

Section 6: Key Challenges

6.1 As the Assembly enters the final year of the current mandate the key objective for the Commission will be to continue to support the effective functioning of the Assembly while making preparations to receive newly elected Members after the elections in 2003. The Commission has set a number of challenges over the next 12-18 months. These are to:

- Develop an “election preparedness” plan;
- Complete the filling of all Assembly posts through public advertisement;
- Continue to develop the skills and experience of all Assembly staff;
- Develop Assembly-specific terms and conditions of employment;
- Establish temporary accommodation for up to 150 staff on the Ormiston House site;
- Consult with the Assembly, local residents and statutory agencies on the long-term development of Ormiston House;
- Organise a design competition for the long-term development of Ormiston House;
- Progress the substantial works projects required to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act;
- Review all of the Assembly’s purchasing requirements and develop a procurement strategy;
- Enhance the Assembly’s web site and intranet;
- Develop an Assembly education strategy;
- Implement the SSRB’s recommendations for Members’ salaries and allowances in the form agreed by the Assembly;
- Review the current party allowance scheme;
- Prepare an equality scheme pursuant to Section 75 of the NI Act 1998; and
- Prepare a freedom of information publication scheme.