

Public Document Pack

**Democratic Services Section
Chief Executive's Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**

15th January, 2015

MEETING OF SHADOW STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Friday, 16th January, 2015 at 10.00 am, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully

Suzanne Wylie

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. Routine Matters
 - (a) Apologies
 - (b) Minutes
 - (c) Declarations of Interest
2. Modernisation and Improvement
 - (a) Active Belfast Limited- resourcing and governance (Pages 1 - 4)
3. Democratic Services and Governance
 - (a) Presentation - The Role of the National Association of Councillors (NI Region) (Pages 5 - 12)
4. Finance/Value-for-Money
 - (a) Rate Setting 2015-16 (Pages 13 - 24)

- (b) Non – Recurrent Expenditure Requirements 2014-15 and 2015-16 (Pages 25 - 30)
 - (c) Capital Programme (Pages 31 - 72)
5. Asset Management
- (a) Belfast City Hall Big Screen (Pages 73 - 74)
6. Good Relations and Equality
- (a) Stained glass window - Spanish Civil War (Pages 75 - 76)
 - (b) Decade of Centenaries (Pages 77 - 80)
7. Cross-Cutting Issues
- (a) Creative and Cultural Belfast Fund (Pages 81 - 118)
 - (b) Notice of Motion Use of Bus Lanes at times of emergency – Response from the Minister (Pages 119 - 122)
 - (c) Notice of Motion Use of Bus Lanes by registered taxis – Response from the Minister (Pages 123 - 126)



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Leisure Transformation Programme Active Belfast Limited: resourcing and governance
Date:	16 January 2015
Reporting Officers:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officers:	Caroline Wilson, Neighbourhood and Development Manager Colin Campbell, Principal Solicitor

1.0	Relevant background information
1.1	At its meeting in October, the Committee requested a further paper in its consideration of the composition of the Active Belfast Limited board of Directors.

2.0	Key issues
2.1	<p>Resources</p> <p>Until such times as the Board is fully populated, Active Belfast Limited has will be minimally resourced. However, it is required to have independent legal and accounting advisors, in line with good governance and charitable law requirements.</p> <p>Previously, Committee had considered the potential to make a loan available to Active Belfast Limited. However, further legal advice proposes that this is integrated into the contract between Active Belfast Limited and the Council as a grant award.</p> <p>It is anticipated that this will not exceed £45,000 per annum and will allow the Board of Directors to fulfil their obligations under company law e.g. Directors' indemnity insurance; preparation of annual audited accounts; and independent legal advice. This will be funded through in-service savings and re-alignment of existing revenue budgets.</p> <p>There is no expectation at this point of any full-time human resource beyond bought-in services.</p>
2.2	<p>Board composition</p> <p>In terms of populating the full Board of Directors, the legal advisors propose that it should be a representative board, while at the same time being of a manageable size to make effective decisions.</p>

In line with the Council's aspiration to have stakeholder involvement, the following composition is proposed:

Representative		Process
Independent chair	1	Public advertisement/interview
Elected members	4	Nominated by SP&R Committee
Trade Union representatives	2	Nominations from staff body
Health partner i.e. Public Health Agency	1	Invitation from ABL
Sports partner i.e. Sports NI	1	Invitation from ABL
Funding partner i.e. DCAL	1	Invitation from ABL
Specialist expertise e.g. leisure	1	Public advertisement/interview
Legal/accounting/governance expertise	2	Public advertisement/interview
Education stakeholder e.g. Belfast Metropolitan College, BELB, CCMS	1	Public advertisement/interview
Disability stakeholder representative e.g. Disability Sport NI	1	Public advertisement/interview
<i>Council Programme Director i.e. Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure</i>	1	<i>Nominee of Council (ex officio/observer)</i>
TOTAL:	15+1	

The trust's independent legal advisors have reviewed this proposal to ensure that it is in the interests of Active Belfast Limited. It is anticipated that the full board will be in place by the end of 2015. At the appropriate point, the interim Council-nominated Directors will step down from the Board.

The Council may at any time by notice in writing to the Active Belfast Limited remove or replace its nominees.

2.3 Recruitment process

The recruitment for the full board will take up to 12 months. Throughout the appointments process, the Board will continue to operate, with new Members joining over the period. It is planned that the Council nominees, TU nominees and 'partner' organisations will be in place and inducted before summer 2015. With the public advertisement and interview process for the other 'stakeholder' or specialist positions, it is likely that this will take slightly longer, and will be completed by late 2015.

Advice on the recruitment and training for the new Board will be sought from Pinsent Masons, as well as the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and voluntary sector specialists.

2.4 Fiduciary duty

Members are reminded that the Directors would have a fiduciary duty to the company i.e. their legal duty will be to act in the interests of the Company (rather than say, the

	<p>Council). Detailed role descriptions will be developed in advance of the recruitment process, and an induction programme would be drafted for the directors highlighting their governance responsibilities to Active Belfast Limited.</p> <p>As a result of the fiduciary duty, under the Council’s Code of Conduct, Councillors who sit on the Board of Active Belfast Limited will not be able to participate in Council discussions on matters related to the contract performance and planning.</p>
2.5	<p>Governance</p> <p>In line with the accountability framework agreed by Committee in October, work is underway to develop the relevant protocols and reporting mechanisms. This will ensure that there are effective decision-making and performance management arrangements. SP&R Committee (and its successor) will be the committee to which performance reports and decisions will be brought.</p>

3.0 Resource Implications

Financial: A revenue grant is made available to Active Belfast Limited, up to £45,000 per annum. This will be funded through in-service savings and re-alignment of existing revenue budgets.

Staff: None

Assets: None

4.0 Equality Implications

The Leisure Transformation Programme was screened in for a full Equality Impact Assessment. Its conclusions were agreed by Committee in October 2014 and have been integrated into the relevant contractual agreements.

5.0 Committee decisions required

Committee is asked to:

1. Approve the grant award to Active Belfast and authorise the Town Solicitor to give effect to that direction and finalise the necessary documents; and
2. Agree the suggested composition for the Board of Directors for Active Belfast Limited.

6.0 Documents Attached

None

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Belfast City Council

Report to	Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Presentation - The Role of the National Association of Councillors (NI Region)
Date:	16 th January, 2015
Reporting Officer:	Mr Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager ext 6314
Contact Officer:	Mr Jim Hanna, senior Democratic Services Officer

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Committee will recall that, at its meeting on 24 th October, it had agreed to receive a presentation from representatives of the National Association of Councillors (Northern Ireland Region) on the important role of the National Association of Councillors in representing Members' interests, in particular, in relation to the formation of the new Councils in April, 2015

2	Key Issues
2.1	Councillors Mervyn Jones (Chairman) and Michael Henderson will be in attendance to make a short presentation (a copy of which is appended).

