

Development Committee

Wednesday, 8th August, 2007

MEETING OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor M. Browne (Chairman);
the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Kelly); and
Councillors Campbell, Convery, Crozier, Cunningham, Ekin,
Humphrey, Kyle, C. Maskey, McCarthy and McCausland.

In attendance: Ms. M.T. McGivern, Director of Development;
Ms. S. McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives;
Mr. T. Husbands, Managing Director,
The Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Halls; and
Mr. J. Heaney, Committee Administrator.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Attwood, D. Dodds, Hartley and Mhic Giolla Mhín.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 13th June were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 2nd July.

Date of October Meeting

The Director reminded the Committee that its October meeting was due to be held on Wednesday, 10th October. However, she advised the Members that on that date the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman, together with herself and the European Manager, would be out of the country on Council business. Accordingly, she sought the Committee's approval to hold the October meeting on Monday 15th at 4.30 p.m.

The Committee granted the approval sought.

Departmental Plan 2007/2008

The Director submitted for the Committee's approval the Development Departmental Plan for 2007/2008. She pointed out that the Draft Plan identified the actions, initiatives and events planned for the Department during that period. However, she reminded the Members that the Plan had been developed during a period of significant change, both within the Department and the Council as a whole, and she pointed out that to a certain extent the Plan reflected the structures which had been in place within the Department prior to the Committee assuming responsibility for other areas such as the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Halls and Community Development. Therefore, the Plan did not contain agreed targets for the community development element of the Department. However, these would be incorporated at a later date.

After discussion, the Committee approved the Departmental Plan and noted that a copy of the Plan was available on the Members' Portal.

Appointment of Fixed-Term Working Groups

The Committee was advised that the Chief Officers' Management Team, at its meeting on 24th April, had recommended that each of the newly established Committees be required to decide which, if any, Working Groups would be required in order to support an effective and efficient decision-making process.

The Director reported that following discussions with the Departmental Management Team she was recommending that the undernoted Working Groups be established or reconstituted:

1. The North Foreshore Working Group - the re-establishment of this group was essential given the significance of this project;
2. The Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan Working Group. This Group had been established initially to work in an ongoing manner concerning the development of the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan. However, it was recommended that the remit of the Group be widened to consider planning and land use matters including the Titanic Quarter and the Renewal of the Routes Project;
3. An Economic Development Working Group which would consider issues including City centre development, tourism and markets;
4. A Cultural Working Group to focus on matters relating to the Arts, Heritage, Sport and the Waterfront and Ulster Halls; and
5. A Strategic Neighbourhood Action Programmes/Neighbourhood Development Working Group which would focus on neighbourhood work, including the establishment of the action programme and the review of the change management process within Community Services.

In response to a Member's question, the Committee Administrator advised the Members that representation on the Working Groups would be drawn from all Parties represented on the Council, with nominations being sought from the Party Group Leaders. He pointed out that representation on the majority of other Working Groups which had been established by other Council Committees had been limited to six Members, one from each of the Party Groupings. He reminded the Committee that a Working Group was not a decision-making body. Rather its purpose was to make recommendations to the Committee so that policies could be formulated.

A Member expressed the view that increased representation on the Working Groups from the larger Parties might be appropriate and sought clarification as to whether this would be possible.

After discussion, the Committee agreed, in principle, to the formation of the five Working Groups as outlined, subject to information in regard to the level of representation on each Working Group being made available at the next meeting of the Committee.

