

Document Pack

**Committee and Members' Services Section
Chief Executive's Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**



16th March, 2010

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room (Room G05), City Hall on Friday, 19th March, 2010 at 10.00 am, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully

PETER McNANEY

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. **Routine Matters**

(a) Apologies

2. **Transition Committee Business**

(a) Review of Public Administration - Local Government Response on Efficiency and Collaboration (Pages 1 - 14)

(b) Review of Public Administration - Transfer of Functions (Pages 15 - 18)

(c) Big Lottery - Application for Funding to deliver Community Planning Projects in Northern Ireland (Pages 19 - 24)

3. **Democratic Services and Governance**

(a) Members' Declarations of Interest (Pages 25 - 26)

(b) Publication of Information on Payments made to Council Officers (Pages 27 - 30)

- (c) National Association of Councillors Spring Conference and Local Authority Members' Association Annual Conference (Pages 31 - 34)
- (d) Requests for the Use of the City Hall and the Provision of Hospitality (Pages 35 - 40)

4. **Finance**

- (a) Minutes of Meeting of Budget and Transformation Panel of 8th March (Pages 41 - 44)
- (b) Budget Monitoring Report (Pages 45 - 46)
- (c) Efficiency Programme Update (Pages 47 - 54)
- (d) Belfast City Council-Land and Property Services Memorandum of Understanding Update (Pages 55 - 58)
- (e) Tender for Annual Property Asset Revaluations (Pages 59 - 60)

5. **Major Projects**

- (a) Lyric Theatre - City Investment Fund (Pages 61 - 66)

6. **Asset Management**

- (a) Connswater Community Greenway Contract (Pages 67 - 74)
- (b) Connswater Community Greenway Update (Pages 75 - 80)

7. **Human Resources**

- (a) Request to address the Council - UNISON Northern Ireland (Pages 81 - 82)

8. **Good Relations and Equality**

- (a) Minutes of Meeting of Memorabilia Working Group of 4th March (Pages 83 - 86)
- (b) Minutes of Meeting of Good Relations Partnership of 12th March (To Follow)
- (c) Commission of an Artwork to reflect Irish History and Heritage in Belfast (Pages 87 - 88)

9. **Cross-Cutting Issues**

- (a) Consultation Response - Meeting the Demands for a Modern Public Library Service within Northern Ireland (To Follow)

To: The Chairman and Members of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources (Transition) Committee
Subject:	RPA - Local Government Response on Efficiency & Collaboration
Date:	19 th March 2010
Reporting Officer:	Peter McNaney, Chief Executive
Contact Officer:	Kevin Heaney (ext. 6202)

1.0	<u>Relevant Background Information</u>
1.1	Members will recall that as part of the PriceWaterhouseCoopers Economic Appraisal which identified potential options as to how the RPA reform programme could be funded, the establishment of a Business Support Organisation (BSO) to deliver a number of core functions on a shared services basis had been proposed. PwC reported that the RPA reform programme (including the establishment of the proposed BSO) would require £118m funding with a return of £438million over 25years.
1.2	In responding to the PwC proposals, the local government sector challenged the financial assumptions and projections contained within the PwC report and stated its consensual opposition to the proposed establishment of a BSO.
1.3	At the Strategic Leadership Board meeting in December 2009 and recent NILGA Annual Conference, the Environment Minister, Edwin Poots set the challenge for local government to provide an alternative solution to establishing a BSO and delivering in the order of £438million efficiency savings. Work has been ongoing over recent weeks (with BCC engaged) on preparing an initial response to the Minister's challenge.
2.0	<u>Key Issues</u>
2.1	On 12 th March, NILGA held an engagement event with representatives from Transition Committees to update them on the emerging local government proposals in regards to efficiency and collaboration. A copy of the initial local government position paper is attached at Appendix 1.
2.2	At the event it had been suggested that the key principle in moving forward should be the willingness of local government to accept an efficiency figure which is linked to the draw down of necessary up-front seed funding from central government to enable the RPA reform programme to happen. It was further suggested that as phase II detailed work would need to be undertaken by individual Transition Committees, in liaison with the DoE, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. assess the up-front investment required by Transition Committees to enable the reform to happen; and ii. identify the associated level of efficiency savings required

2.3	Such an approach would provide Transition Committees and councils the autonomy to deliver their own efficiency programme to meet the agreed targets for a specified period, rather than having a centralised BSO imposed upon them.
2.4	<p>It should be noted that the level of discussion at the engagement event on 12th March was somewhat limited and tended to focus on the unsubstantiated nature of the PwC projected efficiency figures and the parochial issues facing individual Transition Committees and not the broad principles being considered e.g. local government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - accepts that it would be required to contribute towards the funding of local government reform; - is committed to working in collaboration to deliver potential efficiency savings; and - accepts that detailed design and financial modelling work is required to establish the efficiency savings to be secured.
2.5	Following the engagement event, NILGA intends to write to each Transition Committee requesting that they consider the emerging proposals. It was agreed that the financial officers within Transition Committees be requested to undertake detailed work around quantifying potential costs attached to the RPA reform and potential efficiency and collaboration opportunities.
2.6	Notwithstanding, it is suggested that the Council now needs to establish its own position in regards to the RPA; stating that it is up for the challenge of reform; is willing to work in collaboration, where appropriate, to secure greater efficiencies; but is not willing to pick up the convergence costs of other local authority areas.
2.7	It is suggested that the Council continues to proactively engage with the Eastern Seaboard councils within arc21, and other willing councils, to explore potential collaboration opportunities as part of its wider efficiency programme.
<u>Proposals for 'voluntary' Regional Transition Committee and Management Team</u>	
2.8	There remain a number of key decisions still to be made, particularly pertaining to funding, which need to be considered and negotiated at a regional level. With the anticipated delay until at least June 2010 for the necessary legislation which will create the 'Statutory' Transition Committees, it is unlikely that the proposed Regional Transition Committee (RTC) would be put in place until some time thereafter. It would be the intention that the RTC would provide the regional forum to discuss and negotiate key matters and would comprise of political representation from each of the Transition Committees.
2.9	On the 25 th February 2010 the Strategic Leadership Board agreed that interim arrangements would be put in place to establish a voluntary Regional Transition Committee (vRTC) and supporting Regional Transition Management Team (vRTMT) so as to enable progress to be made.
2.10	At the engagement event on 12 th March 2010, NILGA presented a range of options for the composition of the proposed vRTC and vRTMT (copy of options paper is attached at Appendix 2). It was agreed that NILGA would formally consult with individual Transition Committees to establish the preferred options.
2.11	In terms of the vRTC, it was suggested that Option 2 (i.e. the vRTC to comprise of one nominee from each voluntary Transition Committee and the five NILGA Strategic Leadership Board representatives) be recommended as a preferred option. It is suggested that the Council should state that it would have no difficulty with either options 1 or 2, however, that

	further clarity be sought as to the rationale for the addition of the NILGA SLB representatives and their associated voting rights (i.e. would they hold observer status).
2.12	In terms of the proposals for the vRTMT, it is suggested that the Council should consider option 1 (i.e. vRTMT will comprise of one Chief Executive from each Transition Management Team and representatives from key Departments including transferring functions) as its preferred option for moving forward.

4.0 Resource Implications

There are no Human Resource or financial implications contained within this report

5.0 Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- a) note the contents of this report;
- b) agree that the Council actively pursues collaborative opportunities presented by the RPA as recommended at paragraph 2.6 above;
- c) consider the options put forward for the establishment of interim voluntary regional governance structures (refer to Appendix 2);
- d) consider and agree that options 1 & 2 put forward for the proposed vRTC would be acceptable, however, seek clarity on the addition of NILGA SLB representatives and their associated voting rights; and
- e) consider and agree that option 1 put forward for the vRTMT would be the preferred option of the Council.

6.0 Appendices

Appendix 1: Local Government initial position on collaboration and efficiency

Appendix 2: Options on proposals for voluntary Regional Transition Committee & Mgt Team

This page is intentionally left blank

Local Government Response on Efficiency & Collaboration

February 2010

1. Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to outline local government's response to the efficiency challenge set by Minister Poots to deliver in the order of £438m efficiency savings. The model proposed is in line with best practice across the wider local government sector and presents a workable and flexible solution.

It should be noted that there is significant doubt across the sector concerning the accuracy of the figures presented in the PwC report. Therefore this paper is presented for illustrative purposes as a basis to negotiate efficiency targets with each council, which are significantly in excess of option 4 and which will mirror the order of savings presented in option 5.

Furthermore while there has been significant engagement across the sector and there is broad agreement with the principles, due to time constraints the paper has not been endorsed by individual councils.

2. £438m Efficiency Target - what it means for councils

Local government recognises that delivering value for money to the ratepayer is one of its key objectives. While local government has already stated its concerns with the regards to the PWC financial projections, it recognises the importance of delivering the £438m efficiency target over 25 years, as identified in the PWC economic appraisal under option 5. Underlying the £438m savings are two types of ongoing annual savings – i.e. transition and transformation savings (Appendix 1).

(a) Transition Savings

The transition savings of £10.7m are derived mainly from reductions in the senior management teams and councillors in the new councils and apply in options 2 to 5. These are fully accepted by local government and a target will need to be given to each local authority by the DOE to achieve their element of the overall £10.7m target, based on the extent of mergers within each new cluster.

(b) Transformation Savings

The ongoing transformation savings under option 5 amount to some £52.9m. Local government is committed to meeting this £52.9m target through increased efficiency and collaboration. This £52.9m target was profiled by PWC based on 20% being achieved in 2012/13, a further 40% in 2013/14 and the final 40% in 2014/15. It is proposed that an annual efficiency target should be set for each council by DOE. Based on an average split across the

11 councils, indicative targets are set out in the table below. In reality, a more sophisticated approach to agreeing the exact efficiency target for each council will need to be developed.

Year	Annual Efficiency Target per council	Cumulative Target per council	Cumulative Target per sector
	£m	£m	£m
2012/13	0.96	0.96	10.58
2013/14	1.92	2.88	31.74
2014/15	1.92	4.80	52.90

3. Key Principles (Local Government)

The following are the key principles for local government under which the reform programme would be delivered:

- Decisions about how efficiency savings should be delivered need to be made by the people who are responsible for delivering them.
- Each local authority will agree its annual contribution to the overall sector efficiency target with DOE.
- An assurance on the delivery of each council's efficiency savings against its target will be provided by the NIAO as part of the final accounts process
- Efficiency savings will be initially used to repay any pump-priming loan finance provided by central government unless otherwise agreed.
- Each local authority will then decide on how best to use the efficiency savings following repayment of central government finance.
- Where feasible, existing delivery mechanisms at regional and sub-regional levels should be used in order to avoid burdening the sector with additional overheads.

4. Key principles (Central Government)

The following are the key principles for central government under which the reform programme would be delivered:

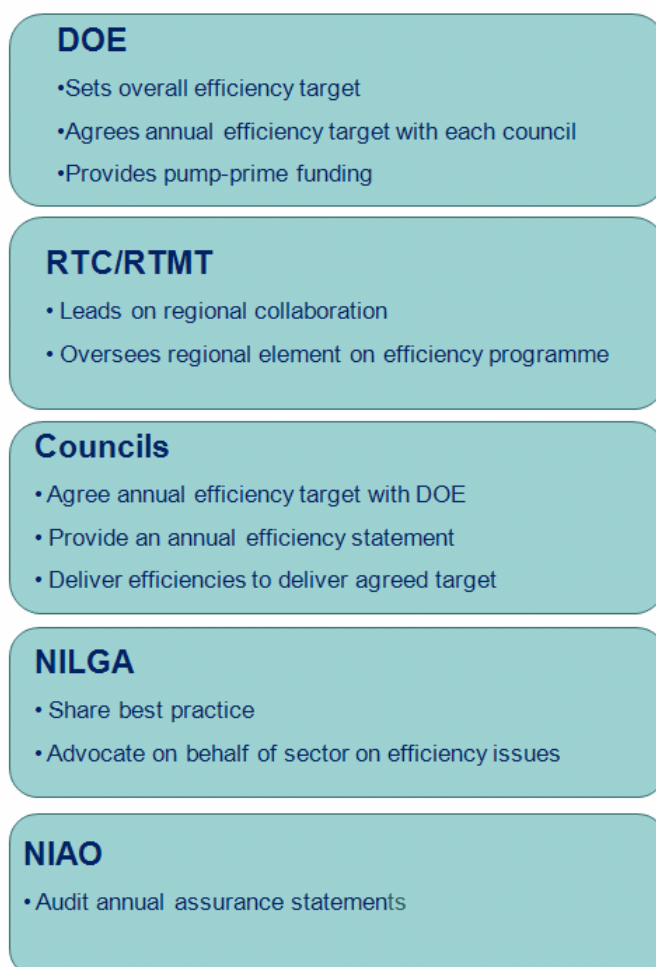
- The reform of local government needs to be rates neutral to the ratepayer at the point of transfer and therefore central government should provide financing mechanisms to meet upfront implementation costs and any upfront costs of rates equalisation.
- Where efficiency savings targets are not achieved, central government may wish to consider appropriate sanctions e.g. penalty interest payments, withdrawal of loans or the introduction of a statutory BSO.
- There will be no impact on the ratepayer for the transfer of central government services to local government so needs to be fully funded at the point of transfer
- Central government will implement an improvement plan to maximise collectable rate income to ensure NI collection rates compare more favourably with collection rates across the rest of the UK.

- Urgent confirmation of final boundary changes so that the reform process of reducing 26 councils to 11 can be delivered by May 2011 assuming that is still a feasible target.

5. Delivery Framework

Figure 1 below proposes a framework which will give the best possible chance for the savings to be delivered and at the same time provide assurance to the Minister that the savings are actually being delivered and captured.

Figure 1: Efficiency Delivery Framework



In summary, the framework proposes that the key role for central government is to set efficiency targets and to provide pump-prime financing. Local government will take on responsibility for achieving the efficiency targets and decide on how they can best be achieved. The Minister will have audit assurance that the savings have actually been delivered and grant/ loan sanctions against individual councils can be applied if they are not delivered.

