

Document Pack

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



17th September, 2012

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room (Room G05), City Hall on Friday, 21st September, 2012 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
- (b) Declarations of Interest

2. Investment Programme

- (a) Forthriver Innovation Centre (Pages 1 - 4)
- (b) Local Investment Fund (Pages 5 - 10)
- (c) Local Investment Fund – Financial Governance Arrangements (Pages 11 - 16)
- (d) Feasibility Fund - Governance Arrangements (Pages 17 - 18)

- (e) Urban Broadband - funding (To Follow)
- 3. **Democratic Services and Governance**
 - (a) Minutes of Meeting of Party Group Leaders' Forum of 7 June (Pages 19 - 22)
 - (b) Requests for the use of the City Hall and the provision of Hospitality (Pages 23 - 28)
 - (c) Minutes of Meeting of Member Development Steering Group (Pages 29 - 32)
 - (d) Change of Date of Meetings (Pages 33 - 34)
- 4. **Finance/Value-for-Money**
 - (a) Minutes of Meeting of Budget and Transformation Panel (Pages 35 - 36)
 - (b) Minutes of Meeting of Audit Panel
 - (c) Small Business Relief Consultation
 - (d) Use of I Pads (Pages 37 - 46)
- 5. **Human Resources**
 - (a) Standing Order 55 – Employment of Relatives (Pages 47 - 48)
- 6. **Asset Management**
 - (a) Fernhill House, Glencairn (Pages 49 - 56)
 - (b) Rent Reviews on Sites at River Terrace (Pages 57 - 64)
 - (c) Flood Alleviation at Orangefield Park - Contractor's licence (Pages 65 - 70)
 - (d) Disposal of Land at Glen Road to Oaklee Housing Association (Pages 71 - 76)
- 7. **Good Relations and Equality**
 - (a) Minutes of Meeting of Good Relations Partnership of 10 September (Pages 77 - 102)
 - (b) Operation Banner - Update (To Follow)

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



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject	Forthriver Innovation Centre
Date:	21 September 2012
Reporting Officers:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects John McGrillen, Director of Development
Contact Officers:	Lisa Toland, Economic Development Manager, ext 3427 Cathy Reynolds, Estates Manager, ext 3493

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members will recall that an update on the proposed development at Forthriver was presented at the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 25 April 2012. At that meeting, Members gave approval to the project being progressed on the basis of a Development Brief process (subject to a successful ERDF grant application outcome). Members were advised of the stages in the funding application process and it was noted that the next step required the submission of a scoping document to Invest NI for consideration.
1.2	Members were also informed that a further report would be brought back to Committee in due course, following consideration by Invest NI of the scoping document and to seek further approvals in relation to the proposed Development Brief criteria and process, as well as advising on the financial requirements.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The scoping document for the Forthriver project was subsequently submitted to Invest NI and this was approved in June 2012. This confirms the broad parameters of the project, namely that it will be an economic regeneration project which, in order to draw down the available funding, will need to focus on promoting business growth and innovation.
2.2	The next step in the process is to prepare the Development Brief. In essence the Development Brief is for an economic regeneration scheme on the site that will create employment opportunities; support economic growth within key priority sectors, as identified in the Northern Ireland Economic Strategy; provide a development that will deliver regenerative benefits and create a landmark scheme which promotes excellence in design and sustainability. The Brief will make the proposed scheme conditional on the Council being successful in drawing down the ERDF funding and on it receiving a positive economic appraisal.

<p>2.3</p>	<p>The Development Brief will incorporate a number of general technical issues which would be included in any Development Brief as well as a number of issues specific to this site. In general terms these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with Invest NI and LED criteria around funding which seeks to support smart, sustainable and inclusive growth focusing on expanding the private sector and creating a world class business climate in Northern Ireland. • Requirement to develop a high quality building - in line with recent investments in this locality (E3 development). • Need to take account of alignment with the Belfast Met E3 development and potential for synergy with the work being undertaken at this site (linking training and employment opportunities). • Need to consider how local people may be able to access work placement, training and employment opportunities within the development. • Need to consider community engagement issues in the development and operation of the project. The developer will need to clearly demonstrate community support for their proposals and economic benefit to the adjoining communities both commercially and socially • The site has being identified as one of the ultra-fast digital zones within the Super Connected Broadband applications (funding decision awaited). • Access issues - need to ensure pedestrian access is maintained through Workman Avenue (access is managed as part of a Department of Justice contract and no changes are expected) and that other access issues are also addressed. • Alignment with the Council's Investment Programme 2012-15 where the development of the Forthriver site is a key project in developing the city's economic infrastructure.
<p>2.4</p>	<p>Potential developers, as part of their submission, will be required to provide detailed development proposals, financial information; funding details including projected capital and revenue costs; financial bid; proposed development/legal framework; development programme; economic benefits; analysis of risks; environmental considerations and consultation and engagement proposals. The developer will have to satisfy the Council, Invest NI and DETI of the suitability of their proposals, taking into account all relevant planning, site conditions, accessibility, community and environmental issues.</p>
<p>2.5</p>	<p>Subject to approval from committee, it is hoped that the Brief will be ready for issue in October 2012, with a view to a preferred bidder being appointed (following evaluation of the submissions) before the end of the year. Details of all submissions received will be brought back to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee. Notification to the preferred bidder will however confirm that the offer is wholly conditional on a full assessment of the bid and an economic appraisal, to be carried out by DETI. In tandem, Invest NI will seek approval from their Board for the match funding element of the scheme. It is anticipated that the timescale for this process is likely to be around six months. The assessment by DETI will consider the economic viability of the project and assess whether there is any overlap in provision across government and other funded activity.</p>

2.6	<p>Subject to a satisfactory outcome of the funding process, the site layout for the actual development will then be agreed between Invest NI, the Council and the developer. Invest NI currently own the land but propose to dispose to the Council by way of long lease. The Council would enter into an Agreement for Lease and would be required pay a 10% non refundable deposit at this point. The Council, in turn, would enter into a simultaneous Development Agreement with the developer which would allow them to construct the building, with title to the land being granted to them on practical completion of the building. The work must be completed by mid-2015 in line with the timelines for the grant funding. This will be a condition of the agreement with the developer.</p>
2.7	<p>Preliminary discussions have already taken place between the Council and Invest NI in relation to the land acquisition but this will not complete until confirmation is received from Invest NI that the funding is to be made available for the whole scheme. The costs of the land (estimated to be in the order of £260,000) can count as part of the council's contribution to the scheme.</p>
2.8	<p>In recognition of the sensitivities of this site and the fact that it is located at an interface, it will be important for the project developer to take account of community issues. A Springfield Interface Working Group has been established and meets monthly at E3 and officers have presented at this and will continue to provide project updates, as appropriate. In addition, a number of individual community groups including Forthspring, Clonard Residents and Ainsworth residents have requested briefings on the proposals and these are being undertaken at present. It is also proposed that regular updates can be provided to the Community Safety Partnerships in West Belfast and Shankill, both during the project development phase and during implementation.</p>
2.9	<p>At the 24 April 2012 meeting of the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee, it was proposed that a Steering Group with Member representation could be involved in the Development Brief process and evaluation of bids (but with reports back to Committee). It is therefore proposed that the Chair of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and the Chair of the Development Committee (or nominees) are the political representatives on this group.</p>
2.10	<p>In terms of indicative financial requirements, it is impossible to provide a specific amount at this stage, in the absence of a project submission. However an indicative total project cost of around £8million has been referenced in the Investment Programme. Officers have engaged with the other potential funders of this scheme (Invest NI and DETI) and they have confirmed that they have taken account of these figures in their forward budgets.</p>

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Finance</u> Until the business case is complete, it is not possible to state with certainty the financial contribution required from council however, at this point it is estimated that £2 million of funding could be required.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Human Resources</u> Staff resource, primarily from Development, Property & Projects & Legal Services departments will be required.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Asset & Other Implications</u> The development of this site should lead to improved social, economic and regeneration benefits in the area.</p>

4	Equality & Good Relations Considerations
4.1	None at this time.

5	Recommendations
<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Note the update on progress as provided above. (ii) Approve the issuing of a Development Brief with reference to the criteria and process outlined. (iii) Approve the involvement of the Chairs of Development and Strategic Policy and Resources Committees (or their nominees) on the project steering group. 	

6	Decision Tracking
Report to Committee following receipt and evaluation of submissions received in response to Development Brief.	

7	Key to Abbreviations
ERDF European Regional Development Fund DETI Department for Enterprise Trade and Industry LED Local Economic Development measure	

8	Documents Attached
None	

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Publication of Committee Reports on the Internet.

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Local Investment Fund – Financial Governance Arrangements
Date:	21 September 2012
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects
Contact Officer:	Mark McBride, Head of Finance and Performance Donal Rogan, Head of Contracts

1.0	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members are aware that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee has approved a number of Local Investment Fund (LIF) projects. The purpose of this report is to recommend the financial governance arrangements to be put in place to support the payment of LIF project monies.
1.2	The proposed arrangements have been drawn up in a way that provides sufficient flexibility to meet the needs of individual projects and sponsor groups and at the same time exercising good stewardship of public money and ensuring value for money is delivered.

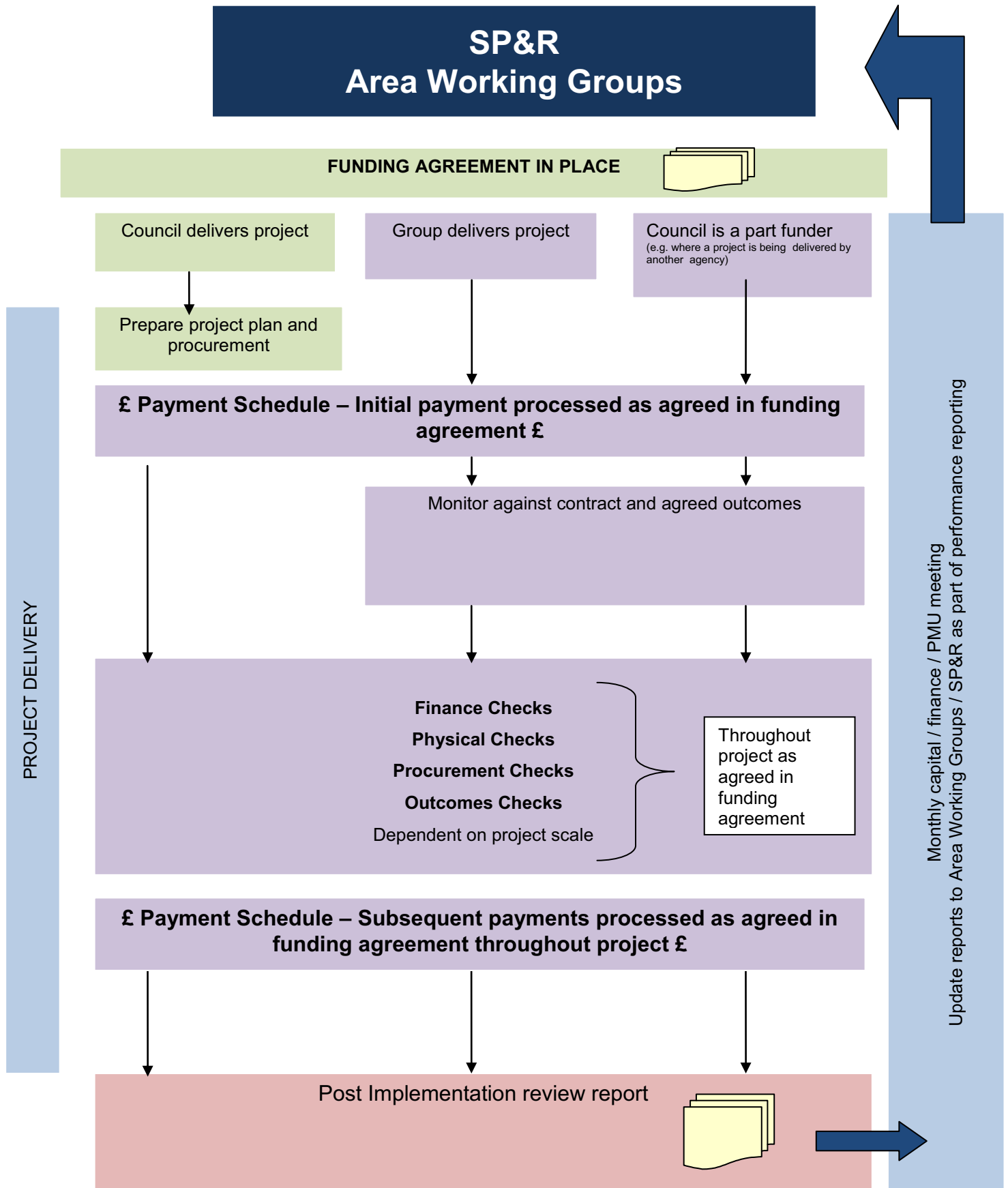
2.0	Key Issues
2.1	<p>The governance arrangements have been developed to support the three main ways that projects will be delivered. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Led and Delivered Projects: the Council will procure and project manage the delivery of the project, as if were its own project within the capital programme. • Fully / Partially Funded by the Council and Delivered by the Supported Group: The council will only provide financial support to the project and the Sponsor Group will have responsibility for delivery. • Council is a Funding Partner and Project is Led by another Funding Partner: The council will only provide financial support to the project and

	will rely on the control requirements exercised by the lead partner.
2.2	<p>The delivery option for each project will be considered on the basis of the following factors:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complexity of the project • Groups experience and capacity to undertake a capital project including:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scheme Design ○ Procurement / Tender Process ○ Project Management / Delivery ○ Quality assurance ○ Health and Safety • Opportunity to build capacity within supported group • Opportunity to promote community ownership and buy in to the project • Opportunity to enhance the council's leadership role • Level of flexibility required in delivery approach • Level of internal financial and technical resources required and available • Potential reputational damage of project failure • Extent of involvement of other partners
2.3	A flowchart of the LIF process from initial proposal through to final delivery is provided Appendix A.
2.4	In summary, for each project there will be a Funding Agreement in place which must be signed by the Council and the Sponsor Group before any money can be released. The Agreement will include a payment schedule, general terms and conditions, special terms and conditions, security of tenure, deed of covenant, and procurement requirements.
2.5	During the course of a project a number of physical, financial and procurement checks will be carried out by Council officers.