Support for Sport

The Committee considered the following requests for assistance which had been received under the Support for Sport Scheme in relation to events and promotions and the provision of hospitality:

Events

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Amount Required</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Northern Ireland International Horse Show	Funding in the sum of £10,000 in relation to the holding of an International Horse Show at the Odyssey Arena during the period from 25th till 28th October, 2007	Offer support to underwrite the event up to a maximum of £10,000
St Pauls/Ulster Minor Club Football Tournament	Funding in the sum of £2,500 in respect of the holding of an Under-18 Gaelic Football Tournament to be played over a two-month period at the City of Belfast Playing Fields	Offer support of £2,500
Odyssey Arena Masters Tennis	£10,000 in respect of the second annual Belfast Masters Tennis Tournament to be held at the Odyssey Arena during February, 2008	Offer to underwrite event to a maximum of £10,000
Queen's Basketball Club	£3,000 in respect of the holding of an International Basketball Tournament for Men, Women, Wheelchair and Junior Teams. The event to be held during September at Queen's University	Offer support of £1,500

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Amount Required</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Northern Ireland Athletics Federation	£6,000 in respect of the holding of the Belfast International Cross-Country Event in the grounds of Stormont Castle on Saturday, 5th January	Do not support - Council had agreed already to support indoor athletics championships organised by the same organisation
MPR Productions	£5,000 in respect of the holding in the City of a "Last Man Standing" International Mixed Martial Arts Tournament	Do not support (Officers to seek further information on forthcoming Mixed Martial Arts events)

Hospitality

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Amount Required</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Wheelchair "Spokes in Motion"	Event hospitality in the form of a sit-down meal for 100 people in the City Hall on Saturday, 29th September	Provision of support up to a maximum of £1,200
Northern Ireland Athletics Federation (Cross-Country)	Event hospitality in the form of a sit-down meal for 120 people in a City Council property on Saturday, 5th January, 2008	Provision of support up to a maximum of £1,800, depending on location

Beach Volleyball

The Committee was reminded that the former Community and Recreation Committee, at its meeting on 19th April, 2006, had agreed to support the Urban Beach Volleyball Tournament. This support had amounted to £5,000, together with the use of the Council's grandstand seating, which would equate to an additional £5,000. However, the grandstand seating had now been sold on and the original agreement could not be fulfilled, thus necessitating the organisers in seeking alternative grandstand seating at a commercial rate. Accordingly, The Director recommended that, as an alternative, the Council provide £10,000 support to this event, £5,000 of which would be allocated specifically for the hire of grandstand seating.

Hospitality Applications Deadline

The Committee was advised that hospitality applications were accepted and submitted to the Committee with minimum notice of the event. However, in order to streamline the application process, it was recommended that the deadlines which were applied to the events application, that is, four months in advance of the event, be applied also to hospitality applications. The Head of Economic Initiatives indicated that such a procedure would extend the lead time required to organise functions and reduce the number of reports being submitted to the Committee to three per year.

After discussion, the Committee approved the recommendations in respect of the requests for events and hospitality as outlined above, agreed to receive further reports after an initial review of the current scheme and agreed further, subject to provision being made for emergency applications, to impose a minimum four-month deadline in advance of the event in respect of requests for hospitality.

The Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Halls Progress Report

The Managing Director submitted for the attention of the Committee a progress report in relation to the operation of the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Halls. He provided information in relation to the management of the venues and the staging and outcomes of events thereat under the headings of operations, events promotion and conference business, arts and entertainment events, sponsorship update and public relations.

He drew the Members' attention to the fact that the Ulster Hall was now closed and would remain so for eighteen months to allow for Phase 2 of the venue's refurbishment programme to be carried out. The Managing Director pointed out that as part of the extensive maintenance programme the Waterfront Hall was undergoing currently a period of refurbishment to a number of areas within the building.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Rolling Programme to Support Innovation in Culture, Arts and Heritage

The Managing Director of the Waterfront and Ulster Halls reminded the Committee that the former Development (Arts) Sub-Committee, at its meeting on 4th January, had agreed to the continuation of the Rolling Programme to Support Innovation in Culture and Arts during the financial year 2007/2008. He pointed out that the purpose of the programme was to assist arts or heritage organisations to avail of the opportunity of grant-aid which arose during the year, including those which became available after the closing date for the annual funding and multi-annual funding applications. Grants awarded through the scheme would range from £250 to £3,000.

