



**Date: 28th November 2011**

## **Welcome to the 6th Edition of Supporting Communities NI E-Biz**

### **NEWS**

#### **DRAFT PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT PUBLISHED**

The First Minister and Deputy First Minister have published the draft Programme for Government, laying out the Executive's commitments and priorities for 2011-2015. The Executive is now seeking views on this draft document and the consultation period will run until 22 February 2012.

The Programme for Government and the Ministerial statement can be downloaded on:  
<http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/index/work-of-the-executive/pfg.htm>

#### **Responses to the consultation should be submitted to:**

Programme for Government Team

Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister  
Room E3.19, Block E, Castle Buildings, Stormont Estate, Belfast BT4 3SR

Email: [pfg@ofmdfmi.gov.uk](mailto:pfg@ofmdfmi.gov.uk)

Deadline for response is 22 February 2012



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#### **GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE TO MANAGING GREEN SPACE**

Neighbourhoods Green and the National Housing Federation have published a good practice guide highlighting the impact of high quality green spaces in local neighbourhoods. The guide draws on a literature review by the University of Sheffield, offers illustrative case studies of ten key principles and provides a practical resource signposting to further information.



**Greener Neighbourhoods:** A good practice guide to managing green space draws on a literature review undertaken by the University of Sheffield, offers illustrative case studies of ten key principles and provides a practical resource signposting to further information.

The guide aims to inspire and support social landlords and their residents to take more action to plan for and improve their green space assets.

[www.housing.org.uk/publications/find\\_a\\_publication/housing\\_management/greener\\_neighbourhoods\\_reside.aspx](http://www.housing.org.uk/publications/find_a_publication/housing_management/greener_neighbourhoods_reside.aspx)

## CONSULTATIONS



### Current consultations with closing dates

#### Draft Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2011 - 2021

The Investment Strategy identifies priority areas for infrastructure investment in the years ahead, helps stakeholders in public, private and voluntary sector partners plan for the challenge of delivering the infrastructure programme. You can find out more and download the consultation documents on the Strategic Investment Board (SIB) website.

[www.sibni.org](http://www.sibni.org)

Closing date: 22nd February 2012

#### Draft Northern Ireland Economic Strategy

A 12 week public consultation on the draft Northern Ireland Economic Strategy has been launched.

You can find out more and download the consultation document below:

[www.northernireland.gov.uk/economic-strategy](http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/economic-strategy)

Closing date: 22nd February 2012

#### Policy on proposed changes to GCSEs

The Department of Education (DE) is seeking views from the public and education professionals on proposed changes to the GCSE examination system. Proposed changes include:

- putting assessment back to the end of the two-year course - as opposed to the current system where some subjects are assessed at the end of units
- increasing the marks allocated for spelling, punctuation and grammar in pupils' answers

[www.deni.gov.uk/index/80-curriculum-and-assessment/115-curriculum-and-assessment-qualifications-pg](http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/80-curriculum-and-assessment/115-curriculum-and-assessment-qualifications-pg)

Closing date: 30th December 2011

#### Social Investment Fund Consultation

The Social Investment Fund aims to reduce poverty, unemployment and physical deterioration through area based interventions of significant scale which will be delivered in partnership with communities.

A period of consultation has been launched on the Social Investment Fund ending on 23 December 2011. OFMDFM wants to hear your views on the best way to operate this fund and make it a success.

You can access the consultation documents and complete the online questionnaire at:

<http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/index/equality/social-investment-fund.htm>

## EVENTS

### REVIEW OF YOUTH JUSTICE IN NORTHERN IRELAND



The Department of Justice has organised a series of public meetings to seek views as part of the public consultation on the recently-published report on the Review of the Youth Justice System in Northern Ireland.

The report sets out a number of recommendations for changes to the youth justice system and wider arrangements for children in Northern Ireland, and the Department is keen to hear your views on the proposals.