3.0	Resource Implications
3.1	The Local Investment Fund has a total budget of £5m.

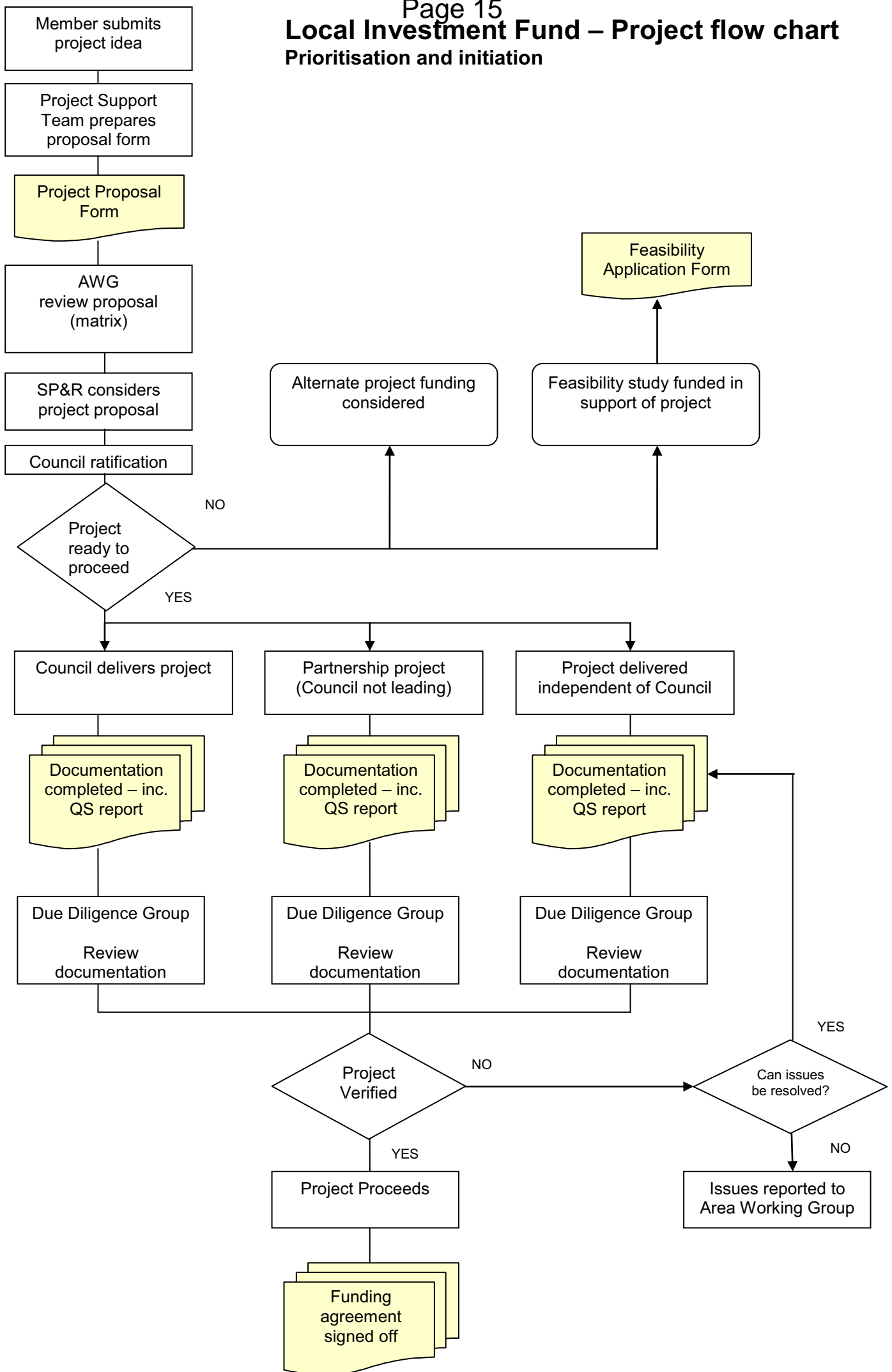
4.0	Recommendations
	Members are requested to agree to:
4.1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The categorisation of projects for delivery purposes as defined in paragraph 2.1. 2. The financial governance arrangements as outlined in paragraphs 2.3 – 2.5 and Appendix A.

Page 13
Local Investment Fund – Project flow chart Delivery (DRAFT)



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Page 15
Local Investment Fund – Project flow chart
 Prioritisation and initiation



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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources
Subject:	Feasibility Fund – Governance Arrangements
Date:	21 September 2012
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects
Contact Officer:	Mark McBride, Head of Finance and Performance Donal Rogan, Head of Contracts

1.0	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on the 22 June 2012, approved the ring fencing of £500k of the capital financing budget for 2012/13 to provide for a Feasibility Fund.
1.2	The Feasibility Fund was established to enable initial feasibility work to be undertaken on proposed projects to bring them to a point where members could decide if they should be progressed as Capital Schemes, Local Investment Fund (LIF) schemes or City Investment Fund (CIF) schemes.
1.3	The purpose of this report is to set out the governance arrangements which will support the management of the Feasibility Fund.

2.0	Key Issues
2.1	The Feasibility Fund is intended to be used to move projects to a stage where Members can make decisions regarding future financing. This work may involve the preparation of a Strategic Outline Case (SOC) up to, and including, the completion of an economic appraisal and a recommendation as to the preferred project option.
2.2	Any feasibility work undertaken, will be commissioned and procured by the Council through the Project Management Unit “Call Off” contracts.
2.3	Officers are currently working on the development of the policy framework for CIF. One element of this will be the allocation of feasibility funding for CIF projects.

<p>2.4</p> <p>2.5</p> <p>2.6</p>	<p>It is anticipated that once the CIF is fully operational, the main use of the feasibility fund will be to finance feasibility studies for CIF projects, however, in the interim period there is the opportunity to use the 2012/13 feasibility budget to progress feasibility work on a number of LIF proposals. Given the limited financial and technical resources available, it is recommended that the maximum number of LIF feasibility proposals which can be recommended by each Area Working Group should, at this stage, be limited to five proposals.</p> <p>Each Area Working Group is progressing through the Jon Huish workshops to create a vision and direction for their area which will assist Members in selecting projects that make a difference.</p> <p>In order to allocate funding and complete the studies within this financial year, it is recommended that Area Working Groups recommend proposed projects for LIF feasibility studies to the SP&R committee in November 2012.</p>
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<p>3.0</p> <p>3.1</p>	<p>Resource Implications</p> <p>The feasibility fund has a budget has a £500k for 2012/13.</p>
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<p>4.0</p> <p>4.1</p> <p>4.2</p>	<p>Recommendations</p> <p>That Members note the proposed governance arrangements for the Feasibility Fund.</p> <p>That Members request each Area Working Group to consider and recommend to the SP&R Committee in November 2012, a maximum of five LIF proposals per area which should proceed to feasibility study stage.</p>
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<p>5.0</p> <p>5.1</p>	<p>Decision Tracking</p> <p>The Director of Finance and Resources and Director Property and Projects will present the proposals from the Area Working Groups to SP&R Committee in November 2012.</p>
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<p>6.0</p>	<p>Key to Abbreviations</p> <p>LIF: Local Investment Fund CIF: City Investment Fund AWG: Area Working Groups</p>
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Belfast Party Leaders Forum, 7th June**Attendance**

W Humphrey, M Hendron, J Kyle, T Attwood

Apologies - J McVeigh, D Browne

J Huish (facilitator) - welcomed members new to PLF, provided background and context

On-going Role of PLF

- Crucial in giving joined up strategic leadership and developing longer term vision for City
- Develop into a strategic and co-ordinations function
- To provide guidance to policy development and process, including political engagement
- NOT decision making - need to protect the role and integrity of chairs of committees
- A role in lobbying, influencing, communicating and promoting the Council and City - need to link with ministers and partners in a co-ordinated way, with PGL's speaking for the Council
- An opportunity to engage informally around sensitive issues
- Needs to meet monthly, linked into work programme of SP&R, needs to be scheduled
- Want to engage with Chairs of Committees every 2nd / 3rd meeting
- Need to do away days as a group, also with chairs

Forward Work Programme

- Delivering on Investment Package
- Thinking through future governance arrangements - RPA / AWGs / Scrutiny / Planning / strategic partnerships / social partners forum (JH to bring forward paper)
- Developing a vision for Belfast
- Developing lobbying strategy
- AWGs - making them more strategic, build in other funds - dealing with capital programme

Member Development Update

- Now approaching 40 PDPs undertaken
- Generic needs - public speaking, media, time management, prioritising
- Knowledge Bite programme - specific briefings around hot topics prioritised by members - perhaps to reduce Party Briefing workload
- Want to promote opportunities for members to work informally across party and with officers - not a "newer" members forum - but an integrated approach to development - members academy - building in informal space
- Women's Steering Group strongly valued and upheld as a good example

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Belfast PLF Notes 2nd August 2012

Present

M Hendron, T Attwood, W Humphrey, J Kyle
Apologies J McVeigh, D Brown

Area Working Group Sessions

- 3 sessions to be held - understanding the area, place shaping and outcomes
- Ambition - to take a more strategic view and joined up view in each area over time, building in wider funding streams and partners
- Possible tensions - who makes decisions - primacy of SP&R, but need agreement on principle of not over-riding area based thinking
- Outcomes of AWGs to be shared with Party Leaders by email, then with Joint Party Leaders and Chairs Forum to ensure that all potential issues arising from the Area Working Groups are resolved before being considered by the SP&R Committee
- Other tensions - captured for further discussion - including linkage with existing strategies, partners, partnership boards etc.

PLF with Chairs

- Every second PLF to be with Chairs, facilitated by JH
- Should try and hold one in September, combined with dinner hosted by Lord Mayor and appropriate Officers

PLF Awayday

To be held at Malone House on 23rd August from 10am

For discussion -

- Role of PLF and wider governance issues, structures, RPA etc
- Members attending external seminars, conferences and meetings - who goes where, why - and feedback process to ensure that learning is brought back
- Longer term vision & values - starting the discussion, involving others
- AWG - update
- PLF - lobbying and promotion strategy
- Leisure Estates
- Investment Package
- Future timetable

Member Development

- PDP & Belfast Members Academy process will be considered by the Member Development Steering Group shortly
- No new members forum - but action learning set ok

AOB

- Suspension of standing orders - should not remove authority of Chair/Mayor - rather, should be specific
- Discussion around nature and processes relating to notices of motion

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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, 21st September, 2012
Reporting Officer:	Mr. Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (Ext. 6314)
Contact Officer:	Mr. Gareth Quinn, Senior Democratic Services Officer (Ext. 6316)

1.	Relevant Background Information
1.1	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.
2.	Key Issues
2.1	The revised criteria have been applied to each of the requests contained within the appendix and recommendations have been made to the Committee on this basis.
3.	Resource Implications
3.1	Provision has been made in the revenue estimates for hospitality.
4.	Equality Implications
4.1	N/A
5.	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is asked to approve the recommendations as set out in the Appendix.

6.	Decision Tracking
Officer responsible – Gareth Quinn	
7.	Key to Abbreviations
Not applicable.	
8.	Documents Attached
Appendix 1 – Schedule of Applications	

Appendix 1

Organisation/ Body	Event/Date - Number of Delegates/Guests	Request	Comments	Recommendation
Forthriver Bowling and Tennis Club	Centenary Dinner 11th October, 2013 Approximately 200 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 100th Anniversary of Forthriver Bowling and Tennis Club 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 and 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 £500
Sixth Belfast Scout Group	Centenary Celebration Event 20th November, 2012 Approximately 400 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits	This event seeks to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Sixth Belfast Scout Group 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 and together' and 'Better support for people and communities' and in addition would contribute to the Council's thematic area of Children and Young People.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits Approximate cost of £1,000
Falls Youth Providers	Falls Youth Awards 15th October, 2013 Approximately 150 attending	The use of the City Hall	This event aims to highlight the achievements of young people in the city and to promote the talent which exists among the award recipients. Awards will be presented to recognise success in areas such as education, sport, training, citizenship, leadership, participation and arts and culture. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City leadership, strong, fair and together' and 'Better support for people and communities' and in addition would contribute	The use of the City Hall

			to the Council's thematic area of Children and Young People.	
Polish Educational and Cultural Association	Polish Independence Day 18th November, 2012 Approximately 100 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits	This event will aim to highlight the positive contribution that the Polish community, the largest ethnic minority in Belfast, has made to the shared future of the city. The event seeks to showcase the Polish culture to representatives from different communities and the province and will provide an opportunity for meaningful dialogue between members of the different communities. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City leadership, strong, fair and 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 of £250
Malaysian Students Society Northern Ireland	Malaysian Night 2013 16th March, 2013 Approximately 400 attending	The use of the City Hall	Malaysian Night 2013 is the climax event of a week long programme called Malaysia and You 2013. This programme consists of a series of events which includes a mini charity carnival, sports tournament, interactive bazaar and ends with a formal dinner which the organisers wish to take place in the City Hall. The aim of the programme is to promote cultural diversity, encourage charity activity and also to forge closer relationships between Malaysians and the citizens of Belfast. This event would contribute to the Council's key themes 'City Leadership - strong, fair, together' and of 'Better support for people and communities'.	The use of the City Hall
Chartered Institute of Management Accountants	Chartered Institute of Management Accountants Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony 1st June, 2013 Approximately 220	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-dinner drinks reception	This event will acknowledge those CIMA members who have made a significant contribution to their profession and to the success of Belfast. The event will also seek to recognise those who have	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of red/white wine and soft drinks Approximate cost

	attending		<p>contributed to the professional development of individuals throughout the City.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's key theme of 'City Leadership – strong, fair, together', 'Better opportunities for success across the city' and 'Better services – listening and delivering'.</p>	£500
University of Ulster	<p>Community Planning – Collaborative Leadership – People and Place</p> <p>2nd November, 2012</p> <p>Approximately 100 attending</p>	The use of the City Hall	<p>This event aims to provide the opportunity for a wide cross section of the community to come together and to learn about the approach taken by city council and others in bringing all the key players together in an inclusive way. Themes will be explored such as: how to deliver innovation in service delivery and in tackling complex issues through empowering and engaging all sections of society.</p> <p>The event also seeks to consider the importance of engaging a wide section of the community in place based leadership and of providing opportunities for the community to build capacity and to participate fully in community planning through education and confidence building.</p> <p>Belfast City Council will play a key role in this event and will be asked to contribute to the event by outlining to guests the work undertaken by the council to be able to effectively deliver community planning.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's key theme of 'City Leadership – strong, fair, together' and 'Better opportunities for success across the city'.</p>	The use of the City Hall
East Belfast Explorer Scouts	<p>Explorer Scout Debate</p> <p>23rd January, 2012</p>	Use of the Council Chamber	<p>This event will seek to give young people an opportunity to debate relevant current issues thereby enhancing their</p>	Use of the Council Chamber

	Approximately 60 attending		<p>communication skills and learning new skills such as negotiation and influencing through healthy discussion and effective dialogue.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City leadership, strong, fair and together' and 'Better support for people and communities' and in addition would contribute to the Council's thematic area of Children and Young People.</p>	
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Member Development Steering Group**Wednesday, 29th August, 2012****MEETING OF MEMBER DEVELOPMENT STEERING GROUP**

Members present: Councillor Hendron (Chairman);
Alderman Rodgers; and
Councillors Convery and McCabe.