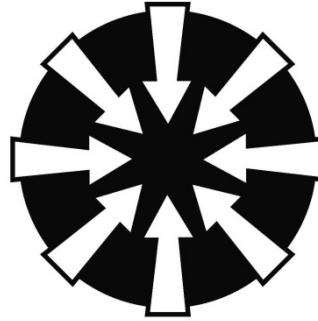
3	Resource Implications
3.1	None associated with this report.

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	None associated with this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	To receive the presentation as previously agreed.

8	Documents Attached
	Copy of powerpoint presentation.

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How the NAC supports councillors

- The National Association of Councillors is the only organisation directly run by councillors
- We fight for their interests with local authorities, Ministers, government departments and other relevant bodies
- We have made major gains in councillors' pay and conditions as a result of councillors acting collectively in their common interest

For example we have

- Increased councillors' allowances
- Speeded up payments
- Achieved a councillors' pension scheme
- Achieved a Dependants' Carers' Allowance
- Pushed for improved councillor training
- Represented councillors' interests during the local government reorganisation
- Achieved the Independent Remuneration Panel and increased councillors' allowances for the new councils
- Achieved severance payments for councillors
- Had councillors' travel expenses exempted from tax and NI
- Given advice on making tax and expenses claims to HMRC

What we do for councillors

- We provide help with individual problems relating to remuneration, tax, welfare benefits, expenses, elections, ethics and other issues
- We provide updates on changes in legislation, revised allowances, government consultations and other developments affecting councillors
- We provide a forum for councillors to voice opinions and concerns, and exchange information and experience, through our regular members' meetings

Our current aims and objectives

- Assisting councillors in their changed roles with the new super-councils, and pressing for any extra help or training
- Monitoring the new Councillors' Code of Conduct and assisting any councillor who is complained about
- Responding to consultations on new legislation and taking up proposals detrimental to councillors
- Ensuring councils provide councillors with the best possible admin, facilities and training
- To represent councillors' interests and ensure they are taken into account in all relevant bodies

The NAC Northern Ireland is run by a 13-strong Executive Committee that includes all the major political parties plus independent councillors

We are currently supported by all 26 local councils and represent all 582 councillors as well as all 462 shadow councillors

We fight for the interests of all councillors regardless of party or creed. Our only aim is to help councillors give the best possible service to their constituents

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Report to: Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Subject: Rate Setting 2015/16

Date: 16 January 2015

Reporting Officer: Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources

Contact Officer: Mark McBride, Head of Finance and Performance

1	Relevant Background Information																												
1.1	This report provides members with an update on the current position with regard to the revenue estimates for 2015/16 and the key issues to be considered before setting the district rate for 2015/16. Members are asked to note that a final decision on the estimates and the district rate cannot be made until there is clarity on the amount of funding for transferring functions and the level of de-rating grant. A further Committee meeting is scheduled for 30 January.																												
2	Key Issues																												
2.43	<p>Summary Position</p> <p>Table 1 below summarises the current revenue estimates position, based on a zero increase in the district rate for 2015/16.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Table 1 Summary Revenue 2015/16 Revenue Estimates Position</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Cost Increases</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Increase in Departmental Estimates</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£9,266,997</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transfer of Functions Funding Gap</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1,023,653</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Regeneration Resource</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£448,895</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Political Assistance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£175,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Financing – Transferring Loans</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£677,319</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Financing – Leisure Efficiencies</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£765,951</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Financing – Rate Base</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>£2,000,000</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Increased Costs</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£14,357,815</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Financed By:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Additional Rates Income</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-£13,400,133</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Additional De-Rating Grant</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-£461,046</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Applied Reserves</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>-£496,636</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Nil</td> </tr> </table>	Cost Increases		Increase in Departmental Estimates	£9,266,997	Transfer of Functions Funding Gap	£1,023,653	Regeneration Resource	£448,895	Political Assistance	£175,000	Capital Financing – Transferring Loans	£677,319	Capital Financing – Leisure Efficiencies	£765,951	Capital Financing – Rate Base	<u>£2,000,000</u>	Total Increased Costs	£14,357,815	Financed By:		Additional Rates Income	-£13,400,133	Additional De-Rating Grant	-£461,046	Applied Reserves	<u>-£496,636</u>	Balance	Nil
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2.1	There are two key elements to setting the district rate and the estimates. The first part of the report deals with the amount of rates income which will be generated from the rate base and the second part deals with all the elements which make up the Council's estimates.																												
2.2	Rate Income This will be the first rate set for the new Council. This means that the rate base now																												

	includes all domestic and non-domestic properties transferring from Lisburn and Castlereagh. The final Estimated Penny Product (EPP) provided by Land and Property Services (LPS) and validated by Council officers and the Institute of Revenue, Rating and Valuation (IRRV) is £5,616,420. This means if the Council was to set a zero rate an additional £13,400,133 of rates income would be raised, bringing the total rates income to £143,116,491 for the new boundary area in 2015/16.																										
2.3	De-Rating Grant In addition to district rate income the Council also receives an industrial de-rating grant from DOE. The de-rating grant compensates the Council for the loss of rate income due to the statutory de-rating (lowering of rates) of certain properties. LPS has notified the Council that the de-rating grant will increase by £461,046.																										
2.4	The DOE, however, have also advised, in their draft 2015/16 budget, that the de-rating grant will be subject to budget cuts. We have been advised that this would mean a reduction of £1,249,902. This is one of the key issues which needs to be resolved prior to the setting of the district rate.																										
2.5	DEPARTMENTAL ESTIMATES The major driver of growth in the revenue estimates is the impact of the boundary changes. Departmental estimates for 2015/16, including provision for the new areas, have increased by £9.3m (7.87%)																										
2.6	Table 2 below shows the main pressures on departmental estimates in 2015/16. The key items are discussed below. Table 2 Departmental Budget Pressures 2015/16 <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Staff Transferring from Lisburn and Castlereagh</td> <td>£3.28m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>New Posts for LGR</td> <td>£0.72m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Employee Pay Rise and Pension Costs</td> <td>£2.43m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transferring Assets Repairs and Maintenance</td> <td>£0.33m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>New Council Members Allowances</td> <td>£0.52m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Waste Convergence and Disposal Costs</td> <td>£4.29m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cuts to Government Grants</td> <td>£0.28m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ulster Orchestra</td> <td>£0.15m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Expenditure Pressures</td> <td>£12.10m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Less</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Leisure Transformation Year 1 Efficiencies</td> <td>-£0.77m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Corporate Efficiencies</td> <td>-£2.08m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Net Impact on Departmental Budgets</td> <td>£9.25m</td> </tr> </table>	Staff Transferring from Lisburn and Castlereagh	£3.28m	New Posts for LGR	£0.72m	Employee Pay Rise and Pension Costs	£2.43m	Transferring Assets Repairs and Maintenance	£0.33m	New Council Members Allowances	£0.52m	Waste Convergence and Disposal Costs	£4.29m	Cuts to Government Grants	£0.28m	Ulster Orchestra	£0.15m	Total Expenditure Pressures	£12.10m	Less		Leisure Transformation Year 1 Efficiencies	-£0.77m	Corporate Efficiencies	-£2.08m	Net Impact on Departmental Budgets	£9.25m
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2.7	Staff Transferring from Lisburn and Castlereagh (£3.28m): The details of all 141 staff from the Lisburn and Castlereagh Councils who will transfer to Belfast on the 1 April 2015, under the LGR transfer scheme, have been received and validated by the Human Resources Section. The costs associated with these transfers have been incorporated into the revenue estimates and the detail of the posts to be added to the establishment is included as Appendix 1.																										
2.8	New Posts for LGR (£720k): In addition to the transferring posts, the departmental estimates include the funding for 17 posts required to ensure the delivery of services on a converged basis. Details of these posts are included as Appendix 2.																										
2.9	Employee Pay Rise and Pension Costs (£2.43m): This covers the increase in employee costs arising from the national pay settlement and the increased NILGOSC pension contribution costs arising from compliance with the auto enrolment pension																										

