



Briefing 16/27 July 2016

Northern Ireland Executive - Draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-21 and Questionnaire

To: All Chief Executives, Main Contacts and APSE Contacts in Northern Ireland

For information only to England, Scotland and Wales

Key Issues:

The purpose of this briefing is to advise our members of the release of the Northern Ireland Executive's Draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-21.

The questionnaire "aims to provide you with an opportunity to comment on the Programme for Government Framework. To assess the Programme for Government a set of outcomes, indicators and measures have been developed. Responses should be received no later than 5pm on Friday 22 July 2016."

Link to the document:

<https://www.northernireland.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/newnigov/draft-pfg-framework-2016-21.pdf>

Link to the consultation:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PfGconsultation>

1.0 Introduction

The Draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-21 was recently released by the Northern Ireland Executive as a means of setting out the Executive's ambitions for society and to outline the planned approach for addressing the big issues facing Northern Ireland.

The Framework's key element is its outcomes-based approach that moves away from Assembly term-length measures of progress towards a generational one, and looks to work beyond traditional departmental lines and involve all interested sectors in the improvement process. The Framework strongly emphasises the plan to work alongside local government as well as the private, voluntary and community sectors to bring about these changes, and encourages all to submit responses to their consultation which ends on Friday 22 July 2016.

2.0 Policy background

This follows on from part 12 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 entitled Performance Improvement which states “a council must make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions...a council must have regard in particular to improve the exercise of its functions in terms of (a) strategic effectiveness (b) service quality (c) service availability (d) fairness (e) sustainability (f) efficiency (g) innovation”.

APSE previously published briefings on the Duty of Performance Improvement in Northern Ireland for:

- [Environmental Health Services](#)
- [Corporate Performance](#)
- [Cultural Services](#)
- [Sports and Leisure Services](#)
- [‘Performance Duties in Northern Ireland – the ‘what’, ‘where’, ‘who’, ‘why’, and ‘when’ of continuous improvement](#)

3.0 The Framework

The purpose of the framework is to “improve wellbeing for all by tackling disadvantage and driving economic growth”. The Framework is structured into:

- **14 strategic outcomes**
 - which describe the society the Executive wishes to have
- **42 indicators**
 - which support the outcomes and are “clear statements for change”
- **42 measures**
 - which accompany the indicators and show how the Executive is performing against the outcomes (based on existing statistics and new data sets which will be developed in the coming months)

The outcomes, indicators and measures from the framework are outlined below.

Outcomes
1. We prosper through a strong, competitive, regionally balanced economy
2. We live and work sustainably – protecting the environment
3. We have a more equal society
4. We enjoy long, healthy, active lives

5. We are an innovative, creative society, where people can fulfil their potential
6. We have more people working in better jobs
7. We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other
8. We care for others and we help those in need
9. We are a shared society that respects diversity
10. We are a confident, welcoming, outward-looking society
11. We give our children and young people the best start in life
12. We have high quality public services
13. We have created a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest
14. We connect people and opportunities through our infrastructure

Indicators	Measures
1. Reduce crime	Prevalence rate – number of victims of any Crime
2. Reduce health inequality	Gap between highest and lowest deprivation quintile in healthy life expectancy at birth
3. Increase healthy life expectancy	Healthy life expectancy at birth
4. Reduce preventable deaths	Preventable mortality
5. Improve the quality of the healthcare experience	% of people who are satisfied with health and social care (based on their recent contact)
6. Improve mental health	% of population with GHQ12 scores ≥ 4 (signifying possible mental health problem)
7. Improve health in pregnancy	The proportion of babies born at a low birth weight
8. Improve the supply of suitable housing	The number of households in housing stress
9. Improve support for adults with care needs	The number of adults receiving personal care at home or self directed support for personal care, as a % of the total number of adults needing care
10. Improve support for looked after children	% of care leavers who, aged 19, were in education, training or employment