In attendance: Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager;
Mrs. K. Russell, Human Resources and
Organisational Development Manager;
Mr. G. Quinn, Senior Democratic Services Officer; and
Mrs. J. Lilley, Democratic Services Officer.

Apology

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Hussey and Kyle.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 29th February were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Members' Personal Development Planning Process

The Democratic Services Manager reminded the Steering Group that, at its meeting on 29th February, it had agreed, in order to take account of best practice approaches to personal development planning in other local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales, to adopt a revised Members' PDP process in line with the Council's approach to the Member Development Charter.

He advised the Members that, to date, 37 Members had completed a self assessment of their skills and had participated in a structured PDP interview with the external facilitator commissioned to deliver the revised PDP process.

The Democratic Services Manager explained that, in addition to the identification of individual development needs, the PDP process had also served to highlight a range of generic needs which would be incorporated into a Member Training and Development Programme.

He then detailed some of the topics which had been identified through the PDP process, including:-

- RPA
- Planning – understanding the new framework
- Striking the rate
- Understanding the structures of government in Northern Ireland
- The Council – making it relevant to citizens
- Understanding Council finances
- The economy and funding streams
- Community engagement and communication
- Social housing strategies
- Use of social media

The Democratic Services Manager advised the Members that a range of approaches to learning and development would be adopted to accommodate preferred learning styles and to ensure that developmental activities were fit for purpose and maximised the benefits to be gained by Members. The proposed activities included:-

- Network discussions
- Best Practice Visits and Conferences
- Informal events with key stakeholders
- Coaching, mentoring and one to one sessions

The Senior Democratic Services Officer explained to the Group that, in addition to these activities, it was proposed to deliver a bespoke programme to be known as the 'Belfast Members' Academy' which has been specifically designed to build the capacity of the city's current and future leaders. While the initial focus of the programme would concentrate on the capacity of newer Members, it was explained that any Member who so wished would be able to participate on the programme which would be revised to take account of Members views and feedback as it was rolled out. He reiterated the importance of ensuring that Member development was viewed as an integral part of organisational development and, as such, was designed to complement officer development programmes.

After discussion, the Steering Group agreed that those areas identified through the revised PDP process, including the roll out of the Belfast Members Academy, would

be incorporated into an overall Members' Training and Development Programme which would be delivered in advance of the next PDP process commencing during Spring 2013.

Member Development Evaluation Framework

The Organisational Development Manager advised the Steering Group that, following the Council being awarded the Northern Ireland Charter for Elected Member Development, the South East Employers Organisation (SEE) had made a series of recommendations in relation to those areas which the Council would need to focus and improve upon in order to gain 'Charter Plus' status, which was the next level in the Charter accreditation scheme.

She explained that the Council's evaluation mechanisms for Member development had been one area which had been identified for improvement and that SEE had recommended that, in order to improve organisational performance and make an impact at community level, Member development activity should be subject to a robust evaluation process.

The Organisational Development Manager advised Members that Democratic Services and Corporate Human Resources were continuing to develop such an evaluation framework which would be based on the Kirkpatrick model, which was being utilised across the local government sector.

After discussion, the Steering Group agreed that work should continue on the development of an appropriate and robust evaluation framework for Member development and that it be submitted for the Steering Group's consideration prior to implementation.

Advanced Diploma in Civic Leadership and Community Planning

The Democratic Services Officer advised the Steering Group that, currently, two Members of the Council, along with a number of Elected Members from other Councils, were undertaking the Advanced Diploma in Civic Leadership and Community Planning at the University of Ulster, Jordanstown. She reminded Members that the Steering Group had agreed, prior to the diploma being offered to Members for enrolment during October, 2013, that it should be evaluated to ascertain its overall benefits and value for money.

She pointed out that those Members participating in the current programme had provided their views on a number of aspects including content, relevance and the benefits to be derived to the individual and to the Council.

She reported that the general outcome of the evaluation had been very positive and that the diploma had been endorsed by the Members who had attended.

In response to a query from a Member, the Senior Democratic Services Officer advised the Steering Group that a policy was being developed currently which would set out a series of guidelines and the assistance which would be available for Members wishing to undertake accredited study.

Following discussion, the Steering Group agreed that the Advanced Diploma in Civic Leadership and Community Planning should be offered to those Members who had included in their PDP a desire to undertake accredited study relevant to community planning and leadership.

Chairman



Belfast City Council

Report to: Strategic Policy & Resources Committee

Subject: Change of Date of Meeting

Date: 21 September 2012

Reporting Officer: Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager, ext 6314

Contact Officer: Mr Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer, ext 6313

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members will be aware that Standing Order 1 requires the monthly Council meeting to be held on the first day of each month except on a Bank Holiday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday.
1.2	This would mean that the first Council meeting of the next calendar year would be scheduled to be held on Wednesday, 2nd January, 2013 at 6.00pm.

2	Key Issues
2.1	In previous years this date has been considered to be within the festive or holiday period and Members have suggested it might be more appropriate to hold the meeting later in the month.
2.2	It is therefore proposed that the Council meeting be rescheduled for Monday, 7th January, 2013 at 6.00pm.
2.3	In order to keep clear the Committee schedule for the first week in January, any meetings normally scheduled for that week will be rescheduled as appropriate.

3	Resource Implications
	N/A

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	N/A

5	Recommendations
5.1	It is recommended that the first Council meeting in 2013 be rescheduled to Monday, 7th January at 6.00pm.

6	Decision Tracking
Stephen McCrory October, 2012.	

7	Key to Abbreviations
N/A	

**Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel Meeting
12 September 2012**

1. Attendance

Members:

Cllr Tim Attwood
Alderman David Browne
Cllr Deirdre Hargey (Chair)
Cllr Jim McVeigh
Cllr Lee Reynolds

Officers:

Peter McNaney, Chief Executive
Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources
Gerry Miller, Director of Property and Projects
Mark McBride, Head of Finance and Performance

External:

Brian Ambrose, Belfast City Airport (For item 2 only)
Katie Best, Belfast City Airport For item 2 only)

2. George Best Belfast City Airport

Mr Brian Ambrose and Mrs Katie Best, George Best Belfast City Airport attended the meeting for this item and presented a summary of the current business activity at the airport and the airport's role in contributing to the local economy through tourism and business development and in particular the airports aim of attracting new European business routes to Belfast.

Mr Ambrose also outlined the airports community outreach projects including work with charities, schools and providing apprenticeship opportunities for 16-24 year olds. He also highlighted the action being undertaken to expand these initiatives across the Belfast area.

3. Feasibility Fund – Governance Arrangements

The Director of Finance and Resources presented a report on the proposed governance arrangements for the Feasibility Fund which had been established by SP&R with a budget of £500k for 2012/13.

It was noted that in future years the fund would mainly be used to support feasibility work on proposals for major scheme proposals under the City Investment Fund (CIF), this would enable work to be taken to a stage where members could make a decision regarding future capital expenditure on proposed CIF projects.

As the major focus of Members and Area Working Groups in 2012/13 had been on establishing the Local Investment Fund (LIF), there was the opportunity to use the 2012/13 feasibility budget to progress work on a number of LIF proposals, until such times as the CIF policy and emerging CIF projects are established.

Given that the 2012/13 feasibility budget was limited to £500k, it was agreed that SP&R should ask Area Working Groups (AWG) to consider recommending up to 5 projects per area for feasibility work. This work will be supported by the feasibility fund and when completed will enable the working groups consider the proposals further.

4. Local Investment Fund – Governance Arrangements

The Director of Property and Projects provided an overview of the delivery options for LIF projects and the key factors which would be considered in deciding on the delivery action and the supporting governance arrangements which would be put in place to ensure value for money and stewardship of public funds in the funding of projects.

It was agreed that the flowcharts describing the delivery options and the governance arrangements should be presented to SP&R for approval at the meeting on the 21 September 2012.

5. Urban Broadband

The Director of Finance and Resources distributed a Executive Summary of the Council's Super-connected Cities programme application for the Urban Broadband Fund. He advised that the planned announcement on successful applications which was due on Friday the 14 September had been delayed due to the cabinet reshuffle. He confirmed that the communications plan was in place and would be implemented should the application be successful. A further update would be provided to SP&R on the 21 September.

6. Freedom of the City

The Chief Executive referred to his correspondence to Councillor McCarthy regarding the Council's policy on awarding the Freedom of the City and the response from other Party Groups. It was noted that a further report to Committee would be made shortly.

7. Date of Next Meeting

To be confirmed



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Use of iPads
Date:	21 September, 2012
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance & Resources
Contact Officer:	Paul Gribben, Head of ISB Gareth Quinn, Senior Democratic Services Officer

1.0	Relevant Background Information
1.1	In June 2012 the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee agreed that a business case should be brought back regarding the use of iPads by Members. This report demonstrates both the efficiencies that can be achieved through the use of iPads by Members and the opportunities they provide for alternative forms of citizen engagement. This paper also considers the implementation issues associated with an iPad roll out drawing on the experience of local authorities where iPads have already been introduced.
2.0	Key Issues
2.1	The table below summarises the costs and savings relating to the introduction of iPads over a three year period. From the table below it can be seen that the net savings over a three year period would be £178,300.
2.2	<p>Costs</p> <p>The initial cost of purchasing 64 iPads (32GB and suitable suite of software as detailed in Appendix 1 will be £32,300. A recurring monthly charge of £12.77 will be incurred per device for the 3G connection which will provide 3GB of data per month equalling a further cost of £9,800 per year.</p>
2.3	<p>Savings</p> <p>Internal Printing –the Council spends approximately £36,000 annually on printing Committee Books and Council Minutes. If Members decide to use the iPad to access these documents then savings in printing materials would amount to £30,000. This would allow for a small number of Committee Books and Council Minutes books still to be printed.</p>
2.4	External Printing - the reduction in time spent by Reprographics printing these internal documents would enable print jobs currently being done externally to be

handled internally by Reprographics. Taking into account the materials and resources required for these jobs it is calculated that up to £50,000 could be saved annually.

Costs and Savings for use iPads				
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
	£	£	£	£
Costs				
Procurement of iPads	32,300	0	0	32,300
Running Costs	9,800	9,800	9,800	29,400
Total Cost	42,100	9,800	9,800	61,700
Savings				
Internal Printing	30,000	30,000	30,000	90,000
External Printing	50,000	50,000	50,000	150,000
Total Savings	80,000	80,000	80,000	240,000
Net Savings	37,900	70,200	70,200	178,300

Additional Benefits

2.5 In addition to the financial savings there are also benefits in terms of improved communication through the use of mobile emailing, video calls, social networking and instant access to online information, such as websites and electronic documents.

2.6 One of the key benefits outlined by councils that have already implemented iPads is the opportunity for Members to engage more effectively with citizens. It is proposed that the Council trials a new application called "My Council Services" as part of the iPad roll out, if agreed.

Implementation Issues

Training and support for members

2.7 Should the provision of iPads be agreed, it is important that members receive the necessary training and support in order to get the most out of the technology. Based on feedback from other councils who have embarked upon similar

	<p>initiatives it appears that a range of training and support mechanisms work best. ISB and Democratic Services will put together a training and support programme for members which will aim to cater for both new and existing users of mobile technology as well as cater for the varying time commitment of members.</p>
2.8	<p>It is proposed that a demo of the iPad will be provided for all Members in early October to allow individuals to make an informed choice as to whether they want to avail of the new technology or not.</p> <p>Robustness and reliability of technology</p>
2.9	<p>It is important that Members are confident in the technology. Measures have been put in place to help ensure the consistent delivery of the technology including access to an enhanced internal secure wireless network within the City Hall. If Members agree to the use of iPads for Committee and Council meetings, it is proposed that a dual system of paper and iPads is introduced in November and is used up until the end of March 2013. This will allow sufficient time to ensure that all potential risks have been identified and solutions are fully tested.</p> <p>Terms of Use</p>
2.10	<p>It is important to note that iPad users will be required to sign a 'Terms of Use' document before they receive the iPad. See Appendix 2.</p>
3.0	Resource Implications
3.1	<p>The provision of iPads and the associated software as outlined will result in a potential overall average saving of £178,300 over a three year period.</p>

4.0	Recommendations
	<p>Members are requested to agree:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to the provision of iPads and associated software to Members. 2. to the 'Terms of Use' for the allocation of iPads – (see Appendix 2) 3. that ISB schedule a program of procurement, training and distribution of iPads to Members in October and provide a demo of the technology in early October. 4. to provide a dual system of paper reports and iPads running from November 2012 to the end of March 2013.

5.0	Documents Attached
5.1	Appendix 1 – Suite of software
5.2	Appendix 2 – Terms of use

Suite of software**PDF Reader - Adobe Reader**

Allows the user to open PDF files from emails or websites, search through the PDF Document, use bookmarks, copy and paste text from the document and can connect wirelessly to a printer.

Cost - Free

Access to Network File Shares - File Explorer

Allows access to files stored on their PC over VPN. Also allows users to access files stored online in their Cloud Storage account (SkyDrive)

Cost - £2.99

Device Locator - Find iPhone

Stores the current location of an iPad which is periodically securely updated so that if the device is ever lost or stolen, its current whereabouts can be discovered.

Cost – Free

Remotely connect to Desktop – iRDP

Lets the user connect to a work PC remotely to view and control what is on the screen

Cost - Free

Presentation App – Keynote

Provides similar functionality to the PowerPoint programme you would use on your PC and allows the user to create and edit presentations

Cost - £6.99

Council Minutes - Mod.Gov

This app lets the user view and annotate Council minutes, agenda and reports

Cost - Free

Council Services - My Council Services

This app allows the user to input data relating to constituency work they may carry out, such as reporting on visits, requesting follow up by an officer, etc.

Cost - Free

Spreadsheet App - Numbers

Provides similar functionality to the Excel programme you would use on your PC and allows the user to create and edit spreadsheets

Cost - £6.99

Word Processor App - Pages

Provides similar functionality to the Word programme you would use on your PC and allows the user to create and edit text documents

Cost - £6.99

BCC VPN Credentials - VPN

Provides access to the Council network allowing access to files stored on the Council's servers or the "My Documents" folder of the user's PC

Cost - Free

Cloud based storage - SkyDrive

File storage and sharing service that allows you to store, organise, and share your files and photos online for free. SkyDrive can be accessed externally to the iPad on any PC or Macintosh connected to the internet.

Cost – Up to 7Gb Free (Members can extend the amount of storage through their personal account. For example £6.00 per year for 27Gb)

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Belfast City Council
Provision of iPad Equipment
Terms of Use

The purpose of this paper is to set out the terms of use for Apple iPad equipment provided to Belfast City Council members. This agreement is complementary to the Councils Computer Use Policy.