	regulations.
2.10	Transferring Assets Repairs and Maintenance (£330k): This is the increase in existing planned maintenance budgets required for the annual maintenance and upkeep of assets transferring to Belfast.
2.11	New Council Members Allowances (£520k): The central government funding provided for Members allowances during the Shadow Council will end at the 31 March 2015, resulting in an increase in the net expenditure requirements for 2015/16.
2.12	Waste Convergence and Disposal Costs (£4.29m): This includes the provision of waste management services to the new boundary area, including the additional recycling, haulage and landfill gate fee costs. It also includes the increased costs associated with the implementation of the waste plan to ensure the Council's compliance with statutory waste management targets.
2.13	Cuts to Government Grants (£284k): This is the loss of income from existing grant funding streams provided to the Council by the DOE, which the DOE have advised will cease in its revised budget proposals for 2015/16. Further detail is provided in Appendix 3.
2.14	Ulster Orchestra (£150k): This represents the additional cost of the free use of the Ulster Hall which will be considered by Members as part of the rate setting process.
2.15	Leisure Transformation Year 1 Efficiencies (£766k): These are the first year savings arising from the leisure transformation programme which will be transferred to the capital financing budget as part of the leisure estate capital financing strategy.
2.16	Corporate Efficiencies (£2.084m): These are the savings generated through the corporate efficiency programme and include cost reductions in security, energy management, fleet and procurement contracts as well additional external income generation. The delivery of these savings ensures that the Council has met its commitment as part of the Investment Programme to deliver £20m of efficiency savings by 2015.
2.17	Operational Impact of Service Convergence The following paragraphs provide a summary of some of the key convergence issues which have affected the departmental estimates for 2015/16. Separate reports will be presented to the Transition Committee outlining the detailed arrangements for service convergence at the 1 April 2015.
2.18	Development Dept: 8 community assets will transfer from Castlereagh. This includes 5 directly managed assets and 3 managed under lease and funding arrangements. In addition 25 community organisations will come into the new boundary area and currently 17 are supported by a council grants programme.
2.19	H&ES Department: The extended boundary will mean the provision of Council services to an additional 21,000 households, 53,000 citizens residing in approximately 690 streets and the transfer of approximately 800 businesses and 160 commercial waste customers.
2.20	It is estimated that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the number of noise complaints and public health and housing complaints will increase in line with the population increase i.e. by 20%. • an additional 1.5 million bin collections per year with an additional 21,000 tonnes of waste collected, treated/recycled and disposed of as appropriate. • the number of bulky household waste collections per annum will rise by 20% to 50,000 • approximately 312 additional miles to be cleansed weekly along with an additional 270 litter bins to be emptied and maintained. • Pest Control service requests will increase by approximately 18% to 5402 per annum and that there will be a 28% increase in the number of manholes to be

	<p>baited from 66,715 per annum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an additional 800 premises (food and other business) will require inspection by the Environmental Health service. • Building Regulations workload is anticipated to increase by an additional 33% • additional licensing functions, which include enforcement and administration, will be required for 30 licensed premises, 1 Outdoor licence, 2 Amusement Permits, 5 petroleum licences and 8 Street Trading licences • at least 32 dangerous or dilapidated buildings have been identified.. These will be triaged against the impact matrix and then built into future submissions for additional funding should it arise or, where the Council can take action.
2.21	Parks and Leisure Department: In 2015/16 an additional 7 pitches, 4 MUGAs, 10 parks, and 15 playgrounds, 1 allotment site, 1 cemetery, 2 bowling green's and 1 BMX track, visitor centre, cottage and barge and 7 pavilions will transfer to Belfast.
2.22	19,400m of pathways plus additional structures (e.g. bridges, fences) and significant tree stock will also transfer.
2.23	In addition to the physical portfolio, it is estimated that the transferring new boundary area will include approximately 60 sporting organisations, 3 Post- Primary Schools, 18 Primary Schools, a wide range of community development organisations and 9 bonfire sites.
2.24	Property and Projects Department: At the 1 April, an additional 51 sites will transfer to Belfast representing a 20% increase to the BCC Estate. (BCC currently has 264 sites).
	TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS
	Off Street Car parking and Planning
2.25	At the 1 April 2015 Off Street Car Parking and Planning will transfer to the Council. As part of the rate setting process the Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee will have to agree cash limits for the transferring functions.
2.26	Off Street Car Parking operates at a surplus i.e. the income from car parking charges and penalty charge notices exceeds the running costs of the service, whereas Planning operates on a deficit basis i.e. the income from planning fees does not cover the running cost of the service..
2.27	The arrangements for the transfer of functions to local government include the transfer of associated budgets. The DOE envisage that any funding for transferring services will be made on the basis of the net funding of all services transferring.
2.28	A core principle of the transfer arrangements was that the transfer should be rates neutral. However as the Deloitte report (considered by the Committee at its meeting in November 2014) highlights, central government has changed this position to being budget neutral. The implication of this is that if costs are incurred by the Council which have not been budgeted for by central government then no funding associated with this expenditure will transfer. The cuts to central government funding have also increased the risk that the final figures agreed by the Executive for funding to be transferred to local government will be less than the resources required to deliver the transferred services.
2.29	As part of the development of revenue estimates for the car parking and planning service, officers have been engaging with the DOE and DRD to obtain information on income trends, staffing levels, productivity, contract and overhead costs. On the basis of this information revenue estimates have been developed by officers for each of the transferring functions.
2.30	This process has identified areas where costs which will be incurred by the Council are not covered by the proposed central government funding transfer and which will present a funding gap for which provision will need to be made within the revenue estimates.
2.31	The current position with regard to the transfer of functions estimates and the funding gap is shown in Table 3 below.