He reported that the undernoted applications for funding under the programme had been received:

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Recommendations</u>
Arts Care Limited	Cost associated with the development of a pilot project to work with older people with dementia in their own care or day centre	£2,925	Funding recommended at £2,000

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Recommendations</u>
Corpus Christi Youth Centre	Cost associated with the production of the musical Grease by a group of teenagers from the Upper Springfield who had limited understanding or experience of arts and drama	No information provided	Not recommended – application ineligible as the group is not an Arts or Heritage Organisation nor is the proposal a heritage project
Live Music Now Ireland	Costs associated with the development and performance of a newly commissioned opera entitled The Vikings by primary school children from the City	£3,000	Not recommended to award grant on this occasion
Prime Cut Productions	Cost associated with the development of a community-based drama project to promote participation and equality of access and develop partnerships between the professional theatre and community groups	£3,000	Not recommended – does not meet criteria
Source/Photo Workshop North	Costs associated with the development of learning packages from the Source website aimed at encouraging young people to engage with photography	£3,000	Recommended to award funding in the sum of £2,500

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Tourism

The Committee was reminded that the former Tourism and Promotion of Belfast Sub-Committee, at its meeting on 17th January, had authorised the commencement of a tendering exercise in relation to the design, construction and maintenance of signage and interpretative projects for the City. Tender documents had been prepared and issued as a European tender and it was anticipated that tenders would be received prior to Monday, 13th August.

In order that the contract could be awarded as soon as possible, the Head of Economic Initiatives recommended that the Committee authorise the Director of Development, in conjunction with the Chairman, to accept the most economically advantageous tender received.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Conference Subventions

The Committee considered requests for funding in respect of the undernoted conferences:

Psychoanalytic Therapy for Severe Disturbance Conference

The Head of Economic Initiatives advised the Committee that the above-mentioned Conference would be taking place in the City on 26th and 27th June, 2008. The organisers of the Conference had indicated that it would attract approximately 360 delegates, staying for two nights, and it was estimated that it would have an economic impact for the City of £120,600. The application had been assessed against and had met with the agreed funding criteria. Accordingly, she recommended that subvention in the sum of £1,500 be allocated to the hosting of the Conference.

SOLACE (United Kingdom) Annual Conference

The Head of Economic Initiatives advised the Committee that the SOLACE (United Kingdom) Annual Conference would be held in the City during the period from 7th to 9th October, 2008. The Conference would attract 470 delegates each staying for three nights, which would have an estimated economic impact for the City of £283,400. Accordingly, she recommended that subvention of £2,500 be allocated to the hosting of the Conference.

Several Members sought clarification as to how the allocation of Conference subvention funding would be used by the Conference organisers. In response, the Head of Economic Initiatives reminded the Members that the former Tourism and Promotion of Belfast Sub-Committee, at its meeting on 9th February, 2000, had approved the Conference Subvention Policy, which sought to support national and international conferences being held in the City and to encourage greater use of the facilities available. She pointed out that the subvention funding was a tool to be used to attract such events to the City and it was the responsibility of the Conference organisers to determine how the funding which had been made available for the holding of the Conference was used.

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations in relation to the Conference subventions.

Nashville

The Committee was advised that a request for funding had been received from Panarts in order to support the forthcoming Belfast/Nashville Songwriters Festival. The Head of Economic Initiatives recommended that support in the sum of £20,000 be provided in order to develop and market this important event which was a tangible outcome of the Belfast//Nashville Sister City Relationship.

After discussion, during which several Members indicated that the sister city relationship possessed the potential for further expansion in terms of health development and tourism, the Committee approved funding in the sum of £20,000 for the forthcoming Belfast/Nashville Songwriters Festival and noted that several city dignitaries from Nashville and the State of Tennessee would be visiting the City in the near future.