6. Approach to Efficiency

It is proposed that councils can secure the efficiency targets set out within this paper on three levels as illustrated below.

These are:

(a) Convergence - in the first instance local authorities will need to concentrate on the convergence from 26 to 11 councils. The key areas for efficiencies in this process will be around reduced staff costs and asset rationalisation. The early phase of transition will also start to allow councils to build the foundations which will be required to deliver further efficiencies. It should be noted that the £52.9m transformation savings target excludes the basic savings from transition of senior management teams.

(b) Post Convergence Efficiencies - will be delivered through:

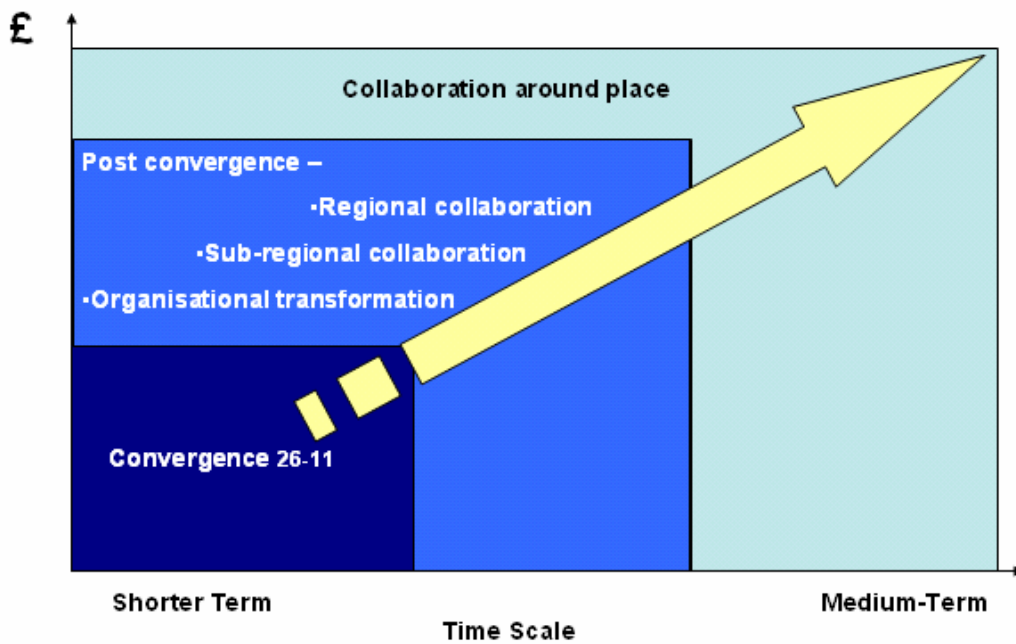
- Converged local authorities transforming how they do business. This will require organisations to deliver efficiencies in areas such as:
 - Back office functions
 - Procurement
 - Asset Management
 - ICT

HM Treasury has recently published their operational efficiency programme which also identifies these same areas as the strategic drivers for efficiency. The advice provided in this report will be used by local authorities in NI.

- As part of the drive to deliver on the efficiency targets, local authorities will need to collaborate at regional and sub-regional levels. This has been the experience of local authorities in the rest of the UK where the work done to meet the government efficiency targets has shown that there is a limit to which local authorities can deliver efficiencies on their own. For this reason Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships have been established to identify collaborative efficiency opportunities. In NI a number of sub-regional delivery vehicles already exist. (e.g. waste disposal bodies).

(c) Total Place - in the longer term, collaboration around place has the greatest potential to maximise the effective use of all public resources and assets. This area will be closely linked to community planning and consideration could be given to funding pilots to explore the potential of this form of collaboration in more detail.

Approach to Efficiency



Local government recognises that progress on these three levels of efficiency can proceed in tandem or consecutively, depending on the circumstances within each council. Chief Executives are committed to assigning officers to develop workstreams for each efficiency area for Members consideration and approval. Work has already been on-going on the processes and mechanisms to support this and can be provided to the Minister once the principles of the approach are agreed.

7. Next Steps

Local government is keen to work with the department and the Minister to progress the implementation of the proposed efficiency framework and delivery of the efficiency savings in the context of the overall local government reform process.

Appendix 1

Excerpt from PWC Financial Appraisal

Table 5.23 – Summary of Financial Analysis

<i>Annual Operating Costs (Steady State)</i>	Option 1 £'m	Option 2 £'m	Option 3 £'m	Option 4 £'m	Option 5 £'m
Local Government Costs	£623.2	£763.4	£763.4	£763.4	£763.4
Central Government Costs	£138.5	£5.1	£5.1	£5.1	£5.1
Regional organisations	£1.2	£3.5	£3.5	£3.5	£3.5
Transition Costs	-	£8.8	£8.8	£8.8	£8.8
Additional ICT Costs	-	£2.6	£2.4	£6.1	£4.0
Transition Benefits	-	(£10.7)	(£10.7)	(£10.7)	(£10.7)
Transformation Benefits	-	-	(£17.6)	(£35.1)	(£53.0)
Total Annual Costs	£762.9	£772.6	£754.8	£741.0	£721.0
<i>Implementation Costs (One-off)</i>	Option 1 £'m	Option 2 £'m	Option 3 £'m	Option 4 £'m	Option 5 £'m
Transition Costs	-	£39.0	£36.1	£36.1	£36.1
Additional ICT Costs	-	£14.3	£21.3	£42.7	£30.8
Transformation Costs	-	-	£21.1	£49.2	£59.7
Total One-off Costs	£0	£53.2	£78.4	£127.9	£126.6

Note:

- i. Differences are due to rounding;
- ii. Costs are shown as positives with benefits shown as negatives;
- iii. Figures are rounded, and there may be slight differences in column totals;
- iv. Figures are not stated in NPC terms;
- v. Implementation (one-off) costs will be incurred over period of transition and transformation within reform programme;
- vi. Additional ICT Costs relate to the costs over and above those already incurred in 'Do Nothing' steady state delivery;
- vii. On-going Additional ICT Costs exclude cost of hardware refresh (which is built into NPC model at periods of 5 or 7 years as appropriate); and
- viii. Regional bodies include NIAO, LGSC, NILGA (LGA) and NIO.

Proposals for voluntary Regional Transition Committee and Management Team.

Background

1. Members will recall that following a review of current structures, the Strategic Leadership Board (SLB) agreed revised structures and governance arrangements for managing and integrating the work necessary for the effective and efficient transition to the new councils in May 2011. A key outcome, inter alia, was the establishment of two new groups to replace the current Regional Transition Committee Group.
2. The **Regional Transition Committee** (RTC) will comprise; an elected member from each of the eleven Statutory Transition Committees and the five NILGA representatives on the SLB. It will be accountable to the SLB and chaired by the vice-chair of the SLB. It was accepted by SLB members that to accommodate political representation on the RTC there may be a need to increase the number of members in line with d'Hondt.
3. It was also agreed that a new **Regional Transition Management Team** (RTMT), consisting of officers acting as advisors to the RTC, be established. This group would comprise an officer from; each Transition Management Team (this would be the Chief Executive Designate, once appointed), the Chief Executive of the Local Government Staff Commission, the Chief Executive and two Directors from NILGA and a senior representative from each transferring function department. The group would be chaired by the DOE Deputy Secretary (Ian Maye) and it would meet directly after the RTC meetings to co-ordinate implementation of agreed actions.

Current Position

4. As the focus of the reform process now shifts from policy development to the implementation phase it is important that there is recognition of the strategic role of Transition Committees in driving the process forward. There are clearly a range of issues, including funding of the reform programme and any future collaborative working, which need to be considered and negotiated at a regional level. There is also a requirement for wider engagement across the sector in relation to the transferring functions to draw out the potential linkages and synergies between functions transferring and those functions already delivered by Councils.

5. The establishment of a Regional Transition Committee (RTC) comprising of political representation from each of the Transition Committees would provide a necessary mechanism to progress such issues; supported by the proposed Regional Transition Management Team.
6. With the anticipated delay until at least June 2010 for the necessary legislation which will create the Statutory Transition Committees, it is unlikely that the statutory RTC and RTMT would be in place until some time thereafter. It is important to recognise the vacuum that this would create in the process and the potential to undermine the feasibility of meeting the May 2011 deadline for transferring functions to the new Councils.
7. The SLB has ,therefore, decided that a voluntary RTC and RTMT supported by the Joint Secretariat, be put in place as an interim measure to progress regional issues. Proposals for establishing the 2 groups are attached at Annex A.

Recommendation

8. Members are asked to consider and agree the most appropriate method for establishing a vRTC and vRTMT.

Options for Voluntary Regional Transition Committee (vRTC)

Three options have been identified for establishing a voluntary Regional Transition Committee (vRTC):

- **OPTION 1**

The vRTC will comprise the 11 chairs of the voluntary Transition Committees and the five NILGA SLB representatives.

Benefits

- Each Transition Committee is represented.
- Continuity and link with agreed established Reform policy as NILGA representatives are also members of Strategic Leadership Board and Policy Development Panels.

Disadvantages

- Some Transition Committees have alternating Chairs resulting in a lack of continuity for vRTC.
- May require application of “top-up” procedures to ensure political representation.

- **OPTION 2**

The vRTC will comprise one nominee from each of the voluntary Transition Committees and the five NILGA SLB representatives.

Benefits

- Each Transition Committee is represented;
- Continuity and link with agreed established Reform policy as the NILGA representatives are also members of the Strategic Leadership Board and Policy Development Panels.

Disadvantages

- Is likely to require the establishment of a consistent nomination process which could lengthen the timescale for establishing the vRTC.
- May require application of “top-up” procedures to ensure political representation.

- **OPTION 3**

The NILGA Executive will act as a proxy vRTC.

Benefits

- Works within existing structures and arrangements.
- 24 out of 33 NILGA Executive members are members of Transition Committees and 25 out of 26 Councils represented.
- Avoids the requirement to “top-up” as NILGA Executive already politically representative.
- Continuity and link with agreed established Reform policy as the NILGA representatives are also members of the Strategic Leadership Board and Policy Development Panels.

Disadvantages

- Newtownabbey Borough Council (NBC) is not represented on NILGA Executive but this could be resolved through e.g. NBC nominating an “observer” to attend meetings or by NBC renewing formal links with NILGA;

Options for Voluntary Regional Transition Management Team (vRTMT)

Three options have been identified for establishing a voluntary Regional Transition Management Team (vRTMT):

• **OPTION 1**

The vRTMT will comprise one Chief Executive from each Transition Management Team and representatives from key Departments including transferring functions.

Benefits

- Each Council Cluster represented
- Continuity and link with key central government officers currently involved in reform process.

Disadvantages

- Is likely to require the establishment of consistent and equitable nomination system for Chief Executives which could over bureaucratise process and lengthen timescales for establishment of vRTMT.

• **OPTION 2**

The vRTMT will comprise the 26 Chief Executives from existing Councils and representatives from key Departments including transferring functions.

Benefits

- Each Council represented;
- Continuity and link with key central government officers currently involved in reform process.

Disadvantages

- Very large structure which could limit active participation and make decision making more complicated and difficult.
- Does not reflect new council clusters.

• **OPTION 3**

SoLACE Executive will act as proxy vRTMT with representatives from key Departments including transferring functions.

Benefits

- Works within existing structures and arrangements.
- Continuity and link with key central government officers currently involved in reform process.
- Will not result in too large a structure.

Disadvantages

- May require SoLACE to appoint additional members to ensure all 11 council clusters are represented.



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources (Transition) Committee
Subject:	RPA – Transfer of Functions
Date:	19 th March 2010
Reporting Officer:	Peter McNaney, Chief Executive
Contact Officer:	Kevin Heaney (ext. 6202)

1.0	<u>Relevant Background Information</u>
1.1	Members will be aware that detailed discussions have been ongoing between central and local government officials, under the auspices of the Transfer of Functions Working Group, regarding the transfer of functions (refer to Appendix 1 for summary of functions) to councils as a result of the RPA and the associated operational and financial implications.
1.2	The Transfer of Functions Working Group was established to provide greater clarity in terms of the scope of the functions to transfer and the associated resources (where known). The Working Group comprises of senior officials from both transferring function Departments and local government including Belfast City Council with the Chief Executive as Chair of the group.
2.0	<u>Key Issues</u>
2.1	<p>While constructive engagement has taken place over recent months, there still remains the need for detailed work and negotiation required on a range of issues, particularly pertaining to funding. Discussions on transferring functions cannot be progressed in isolation from crucial decisions yet to be finalised on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Establishing the true costs of the transferring functions ii) How to ensure there is no adverse impact on the rate base at point of transfer iii) Timetable for the transfer of functions iv) Confirmation on how services will transfer to local government on Day1 v) Future sustainability of funding for transferring functions and CSR process vi) The disaggregation of funding and resources vii) Confirmation of transferring staff numbers and grades where possible
2.2	In the absence of any firm decisions and clarity regarding each of the aforementioned issues it will be impossible for local government and Transition Committees to undertake any due diligence review of the potential resource implications resulting from the transfer of functions and enable them to consider within the context of the incoming financial planning cycle for 2011/2012.
2.3	A number of these issues will undoubtedly be considered and negotiated at a regional level and set the broad parameters/framework for the transferring functions and any consideration given to potential service delivery models. The Council will ensure that it remains centrally involved in such discussions.

2.5	<p>Transferring function Departments are finalising draft proposals with regard to how functions will transfer to local government and it should be noted that the following working assumptions seem to be emerging:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) transfer will be on the basis of an 11 council delivery model which will inevitably result in resources being drawn out of Belfast. ii) funding will be transferred on the basis of grant aid for initial 3 years which will bring with it some form of centralised scrutiny/oversight <p>The Council will clearly need to give full consideration to the emerging Departmental proposals and the potential resource implications for Belfast.</p>
2.6	<p>In addition, detailed design work is now needed to develop worked through options as to how the transferring functions may transfer and be assimilated within councils. At the recent Strategic Leadership Board meeting on 25th February 2010, it was agreed that a Task & Finish group would be established to take forward design work at a regional level. Again, the Council will be directly involved in this work</p>
2.7	<p>It should be noted that the proposed design work to be taken forward at a regional level should not be prescriptive in nature and the Council will retain its own autonomy to establish how the transferring functions will be integrated and delivered. Council officials are continuing to engage with transferring functions departmental officials (e.g. DSD, DRD Roads, DoE Planning) to examine what is proposed to transfer to the BCC.</p>
2.8	<p>In order to enable Members to be fully updated on the ongoing discussions in regards to the Transfer of Functions and any potential implications for the Council, it is suggested that a Special Meeting of the Committee be held.</p>

<p>4.0 Resource Implications</p>
<p>There are no Human Resource or financial implications contained within this report</p>

<p>5.0 Recommendations</p>
<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) note the contents of this report and the appendices attached; and b) agree that a Special Meeting of the Committee be held.