**Table 3
Transfer of Functions Funding Gap**

Net Expenditure	BCC Estimate	Proposed Central Govt. Funding	Funding Gap
Planning	£1,493k	£605k	£888k
Off Street Car Parking	<u>-£1,345k</u>	<u>-£1,480k</u>	<u>£135k</u>
Total	£148k	£875k	£1,023k

2.32 **While the funding gap of £1,023k has been included in the draft revenue estimates it should be noted that the final decision regarding the funding to transfer to local government has still not been made by the Executive and is not expected until later in January 2015. Appendix 4 provides a summary of the key funding gaps.**

2.33 **Regeneration**
Members will be aware that as part of the preparatory work for the transfer of regeneration powers a significant shortfall had been identified in the proposed transfer of resources to support City Regeneration. While the transfer of regeneration will not now take place until 1 April 2016 it would be prudent for the Council to ring fence resources for regeneration during 2015/16 which could be used to support the preparation for the transfer of regeneration powers and the City Centre regeneration plans. **A separate budget of £449k has been included in the estimates for regeneration.**

2.34 **Political Assistance**
The draft estimates include growth of £175k for political assistance. This will be used to the work of party groups and not individual Members.

2.35 **Capital Financing**
A separate Capital Programme report is being considered by Members at this Committee meeting.

2.36 The capital financing budget for 2015/16 proposed in the revenue estimates is summarised in Table 4 below.

**Table 4
Capital Financing Budget 2015/16**

Existing (Capital Programme) Budget 2014/15	£10.137m
Existing (Leisure Estate) Budget 2014/15	<u>£3.230m</u>
	£13.367m
Increase:	
Growth to cover Lisburn/Castlereagh Loans	£0.677m
Growth Leisure Transformation Savings Year 1	£0.766m
Growth Leisure Estate (From New Rate Base)	<u>£2.000m</u>
Total Capital Financing Budget 2015/16	£16.811m

2.37 **Application of Credit Balance from Reserves**
The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed the funding of running costs for 2 projects - Public Bike Hire and Innovation Centre, on an incremental reducing balance basis. The application of a credit balance transfer from reserves of £497k has been included in the draft estimates to ensure that these costs are not added to the district rate in 2015/16.

2.38	<p>Summary</p> <p>While significant progress has been made in the development of the 2015/16 revenue estimates, there are a number of decisions to be made by the Executive which would have a material impact on the level of the district rate for 2015/16. These can be summarised as:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the exception of those grant funding streams which the DOE have proposed to cease, the impact of the central government funding cuts on the Council for 2015/16 will only become clear when the Executive Departmental Budgets are agreed. • The level of funding for transferring functions has yet to be agreed by the Executive and the current estimated funding gap of £1m could therefore increase. • The level of de-rating grant which the DOE pays to the Council to compensate it for the loss of rate income due to the statutory de-rating (lowering of rates) of certain properties is under consideration by the DOE as part of the central government cuts.

3	Recommendations
	<p>In view of the uncertainty regarding central government funding for 2015/16, Members are asked to note the progress on the development of the revenue estimates and the proposals outlined in the paper. A further Committee meeting is scheduled for 30 January. If the details are available in regards to the central government funding position Members will be requested, at this meeting, to agree the revenue estimates and district rate for 2015/16.</p>

4	Appendices
	<p>Appendix One: Staff transferring from Lisburn and Castlereagh Appendix Two: New Posts Appendix Three: Impact of central government cuts Appendix Four: Funding gap for transferring functions</p>

Appendix One: Staff transferring from Lisburn and Castlereagh

JOB TITLE /DEPT

CHIEF EXECUTIVES DEPT

Business Support Officer X 1
Business Support Assistant X 2
Admin and Members Asst X 1
Admin Asst X 1
Corp Marketing X 1

FIN & RESOURCES DEPT

Finance Control Clerk X 1
Finance Clerk / Debt X 1
Project Accountant X 1

PROPERTY & PROJECTS DEPT

Driver / Trade Person X2
Business Support Clerk X 2

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Environmental Health Officers X 6
Building Control Surveyors X 3
Recycling Operative X 2
Resource Educ Prom Officer X 1
Cleansing Operative X 10
HGV Combined Driver X 1
HGV Driver / Loaders X 6
Precinct Sweepers X 4
Solo Sweepers X 10
Asst Manager X 1
Large Mechanical Sweeper/Driver X 1
Enforcement Officer X 2
Senior Charge Hands X 2
Driver X 1
TEAM LEADER X 1
Dog Warden X 1
Business Assistant X 2
Clerical Officer X 4

PARKS & LEISURE

Asst Manager X 3
Swimming Programme Co-Ordinator X 1
Gymnastics Development Officer X 1
Duty Officer X 2
Senior Recreation Asst X 2

Swimming Teacher X 2
Receptionist X 5
Area Manager X 1
Recreation Asst X 8
Cleaner X 4
Plant Engineer X 2
Leisure Asst X 2
Recreation Asst X 4
Groundsman X 2
Gravedigger X 2
Groundsman / Greenkeeper X 4
Gardener X 2
Coach X 6
Admin Support Officer X 1
Chargehand X 1
Driver X 1

DEVELOPMENT DEPT

Community Services Officer x 1
Facilities Co-ordinator X 1
Community Centre Assistant X 5
Cleaner X 5
Community Development Worker x 1
Business Support Assistant X 1

Appendix Two : Proposed New Posts

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S

Community Planning Co-ordinator X 2	Community planning is a new function with no resources transferring from central government.
FOI Officer Data Protection Officer Data Protection Asst (Clerk) Business Support Clerk	These posts are required to ensure the Council meets its legislative requirements in relation to Data Protection and Freedom of Information.

PROPERTY & PROJECTS DEPT

Project Sponsor X 6	Posts were previously recruited on a temporary basis to support the delivery of Investment Programme projects. Given the scale of capital investment these posts are now required on a permanent basis.
Estates Surveyor Estates Officer	Posts required to support the management of assets and land transferring as a result of LGR.

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Environmental Protection Officer	Required to support Noise Control in transferring areas.
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PARKS & LEISURE

Parks Outreach Officer	Required to support service delivery in transferring areas.
Sports Development Officer	Required to support service delivery in transferring areas.