11. Improve educational outcomes	% of school leavers achieving at level 2 or above including English and Maths
12. Reduce educational inequality	Gap between % of school leavers and % of FSME school leavers achieving at level 2 or above including English and Maths
13. Improve the quality of education	% of schools where provision for learning is good or better
14. Improve the skills profile of the population	The proportion of the workforce in employment qualified to level 1 and above, level 2 and above, level 3 and above, and level 4 and above
15. Improve child development	% of children who are at the appropriate stage of development in their immediate pre-school year
16. Increase the proportion of people in work	Seasonally adjusted employment rate (16-64)
17. Reduce economic inactivity	Economic inactivity rate excluding students
18. Increase the proportion of people working in good jobs	A Good Jobs Index
19. Reduce poverty	% of population living in (absolute) poverty (BHC) AND % of population living in (relative) poverty (BHC)
20. Increase the size of the economy	Private Sector NICEI (Northern Ireland Composite Economic Index)
21. Increase the competitiveness of the economy	External sales
22. Increase innovation in our economy	Regional innovation ranking
23. Improve transport connections for people, goods and services	Average journey time on key economic corridors
24. Improve internet connectivity	Proportion of Northern Ireland premises with access to broadband services in excess of 30 Mbps
25. Increase the use of public transport and active travel	% of all journeys which are made by walking/cycling/public transport
26. Increase respect for each other	A Respect Index

27. Improve cultural participation	% engaging with arts/cultural activities in the past year
28. Increase the confidence and capability of people and communities	Self-efficacy
29. Increase environmental sustainability	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
30. Improve our attractiveness as a destination	Total spend by external visitors
31. Increase shared space	% who think leisure centres, parks, libraries and shopping centres in their areas are 'shared and open' to both Protestants and Catholics
32. Increase economic opportunities for our most deprived communities	The employment rate of 16-64 year olds by deprivation quintile
33. Reduce underemployment	% of people working part time who would like to work more hours
34. Improve regional balance of economic prosperity through increased employment	Employment rate by geographic area (areas to be defined)
35. Increase reconciliation	% of the population who believe their cultural identity is respected by society
36. Increase household waste recycling	% of household waste that is recycling or composted
37. Improve air quality	Nitrogen dioxide concentration
38. Increase the effectiveness of the justice system	Proportion of criminal cases processed within guideline time limits
39. Reduce reoffending	Reoffending rate
40. Improve our international reputation	National Brand Index
41. Increase the proportion of graduates moving into employment or on to further study	Proportion of local graduates from local institutions in work or further study six months after graduation
42. Increase quality of life for people with disabilities	Average life satisfaction score of people with disabilities

4.0 The Consultation

The consultation is open to the public and will take place until 22 July 2016. The consultation specifically looks at whether the outcomes, indicators and measures within the Framework are right and complete.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PfGconsultation>

This will be followed by a further public consultation in the autumn alongside the Budget.

5.0 APSE Comment

APSE believes the Draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-21 is a worthwhile undertaking that should provide a solid outcomes-based foundation to improve wellbeing for all. The commitment to working beyond traditional departmental boundaries and allowing the public, private and voluntary sectors to play an active role in this process of improvement is a positive one that APSE hopes to play a role in through [its own benchmarking service](#) that many local authorities from Northern Ireland already take part in.

It is worth pointing out that APSE does not think that the improvement process should necessarily be limited to the indicators and measures contained within this document, and that having a means of identifying and sharing best practice between local authorities across all service areas will be beneficial to many of these outcomes, and will allow those not meeting standards to see workable solutions to their problems.

Particularly Outcome 11 “We have high quality public services” is something that APSE can play a key part in measuring and helping to deliver (through performance comparisons not only among Northern Ireland authorities, but benchmarking performance against similarly sized authorities across England, Scotland and Wales). It is important that any measures of success aren’t just compared against past performance, but instead is UK and Northern Ireland wide (and where appropriate, international) standards.

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