<p>6.0 Appendices</p>
<p>Appendix 1: Summary of functions transferring to local government</p>

Transfer of Functions – Summary**Planning (transfer from DoE)**

- Local development plan functions
- Development control and enforcement

Public Realm Aspects of Local Roads (transfer from DRD)

- Streetscaping
- Off street parking / on street parking enforcement (Central Government retain policy ownership for this function)
- Pedestrian permits
- Alley gating (traffic regulation orders facilitating alley gating to avoid antisocial behaviour)
- Permitting local events to be held on roads

Urban regeneration and Community Development (transfer from DSD)

- Functions associated with physical development (such as environmental improvement schemes, comprehensive development and urban development grant)
- Area based regeneration (such as neighbourhood renewal)
- Some community development programmes for the voluntary and community sectors

Housing (transfer from DSD/NIHE)

- Registration of houses in multiple occupation
- Housing unfitness responsibilities, including repair and demolition notices
- Energy conservation at a local level
- Living over the Shop Scheme

Local Economic Development (transfer from DET)

- Start a Business Programme and Enterprise Shows
- Youth Entrepreneurship (such as Princes Trust and Shell Livewire)
- Social Entrepreneurship
- Investing for Women
- Neighbourhood Renewal funding relating to enterprises initiatives

Local Tourism (transfer from DETI)

- Small scale tourism accommodation development
- Local tourism marketing
- Local tourism product development
- Visitor servicing
- Providing business support including business start up advice along with training and delivery of customer care schemes
- Providing advice to developers on tourism policies and related issues

Transfer from DARD

- Delivery of the EU Rural Development Programme

Transfer from DCAL

- Authority to Spot List to enable Councils to add a building to the statutory list on a temporary basis, subject to ratification by the DOE
- Authority to draw up local lists of buildings that are of architectural and/or historic interest

- Armagh County Museum
- Local water recreational facilities
- Local sports
- Functions of the NI Museum Council
- Local arts
- Local festivals
- Donaghadee Harbour

OTHER

- Community Planning and Power of Wellbeing



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Big Lottery – Application for funding to deliver Community Planning projects in Northern Ireland
Date:	19 th March 2010
Reporting Officer:	Peter McNaney, Chief Executive
Contact Officer:	Sharon McNicholl, Planning and Policy Manager, ext 6207 Barbary Cook, Policy and Business Development Manager, ext 3620

Relevant Background Information

On 22nd January, the Committee was advised that the Big Lottery Fund (BIG) had commenced a tendering process for the delivery of three pilot projects on community planning in Northern Ireland with a separate but linked support contract to capture the learning and good practice. The overarching aim is to provide a model and a toolkit of good practice in community planning that will help to ensure the genuine engagement of the voluntary and community sector (VCS) in the new / emerging formal processes.

The first phase in the process was a pre-qualification stage, following which only those potential contractors that BIG deemed to have the suitable skills and capacity would be invited to tender. At its meeting on 22nd January, the Committee agreed that the Council should submit an expression of interest, and as BIG's preferred method of delivery appeared to be a partnership approach with the voluntary and community sector (VCS), it was further agreed that this should be done in collaboration with the five Area Partnership Boards (APBs) and, the non-profit organisation, Community Places.

The Council's consortium application has since been short-listed and we have now been invited to submit a tender for the pilot community planning project. The closing date for completed submissions is Monday 29th March.

The purpose of this report is to present for approval an outline project proposal for that will form the basis of the submission that will be made to BIG in line with the formal tender requirements. Owing to the very tight timescales, work is underway to produce a detailed and comprehensive submission document, in the hope that resources can be secured to carry out a pilot in Belfast.

Key Issues

BIG - Scope and Process

As previously reported to Members with respect to the scope and process of the BIG project:

- Each project must be based in a different council area, based on the boundaries of the 11 new council areas planned for Northern Ireland.
- The areas chosen will be decided by BIG from the bids received, based on rank scores. BIG have stressed that there will not be more than one pilot in any council area.

- The total contract value for the three projects will be in the region of £380,000 to £420,000. BIG have confirmed that the final breakdown per area will be negotiable.
- The contract term is a maximum of 18 months, commencing in May 2010 and ending in November 2011

BIG has indicated in the tender papers that a successful pilot project will be one that:

- (i) enables local councils, the VCS and other stakeholders to gain a fuller understanding of community planning, through testing and modeling community planning processes
- (ii) engages key stakeholders in pilot community planning projects ahead of formal structures due to be introduced in 2011
- (iii) builds and increases networks and strategic alliances
- (iv) enables meaningful collaboration between the proposed Statutory Transition Committees and various partners in the community planning process
- (v) increases understanding of the role of the VCS in community planning
- (vi) empowers the VCS to participate in community planning.

Council Position

On 22 January, the Committee agreed that in making a Council-led or Council-involved expression of interest the Council could seek to ensure that the pilot encompassed as many parts of the city as possible with ideally a city-wide perspective; that it addressed one or more of the council's key priorities for the city; and that it supported longer term relationship building and the development of a more effective framework.

In line with meeting the requirements of BIG as set out in the tender, it is proposed that the pilot should seek to:

- Incorporate work and test engagement mechanisms at strategic, thematic and local levels.
- Test one thematic area in order to manage volume, time and resource constraints
- Build on existing work and mechanisms
- Apply city-wide, but with scope for particular elements to be tested within specific geographic areas
- Focus on delivery
- Take into account the leadership role of Members and the on-going context of the council's emerging approach to community planning.

Each of the Area Partnership Boards have endorsed the partnership approach to the BIG bid; as have Community Places who confirmed that their role would be to act as a technical "critical friend" assisting with facilitation and evaluation.

Proposed Pilot

It is proposed that the chosen pilot theme should be "health" with the exact scope to be clarified as part of the pilot project in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders, including the new Belfast Health Development Unit. For example; it may be that during the delivery of the pilot the focus may be directed to a specific priority (or priorities) as identified through the new Belfast Health Development Unit so that particular priority area(s) become more manageable and deliverable at a local level. BIG has indicated that there will be a degree of flexibility permitted in terms of the implementation of the contract, subject to the negotiation and agreement of BIG, in order to reflect emerging developments within the RPA and community planning guidance.

The proposed high level project outline as follows:

- **Strategic Planning** – seek to ensure that local priorities are reflected in relevant plans of key agencies/ partners and that Government priorities are meaningfully translated into and reflect local need. This will involve the early engagement and meaningful involvement of all stakeholders, and specifically the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) as facilitated through this pilot, to the development of:
 - The Belfast Health Inequalities Plan;
 - The joint Health Development Unit business plan; and,
 - Existing / emerging plans within Council and other statutory agencies.

The focus will be on developing further a number of agreed themes and priorities in relation to Health in order to reduce the gap that exists between the health outcomes of different people and communities across the city. The primary focus in the first instance will be aligning local need through engagement and capacity building with the VCS to the work of the new joint Health Development Unit. But ultimately this work should mean changes to the plans and policies of agencies across the city in a way that creates real health improvements and the development of an effective health partnership and strategic health inequalities plan for the city.

- **Local Level** – seek to introduce a number of visible outcomes on the ground for local people by contributing to the planning of local programmes and enabling the VCS to support statutory agencies in more effective and joined-up implementation. It is intended that the pilot project will inform the further development of the new Joint Health Development Unit business plan and also contribute in practical ways by utilising local level VCS contacts to support specific work streams. This should therefore help ensure that Unit delivers meaningful projects at local level which are responsive to local need and which make a stronger impact by maximising collaboration with local communities.
- **Engagement** – seek to ensure that VCS are able to engage in meaningful discussions and planning at strategic and local level. This will be crucial to the development and implementation of successful quality of life improvements for local people. Engagement will focus on a number of strands – strategic planning; thematic and area based issues, and local delivery. Testing the effectiveness of this engagement will be a critical element of the project. The new joint Health Development Unit has indicated that the connection with the VCS is a key gap; therefore, the proposed pilot will help bridge that gap delivering both practical and process related learning for the Unit and the Health theme generally.
- **Capacity Building** – seek to develop VCS understanding and awareness of the wider system and how they can influence and contribute as an equal partner. This will only be achievable if meaningful discussion and implementation is secured through the development of a real partnership approach with capacity building supported across all sectors, with work rooted in practical action plans. As work to develop joined up plans is at an early stage within the Health theme, it provides an opportune time to develop and test capacity building for all partners involved.
- **Engagement with the political process** - the pilot will also seek to clarify and build on the role of Elected Members, both as civic leaders and community representatives, within the engagement and community planning process.

Establishment of a Member Community Planning Reference Group

The leadership of Members in the community planning process is vital to its success, with the Transition Committee in particular having a pivotal role in the development of the community planning process. As part of the submission bid, it is suggested that the Council would establish a cross-party 'Community Planning Reference Group' which will provide a

political forum to discuss and test emerging ideas/concepts as required. It is recommended that this group would comprise of up to 2 elected Members from each Party.

It is envisaged that this group would act also as a reference panel in the wider development of the Council's community planning framework and the work streams which need to be undertaken, including:

- Agreement of a working definition of community planning for Belfast;
- Establishment of necessary engagement mechanisms and an influencing strategy;
- Considerations of issues around partnership development;
- Identification of areas of best practice and expertise and establishing learning from these;
- Identification of capacity issues and ways these can be addressed;
- Identification of ways in which current partnership successes can be built upon.

In doing so, assurance can be given that the pilot sits within and informs the overall community planning framework for Belfast and that the lessons learnt from this pilot are transferred to other related processes. The Member Reference Group will be supported by an officer working group; this group has already been established and has undertaken preliminary work on community planning and its implications for Council and services.

In addition, it is intended that there will be continual engagement with the Council's Transition Committee (i.e. Strategic Policy and Resources) throughout the developmental stages of the pilot project so as to ensure that there remains a direct link with the wider work being taken forward by the Council in relation to developing a community planning process for the city.

Regional Developments

Work has been ongoing for some time to develop policy proposals for the introduction of a council-led community planning process. This work had culminated in the creation of a 'Community Planning Foundation Programme' which had been issued by DoE in November 2009. A copy of the information circulated with respect to the Foundation Programme has been attached for the information of Members at Appendix 1.

The purpose of the Foundation Programme is to support Transition Committees to prepare for the introduction of the Community Planning Duty and, inter alia, identify the key issues that should be addressed in guidance which will be developed to support the operation of Community Planning. It is the view that the Foundation Programme will build upon the work already happening by councils in partnership with other stakeholders.

It is understood that the Environment Minister and DoE are to hold an awareness raising event for Transition Committees and Transition Management Teams to discuss the Foundation Programme and its implementation. DoE had indicated that this event would be arranged in January 2010, however, no date has yet to be confirmed, we will keep Members informed should any further developments arise.

Potential for Other Pilot Bids within Belfast

With respect to the BIG pilot, currently we are aware that a NIVCA bid has been successfully short-listed, NICVA have approached the Council to say that if successful they would intend one of the pilots to happen in the Belfast area. This would provide an alternative option should our own, Council-led bid be unsuccessful.

Resource Implications

Financial

None at present. The Council has already committed resources to the development of the Joint Health Development Unit and it is envisaged that this Unit together with other existing officers responsible for supporting community planning will be expected to contribute to the pilot project. Additional support costs for managing and coordinating the project will be met from within the BIG funding if successful.

Human Resources

For successful implementation of the project, it is envisaged that a fixed-term co-ordination and support role will be required. This will be included in the funding application and would be a fully funded post with no additional cost to the Council.

Recommendations

Decision required

The Committee is asked to note the above report and to approve “Health” as the proposed theme and to authorise the development of a formal bid in collaboration with the Area Partnership Boards and Community Places for submission to the BIG Lottery by 29th March.

The Committee is also asked to agree to the establishment of a cross-party “Community Planning Reference Group” for the purposes of taking forward the pilot project and agree that the proposed Reference Group would comprise of up to 2 Members from each Party.

Officers to contact for further information:

Sharon McNicholl, Planning & Performance Manager, ext 6207
 Barbary Cook, Policy and Business Development Manager, ext 3620

Abbreviations

APBs – Area Partnership Boards
 BIG – Big Lottery Fund
 VCS - Voluntary and Community Sector

This page is intentionally left blank



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Members' Declarations of Interest
Date:	19 th March, 2010
Reporting Officer:	Liam Steele, Head of Committee and Members' Services
Contact Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Principal Committee Administrator

Relevant Background Information

At the Council meeting on 1st March the undernoted Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor N. Kelly and seconded by Councillor B. Kelly:

"This Council takes the view that there is now an urgent need for all Councillors to be more aware of the requirement to declare interests in matters being considered by the Council in which they may have a pecuniary or other interest.

The Council directs that this matter be considered at an early date by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee so that an enhanced level of transparency and openness can be created around this issue in order to provide a measure of reassurance to the public."

In accordance with Standing Order 11 (e), the matter was referred to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee for consideration and report.

Key Issues

There is no doubt that the public in general and the press and media in particular are focusing more than ever before on the behaviour of all publicly elected representatives. This can be demonstrated by the protracted press reporting of the expenses which Members of Parliament claim and the subsequent damage which has been caused to the public perception of the democratic process. The Council has recognised this increased public scrutiny and agreed recently to revise and enhance the information which is published on payments made to Members.