Blue Plaques

The Committee was advised that a request had been received from the Ulster History Circle seeking financial support for the installation of blue plaques in recognition of the contribution to the development of the City made by artist Gerard Dillon and medical practitioner and philanthropist Sir William Whitla. The Head of Economic Initiatives advised the Members that the cost associated with the erection of blue plaques would be £1,200.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to provide funding in the sum of £1,200 for two blue plaques to commemorate the achievements of Gerard Dillon and Sir William Whitla.

Response to the Phasing Out of Industrial De-Rating

The Committee considered the undernoted report in relation to the Committee's response to the review carried out by the Economic Research Institute of Northern Ireland Review of the phasing out of Industrial De-Rating:

“Relevant Background Information

Members will be aware that Council have been actively involved in the issue of the abolition of industrial de-rating through the former Development (Economic Development) Sub-Committee. At the Development (Economic Development) Sub-Committee of 5 November, 2003 information was provided on the proposed progressive abolition of industrial de-rating in Northern Ireland from April 2005, and a response to the consultation was provided as well as research undertaken to assess the potential impact of industrial de-rating on manufacturing companies in the Belfast City Council area.

Members will also be aware, that at the Development (Economic Development) Sub-Committee of 3rd December, 2003 a proposal and response was presented for a draft Rates (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 2003. The Belfast City Council response proposed:

- That the implementation of the de-rating legislation be delayed, pending a robust analysis of the impact of the legislation, based on accurate information
- That consideration be given to a tax based on profit rather than property size
- That a robust economic appraisal of the impact be quantified set against potential loss of revenue caused by closures and redundancies.

In May 2004, a survey of 100 manufacturing companies was carried out in Belfast to gauge and quantify the impact of de-rating. Key findings were:

- The awareness of de-rating is high but limited knowledge of the cost implications to individual firms
- Few could provide an accurate cost to their business of their full rates liability
- De-rating will impact on their operating profits, resulting in increased costs to customers, as well as, a reduction in employment
- Most compete in Northern Ireland and the rest of the U.K, therefore all competitors will face the same costs
- Comparing the results with the PWC Economic Review 2004 Survey of NI Manufacturers it appears Belfast businesses are more likely to be placed under pressure from the proposed abolition of de-rating.

Belfast City Council also invited the NIMFG (Northern Ireland Manufacturing Focus Group) to the Development (Economic Development) Sub-Committee of 31st October, 2006 to provide a presentation regarding the campaign opposing Industrial De-rating. They outlined the aims and objectives of the Group and indicated that the Government's proposals for Industrial De-rating could endanger 30,000 jobs within Northern Ireland. The NIMFG suggested that Northern Ireland should be treated differently to the rest of the United Kingdom, given the increased costs of exporting goods from within the region.

The policy to remove industrial derating in NI was introduced in April 2005 on a phased basis with full imposition of rate bills anticipated by April 2011. In the first year, 2005/06, industry paid 15% of the projected bill followed by 25% for 2006/07. After consultation with the NIMFG and AMICUS, a ministerial decision was taken to reduce the planned percentage phase out for 2007/08 from 35% to 30%, pending the outcome of the ERINI (Economic Research Institute of Northern Ireland) review.

Key Issues

ERINI have been commissioned by the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) to undertake a formal review of the policy to phase out industrial de-rating. The main aim of the review is to determine:

- If the rationale to reintroduce rates to the manufacturing sector remains appropriate
- To examine its impact to date; and
- To make detailed consideration of the way forward for this policy.

The NIMFG have met with ERINI to state the importance of this issue and intend to provide them with case histories to strengthen their argument that the sustainable level of rates for businesses should remain at 25%.

A full copy of the Terms of Reference is enclosed in Appendix 1.

The purpose of this report is to present Members with a draft response to the ERINI review of the phasing out of Industrial Derating. The response is enclosed in Appendix 2.