Appendix Three: Impact of Draft Budget Proposals 2015/16

Description	Value of Income per funding stream (£)
Regulation of construction product regulations. Activity not posts.	33,668
Air Quality Grant - enables BCC to undertake local air quality management functions (LAQM) under the Environment Order (NI) 2002. BCC is required to work towards relevant air quality improvements across the city in 4 declared air quality management areas.	92,139
Disability Action - Contribution to the salary costs of an existing member of staff.	15,400
Emergency Planning Grant - Belfast Resilience Programme Manager	47,000
Emergency Planning Grant - (as agreed with the Local Government Emergency management Group - LGEMG) claimed on a match funded basis - used to off-set salaries across a number of posts. Also used for equipment the ECC, training and systems.	96,341
Total Funding	284,548

Appendix Four: Transfer of Functions Funding Gap

	BCC AS AT 6TH JAN	CENTRAL GOVT AS AT 6TH JAN	AS AT 6TH JAN
CAR PARKING	REVISED BCC ESTIMATE	REVISED DRD ESTIMATE	BUDGET GAP
Fee Income	-1,950,194	-2,013,519	63,325
PCN Income	-114,048	-118,561	4,513
Advertising Hoarding Income	-7,100	0	-7,100
Gross Income	-2,071,342	-2,132,080	60,738
Employees	35,776	0	35,776
Premises	472,999	424,515	48,484
Supplies and Services	187,906	227,699	-39,793
Transport	0	0	0
Support Services	30,000	0	30,000
Miscellaneous	0	0	0
Gross Expenditure	726,681	652,213	74,468
NET BUDGET	-1,344,661	-1,479,867	135,206
	AS AT 6TH JAN	AS AT 6TH JAN	AS AT 6TH JAN
PLANNING	REVISED BCC ESTIMATE	REVISED DOE ESTIMATE	BUDGET GAP
Fee Income	-1,390,000	-1,390,000	0
Gross Income	-1,390,000	-1,390,000	0
Employees	2,037,748	1,585,000	452,748
Add in 2015/16 Payrise for Planners	47,550	0	47,550
Premises	196,596	61,116	135,480
Supplies & Services	371,000	300,000	71,000
Transport	41,000	0	41,000
Support Services	183,553	48,884	134,669
Miscellaneous	6,000	0	6,000
Gross Expenditure	2,883,447	1,995,000	888,447
NET BUDGET	1,493,447	605,000	888,447
SUMMARY NET EFFECT	148,786	-874,867	1,023,653

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Non – Recurrent Expenditure Requirements 2014/15 and 2015/16
Date:	16 January 2015
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources and Deputy Chief Executive
Contact Officer:	Mark McBride, Head of Finance and Performance

1.0	Relevant Background Information
1.1	This report presents the non-recurrent expenditure requirements for 2014/15 and 2015/16 and makes recommendations as to how these can be financed.

2.0	Key Issues																
2.1	<p>Non – Recurrent Expenditure 2014/15</p> <p>The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee has already approved £2,962,241 of non-recurrent expenditure for 2014/15. This is summarised in Table One below. Members agreed, as part of their consideration of the half year finance position, that this expenditure would be financed from the forecast year end under spend of £4,307,000.</p> <p>Table One: 2014/15 Non-Recurrent Expenditure</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Leisure Mobilisation 2014/15</td> <td>1,171,233</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WFH Mobilisation</td> <td>700,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Innovation Centre</td> <td>130,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Temp Accommodation</td> <td>80,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vehicles parks</td> <td>164,461</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Assets</td> <td>2,245,694</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Data Transfer (Building Control)</td> <td>38,753</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cleansing</td> <td>80,393</td> </tr> </table>	Leisure Mobilisation 2014/15	1,171,233	WFH Mobilisation	700,000	Innovation Centre	130,000	Temp Accommodation	80,000	Vehicles parks	164,461	Total Assets	2,245,694	Data Transfer (Building Control)	38,753	Cleansing	80,393
Leisure Mobilisation 2014/15	1,171,233																
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Vehicles parks	164,461																
Total Assets	2,245,694																
Data Transfer (Building Control)	38,753																
Cleansing	80,393																

	Ulster Orchestra	100,000																
	SP&R Approved Funding Requests	153,500																
	Pensions	238,181																
	Total Other	610,827																
	Condition surveys and remedial works	9,000																
	Removal costs from Bedford House	38,720																
	Fit out costs of new building	50,000																
	Connection costs to new building	8,000																
	Total Transfer of Functions	105,720																
	Total 2014/15	2,962,241																
2.2	<p>Non – Recurrent Expenditure 2015/16</p> <p>Table Two below outlines the non-recurrent expenditure requirements for 2015/16. The key drivers of these costs are the delivery of Investment Programme projects and transitional arrangements associated with local government reform.</p> <p>Table Two: Non-Recurrent Expenditure 2015/16</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Employees</td> <td>1,694,736</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assets</td> <td>573,052</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>720,023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transfer of Functions</td> <td>323,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>3,310,811</td> </tr> </table>		Employees	1,694,736	Assets	573,052	Other	720,023	Transfer of Functions	323,000	Total	3,310,811						
Employees	1,694,736																	
Assets	573,052																	
Other	720,023																	
Transfer of Functions	323,000																	
Total	3,310,811																	
2.3	<p>Employees</p> <p>For the past three years temporary staff employed to support the delivery of Investment Programme projects and local government reform have been financed through the Waste Plan and the Local Government Reform Fund. These funds will come to an end on 31 March 2015. Table Three provides a summary of the temporary employee funding requirements by department. A detailed breakdown by post is provided at Appendix One.</p> <p>Table Three: Temporary Employees 2015/16</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Chief Executive's</td> <td>408,458</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Finance & Resources</td> <td>126,718</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Property & Projects</td> <td>635,953</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Health & Env. Services</td> <td>133,385</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Development</td> <td>305,854</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Car Parks</td> <td>33,776</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Planning</td> <td>50,592</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Temp Employees</td> <td>1,694,736</td> </tr> </table>		Chief Executive's	408,458	Finance & Resources	126,718	Property & Projects	635,953	Health & Env. Services	133,385	Development	305,854	Car Parks	33,776	Planning	50,592	Total Temp Employees	1,694,736
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Total Temp Employees	1,694,736																	