Another area of public life where scrutiny by the press and media has been increasing over recent months is the requirement of elected representatives to be seen not to seek

personal advantage by virtue of the public office which they hold. For Councillors elected to local Councils this is dealt with under the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972, whereby Councillors are expected to declare both pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in any matter being considered by the Council and, where such an interest exists, not to take part in the discussion or vote on the matter.

Members of Council have been abiding by this principle and there has never been a challenge by the Local Government Auditor on the failure of any Member to declare such an interest. However, Members are increasingly being asked to represent the Council on a range of outside bodies and it is not always clear when such membership gives rise to pecuniary or, more frequently, non-pecuniary interests. It is accepted that the guidance available for Members in helping them to determine when such an interest exists is somewhat sparse and not easily understood and it is considered that the issuing of a Members' Guide to Declarations of Interest would help Members to ensure that they always abide by the highest principles of behaviour in public life and would provide practical assistance to Members.

Another related but separate matter which the Council may wish to give some consideration to is the possibility of publishing a Members' Register of Interests, which would require Members to declare all business and other interests which they hold. Such registers are used in Westminster, in the Northern Ireland Assembly and in most Councils in England and Wales.

Resource Implications

None.

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to agree to a draft Guide to Members' Declarations of Interest being presented in the first instance to the Audit Panel, together with a report on the steps to be taken to establish a Members' Register of Interests, with a further report being presented to the Committee in due course.

Decision Tracking

Liam Steele, Head of Committee and Members' Services

30th June, 2010.



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Publication of information on payments made to Council officers
Date:	Friday, 19 th March, 2010
Reporting Officer:	Mr. Liam Steele, Head of Committee and Members' Services (ext. 6325)
Contact Officer:	Mr. Gareth Quinn, Development Officer (ext. 6316)

Relevant Background Information

Members will recall that the Committee, at its meeting on 19th February, 2010, agreed to the following revised headings under which the details of Councillor's allowances and expenses would be published:

Allowances

- Basic
- Special Responsibility
- District Policing Partnership
- Transition Committee
- Civic Dignitaries Personal Allowances

Conferences/Visits

- Subsistence (including the cost of accommodation and out of pocket expenses)
- Travel (by public transport or car)
- Conference Fees

Travel and Other Miscellaneous Claims

- Mileage, etc., to and from meetings
- Home Phone Rental/Broadband Fee
- Hands Free Car Kits

At the Council meeting on 1st March, concerns were expressed in relation to a perceived differential in respect of the information being published for Councillors and that being published for officers and it was agreed that a report be presented to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee setting out the extent of the information included currently in the Council's Publication Scheme in relation to payments made to Council officers and comparing and contrasting this with the information to be published in relation to elected Members.

Key Issues

At its meeting on 19th September, 2008, the Committee approved the publication of costs incurred by the Council as a result of employees attending events outside of Northern Ireland so as to demonstrate the Council's commitment to accountability and openness.

This information, which is published annually, details payments made to employees in connection with expenditure incurred on travel which is outside their day-to-day operational duties.

The following details are included:

- **Department**
- **Job title and staff number**
- **Date of event**
- **Description of event**
- **Event location** - for example, Great Britain, Republic of Ireland, Europe or Rest of World
- **Travel Costs**
- **Accommodation and subsistence** - hotel and meal costs
- **Gross cost** - the total cost before any deductions are made in respect of funding received from external bodies
- **Percentage actual funding** - the percentage of any external funding received, for example, EU funding or charges to customers
- **Funding body** - organisation which provided the external funding
- **Net cost**

The following table illustrates for comparison purposes the information which is published currently in relation to payments made to Councillors and those made to officers:

<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Officers</u>
<p>Allowances</p> <p>Basic Special Responsibility District Policing Partnership Transition Committee Civic Dignitaries Personal Allowances (Members identified individually by name)</p>	<p>Salaries and Wages</p> <p>This information is published within the Annual Financial Report in respect of the number of employees within specific £10,000 salary bands from £50,001 upwards. (This information does not identify individual officers either by name or employee number)</p>
<p>Conferences/Visits</p> <p>Subsistence (including the cost of accommodation and out of pocket expenses) Travel (by public transport or car) Conference Fees (Members identified individually by name)</p>	<p>Conferences/Visits (outside of Northern Ireland)</p> <p>Subsistence (including the cost of accommodation and out of pocket expenses) Travel (by public transport or car) (Officers are identified by Job Title and Employee Number but not by name)</p>
<p>Travel and Other Miscellaneous Claims</p> <p>Mileage, etc. to and from meetings Home Phone Rental/Broadband Fee Hands Free Car Kits (Members identified individually by name)</p>	

The Council does not publish the specific details of officers' personal salaries in order to protect the rights of individuals under the Data Protection Act. Furthermore, a difference exists in terms of the legal status of Members as opposed to officers. Members are elected for the full term of the Council, and because they are elected they are subject to a higher level of accountability to the public. Officers on the other hand are employed under contract of employment and are subject to a different level of public scrutiny, which is reflected by the provisions of the Data Protection legislation.

The information which is published in respect of officers' attendance at conferences and visits is restricted currently to those which take place outside of Northern Ireland, whereas the information in relation to Councillors is in respect of attendance at conferences and visits regardless of their location.

Options

1. The Publication Scheme should remain unchanged so long as Members are content with the current level of information being published.
2. Extend the Publication Scheme to include payments made to staff for attendance at events within Northern Ireland.
3. Extend the Publication Scheme to include payments made to staff for attendance at events within Northern Ireland and to include payments made to officers in respect of miscellaneous items, namely, home phone rental, broadband fee and hands free car kits.

Members should be aware that, in respect of Options 2 and 3, there will be a cost associated with the compilation and publishing of this information and that because of data protection legislation, this information would have to be provided by job title and employee number and not by individual name. Furthermore, the extension of the Publication Scheme to include this additional information will require consultation with the trade unions, as was the case before the current policy was agreed by the Committee on 19th September, 2008. This will require a future report to be submitted to the Committee on the outcome of the consultation before any change can be made to the existing scheme.

Variation of Previous Decision

In carrying out this exercise I have had to scrutinise closely each of the elements listed in terms of both Members and officers and to satisfy myself that the entry is relevant. In doing so it has become apparent to me that the publishing under "Payments to Councillors" of conference fees is misleading in that while it may be useful to capture and publish that information as part of the Council's Publication Scheme it is not accurate to include those amounts on the Council's website under "Payments to Councillors" since these monies are not paid to them. Accordingly, I would apologise for this inaccuracy and would seek the Committee's authority, irrespective of any other action which may be felt necessary in terms of the perceived differential between Councillors and officers, to vary the decision taken by the Committee at its meeting on 19th February in order to omit the insertion of Conference Fees from the Section on the Council's website referring to "Payments to Councillors".

Resource Implications

N/A

Recommendation

To agree to omit conference fees from the section on the Council's website referring to "Payments to Councillors" and to determine which of the available options is the most appropriate having taken account of all the relevant information.

Decision Tracking

Option 1 – No change required.

Option 2 or 3 – The Director of Finance and Resources to submit a further report to Committee by June, 2010.
--



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Date:	Friday, 19th March, 2010
Subject:	National Association of Councillors Spring Conference and Local Authority Members' Association Annual Conference
Reporting Officer:	Mr. Liam Steele, Head of Committee and Members' Services (extension 6325)
Contact Officer:	Mrs. Julie Lilley, Members' Liaison Officer (extension 6321)

Relevant Background Information

The Council has received notification of two Conferences, both of which are taking place over the weekend commencing Friday, 9th April. The first of the Conferences is the National Association of Councillors Spring Conference which is being held in Scarborough from Friday, 9th until Sunday, 11th April. The second Conference is the Local Authority Members' Association Annual Conference which is being held in County Sligo from Friday, 9th until Saturday, 10th April.

The theme of the National Association of Councillors conference is 'Supporting our Communities – Delivering Housing and Regeneration'. The conference will focus on the challenges faced by Local Government in responding effectively to the needs of local communities by helping to deliver high quality and attractive places for people to live, work and enjoy. Delegates will consider also the interventions which can be made by Local Government to bring about sustainable growth and renewal, thereby ensuring successful economic development and the benefit to citizens which is intrinsically linked to it. All of the Council's Elected Representatives are members of the National Association of Councillors.

The main focus of the Local Authority Members Association Conference is to consider how Local Authorities can best respond to climate change and specifically the role which Members have to play in dealing with the environmental impact caused by such change. The keynote speaker at the Conference is Mr. John Gormley, TD, Minister for Environment.

Key Issues

There are two main issues. Firstly, the main theme of the Local Authority Members' Association Conference, Climate Change, is an area of responsibility not within the direct control of Members, whereas the National Association of Councillors Conference is concerned with economic regeneration and job creation, as well as the provision of leisure facilities and affordable new housing, all issues which impact significantly on the communities which Councillors seek to represent.

Secondly, the Committee has made it clear in recent months that it wishes to effect efficiencies in expenditure across the Council in order to reduce costs for the ratepayer and consideration needs to be given as to whether it is appropriate for attendance at both conferences to be authorised.

Resource Implications**Estimated Cost of Attendance at the National Association of Councillors Spring Conference in Scarborough**

Delegate Fee:	£350
Accommodation:	£130
Travel:	£135
	—
Total per delegate:	£615

Estimated Cost of Attendance at the Local Authority Members' Association Annual Conference in Sligo

Delegate Fee	£175
Accommodation Costs:	£135
Travel:	£150
Subsistence:	£160
	—
Total per delegate:	£620

Recommendations

It is recommended, since the content of the Local Authority Members' Association Conference is not specifically related to an issue over which Councillors can exercise control or must deliver advice to constituents, that the Committee agrees to:

- authorise only the attendance at the National Association of Councillors Spring Conference in Scarborough of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, the Council's representatives on the National Association of Councillors (NI Region), (or their nominees) and a representative of each of the Party Groupings on the Council not represented by the aforementioned Members; and
- the payment of the appropriate travelling and subsistence allowances in connection therewith.

Decision Tracking

Mr Liam Steele, Head of Committee and Members' Services, will arrange for the attendance of delegates as appropriate before 29th March, 2010.

Key to Abbreviations

N/A

Documents Attached

N/A

This page is intentionally left blank



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Requests for the use of the City Hall and the provision of Hospitality
Date:	Friday, 19 th March, 2010
Reporting Officer:	Mr. Liam Steele, Head of Committee and Members' Services (ext. 6325)
Contact Officer:	Mr. Gareth Quinn, Development Officer (ext. 6316)

Relevant Background Information

Members will recall that the Committee, at its meeting on 26th September, 2003, agreed to the criteria which would be used to assess requests from external organisations for the use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality. Subsequently the Committee at its meeting on 7th August, 2009, further amended the criteria so as to incorporate the new Key Themes as identified in the Council's Corporate Plan.

Key Issues

The revised criteria has been applied to each of requests contained within the appendix and recommendations have been made to the Committee on this basis.

Resource Implications

Provision has been made in the Revenue Estimates for hospitality.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to approve the recommendations as set out in the Appendix.

Key to Abbreviations

Not applicable

Decision Tracking

If the Committee approves the recommendations, the organisations will be notified and the necessary arrangements put in place following ratification by the Council.

Officer responsible – Gareth Quinn.

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 – Schedule of Applications

This page is intentionally left blank

**SCHEDULE OF APPLICATIONS FOR THE USE OF THE CITY HALL AND
THE PROVISION OF HOSPITALITY**

Organisation / Body	Event / Date – Number of Delegates / Guests	Request	Comments	Recommendation
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	Launch of Belfast Health and Social Care Trust Carers' Strategy 14 th June, 2010 Approximately 80 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits.	This event will launch the Carers' Strategy which aims to develop support for carers and to promote and protect their health and well-being. The event also seeks to recognise the vital role played by carers in contributing to the life and well-being of the city. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership - strong, fair, together' and 'Better support for people and communities'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits. Approximate cost £160
Arts Care Ltd	A Celebration of Older People through the Arts 29 th June, 2010 Approximately 90 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits.	This event will celebrate the conclusion of a programme organised by Arts Care Ltd which sought to introduce and involve older people in music, dance, creative writing and visual art. The event will showcase the success of the project by displaying the work completed by the participants during the programme. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership - strong, fair, together' and 'Better support for people and communities'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits. Approximate cost £180
European Connected Health Campus	European Connected Health Summit 15 th June, 2010 Approximately 200 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-dinner drinks reception.	Delegates will be staying in accommodation in Belfast and the conference will take place within the city. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together' and 'Better support for people and communities'	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of red/white wine and soft drinks. Approximate cost £800

University of Ulster	'Benefiting Belfast Through Investment' Conference 6 th August, 2010 Approximately 400 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-lunch drinks reception.	Delegates will be staying in accommodation in Belfast and the conference will take place within the city. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together' and 'Better opportunities for success across the city'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of red/white wine and soft drinks. Approximate cost £1,600
Queen's University Belfast	Transforming, Managing and Resolving Conflict in Divided Cities Conference 22 nd May, 2011 Approximately 200 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception.	Delegates will be staying in accommodation in Belfast and the conference will take place within the city. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of red/white wine and soft drinks. Approximate cost £800
Common Purpose	Common Purpose Meridian Awards Ceremony 12 th August, 2010 Approximately 70 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits.	'Meridian' is a leadership programme that brings together a diverse group of leaders from the private, public, voluntary and community sectors. The participants learn how to improve their capacity to lead, effect change and expand their networks through the investigation of real-life challenges. This event will recognise the achievements of those individuals which have successfully completed the Meridian Programme. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership - strong, fair, together' and 'Better opportunities for success across the city'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits. Approximate cost £140
Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety	The Military and Civilian Health Partnership Awards 2010 25 th November, 2010 Approximately 220 attending	The use of the City Hall.	This event seeks to recognise those individuals who have made a significant contribution, in partnership with the relevant Health and Social Care Services, to the provision of healthcare to military personnel, their families and veterans. The event also aims to promote the innovation and development of healthcare within the military that has had a wider application for the benefit of the civilian population. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together' and 'Better support for people and communities'.	The use of the City Hall.