Consultation events have been arranged at the following locations, and all commence at 7pm. - we would welcome your attendance and input:

- Wednesday 30 November Cloona House, Poleglass, Belfast
- Thursday 1 December Adair Arms Hotel, Ballymena
- Tuesday 6 December The Group Space, Ulster Hall, Belfast
- Thursday 8 December St. Columb's Park House, Derry/Londonderry
- Tuesday 13 December The Clinton Centre, Enniskillen
- Thursday 15 December Ballybot House, Newry

Please register your attendance by telephone at 028 9052 6568 or by emailing: [youthjusticereviewteam@dojni.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:youthjusticereviewteam@dojni.x.gsi.gov.uk). If you are unable to make one of the public meetings, you can access the report and consultation documents on:

[www.dojni.gov.uk/youth-justice-review](http://www.dojni.gov.uk/youth-justice-review)

Telephone: 028 9052 6568 Textphone: 028 9052 7668

Writing to:

Youth Justice Unit, Room A4.15, Block A, Castle Buildings, Stormont, Belfast BT4 3SG

The closing date for the consultation is Friday 30 December 2011.

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### COMMUNITY PLACES PLANNING UPDATE 2011

Thursday 1 December 2011 at 11.00 am to 12.30 pm followed by lunch in 2 Downshire Place, Great Victoria Street, Belfast

Community Places is inviting all community groups to come along to an update on the planning system.

This session is free and will give an overview of the many changes that have taken place this year, including:

- ❑ **T**he new Planning Act;
- ❑ **P**lanning Policy Proposals;
- ❑ **T**he new Rural Design Guide;
- ❑ **C**hanges to permitted Development Rights.

Community  
Places



Community Places will also provide information about the changes expected next year and the support that Community Places can offer to community groups to help them prepare for this.

To register for this event, please contact Elaine on 028 9023 9444 or by email: [elaine@communityplaces.info](mailto:elaine@communityplaces.info)

## TRAINING

The following training courses are currently offered:



### ADVICE NI'S ONLINE DEBT TRAINING

Advice NI will be delivering the Introduction to Dealing with Debt course as an e-learning course in December. This innovative training course will allow trainees to complete their training at work, home or wherever they have internet access.

The online course is accredited by OCNNI at level two and will help participants to:

- ❑ **U**nderstand the basic principles of money advice
- ❑ **E**xplore the nature and extent of a debt problem
- ❑ **C**heck a client's liability

The course will take place on 5 December and will run for two weeks.

This course will be available **free** to MAT partners in Northern Ireland which includes Advice NI, Citizens Advice and the Consumer Credit Counselling Service.

Numbers are limited and are allocated on a first come first served basis.

To register your interest or for further information please contact [joanne@adviceni.net](mailto:joanne@adviceni.net)

**VOLUNTEER NOW** has published its autumn training schedule. The full schedule can be accessed at [www.volunteernow.co.uk](http://www.volunteernow.co.uk)

In addition Volunteer Now is offering a certified course 'Adult Safeguarding: A Shared Responsibility' for those working with vulnerable adults; the course costs £20 per person. The course is available at the following locations.

Antrim Enterprise Agency	14 & 21 January 2012
Lisburn Enterprise Organisation	16 & 23 February 2012
Enniskillen	19 & 26 April 2012

To book a place, go to [www.volunteernow.co.uk/training-and-standards](http://www.volunteernow.co.uk/training-and-standards).

A copy of the report 'Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults, A Shared Responsibility' is available from [www.volunteernow.co.uk/publications](http://www.volunteernow.co.uk/publications)



## FUNDING

### ARTS COUNCIL FOR NORTHERN IRELAND EQUIPMENT AND MINOR REFURBISHMENT PROGRAMME

The recently revised Equipment and Minor Refurbishment Programme aims to enable organisations to purchase equipment and enhance their artistic services. Activities which benefit the people of Northern Ireland or that help arts organisations in Northern Ireland carry out their work will be supported.

IT and office equipment and equipment to improve disability access are the programme's priorities. The following are other examples of what a grant could be used for:

- Lighting equipment.
- Stage equipment.
- Sound equipment.
- Office equipment.
- Musical instruments.
- Rostra.
- Video equipment.
- Transport.
- Minor building refurbishment (this is a newly added eligible project cost for this round).