Recommendations

It is recommended that members note the contents of report and agree to submit the attached response Appendix 2 to the consultation exercise.”

After discussion, the Committee agreed that the above comments be submitted as the Council's response to the consultation exercise and noted also that a copy of the response was available for inspection on the Members' Portal.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Visit to the City

The Committee considered the undernoted report in relation to a study visit to the City by representatives of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development:

“Relevant Background Information

Members will be aware that in February 2007 the Development Committee approved a total of £47,000 for commissioning the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to perform an extensive economic study of Belfast.

The OECD is an international organisation that helps governments tackle the economic, social and governance challenges of a globalised economy. The OECD monitors trends, analyses and forecasts economic developments and researches social changes and provides a setting where governments compare policy experiences, seek answers to common problems, identify good practice and coordinate domestic and international policies. The OECD shares expertise and exchanges views with more than 70 other countries.

The OECD has recently performed a review of Laganside's achievements over its lifetime published in February 2007 and produced two challenging reports for Newcastle/Gateshead and the North East region and for Glasgow both of which are forming the blueprint of action. A similar outcome is expected from the study commissioned by the Belfast City Council.

The study on Belfast will aim to provide the Council with recommendations on how to move forward economic and regional development agenda. It will particularly focus on economic inclusion, quality of place/life and, leadership & delivery arrangements. Such a study normally takes nine to 12 months as it involves a number of visits by the expert panel and the analysis and production of a final report. Terms of Reference for OECD research attached as Appendix 1.

As the first stage in this study, the OECD team is coming to Belfast from 18 to 21 September to speak to some of the key decision-makers in the city, namely Councillors, MLAs, Senior Civil Servants and practitioners.

Key Issues

The team is keen to have a session with Members, as Belfast's civic representatives to discuss five important issues of the study:

1. Leadership
2. Economic Growth
3. Economic Inclusion
4. Economic Development Delivery Mechanism
5. Quality of Life/Place

The team is led by Debra Mountford, a manager of Cities and Regions in Local Economic and Employment Directorate of OECD and it consists of some world experts on regional policies, of whom some, or all will be familiar to Members:

Andrew Boraine a Chief Executive of the Cape Town Partnership, a public-private partnership focusing on the regeneration of the Cape Town Central City;

Gary Lawrence, Arup's Urban Strategy Leaser;

Paul Sweeney, an economic consultant, is Economic Advisor to the Irish Congress of Trade Unions;

Peter Tyler, a Director of Studies in Land Economy at St Catherine's College and a Professor in the University of Cambridge;

Greg Clarke, a Chairman of the Forum of Cities and Regions within the LEED Programme and

Katia Travkina, consultant in Local Economic and Employment Directorate of OECD.

This study will assist the Council to look at the wider agenda within the region to ensure that needs of Belfast are well addressed in a new Regional Economic Strategy and Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland and to influence Government in the future regeneration of the City. Also at the time of renewed devolved Assembly there is more need than ever to emphasise the national role of Belfast and the wealth that Belfast brings to the whole region. That is why members' input into this study is crucial for its success.

The meeting with OECD has been scheduled for the 18 September 2007 at 2:00 pm in Committee Room 3. The session should last no longer than two hours. All members are invited and welcomed.

Resource Implications

Financial

Already approved grant of £47,000.

Key to Abbreviations

OECD – Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Recommendations

The Committee members are kindly asked to attend the meeting with OECD team on the 18th September at 2pm in Committee Room 3.”

After discussion, the Committee noted that a meeting with representatives of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development would be held in the Lavery Room, City Hall on Tuesday, 18th September at 2.00 p.m. and agreed that all Members of the Council be invited to attend.

Cities of the Isles – Annual Meeting

The Committee deferred consideration of a report in relation to the holding in Dublin of the annual meeting of the Cities of the Isles Partnership to enable further information to be obtained in relation to the proposed agenda and, in particular, the amount of time to be allocated for discussions on the various matters affecting each of the cities involved.