Energy Institute	50 th Anniversary Dinner 9 th March, 2011 Approximately 300 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-dinner drinks reception.	This event seeks to celebrate the 50 th Anniversary of the Energy Institute and to acknowledge its contribution to the general life and well-being of the city. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together' and ' Better care for Belfast's environment.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of red/white wine and soft drinks. Approximate cost £1,200
Belfast Music Society	Belfast Music Society Celebratory Concert 24 th November, 2010 Approximately 175 attending	The use of the City Hall.	This concert seeks to celebrate and contribute to the success of young musicians and composers who have made significant achievements during the Society's Masterclasses and Workshops which were delivered in schools and community groups across Belfast. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership - strong, fair, together' and 'Better support for people and communities'.	The use of the City Hall.
The Belfast Boxing Ring	Reception to mark the launch of 'The History of the Sport of Boxing in Belfast' 6 th September, 2010 Approximately 200 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception.	The Exhibition, which will be on display in the City Hall East Entrance, seeks to recognise all those citizens who through skill, dedication and boxing excellence, have brought success and pride to the city. Furthermore, the exhibition will seek to acknowledge the individuals who have dedicated their lives to the sport in support of boxers and boxing clubs. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of red/white wine and soft drinks. Approximate cost £500

This page is intentionally left blank

Budget and Transformation Panel**Minutes of Meeting No. 9****Tuesday 9 March 2010****Present:**

Cllr T Hartley	SF (Chair)
Cllr D Browne	UUP
Cllr P Convery	SDLP
Cllr M Jones	ALL
P McNaney	Chief Executive
J Thompson	Director of Finance and Resources
R Cregan	Improvement Manager

Apologies:

Cllr R Newton DUP

1. Visit Land and Property Services

Alan Bronte and Iain Greenway from LPS and Donal Rogan (BCC) were in attendance for this item.

The Chair welcomed the officials to the meeting. He then explained that the work of LPS is critical to the success of the council as 75% of its income comes from the rate. He also stressed that many rate payers who are caught between capping and rate relief thresholds struggle to pay rates.

The Chair acknowledged that the working relationship between the two organisations had greatly improved and that a number of improvements had been made. Members then raised a number of concerns in relation to the following areas:

- Rates collection levels
- Vacant property control
- Estimated Penny Product
- Actual Penny Product
- Level of debt
- Cost of collection.

LPS officials outlined the work being done to improve the systems, processes, data collection and training and how this will start to be reflected in improved LPS performance.

Action Required:

Following an open and frank discussion the following actions were agreed:

1. A suite of indicators would be implemented from the start of the new financial year covering the following areas:
 - Rates collection
 - Vacant properties
 - Timeliness of Estimated Penny Product and Actual Penny Product notifications
 - Deviation from Estimated Penny Product and Actual Penny Product
 - Cost of Collection
 - Debt recovery
2. The council and LPS would work together to agree an action plan for further improvement work, particularly taking into consideration how the council can help facilitate change in the political environment/legislation.

2. Proposed process for preparation for 2011/12

The Director of Finance and Resources outlined the key aspects of the rates setting process for 2011/12. A copy of the proposed process is provided at Appendix One. The Panel agreed with the process and noted the importance of building on the work done in the setting of the rate for 2010/11.

Action:

In April the Director of Finance and Resources will provide the Budget Panel with an overview of spend across the council and further details on the efficiency programme.

In May the Director of Finance and Resources will discuss with the Budget Panel and the Strategic and Policy Resources Committee the setting of an indicative rate and efficiency target for 2011/12.

3. Efficiency Programme

The Director of Finance and Resources informed Members of the continuing work she is doing with the other directors to identify areas where future efficiency savings can be made. A number of potential work streams have been identified which are:

- Assets and Land
- Procurement
- Challenge to Budgets
- ICT
- Service Reviews
- Income Generation

Action:

The Budget Panel agreed that the future efficiency programme could be developed in the context of these areas and that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee should be requested to endorse this approach.

Appendix One: Proposed Preparation Process for 2011/12

Proposed preparation process for 2011/12

March	Budget Panel and SP&R 19 March	Agreement on rates process for 2011/12 and Overview of efficiency programme
April	Budget Panel April	Planning process for 2011/12 Overview of spend across Council
May	Budget Panel and SP&R May	Indicative rate and efficiency target For 2011/12
Jun-Aug		Prepare for detailed rates exercise. Challenge of budgets and realignment. Progress efficiency programme
Sep-Oct		Preparation of draft estimates by Department
November	SP&R November	Highlight key issues
December	Budget Panel and SP&R December	Discuss and finalise options for rates position taking into account potential savings and the implications of managing reserves & financing the capital programme
January	SP&R January	
	Department Committees	
	SP&R January	Recommendation to Council on district rate 2011/12
February	Council 1 February	Agree district rate 2011/12



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Budget Monitoring Report to 31st January 2010
Date:	19th March 2010
Reporting Officer:	Julie Thompson, Director of Finance and Resources
Contact Officer:	Heather Loudon, Head of Financial Services

i

Relevant Background Information

The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee needs regular updates on capital and revenue expenditure throughout the year. The most recent report on the 2009/10 position was presented in December 2009. This report updates Members on the current year's position at Period 10, the forecast outturn for the current year and reserves position.

Key Issues

Revenue Budget Position to January 2010

BCC has a net departmental budget of £106m for the period to January 2010. Outturn for the period is £103.1m giving an under-spend for the period of £2.9m.

Forecast Outturn

The forecast out-turn for 2009/10 reported at period 7 was an under-spend of £1.6m, after the application of some £2.3m to fund the council wide voluntary redundancy exercise. At period 10, the current forecast under-spend for 2009/10 has increased to £1.9m, an increase of some £300k from the previously reported position. There have been several factors that have contributed to the £300k improvement in the forecast, most notably the improvement in the forecasts for both the Development and Parks and Leisure departments, which were mitigated by a reduction in the forecast income from LPS. Such movements are to be expected given the size of the BCC total budget.

Impact on Reserves

As reported at SP&R Committee on 20th November 2009, the planned reserves at the end of 2009/10 were £2.7m (after planned contributions from reserves of £2.4m to ease the rate burden). If the forecast under spend of £1.9m above is achieved, this would lead to reserves at 31 March 2010 of £4.6m (compared to £5.3m at 31 March 2009). This is some £300k higher than the position used to inform the rate setting exercise for 2010/11 and therefore does not represent a significant change.

A paper on the strategy for replenishing the reserves in 2010/11 and future years was taken to SP&R on the 11th December 2009. As a result of this, a contribution to reserves of £4.5m was included in the 2010/11 rate, of which some £1m could be used to fund the capital programme.

Capital Programme 2009/10

The draft Capital Programme for 2009/10 and future years outlines total budgeted expenditure for the year of £12.3m.

Capital expenditure for the period to 31st January 2010 amounts to £13.9m. The most significant areas of expenditure were Ulster Hall Major Works of £2.077m and City Hall Major Works of £3.1m.

Forecast Capital Out-turn 2009/10

The total actual capital expenditure for 2009/10 is forecast to be £18.3m. This is £6m over the approved budget and relates mainly to an under spend of £5.1m in 2008/09 that has rolled forward into 2009/10.

There have also been a number of new schemes added to the capital programme since the original capital programme was planned. However, due to the timing of taking out loans, the forecast capital financing requirement for the year including this additional expenditure can be met by the existing budget.

Resource Implications

As outlined above.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the current revenue and capital financial positions to date, the forecast out-turns, and the implication for the reserves position.

Decision Tracking

Regular updates on the financial position in 2009/10 have been provided to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. A final report on the year end position for 2009/10 will be presented in the first quarter of 2010/11.

Key to Abbreviations

N/A

Documents Attached

None

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Efficiency Programme Update
Date:	19 March 2010
Reporting Officer:	Julie Thompson, Director of Finance and Resources
Contact Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Improvement Manager

Relevant Background Information

Members will recall that as part of the rate setting process for 2010/11 it was agreed that officers should continue to work with the Budget and Transformation Panel on the development of a medium term efficiency programme. The Strategic and Policy Resources Committee has stressed the importance of this work given that the organisation has already delivered £9m efficiency savings and the necessity to avoid the following risks when delivering further savings:

- Major conflicts between the drive for efficiency and having enough money to deliver Members' ambitions for the city;
- Damaging front line services; and
- Cutting services rather than realising genuine and sustainable efficiency savings.

This report provides Members with an update on progress in relation to the development of the efficiency programme.

Key Issues**Efficiency Programme**

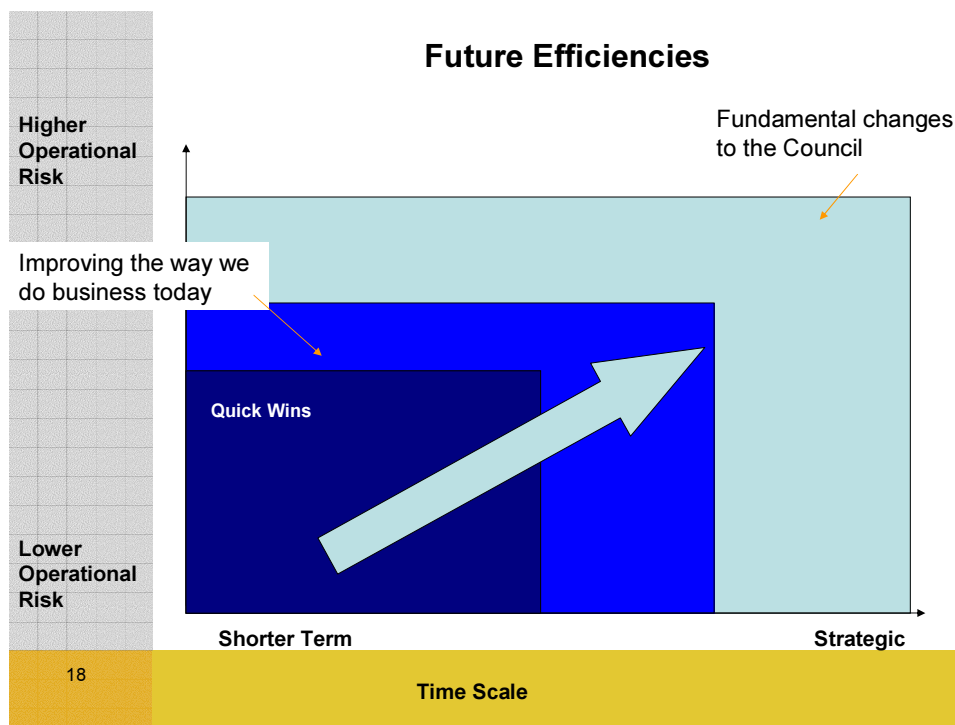
Over the past year Members have put in place many of the foundations which are needed for an organisation to deliver a programme of sustained efficiency savings (see Appendix One for details). Now that these foundations are in place, the Director of Finance and Resources has been working with the other directors, in liaison with the Budget and Transformation Panel to identify potential areas where further efficiency savings can be achieved. Through this work, a number of potential work streams have been identified. These are as follows:

- Assets and Land
- Procurement
- Challenge to Budgets
- ICT
- Service Reviews
- Income Generation

More detail on these potential work streams is provided at Appendix Two. Members should note these areas have also been identified as the key efficiency drivers in the latest HM Treasury report on efficiency. It is recommended that the efficiency programme is based on these areas and that a detailed programme of work for each be brought back to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in May for consideration by Members.

Making Efficiency Happen

The diagram below shows that there is a limit to the amount of efficiency savings which can be achieved without making major changes to how the council operates. We have now reached the point where most of the quick wins have been captured. This means that for a sustained programme of efficiency to be delivered then, for the most part, efficiency and change will need to go hand in hand.



This means that alongside the efficiency programme there will also need to be an overall organisational development programme. This work will involve a range of issues such as developing the capacity of the organisation to cope with change, for example, through increasing flexibility and changing values and behaviours to be further aligned to efficiency and service transformation. It will also explore options for further collaborative working across both local government and the city and further integrate the linkages between efficiency

and performance management.

It is recommended that a further update report on the organisational development programme is brought to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in May 2010.

Scale of Efficiency Savings

As well as deciding on the detailed proposals for the efficiency programme, Members will also need to consider the indicative target for efficiency savings to be delivered for future years, starting with 2011/12. This decision needs to be made in the context of the overall rate setting process for 2011/12 which has also been the subject of debate at the Budget and Transformation Panel. The minute of the March meeting of the Panel (which is included on today's agenda) shows that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee will be asked to consider indicative rates and efficiency targets for 2011/12 at its meeting in May 2010.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report and to agree to receive more detailed reports on the council's efficiency programme and organisational development programme in May 2010.

Decision Tracking

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 Efficiency Foundations
Appendix 2 Potential Efficiency Programme Work Streams

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix One: Efficiency Foundations

- **Strategic Policy and Resources Committee** - now has overall responsibility for money, people and assets which means that these can be better managed in a corporate way.
- **Budget and Transformation Panel** - has been created to provide political leadership and support for the efficiency programme.
- **Structures** - the SP&R Committee has created two new departments - Finance and Resources and Property and Projects - which means that money, people and assets can be managed from a one-council perspective which will result in greater efficiencies being delivered.
- **Programme Board** - will provide senior management oversight of the efficiency programme and will be led by two directors.
- **Trade Union Efficiency Group** - will provide a consultation mechanism with the trade unions on efficiency matters.
- **Resources** - as part of the right-sizing exercise the SP&R Committee agreed to the establishment of an efficiency function in the organisation which will be delivered through a re-alignment of existing resources. This means that the council will have a dedicated team to complete the programme of work which will be required to identify and deliver further efficiency savings.
- **Frameworks** - the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee has agreed the following frameworks which support the delivery of efficiency savings:
 - Finance
 - Human Resources
 - Policy and planning
 - Risk Management
 - Governance
 - Performance Management
 - Asset Management
 - ICT

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix Two: Potential Efficiency Programme Work Streams

Assets and Land

This strand is proposed to be about:

- Reviewing office accommodation, buildings and corporate land bank
- Reducing maintenance costs
- Securing better value for money in the purchase of vehicles, plant and machinery
- Building, managing and sharing buildings with other organisations
- Applying stringent business case and prioritisation processes when deciding on building or buying new assets.

