High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing**
- 8. EPD – Agri-Food Loan Scheme**
- 9. EPD – NI Economic Strategy**
- 10. EPD – NI Economic Package – Building a Prosperous and United Community**
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- 12. Energy – Gas Network Extension**
- 13. Energy - What is Being Done to Reduce Electricity Prices**
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- 20. Energy – Moyle Interconnector**
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RAISED BY: TOURISM POLICY

TOPIC NAME: THE OPEN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

LINES TO TAKE:

- The First and deputy First Ministers announced on Monday 16 June that Royal Portrush Golf Club has been invited to join the rota to host the Open, with a view to hosting the Championship in 2019.
- It will be the first time the Championship has been played at Royal Portrush since 1951.
- The Royal & Ancient confirmed that the runaway success of the Irish Open in 2012 had assisted them in their decision.
- The arrival of the Open will further consolidate Northern Ireland's reputation as the home of outstanding events and further boost efforts to grow domestic and overnight visitor numbers and spend; reaching an estimated worldwide audience of approx 90 million people.
- The Northern Ireland Tourist Board has played a role in attracting the event and will play a key role in the years ahead in ensuring its success.
- Tourism Ireland continues to roll out an extensive programme of promotions in 2014, profiling Northern Ireland as a wonderful location

for golfing breaks and holidays, to boost the number of golf holidaymakers to Northern Ireland each year.

- It is a hugely significant step forward and reinforces Northern Ireland's reputation as a golfing destination and the country's position at the forefront of the game, following the ground-breaking success of its players on the global stage.

RAISED BY: TOURISM POLICY

**TOPIC NAME: REVIEW OF NITB AND WIDER TOURISM
STRUCTURES**

LINES TO TAKE:

- The review of NITB and wider tourism structures commenced in November 2013.
- The aim of the review is to ensure that current organisational structures are the optimum necessary to deliver the tourism targets and actions set out in the Programme for Government and Economic Strategy.
- The review aims to ensure that there is a greater alignment between what NITB does and the work of Invest NI. This follows on from a report by IREP which recommended a revised structure within Invest NI. The reviewer has also been asked to consider the impact of the Review of Public Administration on tourism development in Northern Ireland.
- The independent reviewer has been engaged in a lengthy series of consultations with stakeholders. Minister Foster is scheduled to make a statement to the NI Executive on the findings of this report on 1 July 2014 following which a public consultation will be undertaken over the summer period.