Citywide Employability Co-ordination

The Committee deferred consideration of a report in respect of the provision of financial aid to the Employers Forum and to the Citywide Employability Consortium in order that further information could be provided in respect of the membership of the various employment boards and in regard to the number of trainees within the various schemes who had, subsequent to their training, been successful in obtaining full-time employment.

Major Events

The Director of Development advised the Committee that during the previous ten years the City had developed a strong reputation for hosting major events, including the World Cross Country Championships, the World Irish Dancing Championships, the World Amateur Boxing Championships, the Under 19 European Football Championships, the Special Olympics Ireland Games, the Women’s World Open Squash Championships and more recently the Under 19 Rugby World Cup.

She indicated that a considerable factor in the success of these events had been the support of the Council. She pointed out however that it had been necessary for the planning for these events to commence several years in advance of the actual event. She indicated that there were three major events which might be staged in the City within coming years namely, the Tall Ships Trans-Atlantic Race (2009), Bidding for the World Transplant Games (2011) and the World Police and Fire Fighters Games (2013).

In order to discuss more fully the implications of holding such events in the City, she recommended that a special meeting of the Committee be convened which would permit the Members to obtain further information and provide the necessary guidance.

After discussion the Committee adopted the recommendation.

Castlecourt and North West Quarter

The Committee was advised that a request had been received from Westfield Shoppingtowns Limited, the owners of Castlecourt, to address the Committee in respect of its proposed developments at Castlecourt and the wider development of the North West Quarter of the City.

The Director suggested that, rather than hold a special meeting for this purpose, it would be more appropriate if representatives of Westfield Shoppingtowns Limited were invited to make a presentation at a future monthly meeting of the Committee and she recommended accordingly.

The Committee adopted the recommendation in this regard.

**Strategic Neighbourhood Action Plans –
Neighbourhood Geographies**

The Committee considered the undernoted report in respect of the development of a range of primary and secondary research in relation to the Strategic Neighbourhood Action Programme:

“Relevant Background Information

Members will be aware that at the Development Committee meeting of 13th June 2007, a progress report was tabled on SNAP. One of the key areas of work that is being carried out with regard to SNAP is the development of the Neighbourhood Boundaries.

A range of primary and secondary research has been undertaken with regard to best practice in neighbourhood boundary design. Consultation has also taken place with NISRA who have shared their experiences with regard to creating Super Output Areas and their role in the Neighbourhood Boundary design process.

A number of guiding principles have been established to guide the Neighbourhood Boundary design process which can be detailed as follows:

- 1. Universal coverage – the composite of the SNAP districts must encompass every household in the local government district.**
- 2. Alignment to existing administrative tracts – to ensure statistical robustness the district boundaries must reflect the existing administrative tracts.**
- 3. Publicly recognisable – the boundaries must be representative of the area and recognisable to local people.**

4. Equal population proportionality – to ensure equality of service delivery throughout Belfast the district must encompass an equivalent portion of population.
5. Optimal number of SNAP district areas – the number of districts must be cost and time efficient whilst conducive to effective delivery of Council services.
6. Acknowledgement of existing neighbourhood structures – the boundaries must be supportive of existing local area structures e.g. Neighbourhood Renewal areas to alleviate duplication of effort.
7. Participative boundary design – to ensure support for the ownership of SNAP, residents should be consulted on neighbourhood boundaries.
8. Reflective of local neighbourhoods – the boundaries must encompass areas of similar characteristics.

Key Issues

In the process of designing the proposed SNAP boundaries the following criteria were developed to help us decide upon what the areas should look like:

- Population size
- Homogeneity of population in terms of socio economic variables
- Physical and Social Environment
- Existing neighbourhood structures (e.g. District Electoral Areas, Neighbourhood Renewal Areas, City Centre)

Using this methodology three options have been developed:

Option 1 – Homogenous areas (Small)

This option uses cluster analysis (i.e. a method of grouping objects of similar kind) to identify 20 areas with similar socio-economic characteristics.