Procurement

The council spends almost half of its money on buying goods and services which are required to run the business. It is therefore essential that better procurement is included as a key strand of the efficiency programme.

Many of the savings which the council has already delivered have come from procurement. Over the next few years, improvements are proposed to continue to be made by:

- Using e-auctions more often to let contracts
- Buying goods and services with other public bodies so that bigger discounts can be obtained.
- Putting in place more central contracts
- Monitoring spend to ensure that departments are using the agreed suppliers.
- Developing collaborative arrangements with other councils and public sector organisations.

Challenge to Budgets

Further budgetary efficiency savings may be achieved through:

- Testing the reasonableness of budgets compared to prior years' expenditure trends;
- Reviewing areas of discretionary spend such as printing, publications and marketing.
- Carrying out cost reviews in major spend areas such as overtime, agency and use of consultants.

ICT

Many local authorities have used ICT to deliver efficiency savings. The council as part of its efficiency programme will need to consider:

- How it can enhance value for money of its ICT provision
- How it can make better use of ICT as an enabler of efficiency, for example, better interaction with customers or increased mobile working.

Service Reviews

A major challenge for the organisation is to find ways to deliver better value for money services. Members have already made it clear that priority should be given to streamlining back office functions such as finance, HR, payroll, business support, facilities management etc. Work is also ongoing to consider front line service provision, such as the review of leisure services.

Income Generation

The council receives 75% of its income from the district rate and therefore it is important to ensure that the amount of collectable rate income is maximised. A separate report on today's agenda details the work which is being done by the council in conjunction with Land and Property Services to increase collectable rate income.

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	BCC / Land and Property Services Memorandum of Understanding Update
Date:	19 March 2010
Reporting Officer:	Julie Thompson, Director of Finance and Resources
Contact Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Improvement Manager

Relevant Background Information

Members are aware that 75% of the council's income comes from the district rate. A key factor, therefore, in discussions about the rate setting for 2011/12 and the efficiency programme is how the council can maximise the level of collectable rates income. The council, however, is not responsible for valuation, billing and rates collection - these are the job of Land and Property Services (LPS). In the past Members have raised concerns about the performance of LPS in the areas of :

- Rates collection levels
- Vacant property control
- Timeliness and accuracy of the Estimated Penny Product (used at the time of rate setting)
- Timeliness of the Actual Penny Product (after the closure of the accounts)
- Cost of collection
- Level of debt

Over the past two years council officers, with support from Members, have been working closely with LPS. This relationship has been formalised through the agreement of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two organisations.

It was agreed that the Budget and Transformation Panel should meet with officials from LPS to discuss the implementation of the on-going implementation of the MOU. The purpose of this report is to update Members on the outcome of this meeting to agree a number of actions arising.

Key Issues

The Budget and Transformation Panel met with officials from LPS on 9 March 2010. At the meeting Members stressed the importance of the work of LPS both in terms of the overall finances of Belfast City Council and for individual rate payers. The improvements which have already been made were acknowledged by Members but it was stressed that much more can be done and that the council is keen to continue to work in partnership with LPS to make further improvement happen.

One of the key items discussed was the development of a suite of indicators which would allow Members to better hold LPS to account for its performance. The Budget and Transformation Panel agreed that the indicators should concentrate on the following areas:

- Rates collection
- Vacant properties
- Timeliness of Estimated Penny Product and Actual Penny Product notifications
- Deviation from Estimated Penny Product and Actual Penny Product
- Cost of Collection
- Debt recovery

The Members also stressed to the LPS officials the need for councils to have an input into policy decisions that have an affect on collections.

The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is requested to agree to the recommendation of the Budget and Transformation Panel that performance indicators in relation to the rates should be developed and be concentrated on the areas as listed above.

LPS officials indicated there were a number of areas where legislative change would aid rate collection. Members are asked to approve the creation of an Agenda for Change, to work with other local authorities and the LPS to lobby for legislative change.

In order for Members to compare performance of LPS with other local authorities, it is important that benchmark information is provided. It is recommended that the council enter into a framework agreement with the Institute of Revenue Rating and Valuation (IRRV) to provide this information and the supporting analysis. The IRRV is the leading institution in this area and has worked closely with the council on rates work in the past. The cost to the council has already been budgeted for as part of the 2010/11 estimates.

If Members are in agreement to the above, regular rates performance update reports will be brought to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Recommendations

The Committee is requested to note the contents of the report and to agree to the following:

- 1) Performance indicators to be developed in relation to:
 - a. Rates collection
 - b. Vacant properties
 - c. Timeliness of Estimated Penny Product and Actual Penny Product notifications
 - d. Deviation from Estimated Penny Product and Actual Penny Product
 - e. Cost of Collection
 - f. Debt recovery
- 2) The use of the Institute of Revenue Rating and Valuation (IRRV) to provide the council with relevant benchmark information in order to allow comparison of LPS performance.
- 3) To develop an agenda for legislation change
- 4) To receive regular reports on rates performance.

This page is intentionally left blank

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Tender for Annual Property Asset Revaluations
Date:	19 March 2010
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Improvement Manager, Ext 6217
Contact Officer:	Adrian Ferguson, Estates Surveyor, Property & Projects Ext 3503

Relevant Background Information

Local Government Capital accounting requires the value of the Council's property assets to be properly shown in the annual accounts.

The general principles underlying the valuation of local authority assets are no different from those of other assets where there is a requirement to determine their value to the business.

A rolling revaluation programme has been in operation for a number of years whereby approximately 25% of Council's operational assets are discretely valued each year thus achieving a total revaluation of all its operational assets, in line with CIPFA guidance, not exceeding five year intervals.

The financial statements (annual accounts) of local authorities from 2010/1 onwards must be in accordance with the CIPFA IFRS Based Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting.

Valuations for inclusion in local authority accounts are provided in accordance with RICS Valuation Standards (The Red Book) and must be undertaken by suitably qualified and accredited valuers.

Key Issues

In the past an independent valuer has been appointed on the basis of an annual quotation exercise. The 2009 property asset revaluation exercise concluded a full cycle whereby all Council's operational assets have been discretely valued in the past four years.

Following current RICS best practice guidance it is now proposed to award a contract on the basis of a four year term that will once again provide Council with annual property asset assessments. This approach will provide continuity in providing discreet assessment of all Council's operational assets within the term of the contract.

In line with the Council's Procurement Policy, tenders will be invited from professionally qualified valuers with experience in the field of property asset valuations.

The Committee is asked to note that evaluation criteria of the tenders will be based on both cost and quality with a contract awarded on to the most economically advantageous tender.

Resource Implications

Financial

Based on historical information the estimated cost for this service over the four year cycle is likely to be well below the EU threshold requirement for European advertising. Provision for this expenditure has already been included in Financial Services annual budget.

Human Resources

There are no additional human resource implications for Council over those already committed to completion of this annual exercise.

Asset and Other Implications

None

Recommendations

The Committee is requested to approve the commencement of this tendering exercise and that delegated authority is given to the Director of Property & Projects to award the tender in line with the evaluation criteria.

Decision Tracking

N/A

Key to Abbreviations

CIPFA – The Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accounting
IFRS – International Financial Reporting Standards
RICS – Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

Documents Attached

None



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Lyric Theatre – City Investment Fund
Date:	19 March 2010
Reporting Officer:	Peter McNaney, Chief Executive
Contact Officer:	Julie Thompson, Director of Finance and Resources

Relevant Background Information

At a meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 14 December 2007 Members agreed to provide £1.25m funding from the City Investment Fund to the Lyric Theatre subject to a number of funding conditions.

The discussion on funding conditions was taken forward by the Development Department and a report on the issue was considered by the Development Committee at its meeting on 9 March 2010. The Committee received a presentation from the Lyric Theatre on its education outreach work, progress with fundraising and the present state of the construction work of the new theatre.

A copy of the detailed report is attached at Appendix One.

The Committee decided that the funding conditions had been met to a satisfactory standard and agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the funding agreement now be completed and that funding should be released for the project in accordance with the funding agreement.

Key Issues

The Council contribution of £1.25m to the Lyric Theatre will be taken from the City Investment Fund. The funding profile for the City Investment Fund was reported to Committee at its meeting on 20 November 2009. The profile of contribution to the Lyric is three tranches of £416,667 in each of the three financial years 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12. The balance available in the City Investment Fund at the year end for 2009/10 is estimated at £5.68m which takes account of the payment to the Lyric outlined above.

Recommendations

1. To note that the Development Committee have indicated that they are satisfied that the funding conditions have been satisfied; and
2. To authorise payment of the three tranches of £416,667, which will be payable to the Lyric Theatre in the years 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12, subject to completion of the necessary legal/funding agreements.

Documents Attached

Appendix One – Development Committee report on the Lyric Theatre dated 9 March 2010.



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Lyric Theatre
Date:	9 March 2010
Reporting Officer:	Peter McNaney Chief Executive ext 6001
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay Head of Economic Initiatives ext 3459

Relevant Background Information

At a meeting of the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee on 14 December 2007 Members agreed to provide £1.25m funding from the City Investment Fund to the Lyric Theatre subject to "detailed negotiations and final approval by the Council on the schedule of payments, full recognition being given to the Council in respect of its contribution, the Lyric Theatre being requested to consider Council representation on its Board and a commitment from the Lyric Theatre to undertake an outreach programme in the wider Belfast community".

The Development Department has taken forward discussions with the Lyric Theatre on the funding conditions and briefed Legal Services who have completed the draft legal agreements which are now ready for signature.

The purpose of this Report is to brief Members on the progress which has been made and receive a presentation from Ciaran McAuley, the Chief Executive of the Lyric Theatre, on its education and outreach work, the progress with fundraising and the present state of construction work.

The Committee will then be requested to make a recommendation to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee, who will have to be briefed by the Director of Finance & Resources in relation to the schedule of payments and the release of funding.

Currently BCC provides funding to the Lyric through the multi-annual funding scheme to the value of £37,971 for the financial year 2010-2011, to cover programming costs.

Key Issues

The total cost of the Lyric project is £18m. Funding support is coming from a number of

sources including :

- Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure £9.4m
- Lottery Funding sourced through the Arts Council £2.4m
- Belfast City Council contribution of £1.25m.

This is 73% of the total funding of the project.

The remaining 27% of funding is being raised by the Lyric themselves.

This 27% amounts to almost £5m. The Lyric have now confirmed that £4.75m of this amount has now been sourced from private donations and philanthropic trusts.

A schedule of payments has been agreed through Legal Services and the Director of Finance and Resources and the first Council payment would be due in April 2010 subject to final Council approval. This money is required to main the cash flow required for the construction project.

CONDITIONS – Full recognition for Council contributions

The Lyric Theatre has provided full recognition of the Council's contribution to the project in all its promotional material since the Council funding decision in January 2008. Since that time the Council have been recognised as one of the foundation supporters of the rebuild project and the Council's logo has been prominently displayed on promotional material produced by the Lyric Theatre in relation to the project. The Council was represented by the Lord Mayor at the unveiling of the foundation stone of the new Theatre in September 2009 and the Lord Mayor wrote the foreword to the event programme. The Lyric have committed to giving full credit to the Council as one of the foundation partners and the Council will be so credited at the opening of the new Theatre and in all the promotional material associated with the opening.

CONDITIONS - Representation on the Board of the Lyric Theatre

Following the Council decision to provide funding, Council officers relayed to the Board of the Lyric Theatre the Councils wish to have representation on the Board. In response the Lyric have advised us that since its foundation 50 years ago the Board has never included representatives of any corporation, funder or collective interest. A full scale review of the governance of the Board was conducted 2 years ago which resulted in the drawing up of a new memorandum and articles of association (the legal document which forms a limited company). These memorandum and articles of association for the Lyric expressly forbid corporations to be members of trustees of the Board which is constituted as a charity. As a constituted charity the Lyric will not pay VAT on the construction contract for the new build. It is normal practice in such circumstances for funding bodies not to be represented on a charitable organisation claiming such relief from construction projects. Other funders such as the Arts Council are also not represented on the Board, they operate 'on the arms length principle' which follows good governance advice in not placing representatives of funding organisations on the board of arts organisations to avoid conflicts of interest. The Lyric have indicated that unlike other arts organisations in Northern Ireland they are a producing Theatre which commissions and works with new artists to produce pieces for performance in the Theatre.

The Lyric recognise the Councils need as a funder to be reassured on how the construction of the new building is proceeding. To this end Council have been offered representation on the Project Board which is overseeing the project which comprises all the investment decision makers, currently the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, DCAL and the Council. The Lyric also recognise the Councils concern on its education and outreach activities and to this end have agreed to set up an Education and Outreach

Advisory Committee which will be served by the Lyric Education Officer. The job of the Sub Committee will be to provide advice on education and outreach activities. The Lyric would be pleased to have 2 Council representatives on this Panel and have further offered to update the Council on an annual basis of its outreach and education activities by attendance at a meeting of the Development Committee.

It should be noted that at the Council meeting on 5 January 2010 it was agreed that the Chief Executive of the Lyric Theatre be advised that the Committee will wish to raise with him during his presentation to the Committee the refusal of the Board to agree to the Council's request to be represented on the Board and that the Council finds this position entirely unacceptable, given the level of financial support which has been provided to the Lyric Theatre.

The Chief Executive has been so advised.

Education and Outreach

As outlined above the Lyric Theatre has recently appointed an Education Officer whose job will be to further develop an education and outreach programme during the time the Theatre is being built and to develop a full programme of activities once the Theatre is in full operation. A copy of the commitment by the present Chairman of the Theatre to its education programme contained on the Lyric's website is attached as Appendix 1 together with details of the recent education programmes such as the Boatyard programme which was an initiative involving 6 local primary schools in North and East Belfast and related the history of Belfast's shipbuilding past. The Theatre are presently developing its Pat and Plane project with 12 primary schools throughout Northern Ireland looking at the development of the linen industry. The Theatre also run schools for aspiring actors in the 18-24 age range and a whole range of individual projects. The Lyric Theatre has recently appointed a new Education Officer from the 1 March 2010 and the Chief Executive of the Theatre Ciaran McAuley will further update the committee on the education programme. The Theatre has committed, in the legal agreement, to undertake an education and outreach programme in the City.