1. Objective

The iPad Device is provided by the Council to assist members in undertaking their role more effectively. The flexibility, usability and portability of the iPad is the main advantage of this device over more traditional IT equipment such as laptops and PCs. The iPad can be used for routine tasks such as sending and receiving emails and browsing the web, however the main benefits to a councillor will be to have online access to the council Minutes system wherever you are and to engage more effectively with their constituents

Access to the Modern Gov system via the iPad app will assist you in your constituency work as a Councillor as well as helping to keep you fully informed so that you can utilise effectively the decision making process. Councillors will have remote access to Committee minutes, reports and decisions using wireless or 3g mobile internet access.

2. Computer Ownership

At all times the iPad remains the property of Belfast City Council however it has been loaned to you for lawful business use. This device should be used solely by the individual to whom it has been allocated. The terms of this agreement will be invalidated if the device is passed on to or used by another individual on a regular basis.

The iPad can be used for reasonable personal use by the councillor to whom it has been allocated. This includes the personal use of official Apps, social media and web browsing.

If you cease to be a member of Belfast City Council, this equipment and all other IT equipment must be returned to the Council. The IT Section will contact you to arrange the return of all equipment. In keeping with current policy the councillor will be offered the opportunity to purchase the equipment for the market price at that point in time.

All IT equipment will be asset tagged and details of the device will be included on the Council's IT inventory system.

3. Equipment Provided

Each councillor will receive one Apple iPad with computer cable and charger.

4. Applications Supported

Apple iPad, iPhone and iPod touch devices use software applications commonly known as 'apps'. Apple provides an online marketplace to purchase apps for many different purposes. Apps are generally simpler and cheaper than the software purchased for PCs and laptops and are focused on one or two tasks rather than complex software packages which try to answer many requirements. The iPad will come with standard apps preinstalled and preconfigured. These include but are not limited to:

App	Description
Adobe Reader	PDF reader
Book Creator	iPad multimedia
File Explorer	Access to network file shares
Find iPhone	Device locator
iRDP	Connect to desktop remotely
Mod.Gov	Council Minutes
Pages	Word for iPad
Numbers	Excel for iPad
Keynote	PowerPoint for iPad
VPN	BCC VPN credentials

Support for these apps will be available during normal office hours via the ISB Servicedesk.

5. Use of iPads for Personal Purposes

The iPad is provided for lawful business purposes only and is for your sole use in your role as a Councillor. Adherence to the Councils Computer Use Policy is mandatory prior to using the iPad device. The Computer Use Policy applies to all Council employees and members.

All preinstalled software on the iPad will be paid for via a corporate App store account. At times the Council may wish to install additional apps to all Councillor iPads for Council business. In this case the council will pay for the apps using the corporate App Store Account and either arrange installation remotely or with Councillors on an individual basis.

In addition Councillors may install their own apps to assist in their duties however to do so requires the creation of a personal App Store account, to enable the purchase, download and installation of the apps. Many apps are free but if there is a cost associated with a chosen app then it is the responsibility of the Councillor to pay for any App in addition to those outlined above via their own App store account.

No software should be installed that is used to contravene the Computer Use policy.

If you cease to be a member of Belfast City Council all apps will be removed from the iPad when it is returned to the Council but rights to use the app will remain in place

with the App Store account that was used for the original purchase and as such can be used with a different personal iPad device.

In addition, members will be provided with 7GB of online storage space where they can save documents, presentations, PDFs, pictures, etc. Should the member require more storage this will have to be purchased personally through the members personal account.

6. Internet Connectivity

The iPad will be set up with access to the council's wireless network within the City Hall.

For access outside the City Hall the iPad can connect to other wireless networks and in addition the iPad is fitted with a Vodafone data SIM card which will provide access to the internet using the Vodafone mobile data network. The download limit is 3GB per month which has been assessed as being more than suitable to realise all the remote benefits associated with the iPad. Should members use more than 3GB allowance, additional costs will be recovered in the same way we recover additional charges for mobile phones.

7. Installation of Additional peripherals

You may purchase your own peripherals for use with the iPad. It is not necessary to inform ICT of any peripherals that you intend to use but ISB will not provide support for additional external devices used with this device. The iPad will come with a suitable case.

8. Support

Technical help and support will be provided in house by ISB. The ISB Servicedesk can be contacted on 028 9027 0717 or ext 4444. Support is provided during normal office hours, Monday to Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm.

9. Loss of device or accidental damage

The iPad device is provided by the Council under a similar arrangement to pc's and laptops. Any incidents of theft or damage should be reported immediately to the ISB Servicedesk and/or to a senior member of staff within the Democratic Services section. Should the device be lost or stolen the ICT department will remotely wipe all information from the device.

In line with the computer use policy, the following safety precautions should be adhered to

- When in transit, iPads must be carried in the locked boot of your vehicle.
- iPads should not be left unattended in a vehicle and iPads must not be left in vehicles overnight.
- If left overnight in Council offices, iPads must be kept in a secure place, for example, in a locked drawer, cupboard or safe with the keys taken away from the office or removed to a secure place.

10. Training

Prior to the issue of the equipment, all Councillors must undergo a formal training session. Training will be customised to individual needs.

Equipment will not be issued unless training has been completed and the declaration below signed.

11. Physical Security of iPads

Each iPad device will be issued with a standard PIN code and it is the responsibility of individual Members to reset the PIN code on the device and to ensure that it is continually protected with said pin code. PIN codes should be held securely and not disclosed to other individuals.

12. Data Security

Whilst the equipment will remain the property of the Council, the Council will not accept responsibility for any data that is stored on the equipment. Sections 4/5 clearly highlight that the equipment should be used for lawful business purposes. In the event of any inappropriate data being identified on the device, this will be referred to the Head of ISB who, having considered the matter and taken appropriate advices, will decide on the most appropriate course of action.

Declaration

I, Alderman/Councillor _____
(Block Capitals) hereby declare that I have read, fully understand and accept this agreement for the provision of I.T. equipment and I understand that by accepting the iPad I will no longer receive a printed copy of the report packs, Minute book or remembrancer.

Signed, _____ Date: _____



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Standing Order 55 – Employment of Relatives
Date:	21 September 2012
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, (Director of Finance and Resources, ext 6083)
Contact Officer:	Jill Minne, Head of Human Resources, ext 3220

Relevant Background Information

To inform the Committee of delegated authority exercised by the Director of Finance and Resources to the employment of individuals who are related to existing officers of the Council.

The Director of Finance and Resources has authorised the appointment of the following individuals who are related to existing officers of the Council in accordance with the authority delegated to him by the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee on 27 June 2005. The Committee is asked to note the appointments are authorised by the Director under Standing Order 55.

NAME OF NEW EMPLOYEE	POST APPOINTED TO	RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING OFFICER	NAME OF EXISTING OFFICER	DEPARTMENT
Andrea Patton	Adventure Playground Attend. (Temp, P/T)	Daughter	Rose Patton	Parks & Leisure
Bronagh Mahon	Casual Adventure Playground Attendant	Daughter Niece	Moya Mahon Sharon Steele	Parks & Leisure Chief Exec's
Daniel Mills	Casual Adventure Playground Attendant	Son Brother	Annette Mills Lisa McMorris	Parks & Leisure Parks & Leisure
Martin McAleer	Community Centre Supervisor	Brother-in-law	Conor Wills	Finance & Resources

Resource Implications

Financial

Provision for these posts exists within the revenue budgets of the relevant departments.

Human Resources

There are no Human Resource considerations. All appointments have been made on the basis of merit in accordance with the Council's Recruitment Policies.

Asset and Other Implications

There are no other implications.

Recommendations

Committee is asked to note the appointments authorised by the Director of Finance and Resources in accordance with Standing Order 55.

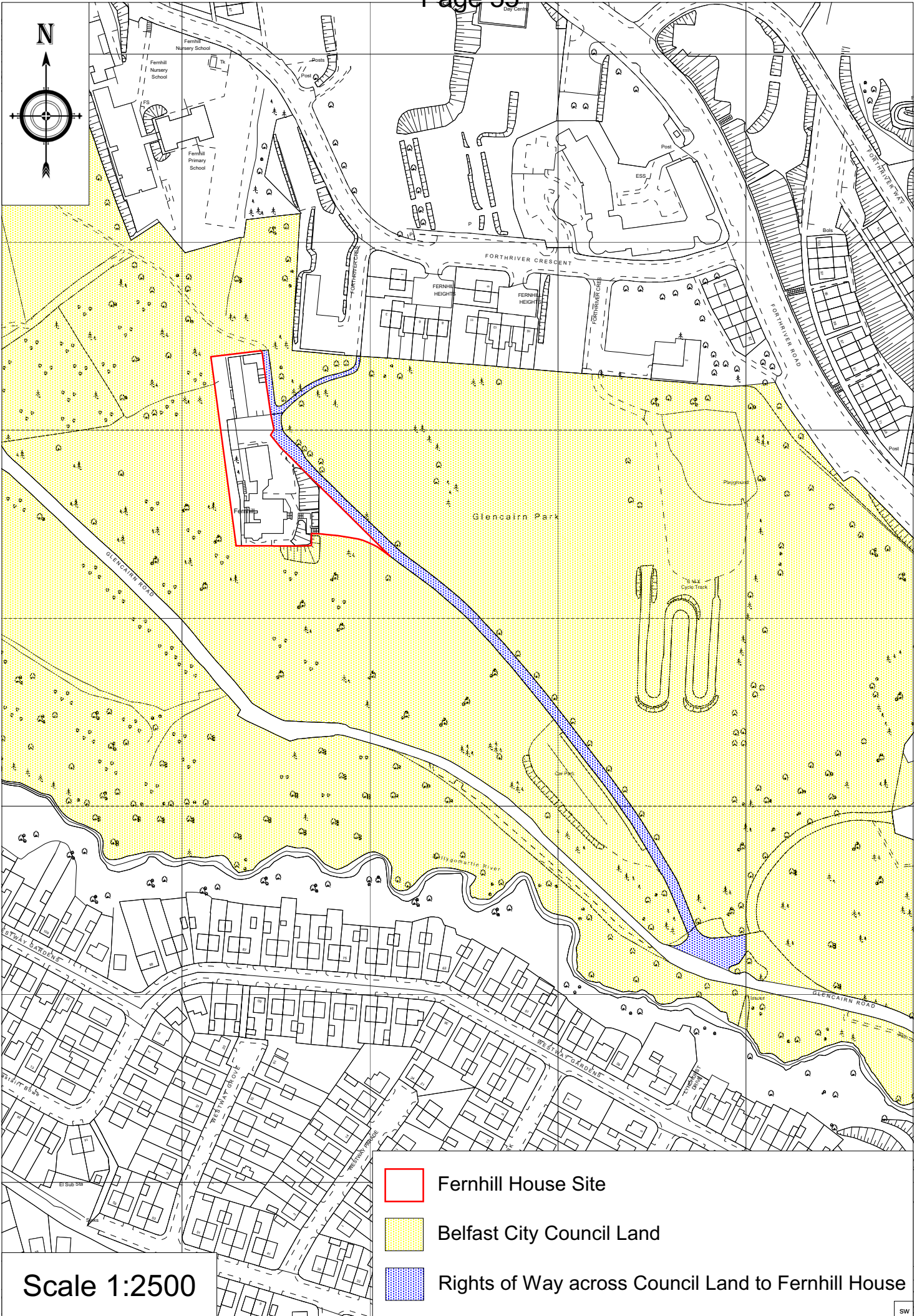
Key to Abbreviations

Documents Attached

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Publication of Committee Reports on the Internet.

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McConnell Lock
(disused)

Nursery
School

St John Veneray
Youth Centre

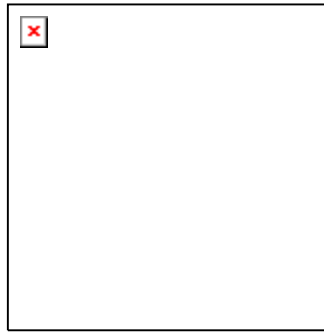
Playing Field
(All Weather)

Shaftesbury
Recreation
Centre

Bols

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Flood Alleviation at Orangefield Park: Contractor's licence
Date:	21 September 2012
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects, ext 3526
Contact Officer:	Celine Dunlop, Property & Projects, ext 3526

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members will be aware that the delivery of the Connswater Community Greenway (CCG) and Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) is a key project within the Investment Programme. The CCG/FAS involves the creation of a 16km walkway along the Knock, Loop and Connswater Rivers and incorporates extensive flood alleviation works. Funding of the scheme is provided by the Big Lottery, Belfast City Council, DSD and the Rivers Agency.
1.2	Residents of Orangefield Park, a street which runs adjacent to the Park at Orangefield, have been badly affected by flooding on a number of occasions over the past five to six years and were once again badly affected during the heavy rain of Wednesday 27 th June 2012.
1.3	The flood alleviation works planned for the Knock River at Orangefield Park as part of the CCG/FAS scheme will greatly reduce the risk of flooding to the houses in the vicinity of the Park. Members will be aware that the previous contract for the delivery of the CCG/ FAS project was mutually terminated earlier this year and that new contracts will be let for completion of the scheme in due course.
1.4	In advance of the main scheme and in recognition of the ongoing risk of flooding in the vicinity, Rivers Agency and the Council have agreed to carry out urgent interim flood alleviation work at Orangefield Park and adjoining land recently purchased by the Council for the CCG/FAS from BELB.
1.5	Rivers Agency have appointed White Mountain Quarries Ltd to:

1.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct a new culvert at Orangefield Lane to supplement the capacity of the existing culvert • Construct a flood storage area at the upstream extent of Orangefield Park on lands previously owned by BELB and recently acquired by the Council for the CCG. <p>White Mountain Quarries Ltd are required to enter into a licence agreement with the Council to regulate their occupation of the Council owned land shown shaded yellow on the plan attached at Appendix '1'. The licence will, among other things, ensure appropriate reinstatement, site security, protection of adjoining council land and deal with insurance issues.</p>
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2	Key Issues
2.1	White Mountain Quarries Limited require a licence to use Council land at Orangefield Park and adjoining ex-BELB land to carry out flood alleviation works as agreed by the Council and Rivers Agency.
2.2	The licence will be for a three week period and week to week thereafter until the work is complete.
2.3	The Parks and Leisure Committee at its meeting on the 9 th August authorised the Director of Parks and Leisure to undertake in conjunction with the Rivers Agency, interim flood alleviation works within Orangefield Park.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p>Financial No outgoings by Council.</p>
3.2	<p>Human Resources Resource from Property & Projects and Legal Services is required to draw up an appropriate licence agreement and monitor compliance.</p>
3.3	<p>Asset and Other Implications Temporary use only to be governed by a legal agreement to ensure no lasting detriment to the asset.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	None

5	Recommendations
5.1	Committee is recommended to approve the granting of a licence agreement at a fee of 5p if demanded to White Mountain Quarries Limited for the land shown shaded yellow on the plan attached at Appendix '1'.

