

## ANNEX B2

### DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETARY ALLOCATION PROCESS

- 1 This note sets out arrangements for determining Departments' budgetary allocations in the circumstances where executive responsibilities rested with Departmental Committees of the Assembly. The SDLP reserved its position on these arrangements.
- 2 Each Department would build up its bid for resources through participation in the normal Public Expenditure Survey mechanisms. The relevant Departmental Committee would be invited to endorse the Department's bid before it was finalised. The Finance Committee would then consider all the bids and seek to produce an agreed allocation between Departments of the available resources. If it failed the matter might be referred to the Panel for arbitration.
- 3 Once each Department's allocation was settled the Chairman would propose Departmental Estimates for the coming year to the Committee and seek its approval, line by line, to the detailed distribution of that allocation to individual Departmental programmes.
- 4 The approved Departmental Estimates would then be put formally to the full Assembly whose role would be to authorise expenditure on the basis of those Estimates.

#### Footnote

This is very much a broad outline of how the arrangements might work. The Public Expenditure Survey procedures are complex and iterative and many detailed adjustments would need to be made to bring them fully into line with the principles set out above.