Recommendations

Committee are requested:

- 1 To note the information provided and receive a presentation from the Chief Executive of the Lyric Theatre.
- 2 To note the proposal by the Lyric Theatre that the Council be represented on the Education and Outreach Advisory Committee and the Construction Project Board.
- 3 To make a recommendation to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee on whether the funding conditions have been satisfied.

Decision Tracking

There is no decision tracking attached to this report as it is for notation only.

This page is intentionally left blank



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Connswater Community Greenway Contract
Date:	19 th March 2010
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects
Contact Officer(s):	Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects Ciaran Quigley Director of Legal Services

Purpose of the Report

The Committee is asked to endorse the strategy of the Council becoming the employer under the main Contract for the Connswater Community Greenway.

Relevant Background Information

The Parks Committee at its meeting on the 13th March 2008 agreed to provide £4.2 million capital funding to the Connswater Greenway Project, and agreed to the engagement of officers in the scheme.

Land Assembly for the Greenway has been led by the Director of Legal Services with the support of the Estates Team.

The East Belfast Partnership secured £32.5 million funding for the project. In addition to the Council's funding they have secured funding of £23.5 million from the Big Lottery Fund and £3.2 million from the Department of Social Development.

The Council has committed to manage and maintain the Greenway for a period of 40 years on its completion.

In 2009, as the Connswater Greenway is intrinsically linked with the East Belfast Flood Alleviation Scheme, it was agreed that a joint design in respect of the capital works contract would be developed in connection with the Rivers Agency and one contractor would be appointed to deliver both the Greenway and the Flood Alleviation Scheme. The estimated cost of the associated Flood Alleviation Scheme is £7 -£14 million and the total estimated cost of the combined Connswater Greenway/Flood Alleviation Scheme Contract is £43 million.

Key Issues

As project development has progressed, it has become clear that there could be a significant reduction in the overall project risk and simplification in many areas if the Council were to become the employer for the main Connswater Community Greenway Capital Works Contract.

The reasons are outlined in a report of the Director of Legal Services to the Parks and Leisure Committee on 11th March 2010, copy attached.

The Parks and Leisure Committee agreed to endorse the proposals in the Report to assume the role of 'Employer' under the Connswater Community Greenway contract.

Given that the Connswater Project also has significant expenditure implications for the Council, and given the linkage of the Project to the City Investment Fund, it is appropriate to further seek the endorsement of the strategic Policy and Resources Committee to the proposals.

Resource Implications

The Connswater Greenway budget has been agreed at £4.2 million pounds capital expenditure to support the project, and legal and estates officers are currently engaged in the Land Acquisition. Adoption of the strategy as outlined in the Report will require resources from the Property and Projects department.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to endorse the strategy of the Council becoming the employer under the main Connswater Greenway Contract as previously agreed by the Parks Committee on the 11th March. Committee is further asked to agree to officers continuing discussions with the East Belfast Partnership Board and other Funders of the Greenway to enable this to happen.

Decision Tracking

The Director of Legal Services and Director of Property and Projects shall be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Committees decision.

Key to Abbreviations

DSD – Department for Social Development.
DRD – Department for Regional Development.

Documents Attached

Director of Legal Services Report to the Parks and Leisure Committee dated 11th March 2010.

This page is intentionally left blank



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Connswater Community Greenway
Date:	11 March 2010
Reporting Officer:	Ciaran Quigley, Director of Legal Services
Contact Officer:	Ciaran Quigley Director of Legal Services Colin Campbell, Principal Solicitor, Legal Services

Purpose of the Report

The Committee at this meeting on 13 March 2008 agreed to provide £4.2 million capital funding to the Connswater Greenway project, and agreed to the engagement of officers in the scheme.

Relevant Background Information

Land Assembly for the Greenway has been led by the Director of Legal Services with the support of the Estates Team.

The East Belfast Partnership secured £32.5 million funding for the project. In addition to the Council's funding they have secured funding of £23.5 million from the Big Lottery Fund and £3.2 million from the Department of Social Development. The Council has agreed to manage and maintain the greenway for a period of 40 years on its completion.

In 2009, as the Connswater Greenway is intrinsically linked with the East Belfast Flood Alleviation Scheme, it was agreed that a joint design in respect of the capital works contract would be developed in connection with the rivers agency and one contractor would be appointed to deliver both the Greenway and the Flood Alleviation Scheme. The estimated cost of the associated Flood Alleviation Scheme is £7 -£14 million and the total estimated cost of the combined Connswater Greenway/Flood Alleviation Scheme Contract is £43 million.

Key Issues

As project development has progressed, it has become clear that there could be a significant reduction in the overall project risk and simplification in many areas if the Council were to become the employer for the Contract.

The East Belfast Partnership Board has therefore requested that BCC take over the Contract, and that all Funders reconsider the Council as the employer.

The main benefits of such an approach are:

- a. The East Belfast Partnership Board does not have sufficient cash flow, security or overdraft facilities should Funders' payments not be released in time to pay the Contractor. The Contractor will charge the partnership if this is the case which is a financial and organisational risk to the East Belfast Partnership Board.

If the Council were to become the employer under the Contract then this risk is removed as the Council, as a much larger organisation, has a much greater ability to manage the financial risk.

- b. The Council becoming the employer under the Contract would remove any uncertainty should there be any change in the status of the Partnership Board.
- c. The handover and defects liability process will be considerably simplified should the Council be the employer under the Contract. As things currently sit, it is likely that sections would be completed and handed over on a phased basis. If the Partnership Board are the employer under the Contract then sections would be handed over to them who would then in turn have to hand over the sections to the Council. If the Council was not happy with the works then it would not have any direct relationship with the Contractor. Similarly, after the defects period, the Council could not claim defects from the Contractor should they arise. Obviously the Council as end user has an interest in ensuring the work is completed to the required standard, and a direct relationship with the Contractor much improves the Council's ability to ensure this.
- d. A suite of legal agreements will be required if the Partnership Board is the employer. These would be simplified if the Council were the employer, as the Council would not need to seek Collateral Agreements, Warranties and Bonds.
- e. The maintenance arrangements for the Greenway on completion will be simplified if the Council is the employer under the Contract. Management and Maintenance Agreements will be required with the other Funders and bodies such as DRD Roads and Rivers Agency. It would be much more simple for the Council to make these directly with the agencies rather than through the Partnership Board.
- f. There may be a saving on VAT should the Council take over as employer of the Contract.

As can be seen from the above, the project would be greatly simplified, and have less risks attached, should the Council become the employer under the Contract. Council officers have held initial discussions on this with representatives from the Partnership Board.

It should be stressed that this is not a case of the Council taking over the project as a whole. The Council would still work in tandem with the Partnership Board, with the Partnership Board still being responsible for many aspects of the project and remaining as the primary community interface. The Council and the Partnership Board would propose entering in to a Management Agreement to regulate their rights and responsibilities to each other in the event of the Council becoming the employer under the Contract.

The proposed arrangement would be subject to the consent of the other Funders, namely the Big Lottery and DSD.

With this in mind the Director of Legal Services and other officers met with representatives of the East Belfast Partnership and the Big Lottery Fund on 4 March to discuss the matter and to gauge whether the Lottery would be happy to proceed on this basis. The representatives of the Big Lottery indicated that they would be in principle in favour of this arrangement.

This would be subject to agreement and to the internal processes of the Big Lottery.

Initial enquiries with the DSD have also proved favourable.

Resource Implications

The Connswater Greenway budget has been agreed at £4.2 million pounds capital expenditure to support the project, and legal and estates officers are currently engaged in the Land Acquisition. Adoption of the strategy as outlined in the Report will require resources from the Property and Projects department.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to endorse the strategy of the Council becoming the employer under the main Connswater Greenway Contract and to agree to the Director of Legal Services and other officers continuing discussions with the East Belfast Partnership Board and other Funders with a view to making this a reality.

Decision Tracking

Director of Legal Services responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Committee's decision.

Key to Abbreviations

DSD: Department for Social Development
DRD: Department for Regional Development

Documents Attached

None.

This page is intentionally left blank



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Connswater Community Greenway Update
Date:	19 March 2010
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Improvement Manager
Contact Officer:	Celine Dunlop, Estates Surveyor, Property and Projects.

Relevant Background Information
<p>Belfast City Council, as part of the City Investment Strategy, has agreed to coordinate the acquisition of lands to enable the Connswater Community Greenway Programme to proceed. The Council will secure rights over the land needed for the Greenway and shall be responsible for the management and maintenance of this land and any assets on the land. The Greenway must be accessible for 40 years to comply with the Big Lottery Fund letter of offer, although the intention is to secure rights for longer if possible.</p>

Key Issues
<p>The area of land at Elmgrove Manor outlined red on the attached plan at Appendix '1' consisting of 0.133 acres has been identified as being required for the Connswater Community Greenway. Council officials have agreed, subject to Committee approval, to acquire a 99 year lease of this area of land from the Trinity Housing subject to a peppercorn rent.</p> <p>The area of land to the rear of Elim Pentecostal Church outlined red on the attached plan at Appendix '2' consisting of 0.756 acres has been identified as being required for the Connswater Community Greenway. There are two garages on the lands which have been occupied for over forty years. Agreement has been reached with the three parties involved on the following terms and subject to Committee approval;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of the 0.756 acres from Elim Pentecostal Church for £50,000 subject to the Council obtaining vacant possession of the lands in sale. • Garage Owner 1 to sign a declaration/affidavit disclaiming any interest in the land in exchange for a licence to occupy an alternative garage to be erected on a more suitable area of the site. Such right to be personal to the current occupant and to subsist for his lifetime only.

- Garage Owner 2 to sign a similar affidavit for a payment of £1000. The garage to be demolished and not replaced as part of the Connswater Community Greenway scheme.

Resource Implications

Financial

These proposals require expenditure of legal fees to acquire the lease for the land from Trinity Housing, the purchase of the lands from Elim Pentecostal Church and the termination of the two possessory titles for the garages required. Legal fees are included within the Connswater Community Greenway budget included in the City Investment Fund and there will be no additional cost to Council. The cost of relocating garage 1 and the demolition of garage 2 will be covered within the CCG project budget and there will be no additional cost to the Council.

Human Resources

No additional human resources required.

Asset and Other Implications

The additional land will form part of the Connswater Community Greenway which when complete will be managed and maintained by the Council.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee grant approval to the purchase of the lands outlined red on the plans attached at Appendix '1' and Appendix '2'.

Key to Abbreviations

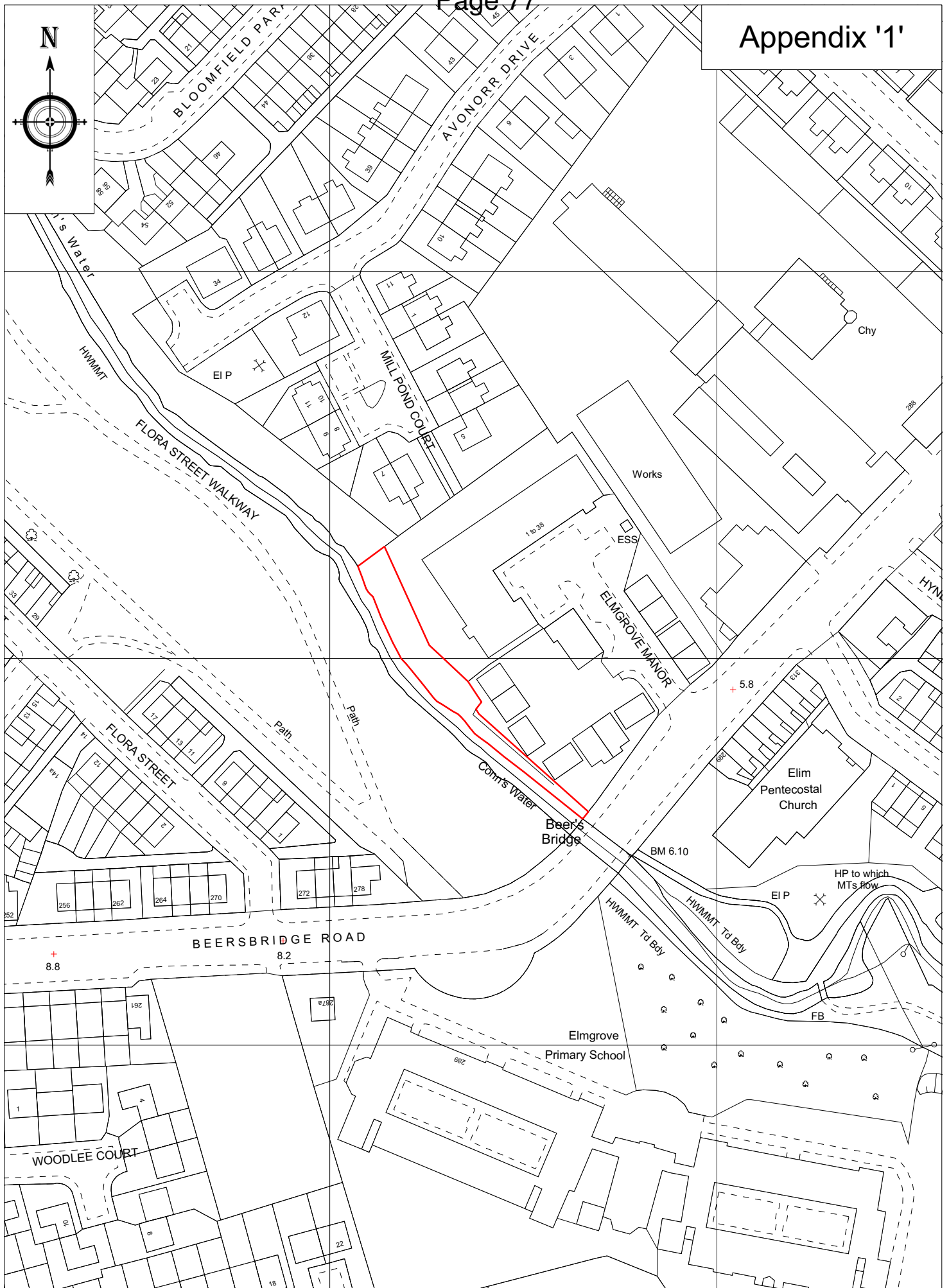
N/A.