6	Decision Tracking
6.1	To be completed by Celine Dunlop and Colin Campbell by 30 September 2012.

7	Key to Abbreviations
7.1	CCG: Connswater Community Greenway FAS: Flood Alleviation Scheme BELB: Belfast Education and Library Board

8	Documents Attached
8.1	Plan at Appendix '1'.

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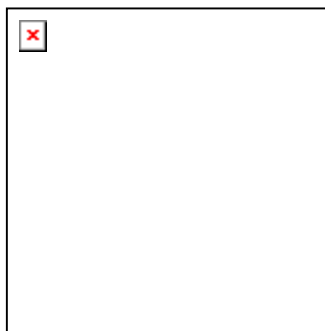


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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Disposal of Land at Glen Road to Oaklee Housing Association
Date:	21 September 2012
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects, ext 6217
Contact Officer:	Cathy Reynolds, Estates Manager, ext 3493

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	At its meeting of 20 April 2005 the Development Committee agreed in principle to the proposed disposal of former traveller lands, including land at Glen Road (adjoining Glen Road Heights) to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) for development of social housing subject to agreement on valuation. Committee were also asked to note that the NIHE current methodology for site acquisition involves appointing Housing Associations.
1.2	At a subsequent meeting of 16 th November 2005 the Development Committee were advised that the NIHE had instructed the Valuation & Lands Office (now Land & Property Services – LPS) to enter into discussions to acquire Council's Glen Road site which extends to approximately 8.5 acres (including the Glen Road Heights approach road) Appendix 1 – location map.
1.3	NIHE subsequently nominated Oaklee & Fold Housing Associations jointly to progress development proposals and acquire the Council's land. At their meeting of 21 st September 2007 the Development Committee were advised of Oaklee/Fold Housing Associations comprehensive development proposal for a major housing development for the Glen Road on a much larger site of approximately 30 acres which included NIHE land and land in private ownership that adjoins Council's land.
1.4	Following formal presentation of development plans a planning consultant was appointed in June 2008 to advise Council on the implications of the Oaklee/Fold proposals for a comprehensive scheme in terms of impact on the development potential for the Council's land. LPS were also formally

<p>1.5</p> <p>1.6</p>	<p>requested to provide valuations of Council's land both as part of the larger comprehensive scheme including other land and also in the event of Council's land being developed independently.</p> <p>Despite prolonged negotiations with Oaklee/Fold's independent valuer (BTW Shiells) to progress on the basis of a comprehensive acquisition of all three landholdings no agreement could be reached on the relative split of site values and the private landowner also did not want to progress on the basis of the proposed scheme. Under dBMAP proposals it had been considered that a comprehensive approach was the sole means of providing any social housing at this location – hence the need to progress land assembly under a similar comprehensive approach.</p> <p>Through discussion with Planning Service the Estates Management Unit have been able to confirm that appropriate phased development, eventually delivering the comprehensive development envisaged under dBMAP, would be acceptable in planning terms. This approach effectively permits Council to progress a disposal to Oaklee/Fold of its landholding in isolation from the other landowners that would not prejudice further comprehensive development coming forward in the future.</p>
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<p>2</p> <p>2.1</p> <p>2.2</p> <p>2.3</p>	<p>Key Issues</p> <p>Both BUAP and dBMAP indicate that Council's land, in association with adjoining lands, is zoned for housing. Key Site Requirements (KSR) have been included in dBMAP relating to these three ownerships to ensure a comprehensive approach to development is achieved. NIHE have also identified these lands as suitable for social housing. Delivery of a comprehensive development approach, that includes the Council's Glen Road land, requires the acquisition of additional adjoining lands from NIHE and a private 3rd party.</p> <p>Following the Council's initial decision to sell this and other lands to the NIHE for social housing purposes, NIHE nominated specific housing associations in respect of individual locations. Oaklee and Fold Housing Associations (Oaklee to take the lead role and acquire the land) are the nominated social housing providers for these particular Council owned lands. Oaklee/Fold prepared an initial concept masterplan encompassing the adjoining land ownerships as envisaged in dBMAP adopting the KSR for a comprehensive development of approximately 440 residential units.</p> <p>Originally envisaged as a mixed residential design and build scheme (mix of social, affordable and private units), with the lead taken by a private developer who would retain ownership of the residential units built for the private sector, a change in EU procurement regulations prohibited pursuit of this approach. Whilst changes in procurement procedures delayed the process it has also not proved possible for Oaklee/Fold to reach agreement with all the parties on the relative split of land values that would permit comprehensive acquisition. This effectively stalled the process and despite numerous meetings with Oaklee and their valuer no comprehensive purchase deal agreeable to all three parties could be achieved.</p>
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2.4	Given this impasse the Estates Management Unit initiated discussions with Planning Service to ensure that Oaklee/Fold could proceed with purchase and development of Council's land in isolation from the other landowners that would comply with the Key Site Requirements outlined in dBMAP to achieve phased development of the comprehensive scheme envisaged in dBMAP.
2.5	Oaklee/Fold now proposes a development of 92 social residential units in total on Council's land providing a mix of semi-detached and terraced style houses and 3 wheelchair bungalows. The proposals are consistent with the wider Glen 10 proposals in terms of the nature of the envisaged development also taking account of wider traffic implications on the Glen Road itself through provision of appropriate access that would serve the larger comprehensive development envisaged under dBMAP. Oaklee/Fold proposes to submit a planning application whilst engaging in full consultation with all relevant and interested parties to their proposed development.
2.6	Following very protracted and prolonged negotiations between LPS, acting on behalf of the Council, and an independent valuer appointed by Oaklee/Fold Housing Associations a premium of £1,575,000 for disposal of these lands has now been provisionally agreed, subject to Committee approval
2.7	Oaklee/Fold has indicated that their proposed purchase is not conditional on planning and they are keen to complete the acquisition as soon as possible. Subject to obtaining Committee approval to the disposal they hope to lodge a planning application in the very future and undertake stakeholder and community engagement on their proposals. The disposal to Oaklee/Fold would contain an overage provision which would provide for an additional premium to be paid if they obtain planning approval for more than the proposed 92 housing units.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>The sale of these lands will result in a capital return to the Council of £1,570, 000 which could be directed to the Councils Investment Programme or other priorities.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>Staff Resource in Estates & Legal Services to progress.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>The disposal of this vacant site and development as a social housing scheme should lead to improved social, economic and regeneration benefits for the area, as well as providing a capital return for the Council.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	There are no equality implications to this proposal.

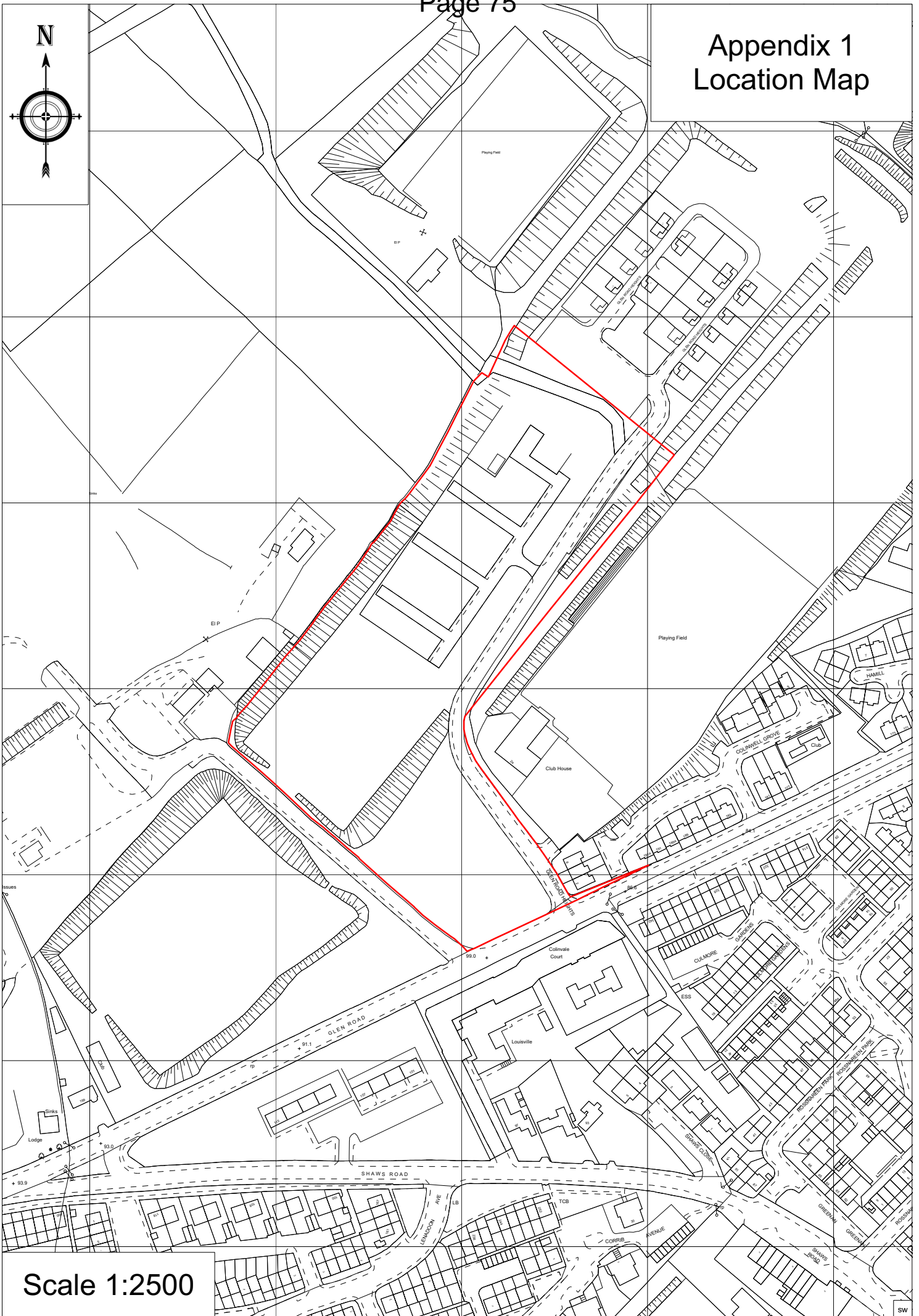
5	Recommendations
5.1	It is recommended that the Committee approves the disposal of these lands to Oaklee Housing Association for £1,575,000 subject to detailed terms being agreed with the Estates Management Unit and Legal Services.

6	Decision Tracking
Director of Property & Projects to ensure that this disposal is followed up within 6 months of the Committee decision.	

7	Key to Abbreviations
<p>NIHE – Northern Ireland Housing Executive LPS – Land & Property Services dBMAP – draft Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan BUAP – Belfast Urban Area Plan KSR – Key Site Requirements</p>	

8	Documents Attached
Appendix 1 – location map	

Appendix 1 Location Map



Scale 1:2500

SW

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GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP**MONDAY, 10th SEPTEMBER, 2012****MEETING OF THE GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP**

- Members present: Councillor Kyle (Deputy Chairman);
Alderman Stoker; and
Councillors Attwood, McVeigh and Reynolds.
- External Members: Mr. S. Brennan, Voluntary/Community Sector;
Archdeacon B. Dodds, Church of Ireland;
Mr. R. Galway, Confederation of British
Industry/Shorts Bombardier;
Ms. J. Hawthorne, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;
Mr. P. Mackel, Belfast and District Trades Council;
Mr. B. McGivern, Belfast City Centre Management;
Mr. M. O'Donnell, Belfast Regeneration Office;
Mr. P. Scott, Catholic Church;
Ms. M. De Silva, Voluntary/Community Sector; and
Mr. U. Tok, Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum.
- Also attended: Ms. D. O'Loan, Community Relations Council / Pobal.
- In attendance: Mrs. H. Francey, Good Relations Manager;
Mr. I. May, Peace III Programme Manager;
Mr. D. Robinson, Senior Good Relations Officer; and
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from the Chairman (Councillor Hendron), Ms. O. Barron, Mr. P. Bunting, Ms. A. Chada and Ms. M. Marken.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 6th August were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

Mr. S. Brennan declared an interest in respect of agenda item 6, viz., Annual Review of the Bonfire Management Programme, in that he was seconded currently to Groundwork NI, which was managing the Programme on behalf of the Council, and took no part in the discussion.

**Good Relations Partnership
Monday, 10th September, 2012**

Local Area Network Programme

The Partnership welcomed to the meeting Ms. D. Crawford and Mr J. Read from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's Community Cohesion Unit who, together with Ms. J. Hawthorne, had been invited to provide an update on the Executive's Local Area Network Programme.

Ms. Hawthorne informed the Partnership that the Programme sought to:

- establish a mechanism to provide an integrated and co-ordinated approach to support areas where diversity was welcomed and celebrated;
- mainstream good relations within and between communities in order to contribute towards a more shared community;
- provide real opportunities for people who wish to live in a shared neighbourhood;
- develop a community engaged in meaningful dialogue towards mutual understanding; and
- draw out best practice to inform and influence a social policy framework.

She reported that the first phase of the initiative, which had concluded in July, 2011, had been delivered in Inner East Belfast and Inner South Belfast. She reviewed the main successes within each of those areas which, in the case of Inner East Belfast, had included the production, in line with the Community Cohesion Unit's Race Relations Strategy, of a welcome pack for residents and the provision by the Housing Executive of space to Habitat for Humanity for the development of a habitat scheme at the Madrid Street Interface. In relation to Inner South Belfast, funding had been provided to the Markets Development Association to undertake a feasibility study and economic appraisal in connection with the Tunnels Project and support had been given to three communities involved in a project to deliver shared services in Coyle's Place.

She stated that an evaluation by the Belfast Interface Project of Phase 1 of the Programme had indicated that a firm foundation for promoting community cohesion in both Inner East Belfast and Inner South Belfast had been laid and that it had been shown consistently that the relationships formed were genuine and that the groups involved had shared goals for promoting the quality of life. It had indicated also that the tangible outcomes of the projects undertaken within the Programme were visible in, for example, the legacy of the re-imaging programmes and the DVD which had been produced and in the continued co-operation of residents and group leaders. Genuine skills had been developed in terms of the training delivered and social mixing was promoted in the dialogue projects and, in many cases, the wide scope of activities had been instrumental in attracting new participants. Finally, the Programme had gained awards and had attracted media attention, both of which had brought positive attention to the area and reinforced the constructive work taking place on the interface.

