

## **Programme for Government - Programme for Government for the 2011-15 mandate**

### **KEY:**

PR: Peter Robinson

MMcG: Martin McGuinness

PR: Thank you very much Mister Speaker. Four years ago, following the restoration of Devolution, the Executive launched its first Programme for Government. Today we take our next step forward, building on what we have achieved and setting new and ambitious targets, with 76 commitments to the people of Northern Ireland. Just a few hours ago, the Executive agreed a draft Programme for Government and a draft Investment Strategy and this morning the deputy First Minister and I are pleased to present them to the Assembly. I believe that these, and other agreements that have been reached in recent days across a whole host of areas and documents, mark an encouraging step change in performance by the Executive and a template for improved working together in the future.

Our Programme for Government is a clear statement of intent. It is a statement that we in Northern Ireland are prepared to take responsibility for our future. It is a statement that we are prepared to modernise and reform and, most importantly, it is a statement that Northern Ireland is moving forward as one community. Through this Programme for Government, we will seek to rebuild and rebalance our economy and we will seek to address the legacy of division that lingers from the past.

Four years ago we began a new journey and a new era of devolved government. For the first time in a generation we completed a full Assembly term and began the job of rebuilding a better future for the people of Northern Ireland. In four years' time, it is not survival but delivery on which we will be judged. That is a measure of how far we have come. This Programme for Government and Investment Strategy give us the platform upon which we will build. We've overcome many difficulties and hurdles along the way and, in the next four years, we will demonstrate that politics can, and will, work to ensure that Northern Ireland becomes a better, brighter and more prosperous place in which to live.

MMcG: Thank you First Minister for introducing the Programme for Government and the Investment Strategy. I want to build on some of the things that have been touched on so far and to focus the attention of members on some of the most important aspects of the programme and the strategy before us today. I share the view that we can compete with the best that the world has to offer and one excellent example of that is Derry City winning the City of Culture against tough competition.

The Programme for Government is our opportunity to consolidate the progress that we have made, to deal with the very real and challenging issues which we face and to confirm how we plan to move ahead over the coming years. For the Programme to mean anything, it needs to set out our plans in very simple terms and that is why we have chosen to structure it around specific commitments to our people.

In conclusion, we have a Programme for Government for everyone and an Investment Strategy which will be a catalyst for our agreed outcomes, whether in public, private, or community sectors. And, Mister Speaker, I want to pay tribute to all of the officials who've

been involved in this very difficult work over the course of recent times, in putting all of this together, and to thank all of the ministers in the Executive for the very positive way that the Executive meeting was held last night. So. Mister Speaker. I commend this Programme for Government and the Investment Strategy to this Assembly.