Decision Tracking

Action by Celine Dunlop to be completed by June 2010.

Documents Attached

Plans at Appendix '1' and Appendix '2'.



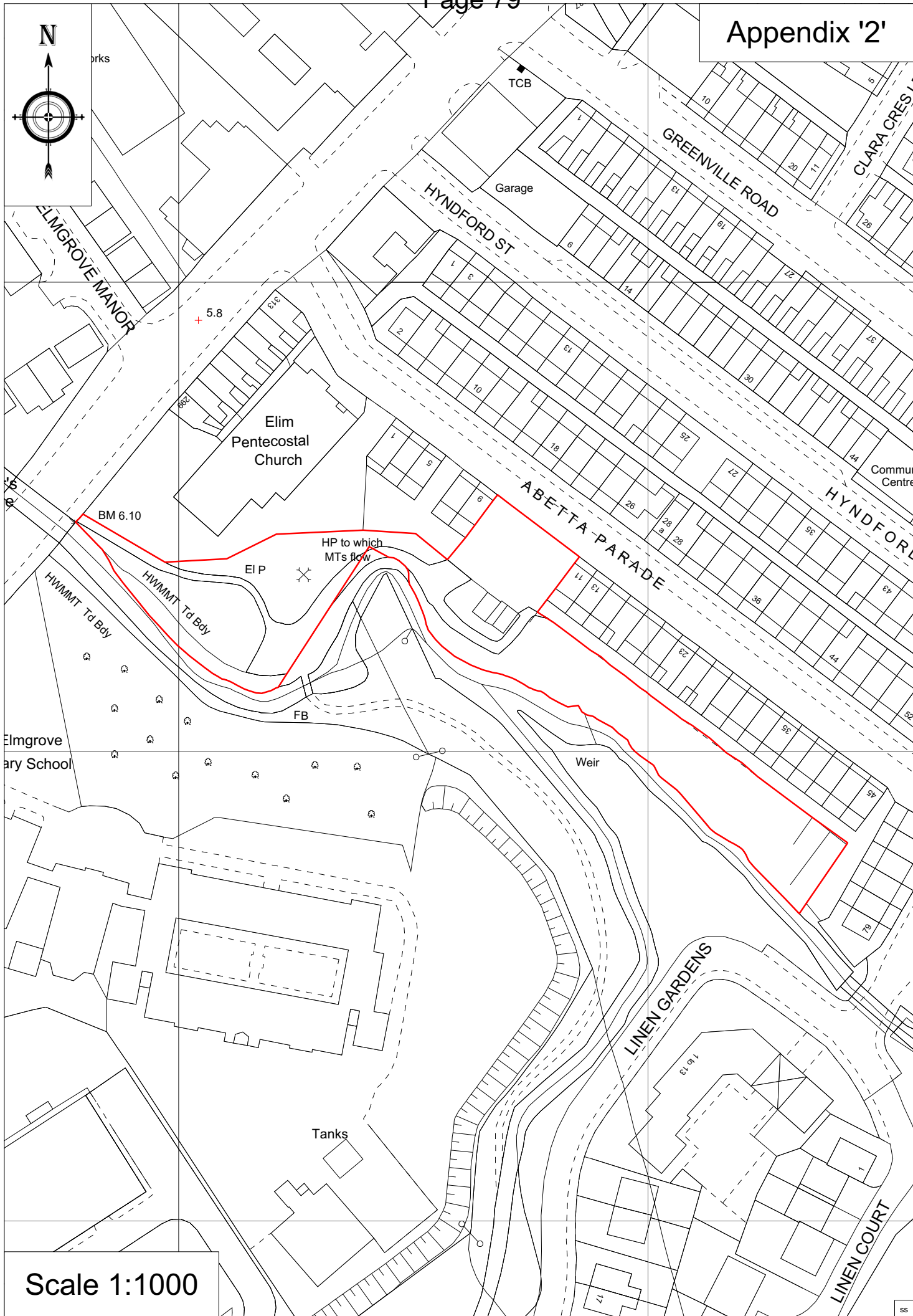
Scale 1:1250

Connswater Community Greenway - Plot 39b

Area 0.133 acres

SS

This page is intentionally left blank



Scale 1:1000

SS

This page is intentionally left blank



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Request to Address the Council – UNISON Northern Ireland
Date:	19th March, 2010
Reporting Officer:	Mr. L. Steele, Head of Committee and Members' Services (extension 6325)
Contact Officer:	Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Committee Administrator (extension 6313)

Relevant Background Information

A request has been received from the Trade Union UNISON Northern Ireland seeking permission to address a meeting of the Council in order to seek the Council's support in opposing the pay freeze for Local Government workers.

Key Issues

I have been advised by the Head of Human Resources that UNISON has only a small number of members working for the Council and as such are not one of the Unions recognised as having speaking rights.

However, if the Committee were minded to accede to the request, it is felt that it would be more appropriate for representatives of UNISON to address the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee as it is within the remit of this Committee to consider Human Resources issues.

Resource Implications

There are no Human Resources or financial implications associated with this report.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to consider the request and take such action thereon as may be determined.

Decision Tracking	
Officer responsible:	Jim Hanna will advise the Trade Union of the Committee's decision
Date Completed by:	23rd March, 2010

Key to Abbreviations
N/A

Documents Attached
N/A

GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP**MEMORABILIA WORKING GROUP****THURSDAY 4 MARCH 2010**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Councillor Hendron	Chairman
	Councillor Kyle	
	Councillor McCarthy	
	Councillor McCausland	
	Councillor C. Maskey	
	Councillor Stoker	
IN ATTENDANCE:	Hazel Francey	Good Relations Manager
	Anne Deighan	Good Relations Officer
	Marie Craig	Good Relations Assistant (minutes)
	George Wright	Head of Facilities Management

1.0	Routine Matters
1.1	A Member requested that the minutes of the meeting of 4 February 2010 be revised to reflect the fact that he had not agreed with the view of the Working Group regarding the replacement of the plaques in the East Entrance area; the Working Group agreed to vary the minute accordingly. Accordingly, the reference in the report to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee which stated that the Memorabilia Working Group had agreed unanimously was incorrect. With this exception, the minutes were agreed as a correct record.
1.2	The Working Group referred to their meeting earlier that afternoon with representatives from Armagh City Council and noted that discussion of similar issues in Armagh Palace Demesne had been useful.
1.3	In the absence of the Good Relations Manager, Anne Deighan will arrange for party briefings in relation to the draft report prepared by Maureen Mackin, the Council's appointed consultant, on addressing the issue of balance and better representation within City Hall displays.
2.0	Somme Resolution
2.1	<p>The Good Relations Manager referred to the following report, which had previously been circulated to the Members:</p> <p>"Relevant Background Information</p> <p>Members will recall that the wording of the Annual Somme Resolution has been the subject of much discussion over the past year. The item was referred to Party Groups but no agreement was reached and a decision was deferred.</p> <p>At its meeting on 3 December 2009, the Memorabilia Working Group agreed to refer the matter direct to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee for a decision, since it was of the view that the matter could not be resolved informally at Working Group level and would have to be determined by a vote.</p>

At the meeting of the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee on 11 December 2009, the Committee deferred a decision on the question of revised wording, to enable an opinion to be sought from the Somme Association in this regard.

Accordingly, the Good Relations Manager and the Chairman of the Memorabilia Working Group, Cllr Hendron, met on Monday 15 February 2010 with 4 representatives from the Somme Association: Dr Ian Adamson, Ms Eileen Bell, Mr John Coghlan and Ms Carole Walker. The Somme Association representatives stressed the cross-community nature of their organisation and said that their primary concern was to maintain an inclusive approach, to reflect the all-Ireland nature of the conflict of the Great War and to promote greater knowledge of it.

The Somme Association have always included the 16th Irish and other Divisions in their work and in any tours or ceremonies to mark battle anniversaries. For example, in 2010 the Somme Pilgrimage will follow the route taken by the 36th (Ulster) and 16th (Irish) Divisions during their service in the First World War and the Council will be sending official Party Group representatives on both the Somme Tour and the Gallipoli Pilgrimage.

The Somme Association representatives agreed that in their view the 1 July event should be inclusive, as their Association had always been inclusive, representing all sides. However, in relation to the wording to be used, the Somme Association representatives stated that ultimately, the actual text was an internal matter for the Council and would have to be determined by the political parties, since this was a Council resolution.

KEY ISSUES

The current resolution is:

That we, the Lord Mayor and Citizens of the City of Belfast, on the >th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, desire again to record our feelings of gratitude to the brave men of the 36th (Ulster) Division who, by their glorious conduct in that battle, made an imperishable name for themselves and their Province, and whose heroism will never be forgotten so long as the British Commonwealth lasts.

There are some points of agreement. All 6 parties are content with the addition of the phrase "the 16th (Irish) Division and other forces" although the UUP and DUP would prefer the wording "the sons of Ulster and other forces".

Four parties (UU, Alliance, SDLP and Sinn Féin) are content with the wording changed from "Province" to "people."

The revised text would therefore read:

That we, the Lord Mayor and Citizens of the City of Belfast, on the >th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, desire again to record our feelings of gratitude to the brave men of the 36th (Ulster) Division, **the 16th (Irish) Division and other forces** who, by their glorious conduct in that battle, made an imperishable name for themselves and their **people**, and whose heroism will never be forgotten so long as the British Commonwealth lasts.

The major point of disagreement is now in the final phrase. Three parties (Alliance, SDLP and Sinn Féin) want the text to finish after "never be forgotten". The Unionist parties do not want the final phrase "so long as the British Commonwealth lasts" to be deleted, but might agree to the deletion of the word "British", since "the Commonwealth" is the term in common current use.

	<p>Financial Implications</p> <p>None</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>The Memorabilia Working Group is requested to note the comments above and to attempt to agree the wording of the Somme resolution for use from 1 July 2010 onwards; otherwise it will once more be referred to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee for a decision.”</p>
2.2	<p>Cllr. McCausland tabled a proposed revised resolution as follows:</p> <p>That we, the Lord Mayor and Citizens of the City of Belfast on the ... Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, desire again to record our feelings of gratitude to the brave men of the 36th (Ulster) Division who, by their glorious conduct in that battle, made an imperishable name for themselves and their Province.</p> <p>We also record our feelings of gratitude to the brave men of the 16th (Irish) Division and Ulstermen who served in other forces. Their heroism will never be forgotten.</p>
2.3	<p>Members were of the view that the revised motion would need to be discussed among the Party groups in order to obtain agreement. A Member pointed out several problems that he saw with the revised motion which had been tabled. After discussion, the Working Group agreed to bring the proposed revised resolution tabled by Cllr. McCausland back to their various Party Groups for comments. It was agreed that the Party groups would arrange discussions between themselves on this issue.</p>
3.0	Memorial to Servicemen and Women
3.1	<p>The Good Relations Manager reminded the Working Group that this issue had originally been the subject of a Notice of Motion in September 2007. It had been referred to the Memorabilia Working Group in April 2009 to be considered within the overall review of memorabilia. At its meeting in August 2009, the Working Group had noted several options, ranging from £2,000 to £55,000.</p>
3.2	<p>The Good Relations Manager had reminded Members that there was no allocation within the budget for such a memorial and the matter had been referred to party groups.</p>
3.3	<p>The Member who had proposed the original Notice of Motion had now requested that the subject be considered again and the Good Relations Manager requested the views of the Working Group.</p>
3.4	<p>The Members agreed to raise the issue with their Party Groups in order to ascertain views. The Good Relations Manager will arrange to forward copies of the reports previously considered on this issue to all members of the Working Group.</p>
4.0	Any other business
4.1	<p>The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 8 April. If there is no Town Planning meeting that day, the meeting will commence at 4.30 pm.</p>

This page is intentionally left blank



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Commission of an Artwork to reflect Irish History & Heritage in Belfast
Date:	19th March 2010
Reporting Officer:	Anne Deighan, Good Relations Officer
Contact Officer:	Anne Deighan, Good Relations Officer

Relevant Background Information

Members will recall that at its meeting of 18th September 2009 the Committee had agreed that an artwork, not to exceed £20,000, should be commissioned, to reflect Irish history and heritage in the city; this to be displayed in either the Reception Hall or East Entrance. Accordingly, quotation documents were drawn up in January 2010 and artists were invited to forward their submissions by 12 noon on Friday 5 February 2010.

Key Issues

At the closing date, a total of 56 submissions had been received. A short-listing Panel was drawn up consisting of Cllrs. Hartley, Hendron & McCausland, Anne Deighan Good Relations Officer, Julie-Anne McCormick, Culture & Arts Unit and Maureen Mackin, Independent Consultant. The Panel met and agreed to shortlist the following 5 artists through to the next stage:

- Brendan Boyle
- Keith Drury
- Helen Herron
- Holger Christian Lonze
- Karen Nickell

The 5 short-listed artists were invited to provide further submissions as detailed below by Friday 5 March 2010.

- an explanation of the concept for the artwork and how it relates to the theme
- a detailed explanation of the proposed materials for the artwork and the dimensions of the work
- an explanation of how the artist would approach the design, fabrication and installation of the work
- details of any particular maintenance requirements for the artwork
- a budget breakdown
- a timescale for production and delivery.

The artists were also invited to attend an interview with the short-listing Panel on Friday 12 March 2010. After consideration of the submissions, the short-listing Panel agreed to recommend that the commission should be awarded to Keith Drury. It is proposed that this artwork will be placed on the wall immediately to the left of the Chief Executive's Office on the ground floor east corridor.

Resource Implications

Financial

The sum of £20,000 commissioned through existing budgets.

Recommendations

The Strategy Policy & Resources Committee is recommended to approve the awarding of the commission for an Irish artwork to reflect Irish history and heritage in Belfast to Keith Drury for a sum not to exceed £20,000.

Key to Abbreviations

N/A

Documents Attached