The minimum grant available under this programme is £10,001. The maximum grant is £25,000. A minimum of 25% partnership funding will need to be provided from non-Arts Council sources. All of this must be in cash as in-kind contributions will not be accepted.

Applications are welcomed from a wide range of voluntary and professional organisations in Northern Ireland including:

- Local authorities;
- Registered charities and other organisations which cannot distribute profits;
- Public sector agencies (projects must be outside statutory remit); and
- Commercial organisations (projects must be for the benefit of the public rather than own commercial interests).

The next deadline for receipt of applications is 12 January 2012 (4pm)

Arts Council of Northern Ireland  
Arts Development Department, MacNeice House, 77 Malone Road, Belfast BT9 6AQ

Tel: 028 9038 5200

Fax: 028 9066 1715

Email: [lottery@artscouncil-ni.org](mailto:lottery@artscouncil-ni.org)

Website: <http://www.artscouncil-ni.org>

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## THE BIG LOTTERY FUND'S - REACHING OUT PROGRAMME

The Big Lottery Fund's Reaching Out programmes – Empowering Young People and Connecting Older People - will invest up to £40 million into supporting young and older people most at risk across Northern Ireland.

The Big Lottery Fund in Northern Ireland is making up to £20 million available over the next two years to ensure young people at risk have the necessary support structures, capacity, improved personal development and improved skills to help them negotiate the transitions in their life.

We will support projects that:

- **F**ocus on young people aged between 8 and 20
- **L**ast from three to five years
- **I**nvolve young people in designing, developing and running projects
- **T**arget young people 'at risk'



Voluntary or community-led organisations can apply to this programme

Grant: £100,000 - £500,000

**Closing date:** 27<sup>th</sup> January 2012

[www.biglotteryfund.org.uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk)

## **HOUSING EXECUTIVE PILOT MATCH FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME)**

Under its 'Rural Homes and People' policy, the Housing Executive is committed to supporting rural regeneration and in particular assisting in the roll-out of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme (RDP). The RDP can provide up to 75% funding under its Basic Services and Village Renewal measures, for rural community groups to undertake a wide range of community based projects.

As a result of some tentative enquiries about match funding of the 25% RDP 'shortfall', the Housing Executive has now set aside funding (£60k in total) with a view to providing some match funding for RDP community projects (under Basic Services or Village Renewal) in this financial year.

Groups interested in match funding are invited to discuss their project and complete an expression of interest form before 12 December 2011 by contacting either:

Gerry Cunningham on 028 9031 8368 Email: [gerry.cunningham@nihe.gov.uk](mailto:gerry.cunningham@nihe.gov.uk)

Or

Michael Conway on 028 9031 8559 Email: [michael.conway@nihe.gov.uk](mailto:michael.conway@nihe.gov.uk)

Expression of Interest applications for the 2011/12 year should be:

- For non private sector projects in rural areas (i.e. population of less than 4,500 people);
- Receiving or being considered for RDP funding under Axis 3; and
- Expected to be undertaken by the end of the financial year.

Projects must:

- Contribute to Community, Economic, Social or Physical Renewal
- Demonstrate some benefit to local areas of social housing (projects do not have to be on Housing Executive estates)
- Meet an identified need in the area
- Not conflict with, duplicate or substitute other public or statutory funding responsibilities; and
- Not fund salaries and running costs.



While the identified funding is aimed at the current financial year, groups with potential projects should make contact so that the possibility of the scheme being extended to 2012/13 can be considered.

When completed, Expression of Interest forms should be returned by post or Email to:

Gerry Cunningham, Regeneration Services, Norwich Union House, 7 Fountain Street  
Belfast BT1 5EA

E mail: [gerry.cunningham@nihe.gov.uk](mailto:gerry.cunningham@nihe.gov.uk)

All Expressions of Interest will be considered by a steering group of NIHE officials. Successful applicants will be asked to formally sign up for match funding; a funding offer letter, acceptance letter and funding conditions letter will be forwarded. Unsuccessful applicants will be advised accordingly.