Option 2– Homogeneous areas (Large)

Similar to Option 1 but with larger numbers of people in each area to create 14 areas with similar socio-economic characteristics.

Option 3 – Homogeneous areas (but including a defined city centre)

Similar to Option 1 but addition of a distinct city centre to create 21 areas with similar socio-economic characteristics plus a separate city centre area.

Option 4 – Homogeneous areas (which complement Neighbourhood Renewal areas)

This option encompasses the 12 Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership areas to create 19 areas with similar socio-economic characteristics.

Given the complexities involved with designing neighbourhood boundaries and the selection of criteria and methodologies that have been utilised in this process it is recommended that Members given approval to undertake either a series of workshops or Party briefings to consider each option in depth.

It is anticipated that a public consultation exercise will be undertaken in conjunction with the new Community Services strategy in November.

Resource Implications

Human Resources

Co-ordinated by the SNAP Manager

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Note the contents of the report
- Agree to hold either a series of workshops or party briefings to discuss the proposed neighbourhood boundaries

Key to Abbreviations

SNAP – Strategic Neighbourhood Action Programme
DEA – District Electoral Area
NISRA – Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency”

After discussion, the Committee agreed that a series of Party Briefings be held in order to discuss the proposed Neighbourhood Boundaries Proposals.

**Renewing the Routes: Proposal for Financial Contributions
by Private Sector and Update on Carlisle Circus Artwork**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 18th April, it had agreed that a nominal contribution towards the costs of the work to commercial properties on the arterial routes be sought from the owner of each property and that a proposed methodology for this contribution be referred to a future meeting of the Committee for endorsement. Accordingly, the Head of Economic Initiatives proposed that, based on works previously carried out and on stipulations set by other funding bodies, the contribution be set at 10% of the cost of the works to each property. She pointed out that, in line with budgets available for shop frontage enhancement work in West Belfast and Greater Shankill, it was likely that this would cost the shop owners between £300 and £1,000 depending on the work to be carried out, which would equate to an average of £500. She pointed out that this compared favourably with an average amount of £400 paid in solicitors' fees by applicants under the previous programme and which would not now be required.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to endorse the requirement for a 10% contribution from private owners towards the costs of works in respect of the refurbishment of shop fronts.

Carlisle Circus Artwork

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 18th October, 2006, it had approved the appointment of an artist to undertake the Carlisle Circus Artwork. The Director advised the Committee that the selection panel had appointed artist Iain McColl to undertake the commission and he had subsequently carried out extensive community consultation throughout the North of the City. She reported that Mr. McColl had presented his proposal to the Selection Panel which had approved the "Beacon" to be the piece of art work which would be erected at Carlisle Circus roundabout. The Beacon sought to reflect the industrial heritage and signify a positive future for the North of the City.

The Committee noted the progress which had been achieved in relation to the development of the public art work at Carlisle Circus.

City Branding Project

The Director advised the Committee that branding specialists Lloyd Northover had been appointed to facilitate the development of a holistic brand for the City and that consultations and engagement with key stakeholders, Government agencies and private sector was underway currently in order to ensure support for this important project. She pointed out that a meeting of the City Branding Reference Group would take place on 18th September and it was proposed that the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman and a representative from each of the other Political Parties represented on the Council attend this meeting.

**Development Committee,
Wednesday, 8th August, 2007**

After discussion, the Committee agreed:

- (i) that a Briefing Session on the City Branding Project, to which all Members of the Council would be invited, be held at a future date;
- (ii) to hold a Briefing Session to which the Members of the Northern Ireland Assembly would be invited; and
- (iii) to approve the attendance of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman and a representative from each of the other Party Groupings at the Reference Group meeting to be held on 18th September.

Chairman