Ms. Hawthorne reported further that Phase 2 of the Local Area Network Programme had now commenced in West Belfast and that it would be delivered through the Black Mountain Shared Space Project. A Black Mountain Local Area Network, whose membership was comprised of both communities, had now been established and

**Good Relations Partnership
Monday, 10th September, 2012**

a Partnership Agreement had been signed in March. She confirmed that the initiative was in line with the Programme being undertaken in the Black Mountain and Upper Springfield areas by the Building Relationships in Communities Programme and that the Network had submitted an application for funding under the International Fund for Ireland's Peace Walls programme. In terms of North Belfast, she explained that initial discussions had taken place with the Wishing Well Family Centre and the Ardoyne Women's Group and that there was now a willingness to establish an Ardoyne/Upper Ardoyne Local Area Network. Wider discussions were taking place also with key community stakeholders and there was a general commitment to developing partnerships and working to sign up to a partnership agreement. She confirmed that, as had been the case with Phase 1 of the Programme, £50,000 would be provided from the Good Relations Partnership to undertake the Programme within each of the two Local Area Networks.

After discussion, the Partnership noted the information which had been provided in relation to the Local Area Network Programme and approved the progression of Ardoyne/Upper Ardoyne as the Local Area Network for North Belfast.

Cultural Framework for Belfast 2012-2015

The Partnership was advised that Ms. C. Mathers, Tourism, Culture and Arts Development Officer, and Ms. J. Smith, Tourism, Culture and Arts Assistant Manager, were in attendance in order to provide an update on the Councils Cultural Framework 2012-2015 and they were welcomed to the meeting.

The Tourism, Culture and Arts Assistant Manager informed the Partnership that the culture and arts scene had developed rapidly in Belfast over the past number of years and that the Council funded currently over 70 organisations. She explained that £8 of income was generated for every £1 spent by the Council and that creative and cultural industries were worth £582 million to the economy each year. She explained that, in addition to the economic benefits, culture and arts improved also the quality of life in so far as it developed self-confidence, pride and well-being and pointed out that, since 2007, 550,000 people had participated in both areas.

She explained that the vision of the Cultural Framework stated that, by 2020, everyone in Belfast would experience and be inspired by the City's vibrant and distinctive culture and arts and that arts and heritage were valued for enriching quality of life and creating wealth, and that the City's culture and creativity would be renowned throughout the world. She explained that the Council had identified a number of key commitments to be covered within the Framework and that corresponding activities had been prioritised under the themes of Distinctly Belfast, Inspiring Communities, Attracting Audiences and Strengthening the Sector. She provided a brief overview of each of the themes, which included positioning culture and arts at the heart of Belfast's narrative, removing barriers to participation, promoting Belfast as a diverse and dynamic cultural city and providing opportunities for organisations to develop and diversify their income streams. Various levels of funding which would be made available under the Framework for core work, one-off projects, community festival activity and large-scale cross-cutting partnership projects.

The Partnership noted the information which had been provided.

Good Relations Partnership
Monday, 10th September, 2012

Peace III – Implementation Update

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

“Purpose of Report

To update the Partnership on implementation of the Belfast PEACE III Plan.

Progress on Phase II projects

Shared City Space

The Arterial Routes East Project (037808) is progressing with a revised timescale of August 2012 to March 2013. The Community Cohesion Local Area Networks (034228) project has completed the scoping study and identified project partners for the North Local Area Network. The Partnership is requested to approve the commencement of this Local Area Network as part of the project.

Transforming Contested Space

The Interfaces Programme (037807) has commenced with initial consultation underway. The Tension Monitoring Programme (034052) has recruited project staff and has commenced a procurement exercise for intervention and advocacy services. The interim evaluation of the Promoting Positive Expression of Cultural Heritage Project (034050) has recently been prepared and is the subject of a separate report.

Shared Cultural Space

Eight contracts are underway as part of the City of Festivals project (034060), with £160,000 committed. The project promoter (Council’s Tourism, Culture & Arts Unit), mindful of the tight timeframe for delivery have requested a change in approach to allow for commitment of the balance of the project budget (approximately £40,000). The intention is to conduct an additional procurement exercise to identify up to a further four projects to deliver festival related audience development activity in 2013. The proposed change would help achieve the target of supporting 14 large festivals with 1,500 participants as well as furthering the cross border dimension of the project.

Procurement of delivery partners for the Creative Legacies Project (034064) was due to commence on 7th September.

Shared Organisational Space

All letters of offer have been issued under the Strategic Grants Programme.

Good Relations Partnership
Monday, 10th September, 2012

Meeting of all Projects

19 of the 22 Phase II projects attended a meeting on 29th August. Issues discussed included:

- The new procurement regime in effect from 1st August;
- The Aid for Peace methodology and the monitoring and evaluation framework for Phase II. This session considered the needs addressed by the projects, relevance of project activities, approach to risk management and assessment of project impact;
- Developing links with Good Relations Partnership Members.

Communications Activity

A new edition of the Belfast PEACE III Newsletter has been prepared and circulated. This includes information on the Strategic Grants Projects, the Investment Programme and the Growing Respect Project.

Consortium Update

The Community Relations Council and POBAL are planning a meeting for PEACE III Partnerships on 2nd October at the Maze Long Kesh site. Agenda Items will include exchange of best practice, possible extension of Phase II period, and discussion of potential for a PEACE IV Programme.

Consultation on EU Structural Funds 2014-2020

A public consultation on the European Territorial Co-Operation Programmes for 2014 – 2020, was launched by the Special EU Programmes Body on 28th August, 2012. These programmes are:

- EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation 2014 – 2020 (PEACE IV) and;
- EU Programme for Cross-Border Territorial Cooperation (Ireland / Northern Ireland / Scotland) 2014 - 2020 (INTERREG V).

The public consultation is to obtain the views of key stakeholders and members of the general public on the content, implementation and delivery mechanisms for the new programmes. An information event is being held on 18th September at the Europa Hotel, Belfast commencing at 10.00am. Members wishing to attend are asked to confirm by email to consultation@seupb.eu. The consultation period will close on 20th November, 2012.

**Good Relations Partnership
Monday, 10th September, 2012**

Resource Implications

Financial Implications

None at present

HR Implications

None at present

Equality Implications

None at present

Recommendation

The Partnership is requested

- (i) to note the information provided relating to implementation of the Belfast PEACE III Plan.**
- (ii) approve the procurement exercise relating to the City of Festivals Project (034060).**
- (iii) The Partnership is requested to approve the commencement of activity on the second Local Area Network under the Community Cohesion Project (034228)."**

After discussion, during which it was confirmed that information on those projects which had been completed under Phase I of the Belfast Peace III Plan would be included within a future edition of the Belfast Peace III Newsletter, the Partnership adopted the recommendations.

**Peace III – Growing a Shared City:
Community Planning Seminars and Members' Visits**

The Good Relations Manager reminded the Partnership that the Growing a Shared City project was funded through the Peace III theme which sought to develop the key institutional capacities required for a shared society. She reported that the project was due to end in December, 2012 and that it had attained a number of notable outputs, including the facilitation of workshops on topics related to partnership working, equality and efficiency, the holding of seminars exploring diversity and engagement and the development of a diversity e-learning package. The context for the project, which had focused upon engagement and collaboration, had contributed to the organisational development of the Council in preparation for community planning, which the Northern Ireland Executive had indicated would fall under the remit of local Councils.

She reported further that, in order to build on the work which had been achieved under the Big Lottery Fund project, three breakfast seminars would take place in the City Hall in October and November to discuss issues around the project and community

**Good Relations Partnership
Monday, 10th September, 2012**

planning. This would complement a best practice study visit by the Reference Group on Community Planning to Edinburgh and Dundee Councils in Scotland which was taking place in October. The Good Relations Manager pointed out that the visit would be beneficial in so far as the Scottish Government had, in 2003, introduced a formal duty of community planning and there had, subsequently, been significant developments in best practice and learning in both policy and implementation. She stated that invitations to attend the breakfast seminars had been extended to the Partnership and confirmed that both events would be in line with the overall aim of the Growing a Shared City project, in terms of developing key institutional capacity for a shared society. The cost of holding the breakfast seminars would be met in full from Peace III funding, and that it would partially fund the study visit to Scotland.

The Partnership noted the information which had been provided.

Annual Review of the Bonfire Management Programme

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

“Relevant Background Information

1 Members will be aware of the Council’s work around the issue of bonfires, which has been undertaken in the past eight years. This work was initiated in 2005 in response to a number of public concerns:

- an increase in the number of bonfires across the city
- paramilitary displays at bonfire events in some areas
- considerable media coverage around issues such as dumping, fly-tipping and the general state of land on which bonfire sites were located, early collection of material
- greater awareness about environmental issues such as the burning of tyres.

There was also a desire within a number of communities to address many of the negative elements around bonfires and create better bonfire management as a positive form of expression of cultural heritage on the 11th July. In addition, the programme currently supports communities to develop alternatives to internment bonfires on the 8th August. An interim independent evaluation of the 2012 programme has been undertaken by the Institute for Conflict Research, who have undertaken previous evaluations that have contributed to the strengthening of the programme over the years. A copy of the evaluation has been forwarded to the Partnership and is available on the Modern.gov website.

2 In 2012, 38 bonfire groups participated on the 11th July programme (with an additional 4 communities being supported to run a festival event *instead of* a bonfire). 8 communities

**Good Relations Partnership
Monday, 10th September, 2012**

participated on the 8th August programme. Over the last 8 years, the programme has made significant inroads into all of the issues of concern when the work around bonfires first began in 2005. The current programme centres on two distinct elements:

- How to support communities in the positive celebration of their cultural heritage through better bonfire management on the 11th July
- How to support communities to provide alternative activities to bonfires on the 8th August.

Key Issues

- 1 There has been a reduction in the number of 11th July bonfires in Belfast over the last number of years and the table below tracks these figures over the life of the programme, the number of participating groups and a percentage of the total:

Year	No. Bonfires	No. Bonfires on programme	As a % of total
2005	108	8	7%
2009	84	33	39%
2010	77	42	55%
2011	73	38	52%
2012	72	42	58%

In relation to support for communities to develop alternatives to bonfires on the 8th August, the number of groups has increased steadily from 1 in 2005, to 4 in 2009, to 7 in 2011 and up to 8 in 2012.

- 2 Overall programme impact

The independent evaluation highlights that:

‘The programme continued to have a positive impact in relation to how communities celebrate their culture. There is a growing awareness within communities of the environmental impacts associated with the lighting of bonfires. In response, materials are being gathered later, tyres are no longer being burnt, and bonfire committees are taking ownership and responsibility for the appearance of their bonfire sites. There is an increasing sense that the fun days are more inclusive and have encouraged more local families in particular to attend the events. The funded events have also encouraged more local residents to become engaged in the process of positively promoting cultural heritage’.

Good Relations Partnership
Monday, 10th September, 2012

PSNI and NIFRS Statistics

There have been continued reductions in the number of bonfire related incidents reported to the PSNI. This year the PSNI reported 'the quietest 11th July in years' according to media reports. There has also been a steady reduction in the number of NIFRS call outs to bonfires on the 11th night.

Specifically, the evaluation report notes on page 13: 'According to representatives from BCC, the PSNI and the NIFRS, the 2012 programme has largely been a success. The NIFRS reported almost a 50% reduction in 999 emergency calls for the night of the 11th of July compared to 2011. The officers maintain that this reduction in calls was due to the work of Fire Safety Officers and Fire Crews of Eastern Area Command meeting with local communities, community representatives and the bonfire builders giving advice and encouraging people to 'think safety first' – a process facilitated through the Council's programme'.

Paramilitary flags, emblems and displays

As has been the case for the last number of years, in 2012 none of the bonfires participating on the programme were bedecked with paramilitary flags/trappings.

Community Development, Volunteering and young people

This year's independent evaluation has highlighted one area of the programme's impact not featured in previous years – volunteering. Through the programme, more local people are volunteering their time to run and organise local fun-day events, develop better relationships with statutory agencies and support their local community. There is even new evidence that local groups are connecting with local churches and businesses to develop activities that involve the whole community. The role of women and young people becoming more involved in running events and activities has been particularly highlighted (see 2012 Evaluation p.18)

Burning of flags and emblems

The Partnership will be aware of media coverage of the burning of flags and an election poster. The independent report (p.11) highlights:

'The issue of burning flags, emblems and symbols at bonfires remains contentious and problematic. Although there is positive incremental progress annually now on this issue, as well as a growing awareness within communities surrounding the negativity of the practice, (where around half

**Good Relations Partnership
Monday, 10th September, 2012**

of the sites have refrained from participating in the act), a large number of sites continue to engage in it. This is a persistent and negative manifestation of cultural celebrations which has the potential to be challenged more actively through the cultural networks’.

This issue continues to present ongoing difficulties within the programme. There is growing public and media concern as to the practice among some groups in relation to this, although much incremental progress has been made on this issue to date.

The table below indicates this progress over the last three years:

Year	No. bonfire groups on programme	No. groups not burning flags/symbols	As a % of total
2005	8	0	0%
2009	33	6	18%
2010	42	14	33%
2011	38	14	37%
2012	42	18	43%

The burning of Polish flags as well as an SDLP poster of a Polish candidate in parts of East Belfast generated a lot of media and community commentary. The Partnership should note that only one of these sites was a participant on the programme this year. Staff have since already addressed these issues directly with the group concerned but it is clear that this issue requires sensitive but firm engagement in order to continue the progress made over the years. The programme will continue to engage with groups on ultimately eradicating this practice from the programme and has specifically sought engagement with bonfire groups and representatives of the Polish Association in the autumn.

One of the recommendations contained in the 2012 independent evaluation states that:

- A review of whether it is appropriate to introduce penalties for the non-compliance of specific guidelines which underpin the programme – there was a sense of frustration from some participants that those groups which flaunted guidelines were rewarded in equal measure with those who participated in all elements of the programme. Participants may want to explore options in relation to implementing measures for those groups that are reluctant to fully participate in the workings of the programme.

Good Relations Partnership
Monday, 10th September, 2012

Previous experience suggests that this issue is best addressed within the overall Cultural Networks process.

In addition to the above, the 2012 independent evaluation highlights the success of the internal Council bonfire officers group (see p.14) which facilitated greater collaboration on bonfire issues across all Council departments and developed action plans and intervention strategies for bonfires in both July and August. This ensured a coherent approach by Council, particularly when dealing with complaints from members of the public.

Overall, the Council's intervention on bonfires has had a positive impact on participating communities, agencies and the city as a whole; the PSNI and the NIFRS highlighted one of the quietest 11th July nights ever in the City.

3 Going forward – creating change

Better bonfire management is a developing process that requires sustained and patient engagement with participating communities. Experience has shown that once positive change happens within communities, it is unlikely that these changes will be undone. This has proven to be the case in relation to use of tyres, paramilitary trappings and for a number of communities, the burning of flags and emblems. This engagement needs to be sustained in order to consolidate this and to encourage more groups to participate in the process of change.

The current project *Promoting the Positive Expression of Cultural Heritage* will continue until the end of 2013 within Phase 2 of the PEACE III Plan. The major focus is on work around the transformation of bonfires, providing additionality to the Council's own intervention, which seeks to build on the progress made to date on bonfires within the City.