2.4	<p>Assets</p> <p>Table Four details the one-off costs associated with the assets transferring from Lisburn and Castlereagh. Detailed surveys of the assets have been carried out and maintenance costings have been prepared. Appendix Two provides a summary of the proposed work by asset transferring.</p> <p>Table Four: One – Off Asset Costs 2015/16</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="331 562 1190 860"> <tr> <td>Property Maintenance - Assets transferring</td> <td>393,235</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parks & Open Spaces/Tree & Path Works</td> <td>127,307</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pitches Improvement</td> <td>10,510</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Street Signs</td> <td>12,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Building Signage</td> <td>30,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Assets</td> <td>573,052</td> </tr> </table>	Property Maintenance - Assets transferring	393,235	Parks & Open Spaces/Tree & Path Works	127,307	Pitches Improvement	10,510	Street Signs	12,000	Building Signage	30,000	Total Assets	573,052
Property Maintenance - Assets transferring	393,235												
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Building Signage	30,000												
Total Assets	573,052												
2.5	<p>Other</p> <p>These costs include £429k to support the alignment of the Council's grant aid programmes for areas transferring from Lisburn and Castlereagh. A separate report on the Decade of Centenaries will be considered by the Committee at this meeting.</p> <p>Table Five: Other Costs 2015/16</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="331 1189 1190 1397"> <tr> <td>Licences</td> <td>105,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community Planning & City Competitiveness</td> <td>100,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grant & Community Support</td> <td>429,023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Decade of Centenaries</td> <td>86,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Other</td> <td>720,023</td> </tr> </table>	Licences	105,000	Community Planning & City Competitiveness	100,000	Grant & Community Support	429,023	Decade of Centenaries	86,000	Total Other	720,023		
Licences	105,000												
Community Planning & City Competitiveness	100,000												
Grant & Community Support	429,023												
Decade of Centenaries	86,000												
Total Other	720,023												
2.6	<p>Transfer of Functions</p> <p>Corporate signage on car parks must comply with legislative requirements and an additional £30k will be required to ensure compliance. Additional printers and computers will be required for the planning staff (45 staff) at a cost of £43k. The major additional expenditure requirement is £250k for advertising costs associated with planning applications. These are advertised in four local newspapers to ensure planning equality and legislative requirements are met.</p> <p>Table Six: Transfer of Functions 2015/16</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="331 1800 1190 1966"> <tr> <td>Corporate Signage to car parks</td> <td>30,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IT Hardware</td> <td>43,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Planning Advertising</td> <td>250,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Transfer of Functions</td> <td>323,000</td> </tr> </table>	Corporate Signage to car parks	30,000	IT Hardware	43,000	Planning Advertising	250,000	Total Transfer of Functions	323,000				
Corporate Signage to car parks	30,000												
IT Hardware	43,000												
Planning Advertising	250,000												
Total Transfer of Functions	323,000												

Sources of Funding																						
2.7	Table Seven shows that through a combination of sources £4.3m of finance is available. It is recommended that a transition fund of £3.31m is established to cover the one-off costs for 2015/16.																					
Table Seven: Sources of Funding 2015/16																						
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>2014/15 Year end balance</td> <td>1,344,759</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>LGR Fund</td> <td>331,511</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>LTP Fund</td> <td>420,000</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital under spend</td> <td><u>2,219,843</u></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total funding available</td> <td></td> <td>4,316,113</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Funding required</td> <td></td> <td>3,310,811</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance remaining</td> <td></td> <td>1,005,302</td> </tr> </table>	2014/15 Year end balance	1,344,759		LGR Fund	331,511		LTP Fund	420,000		Capital under spend	<u>2,219,843</u>		Total funding available		4,316,113	Funding required		3,310,811	Balance remaining		1,005,302
2014/15 Year end balance	1,344,759																					
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Funding required		3,310,811																				
Balance remaining		1,005,302																				
2.8	In terms of the remaining balance of £1m Members have a choice of transferring this to reserves or using it to support other priorities. At the Budget Panel it was agreed that further detailed discussion is required about the future of the Local Investment Fund, Belfast Investment Fund and the potential establishment of a Support Fund. A detailed report on this matter will be brought to Committee in February and it is therefore recommended that the allocation of the £1m balance should be considered as part of this future report.																					

3.0	Recommendations
	<p>Members are requested to agree to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The non-recurrent expenditure outlined in tables 3 to 6 for 2015/16. • The establishment of a transition fund of £3.13m to finance this expenditure.

4.0	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	There are no equality and good relations implications associated with the report.

5.0	Attachments
	<p>Appendix One: Temporary Employees</p> <p>Appendix Two: Maintenance required for transferring assets</p>

Appendix One: Temporary Posts 2015/16

DEPT/SERVICE
<u>CHIEF EXECUTIVES</u>
Corp Comms Officer X 3
Comms Assistant X 1
Corp Comms Placement Student
Ops Manager X 1
Lord Mayors Assistant X 1
Bus Support Clerk X 1
Civic Attendant X 1
Dem Services Officer x 1
Property Solicitor X 1
Solicitor x 2
<u>FINANCE & RESOURCES</u>
Business Support Officer X 1
Fin Control Officer X 1
Digital Belfast Officer X 1
Digital Belfast Tech Support Officer X 1
Digital Services Asst X 1
<u>PROPERTY AND PROJECTS</u>
Procurement officer X 3
Project Sponsor X 3
Facilities - Apprenticeship X 7
Estates Surveyor
Mgt Accountant X 1
Capital Claims Accountant X 1
Sen Bus Support Asst.X 2
<u>HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES</u>
Cleansing Operatives X 6
Data Transfer X 1
<u>DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT</u>
Grants Assistant x 3
Project Officers X 3
Community Development Officer X 1
Asst Communtiy Development Officer X 1
<u>OFF STREET CAR PARKING</u>
Contract Manager Car Parking

Appendix Two: Maintenance required for transferring assets

Asset	Cost
Braniel Community Centre	3,050
Clonduff Drive Community Centre	135,800
Cregagh Civic Amenity Facility	25,300
Cregagh Youth and Community Centre	755
Downshire Community Hall	84,250
Henry Jones Pavillion	116,100
Knockbreda Cemetery Store	5,350
Lock Keepers Cottage	1,000
Tullycarnet Community Centre	730
Tullycarnet Pavilion & Bowling Green	15,000
Fullerton Park Community Centre & Pavillion	2,450
Napier Park Changing Pavillion	3,450
	393,235

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Belfast City Council

Report to	Shadow Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Stained glass window to commemorate Belfast men who fought in the Spanish Civil War
Date:	16th January 2015
Reporting Officer:	Nicola Lane, Good Relations Manager Ext: 6020
Contact Officer:	Anne Deighan, Good Relations Officer Ext: 6019

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	At the March 2014 Council meeting a Motion was brought by Councillor McCarthy and seconded by Councillor Webb that “this Council agrees to the installation of a stained glass window in the City hall to commemorate the sons of our city who fought in support of the democratically elected Government of Spain against the forces of Fascism.”
1.2	The Spanish Civil War was fought from 1936 – 1939 and had involved a range of political factions, but mainly fascist and socialist forces. Most of the Irish volunteers who had fought against Franco’s fascist forces were members of the Fifth International Brigade. Around 80 of those 320 were from Northern Ireland, a significant proportion of which were from Belfast.
1.3	The Strategic Policy & Resources Committee, at its meeting on 21 st March, had agreed that the matter should be referred to the Joint Group of the Party Leaders’ Forum and Historic Centenaries Working Group (now known as the Diversity Working Group) for consideration and comment. Thereafter it would ultimately be a matter for the Committee to determine.
1.4	This course of action is in keeping with the methodology used by the Council in 2011, prior to the installation in the City Hall of the “Celtic Myths and legends” window, which had been referred to the former memorabilia Working Group for initial comment.