This 2012 Review indicates that we continue to deliver the programme in 2013 in the same manner; i.e.:

- The Good Relations Unit continues delivery of the programme with support from the internal Council bonfire officers group. It will work with communities willing to participate. For those groups not participating (and where there are difficulties), these will be addressed through the internal officers group and relevant Council Departments along with statutory agencies in a coordinated manner.
- Support as many traditional 11th July bonfire sites through better bonfire management as possible.

**Good Relations Partnership
Monday, 10th September, 2012**

- Continue the diversionary approach in communities on the 8th August.
- Submit a list of all proposed funded groups for either bonfire festival or diversionary programmes to the Good Relations Partnership in June 2013 for Council approval
- Complaints regarding sites on the programme will be addressed by the managing body while land-owners manage complaints regarding other bonfires on their land – eg Parks/NIHE/DRD.

In addition, adopting the recommendations contained in this 2012 independent Evaluation Report will help strengthen the programme as it moves into its final year as part of the Council's PEACE III programme.

4 Financial elements

Phase 2 of PEACE III will continue to support the delivery of the cultural networks process and the funding of community events and activities. It is proposed that the Council takes account of two essential additional elements:

1. To enable the Council to develop work with new groups on bonfires.
2. To assist with those elements of the programme that have proven to be successful over the last 8 years, that cannot command the financial support of Peace III as listed below:

Additional areas of work	Cost
A dedicated cleansing contractor	£15,000
Installation/filling/removal of beacons plus safety reports	£19,500
Bonfire frames	£3,000
Fencing	£2,500
Developmental work with new groups	£10,000
Total	£50,000

The Partnership should note that this sum of £50,000 has remained unchanged since 2005.

Resource Implications

Financial

- £300,000 under Phase 2 of the Peace III Programme (over two years - £150,000 per year) will be 100% funded by SEUPB.

**Good Relations Partnership
Monday, 10th September, 2012**

- **The continued funding of £50,000 per year (amount unchanged over the past 6 years) from the Council, 75% of which can be reclaimed by OFM/DFM through the District Council's Good Relations Programme.**

Human Resources

Continued Good Relations Unit staff engagement with the programme, along with staff from various Council departments on the internal officer bonfires group under the Safer Cities theme.

Equality and Good Relations Implications

The programme seeks to support all communities in the positive expression of their cultural heritage where bonfires present an issue within local communities. In addition, the programme will seek to support better community relations through tackling negative cultural manifestations such as the burning of flags and emblems.

Recommendation

The Partnership is requested to:

- (a) recommend the adoption and implementation of the recommendations contained within the 2012 Independent evaluation report**
- (b) recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee the continuation of the present level of Council annual funding of £50,000 in 2013 to support elements of the programme that fall outside Peace III funding**
- (c) recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee the proposed delivery mechanism outlined above."**

During discussion, a Member expressed concern at the fact that some participants in the Programme had engaged in burning flags and emblems on bonfires and stated that the Council should give consideration to penalising in some way those involved. However, the point was made that the Council should continue to engage fully with the relevant groups in order to resolve the issue and that it should find some way of recognising those participants which had adhered to the conditions laid down within the Bonfire Management Programme, including the burning of flags and emblems.

In response, the Senior Good Relations Officer highlighted the significant progress which had been made since the inception of the Bonfire Management Programme and stressed that every effort was being made to extend the Programme to include other groups. He explained that the issue of burning flags and emblems would be raised at forthcoming meetings of the six Cultural Networks which managed the participating groups and undertook to submit to the meeting of the Partnership in

**Good Relations Partnership
Monday, 10th September, 2012**

November a report detailing the outcome of those discussions, together with the guidelines governing each Network's participation in the Bonfire Management Programme, and suggested ways of incentivising those groups who did not burn flags/emblems on bonfires.

The Partnership agreed, in principle, to adopt the recommendations contained within the report and agreed also that further consideration would be given to the issue of the burning of flags and emblems at its meeting in November.

**Consultation on Proposals for the Future of the
Minority Ethnic Development Fund**

The Partnership was advised that the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister had issued a consultation document setting out proposals on the future of the Minority Ethnic Development Fund for the period from October, 2012 till March, 2015. The Good Relations Manager reported that the proposals had been informed by the 2011 Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency's evaluation of the Fund.

She explained that, until now, the Fund had been used to support work which contributed to the promotion of good relations between people of different ethnic backgrounds, the building of community cohesion and the facilitation of integration. The new proposals would focus upon the term 'integration' and whether the Minority Ethnic Development Fund was inter-cultural or multi-cultural in nature. The Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister had, within its consultation document, noted the need to strike a delicate balance between diversity and unity at a regional level.

Accordingly, it had proposed that the Development Fund be used to finance activity which contributed to building a sense of community and community infrastructure for people from similar cultural backgrounds. However, the proposal had noted that that activity must take place within a context which recognised the need for relationship building with the wider community.

The Good Relations Manager explained that funding totalling £1 million would be made available and that it would be distributed in line with the following three categories:

- **Tier 1: Pathfinder MEDF:** Up to £15,000 would be available annually for the development and provision of services and projects in line with the funding aims. Funding could be awarded to established community groups which were working in collaboration with minority ethnic communities.
- **Tier 2: Standard MEDF:** Up to £45,000 per annum would be made available to self-help groups and advocacy organisations which provided a level of service and integration activities. It would apply normally only to those organisations whose services were targeted at people from minority ethnic backgrounds in Northern Ireland.
- **Tier 3: High level MEDF:** Up to £75,000 per year would be awarded for large scale service provision for Departments and a number of large scale integration activities.

**Good Relations Partnership
Monday, 10th September, 2012**

She explained that the demand for funding would be competitive and that it would be likely to exceed the resources available, and that, in making decisions, the Selection Committee would seek to avoid funding projects which duplicated work being undertaken by other organisations. The receipt of funding from Government Departments, European Programmes or the International Fund for Ireland or from other charitable sources would be a factor also in the Committees decision-making process. It would have regard also to the geographical spread of funding and the extent to which it covered Northern Ireland.

Accordingly, she recommended that the Partnership endorse the following comments for submission to the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister on the future of a Minority Ethnic Development Fund 2012 – 2015:

- the Council welcomes the fact that funding is being made available from October, 2012 to March, 2015, as this longer funding timeframe will allow for greater sustainability of work within the sector;
- the Council welcomes the increased flexibility of the funding stream, allowing quarterly applications from organisations and access for smaller short-term projects;
- the Council notes that the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister is working on the revised Racial Equality Strategy and welcomes its forthcoming release, as it will inform the future work of the Good Relations Unit; and
- the Council urges the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister to consider further the recommendations contained within the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency's evaluation of the Minority Ethnic Development Fund for the inclusion of a crisis fund element and the delegation of its administration to a third party.

The Partnership endorsed the foregoing comments.

**Request from Northern Ireland for Children and Young People –
Participation Policy Statement of Intent**

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

“Relevant Background Information

The NI Commissioner for Children and Young People has written to the Chief Executive requesting that the Council, along with all public bodies in NI, should consider and endorse a Participation Policy Statement of Intent. The Statement of Intent is aimed at including children and young people in decision-making and ensuring that they have a say in decisions that affect their lives.

The Commissioner's letter notes that there have been recent positive developments at NI Government level, including the production of the 10-year Children's Strategy and the appointment of Children's Champions in each Government Department.

**Good Relations Partnership
Monday, 10th September, 2012**

The Commissioner refers to her intention ‘to support and work towards participation practice within the public sector’; to ‘develop participation policies and mainstream them into practice’; and to include children and young people “in the planning and delivery of services that affect them.’

She attached three case studies as examples of good practice, copies of which have been circulated to the Partnership, and had requested that the Council consider and endorse her draft Participation Policy Statement of Intent.

Key Issues

Consultation and Engagement

The Council places fundamental importance on listening to and responding to the views of all Belfast residents. We undertake regular public consultation exercises to find out what people in the city think about living in Belfast. The findings from these surveys help us to renew our service commitment and shape our priorities for the future.

The Council is committed to effective consultation in general and conducts its consultation in accordance with the guidelines set out in our Equality Scheme. Our consultation list is up-dated annually and lists over 200 groups and organisations with whom we consult.

Establishment of the Youth Forum

The Council was aware of the specific need to ensure that the views of young people were taken fully into account and established a Youth Forum in March 2006 so that it could consult directly with young people regarding their views of Council issues. This Youth Forum has continued to provide a platform for young people in the city to consider Council policies and initiatives, as well as highlighting issues that they felt were important and of which the Council should be made aware.

The Youth Forum is an important vehicle through which we engage regularly with young people in the city to gauge their views and ensure their involvement in the work of the Council. The Youth Forum provides an established platform from which to promote positive, appropriate participation in decision-making and, following on from Council’s decision in June to mainstream the work of the Youth Forum, we will continue to promote best practice in civic engagement with and through children and young people.

Good Relations Partnership
Monday, 10th September, 2012

Belfast City Council's Current Youth Forum 2010 - 2012

The Community Services Section of the Development Department co-ordinates the work of the Youth Forum.

1. The current membership of 36 young people will serve until 30 June 2012. Four members are drawn from each of the 9 electoral wards of the city and reflect the diversity of the city in regard to all Section 75 categories including religion, race, social background, sexual orientation and political opinion. Recruitment of a new cohort of 36 young people to serve as members of the Youth Forum will be initiated in the autumn 2012.
2. Notably, each of the Political Parties within Council has a designated 'Youth Champion' who assumes a leading role within their Party Group on matters affecting young people. More specifically, each Youth Champion acts as a first point of contact for the members of the Youth Forum and plays an active role through taking part in regular participative events involving Youth Forum members. Crucially, it is this systemic connection that sets the operation of the Youth Forum apart as a mechanism that offers direct access for young people to a process of political engagement on issues of importance to them.
3. With the imminent completion of the term for the current cohort of members, recent consultation with the Youth Champions has elicited a clear political consensus in regard to the proposed future work of the Youth Forum, based on a vision of an enhanced role for the Council, using the Youth Forum as a preferred mechanism, for civic engagement across the city with young people. In examining the future of the Youth Forum, Youth Champions and their political colleagues regard it as vital that a long term commitment should now be operationalised to enable the potential of the mechanism to be realised fully.
4. In breaking new ground with the setting up of the Youth Forum in 2006, the Council has led from the front in terms of local authority and statutory initiatives promoting themes of participation, inclusion and citizenship, and in offering 'voice and choice' to young people. The operation of the Belfast Youth Forum has served as a model of good practice and, as such, has brought significant recognition to Council as well as attracting widespread interest, including that of the Office of the First and Deputy First Ministers in regard to the setting up of a NI Youth Assembly.

**Good Relations Partnership
Monday, 10th September, 2012**

- 5. Since its establishment in 2006, the Youth Forum has been involved in a wide range of developmental, participatory and representative activities. Learning from each cohort has been applied through a process of ongoing improvement and reflective practice to create a model tailored to the particular needs of Belfast.**
- 6. In discussions with political Youth Champions and other stakeholders, it is clear that a shared sense of opportunity exists to further develop a model of civic engagement, extending beyond the individual participation of 36 young people, that reaches out to young people in communities and groups across the city, in a two-way interactive process that connects felt needs at neighbourhood level with the formal political process within the Council as a means of addressing those needs.**
- 7. Three key workstreams, proposed by the Youth Champions and officers on the basis of the lessons learned from operational experience, are to be implemented over coming years. In short, the model seeks:**
 - to build the developmental competences of individual members**
 - to make systematic the process of engagement and political discourse with elected Members of Council**
 - to promote a process of structured engagement with individual young people, groups, and communities across the city on issues of importance to children and young people.**
- 8. A summary of the many achievements by the Youth Forum 2010 – 2012 includes:**
 - Participation in a range of Council consultation exercises and focus groups around proposed service provision including, most recently, the Council's Draft Investment Programme; this included helping to create a young people's version of the plan to facilitate discussion and, along with other youth groups, taking part in an engagement exercise on the Draft Programme.**
 - Submission of formal responses to external consultation exercises including those of the NI Arts Council, the Council for the Homeless and the Department for the Environment.**

**Good Relations Partnership
Monday, 10th September, 2012**

- **Organisation in the Council Chamber of 'Question Time' style debates with political Youth Champions on topical issues including mental health and Travellers. Eighty participants from across the city were involved on each occasion.**
- **Organising and delivering the 3rd 'Belfast - How We See It' event in City Hall which gave young people and special interest groups the opportunity to share their opinions on the issue of Hate Crime. The event was opened by the Lord Mayor and Mark Carruthers, BBC, chaired the panel composed of the Council's 6 political party Youth Champions.**
- **The 'POP' Playing Our Part Project was an intergenerational partnership between the Healthy Aging Strategic Partnership, Belfast City Council Youth Forum, Linking Generations NI and Brookvale Fold. The programme has been chosen under the Local Communities category and will be featured as a good practice example at the Public Health Annual Scientific Conference in June 2012.**
- **Discussion in sub-groups on a range of issues of interest; in the past year these have included: Titanic the Legacy; Young People's views on Public Artwork; Teen Parents; Autistic Spectrum Disorder and Young People; Young Travellers; and Homelessness and Young People.**
- **The organisation of a clothes drive for The Welcome Centre in December 2011 as part of the work of the homelessness sub-group; after collecting and sorting 66 large bin bags over £2,640 was raised.**
- **The contribution of 7849 hours of volunteering.**
- **The organisation of events attracting over 2,000 young people.**
- **Completion of accredited training including suicide awareness and prevention, conflict resolution, and alcohol and drugs awareness.**
- **The Youth Forum continues to sponsor a category of the annual Community Safety Young People Awards and established a small project team that contributed towards the planning.**

Good Relations Partnership
Monday, 10th September, 2012

- Assembling a working group to work closely with the Children & Young People's Co-ordinator towards organising the annual outdoor summer event 'Party in the Park' in August 2012. This inclusive event is aimed at young people aged 12-17 from youth organisations, clubs and summer schemes operating across the city. The theme this year is 'Celebrate Youth Culture'. This positive event attracts over 650 young people each year into one of Belfast's finest parks.
- Continued involvement with the Northern Ireland Youth Assembly panel and supporting the proposal for the establishment of a Northern Ireland Youth Assembly at Stormont.

Resource Implications

None.

Equality and Good Relations Implications

Any implications from the Council's endorsement of this *Policy Statement* would be positive.

Recommendation

It is clear that the Council is well placed to endorse the *Participation Policy Statement of Intent*. We will continue to support the Youth Forum and to work through and alongside other public bodies in promoting best practice in matters relating to children and young people.

The Partnership is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee that it approve the attached proposed draft response and that the Council sign up to the *Participation Policy Statement of Intent* as requested.

PARTICIPATION POLICY STATEMENT OF INTENT

Participation of children and young people is not a tick box objective; it is a process through which Belfast City Council uses to achieve its objectives;

What does this document do?