2	Key Issues
2.1	Further to consideration by the Diversity Working Group, it was agreed at the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in October that a Working Group, comprising one Member from each of the Political Parties on the Diversity Working Group, be established to give initial consideration to the erection of a stained glass window in City Hall to commemorate those from Belfast who fought in support of the democratically elected Government of Spain against the forces of Fascism. The first meeting of the group was scheduled to take place on 9 th January.
2.2	It is envisaged the process will be similar to that which was employed to erect the Celtic Myths and Legends window.

2.3	Members will note that the consideration of the stained glass window is not included within the current review of memorabilia being undertaken through Redhead Consulting and therefore, would require a separate budget to be set aside.
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3	Resource Implications
3.1	This project has not been included with current budgets. Based on the previous project, the cost will be approximately £25,000. The Director of Finance and Resources has recommended that finance is provided through the general reserves.

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	The matter will need to be considered in light of the Council's overall policy on Memorabilia in the City Hall.

5	Call In
5.1	This decision is subject to call in.

6	Recommendations
6.1	The Committee is requested to note the contents of the report and agree that the cost of up to £25,000 is financed through general reserves to support the erection of a stained glass window in City Hall commemorating those from Belfast who fought in support of the democratically elected Government of Spain against the forces of Fascism.

7	Decision Tracking
7.1	Nicola Lane, Good Relations Manager Ext:6020

8	Key to Abbreviations
8.1	N/A

9	Documents Attached
9.1	N/A



Belfast City Council

Report to	Shadow Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Decade of Centenaries
Date:	16 th January 2014
Reporting Officer:	Nicola Lane, Good Relations Manager (Ext 6020)
Contact Officer:	Anne Deighan and David Robinson, Good Relations Officers

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members may be aware of the Council's decision at its meeting on the 1 st November 2011 to a three stranded approach to marking the Historic Centenaries covering the period 1912 – 1922. Strand Two is currently in operation which covers the period 1914-1918. Council agreed that Strand Two would cover the period incorporating World War I, including the Somme, and the Easter Rising. Major exhibitions would be commissioned covering these two events as well as civic and other activities to mark both commemorations.
1.2	In addition, at its meeting on the 29 th November 2013, the Joint Party Group Leaders Forum and the Historic Centenaries Working Group agreed in principle to hosting the outdoor exhibition "Fields of Battle – Lands of Peace". The group agreed to grant approval in principle to the exhibition being displayed in Belfast during 2016, subject to the costs being reasonable and appropriate funding being made available and subject to the agreement of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
1.3	The Good Relations Manager was delegated to work up costings and specifications for an exhibition for 2016, and additional outreach and engagement programmes and costs associated with the staging of the Fields of Battle – Lands of Peace exhibition. These issues were discussed by the Council's Diversity Working Group at its meeting on the 5 th December 2014.
1.4	Following agreement on the way forward at the Diversity Working Group, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the Diversity Working group at its meeting on the 12 th December 2014.
1.5	These recommendations are now being brought before the Shadow Policy and Resources Committee for noting and approval since the events and

	exhibitions will take place in the new Council arrangements.
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2	Key Issues
2.1	As has already been agreed through the Diversity Working Group, officers have met with a number of organisations to discuss the potential for collaboration and additional funding. OFMDFM and DCAL will be involved in planning and delivery in addition to the Irish Government's Department of Foreign Affairs regarding the forthcoming Decade of Centenaries.
2.2	Members will also be aware that the Irish government have officially launched Ireland 2016, an initiative which is led by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to reflect on the legacy of the period – this will include capital projects, state events, and various programmes relating to culture, young people and education etc. The five intersecting themes are: Remember, Reconcile, Imagine, Present and Celebrate.
2.3	Members may wish to also note that for Strand One covering 1912-1914, a budget of £99,000 was set aside by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for a large programme of events with OFMDFM contributing an additional £47,000. This amount of £146,000 covered the exhibition, a civic dinner and a series of events and activities around several other themes and publicity and educational activities.
2.4	In accordance with the desire of Members to deliver one exhibition covering the period of 1916 incorporating a number of themes as well as the key events, Officers are drawing up a specification for this. As previously reported, the cost for the Shared History - Different Allegiance exhibition was approximately £70,000 and it is estimated that a similar exhibition for 2016 could cost in the region of £80,000. Expenditure on additional elements such as civic events, artwork, drama, lectures, community outreach programme and hospitality based on the previous strand was approximately £94,000. This would bring the total amount required to undertake the work for 2016 to £174,000. These costs have been noted by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on the 12 th December.
2.5	As to some of the events around the period, Officers would hope to include part of the activity within the Good Relations Programme for 2016/2017 but would also look to the potential of collaborating with other agencies/bodies where appropriate. Officers will also continue conversations to seek external funding where appropriate.
2.6	In relation to the Fields of Battle – Lands of Peace exhibition which is a separate exhibition, Officers have spoken to the exhibition Director and have been advised that further details would be available in the New Year. Costings for this project have been previously been estimated at £40,000.00. Officers would emphasise that the organisers would have to seek funds centrally in the first instance for such an exhibition as this amount is not included in the costings outlined above.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p>Financial In relation to what has been noted by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in section 2.4 above, the following costs are now requested to the Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee:</p> <p>April 2015 – March 2016 Decade of Centenaries- cost of the exhibition, Civic Events and additional activities £86,000 (plus additional £45,000 from OFMDFM to be secured as match funding)</p> <p>The Director of Finance and Resources has included £86k of non-recurrent funding as part of the non-recurrent expenditure report which is included on today's committee agenda.</p>
3.2	<p>April 2016 – March 2017</p> <p>Decade of Centenaries £47,000 Funding for the Fields of Battle- Lands of Peace £40,000.</p> <p>The costs for 2016/17 will be considered as part of the 2015/16 half year financial re-allocations.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	<p>The Working Group agreed in October 2011 that events marking the Decade of Centenaries would operate under a set of agreed principles and also provides an opportunity for the Council to contribute to a better understanding of the past and to promote respect for the complexity of our shared history. These are attached for Members information.</p>

5	Call In
5.1	This decision is subject to call In.

6	Recommendations
6.1	To note the information in the above report in relation to the preparations currently underway for the Decade of Centenaries events in 2016 and the Fields of Battle Exhibition.
6.2	To approve the costs for the Decade of Centenaries exhibition, civic events and additional activities at a total sum of £133,000 over 2 years, with authority given to officers to seek external funding towards the exhibition of £45,000 from OFMDFM.
6.3	To agree to proceed with planning for the fields of battle exhibition at a cost of £40,000 to be incurred in 2016-17.
6.4	Note that the Director of Finance and Resources has included £86k of non-

	recurrent funding as part of the non-recurrent expenditure report which is included on today's committee agenda to cover costs for 2015-16 and note that the financing of the proposed expenditure for 2016/17 will be considered as part of the 2015/16 half year financial re-allocations.
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7	Decision Tracking
7.1	Nicola Lane, Good Relations Manager, Ext 6020