This document outlines our commitment to involve children and young people in the work that we do. It pays due regard to current local, national and international legislation/ conventions and will provide the foundation for Belfast City Council to be an example of good practise when involving children and young people in its decision making processes.

Good Relations Partnership
Monday, 10th September, 2012

Context

Article 12 UNCRC states that:

'States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.'

The OFMDFM Ten year strategy for children and young people 2006-2016 'our children and young people our pledge 'has made a pledge in relation to the participation of children and young people

'In accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, we will be proactive in obtaining the views of children in matters of significance to them" (pg 20)

This places an emphasis on all Executive Ministers to ensure that their department is seeking and listening to the views and opinions of children and young people when developing policies and services

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland act places a statutory obligation on designated public authorities to have due regard to promote equality of opportunity and regard to good relations. Age is included as one of the nine specific categories. In accordance with its Equality Scheme, such designated public authorities should consult with relevant stakeholders including children and young people when, for example, developing policies or legislation on matters which may have an impact on their lives: Consultation can take place at any time but should take place with relevant stakeholders to inform the Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA).

Commitments

Belfast City Council is committed, wherever possible in our work, to listen to the views, concerns and opinions of children and young people in an open and inclusive manner, enabling their voices to be heard by engaging with them in meaningful and creative ways.

Belfast City Council is committed to develop existing policies and working practices to embed participation into our department/agency

Good Relations Partnership
Monday, 10th September, 2012

Actions

Belfast City Council creates a culture of participation through:

- Respect
- Listening
- Working practices

This means:

- Developing the capacity to offer opportunities for children and young people to be involved in our work
- Giving appropriate weight to children and young people's judgment
- Being aware that children and young people have more experiences in some areas than adults
- Asking children and young people their opinion when our work affects them
- Feeding back the results of children and young people's input to them

Belfast City Council:

- ensures that the Article 12 of UNCRC is one of the fundamental principles of our work.
- listens to CYP by being alongside them, hearing their concerns and promoting their rights
- is striving to be an example of best practice in implementing children's and young people's right to participation
- will create an environment for children and young people to participate in policy and decision making and express their opinions freely
- will give appropriate weight to the opinions of children and young people

Outcomes

To make real this intent, our participation of children and young people will be supported by giving regard to existing publications that outline standards and guidance for participation, such as:

- 'Let's Talk, Let's Listen – Guidance for public authorities on consulting and involving children and young people' ECNI (2008)

**Good Relations Partnership
Monday, 10th September, 2012**

- **Big Deal’s Guidance for Effective Youth Councils (2009)**
- **‘ASK FIRST – Northern Ireland standards for children and young people’s participation in public decision making’ The Participation Network (2010)**

Belfast City Council will evidence our good practice, providing a benchmark to measure our levels of participation against in the future.

This policy is a working document that will be periodically reviewed.”

After discussion, the Partnership adopted the recommendation.

Update on the Council’s Work to Assist in Addressing Human Trafficking

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

“Relevant Background Information

The Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DSHHPS) have recently issued a joint consultation document entitled ‘Working Arrangements for the Welfare and Protection of Adult Victims of Human Trafficking’. Both the DOJ and DHSSPS recognise that the PSNI and H and S C Trusts have the leading roles in the investigation of trafficking and the protection of victims and, given the limited remit of the Council in this area, a formal corporate response from the Council is not required.

However, this up-dated guidance states that ‘all practitioners, agencies and public facing service providers have an important role in identifying and securing help for victims of trafficking’. This report outlines for the information of the Partnership some of the work that has been done within the Council on this issue.

Human trafficking is defined as ‘the forced removal of people from their communities and exploiting them using violence, deception, coercion, the abuse of power or the abuse of someone’s vulnerability’. It is an international crime with victims being brought into the UK via numerous transit countries. It is undertaken for a variety of purposes, including sexual exploitation, forced labour for little or no wages, domestic servitude, enforced criminal activity or benefit fraud.

The ease of passage across the land border between NI and the Republic of Ireland is known to be used by traffickers and presents particular difficulties to authorities in both jurisdictions. Human trafficking has been identified as a growing problem in Belfast and is highly profitable for the organisers.

**Good Relations Partnership
Monday, 10th September, 2012**

In the 2011/2012 year, 33 potential victims of human trafficking were recovered in NI. Their nationalities included British, Czech, Tanzanian, Zimbabwean, Ghanaian, Slovakian, Chinese and Austrian. Eighteen of the victims were female, 17 of whom had been trafficked for sexual exploitation. Seven were males trafficked for labour exploitation and eight were minors.

Key Issues

Staff from the Good Relations Unit have become involved with this issue over the past year when the subject was initially raised at our Migrants' Forum. We have been working with key service providers including the PSNI, the Law Centre, Migrant Help and Women's Aid^{LI} to raise awareness of the issue and provide information to stakeholders.

The Good Relations Unit held a preliminary workshop for staff from various agencies involved with the issue last June 2011. Speakers included PSNI, Garda, the UK Borders Agency, the Law Centre, Women's Aid and Migrant Help. The Lord Mayor had expressed an interest and had been due to speak but at the last minute was unable to attend.

A second follow-up seminar for a range of interested agencies was held at the beginning of March, 2012 when the Lord Mayor attended.

A specific awareness session on Human Trafficking for Council staff was held in the City Hall at the beginning of April 2012 under the auspices of the *Growing a Shared City* lunchtime seminar. Several elected Members of Council attended this seminar and expressed an interest in the subject. An article on human trafficking will be included in the next edition of *City Matters* and the Deputy Lord Mayor and Chairman of the Good Relations Partnership are expected to attend a public rally on this in October 2012. Elected Members who sit on the new Policing and Community Safety Partnership structures have also expressed an interest in addressing the issue of human trafficking.

As an organisation that delivers front line services to communities across the city, the Council is well placed to play a role in trying to address this problem, since we have numbers of front-line staff who may be in situations where they witness or hear reports about human trafficking.

Proposal

The Good Relations and Community Safety Units are planning:

- to establish a group to develop internal procedures in relation to reporting human trafficking

**Good Relations Partnership
Monday, 10th September, 2012**

- to develop briefings for key staff to raise awareness of the signs of trafficking and to encourage staff to report any suspicious behaviour.

At present there is no policy or procedure in place in relation to human trafficking. If staff are to be encouraged to report their suspicions a procedure for passing on these concerns to appropriate organisations such as the PSNI has to be established. A policy would also outline the Council's (limited) remit in relation to the issue.

Under the auspices of the Safer City Group, staff from the Good Relations and Community Safety Units will work with HR staff and staff from the PSNI, Migrant Help and the Law Centre to develop internal procedures for reporting any suspicious behaviour regarding possible human trafficking through agreed channels. They will also develop an appropriate briefing for a small number of front-line staff, to raise awareness of the indicators that human trafficking may be taking place.

It is anticipated that this work will be completed by October/November with the first briefings delivered around Anti-Slavery Day on 18 October; feedback will be used to review procedures and inform future needs.

Resource Implications

No external resource will be required to deliver an initial set of pilot briefings, but around 60 staff may need to be released from normal duties for 90 minutes to attend.

Equality & good relations implications

Briefings will highlight the need for staff to be sensitive in their approach to this issue so that they do not assume that all individuals from an ethnic minority background have been trafficked.

Recommendation

The Good Relations Partnership is requested to note the contents of this report.”

^[1] Migrant Help and Women's Aid are contracted by the DOJ to provide physical, psychological and emotional support to victims of human trafficking

After discussion, the Partnership noted the information which had been provided.

**Good Relations Partnership
Monday, 10th September, 2012**

Celebration of Polish Independence Day

The Good Relations Manager informed the Partnership that the Polish Community was now one of the largest new communities in the City. She reported that the Polish Saturday School, which was based in St. Michael's Primary School, Ravenhill Road, was attended by large numbers of Polish parents and children and was supported by local groups and statutory agencies, all of which were working to achieve better integration of that community. She explained that the School was planning to hold an event to mark Polish Independence Day on 11th November, in recognition of the independence gained by that country after World War I, and that it would link into Remembrance Day. She pointed out that the Lord Mayor, the Polish Consulate and Honorary Council would be invited to attend the event, which would take place in the City Hall, and that it was estimated that around one hundred people would be in attendance. The cost of providing small-scale hospitality at the event would be met from within the Good Relations Units budget, 75% could be recouped from the Office of the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister. Approval to hold the event would be sought from the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

The Partnership noted the information which had been provided.

Rural Community Network Conference

The Good Relations Manager informed the Partnership that the Rural Enabler Programme was a partnership approach between the Rural Community Network, Irish Rural Link, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government. She reported that the Programme was hosting in Ballymena on 21st September, which was the International Day of Peace, a conference for political representatives and chief executives of local councils. The event, which was taking place as part of Rural Respect Week, would discuss how they could be supported in leading the way to building positive relations at a local level and sharing learning in terms of addressing issues such as flags, emblems and parades. An invitation to attend had been extended to the Partnership.

Noted.

International Day of Peace 2012

The Partnership noted that Springboard Opportunities Limited would be holding in the City Hall on Friday, 21st September an event to observe the International Day of Peace. The event, which would be hosted by the Lord Mayor, would include the presentation of inspiration awards at youth and community level and the members of the Partnership had been invited to attend.

Update on Decade of Centenary Programme of Events

The Good Relations Manager tabled for the information of the Partnership a programme of events which would be taking place during the period from September to November to mark the Decade of Centenaries.

Noted.

Chairman



Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Operation Banner
Date:	Friday 21 September 2012
Reporting Officer:	Hazel Francey, Good Relations Manager

Relevant Background Information	
1.0	The Committee will be aware that at its last meeting on 7 September the up-date report on Operation Banner which had been submitted to the Committee meeting of 24 August and taken back at the Council meeting on 3 September, was again considered. (Full copy of report to Strategic Policy & Resources Committee of 24 August attached for information).
2.0	At the meeting on 7 September, Councillor Reynolds advised the Committee that there had been no opportunity for the relevant welfare groups to have been consulted between the time of the Council meeting and the date of the Committee meeting and he therefore requested that the Committee consider deferring the matter until its next meeting on 21st September to enable that process to be undertaken.
3.0	A Member suggested that any consultation should include victims' groups and should be as inclusive and as broad as possible and that his Party would be content to defer the matter on that basis.
4.0	After further discussion, the Committee agreed to defer the update on Operation Banner until its next meeting on 21 September and that the consultation should include victims' groups. It agreed further that the Party Leaders would be provided with a list of the groups included within that category prior to the next meeting of the Committee.
5.0	A list of victims' groups in Belfast has been supplied by the new Victims & Survivors' Service and has been circulated to the Party Leaders in advance of this meeting. In addition, the relevant welfare groups associated with the police and the armed forces would be consulted.

	Key Issues
6.0	Members will be aware that consultation with the number of groups involved might be time-consuming and that a wide range of views could be expected. The Committee is requested to note that a decision on a preferred option at this stage would be helpful.

	Decision required
7.0	The Committee is requested to consider the options presented in the original report and determine an appropriate course of action.

	Officer to contact for more information
8.0	Hazel Francey, Good Relations Manager, ext 6020

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Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Joint Group on Diversity: Update report on Operation Banner
Date:	Friday 24 August 2012
Reporting Officer:	Hazel Francey, Good Relations Manager

Relevant Background Information	
	<p>At its meeting on 3rd September, 2007, the Council passed the following resolution in response to a Notice of Motion by (then) Councillor Patterson:</p> <p><i>"This Council acknowledges the tremendous support and sacrifice made by Her Majesties Forces during thirty-five years of conflict in Northern Ireland. Operation Banner was the longest running campaign in military history, a campaign which saw the loss of many lives. Peace in Northern Ireland came at a heavy price but without the selfless dedication and commitment of the British Army, Ulster Defence Regiment, Royal Irish Regiment and the Royal Ulster Constabulary/Police Service of Northern Ireland this great City and, indeed, the entire Province would have found itself in a state of civil war. The Council welcomes the ending of Operation Banner but must be ever mindful of the ultimate sacrifice many had to pay for peace. The Council agrees to construct a fitting memorial to the Servicemen and women who helped to maintain peace and law and order during the duration of Operation Banner."</i></p> <p>No action was taken at that time as the Council was preparing to decant from the City Hall. At its meeting on 24 April 2009 the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee referred this to the (then) Memorabilia Working Group to be considered as part of the overall review of memorabilia and there was a suggestion at the meeting that the memorial might take the form of a stained glass window.</p> <p>A report was submitted to the Memorabilia Working Group on 29 May 2009 which noted that there were already 3 stained glass windows in the City Hall dedicated to various arms of the forces – including the UDR, the British Army and the RUC/George Cross. The Working Group agreed, on that occasion, that the memorial should be located in the City Hall grounds, preferably in the Garden of Remembrance and made several suggestions, including a bench with a suitable memorial plaque, tree planting etc.</p> <p>The Memorabilia Working Group considered a further report with a range of options and costs at its meeting on 14 August 2009. These options included the planting of semi-mature trees, a bespoke granite seat and a memorial bronze statue. The Memorabilia Working Group Members discussed these options at various meetings in 2009 and 2010 but no</p>

decisions were made; Party Groups were to consider the issue and report back their views but no agreement was reached regarding what form the memorial should take or an associated budget.

Members may wish to note that in the interim, a 19 feet high bronze statue in memory of the Ulster Defence Regiment was unveiled in the centre of Lisburn in June 2011. It was funded entirely by the UDR Memorial Trust and was intended to be a regional/Northern Ireland wide memorial.

Key Issues

At the meeting of the Joint Diversity Working Group on 29 June 2012, the issue was considered again and the Members requested updated costs for a number of options, including the alteration of the existing UDR window and additional features provided within the Garden of Remembrance. These are set out below in ascending order of cost:

Option	Description	Approximate cost
1.	Existing UDR window to be modified to include the "Conspicuous Gallantry" Cross awarded by HM The Queen on 6 October 2006 for their work "during Operation Banner" and an interpretative brass plaque to be placed alongside the window	£1,800 (Window = £1,000; internal plaque = £800)
2.	A granite bench and four semi-mature trees (one for each decade of Operation Banner) with a dedication plaque on one planter, located in the Garden of Remembrance	£25,100 (Bench = £2,220; planters + trees = £17,900; external plaque = £5,000)
3.	An external bronze memorial on a Portland stone plinth	£55,000

The Joint Group discussed the matter and recommended that these 3 options should be forwarded to SP&R Committee for their consideration.

Resource Implications

Costs within the limits outlined above could be met within existing budgets.

Equality Implications

None. This proposal is within the context of broader programme of work on diversity which seeks to promote good relations and support the positive expression of the diversity of heritage, culture and identities in the city.

Decision required

The Committee is requested to consider the options presented.

Officer to contact for more information

Hazel Francey, Good Relations Manager, ext 6020