8	Key to Abbreviations
8.1	OFMDFM: Office of the First and Deputy First Minister DCAL: Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

9	Documents Attached
9.1	N/A

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Belfast District Council

Report to:	Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Notice of Motion: Use of Bus Lanes at times of emergency – Response from the Minister
Date:	Friday, 16th January, 2015
Reporting Officer:	Mr. Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Officer, 6314

1.0	Relevant Background Information
1.1	<p>The Committee will recall that the Shadow Council, at its meeting on 8th December, passed the following motion, which had been moved by Councillor O'Boyle and seconded by seconded by Councillor Mullan:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“Belfast District Council urges the Department for Regional Development to implement measures permitting the use of bus lanes by all vehicles at times of chronic congestion as a result of an emergency situation; thereby saving thousands of lost working hours to the economy of our City.”</i></p>

2.0	Key Issues
2.1	A letter to the Department (DRD) outlining the Council's decision was forwarded on 9th December and a response from the Minister's secretary (as appended) was received on 8th January.
2.2	The letter points out that whilst the current legislation does not empower the DSD to suspend bus lanes, a constable in uniform can exercise his or her discretion to permit all vehicles to use bus lanes in times of emergency.
2.3	Such a decision, it is pointed out, should be taken only with a view to ensuring that the travelling public would be informed in a timely manner in order to avoid confusion.

3.	Resource Implications
	None

4.	Equality and good relations implications
	None

5.0	Call-in
	This decision is subject to call-in.

6.0	Recommendations
3.1	The Committee is requested to note the information provided.

Chief Executive's Office		
Date	9/1/15	
Seen by	CX	
Referred to		
ACX	Corp Comms	Dem Serv.
GR	SPP	Bus Supp.
Dev	F&R	H&ES
P&L	P&P	Other
Ref	SW 9/1	



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Ms Suzanne Wylie
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Your Ref: SW/as
Our Ref: DRD/COR/1360/2014
Date: 8 January 2015

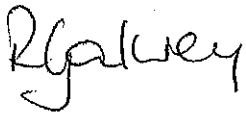
Suzanne

Thank you for your letter dated 9 December 2014, urging the Department to implement measures permitting the use of bus lanes by all vehicles at times of emergency. The Minister has read your letter and has asked me to respond to you on his behalf.

The primary purpose of bus lanes is to allow commuters, who are using public transport, to access Belfast city centre during congested conditions. They also permit access by emergency vehicles during congested conditions thereby assisting response times.

Under the current legislation the Department does not have the power to suspend bus lanes. The legislation does however permit vehicles to enter the bus lane upon the direction or with the permission of a constable in uniform. It would therefore be possible for the PSNI to allow vehicles to use bus lanes if they felt the circumstances were appropriate. However, care would need to be taken to ensure the appropriate message was conveyed to the travelling public in a timely manner, whether on a city wide or localised basis, to avoid confusion which could potentially lead to safety issues.

I hope this reply clarifies the Department's position on this matter.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'R Galwey'.

RUTH GALWEY

Private Secretary to Danny Kennedy MLA



Belfast District Council

Report to:	Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Notice of Motion: Use of Bus Lanes by registered taxis – Response from the Minister
Date:	Friday, 16th January, 2015
Reporting Officer:	Mr. Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Officer, 6314

1.0	Relevant Background Information
1.1	<p>The Committee will recall that the Shadow Council, at its meeting on 8th December, passed unanimously the following motion, which had been moved by Councillor R. Brown and seconded by Councillor Robinson:</p> <p><i>“Belfast District Council expresses concern at the proposal to permit all registered taxis to use the City’s bus lanes, notes that this proposal will allow for an 8 fold increase in the number of taxis permitted to use these lanes from 500 to approximately 4000 vehicles, believes that this proposal will have a detrimental impact on the levels of cycling and the efficiency of public transport, considers this proposal incompatible with the Council’s vision of Belfast as a sustainable City and calls on the Government to limit the use of the City’s bus lanes by taxis which are wheelchair accessible only.”</i></p>

2.0	Key Issues
2.1	A letter to the Department (DRD) outlining the Council’s decision was forwarded on 9th December and a response from the Minister’s secretary (as appended) was received on 8th January.
2.2	The response is self-explanatory and indicates that the Minister (Danny Kennedy) will take a final decision on the use of bus lanes by taxis only when he has seen the DoE’s revised regulations.
2.3	The Minister will base his decision on the responses which had been received during the 2012 consultation process on the proposed regulations. Notably, it is pointed out that the Council’s viewpoint will be taken on board by the Minister in making a final decision.

3.	Resource Implications
	None
4.	Equality and good relations implications
	None
5.0	Call-in
	This decision is subject to call-in.
6.0	Recommendations
	The Committee is requested to note the information provided.

Chief Executive's Office		
Date	9/1/15	
Seen by CX		
Referred to		
ACX	Corp Comms	Dem Serv.
GR	SPP	Bus Supp.
Dev	F&R	H&ES
P&L	P&P	Other
Ref	SW 10/1	



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Your Ref: SW/as
 Our Ref: DRD/COR/1361/2014
 Date: 8 January 2015

Suzanne

Thank you for your letter of 9 December 2014 to Mr Danny Kennedy MLA, Minister for Regional Development, regarding the use of bus lanes by registered taxis.

As you may be aware, in 2012 this Department consulted on possible changes to the access of bus lanes by taxis. This consultation was in direct response to a Department of the Environment (DoE) proposal to introduce a single tier taxi licensing regime during 2013.

The DoE legislation, The Taxi Licensing Regulations (NI) 2014, was subsequently made on 9 December 2014 and has since been laid in the Assembly. The proposed Taxi Licence Regulations would see the definition of the existing taxi classifications change. As a result, the legislation, when enacted, will require this Department to amend its bus lane orders to reflect the new taxi definitions. However, we are aware of some political opposition to the regulations, which may see them amended, and until Minister Kennedy sees the final version of the DoE regulations, a final decision in terms of access arrangements for taxis cannot be taken.

Minister Kennedy has asked me to confirm that he will make his decision on taxi access when he has seen the final version of the DoE regulations and in doing so, will take on board all the issues raised during the 2012 consultation process as well as the City Council's viewpoint.

I hope this reply is helpful.

R Galwey

RUTH GALWEY

Private Secretary to Danny Kennedy MLA