

Document Pack

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



16th April, 2013

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, 19th April, 2013 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) Minutes
- (c) Declarations of Interest

2. Investment Programme

- (a) Study Visit to Dublin (Pages 5 - 8)
- (b) Belfast Waterfront Conference and Exhibition Centre (Pages 9 - 14)
- (c) Creative Hub update (Pages 15 - 24)
- (d) Efficiency Programme 2014/15 - 2015/16 (Pages 25 - 28)
- (e) Local Investment Fund (Pages 29 - 34)

- (f) Belfast: A Future City – City Development Conference (Pages 35 - 40)
- (g) Special Meeting – Stadia Development Update (Pages 41 - 42)
- 3. **Review of Public Administration**
 - (a) Severance Arrangements for Councillors (Pages 43 - 86)
- 4. **Democratic Services and Governance**
 - (a) Requests for the use of the City Hall and the provision of Hospitality (Pages 87 - 90)
 - (b) Area Working Groups – Review and Future Work (Pages 91 - 96)
 - (c) Update on Future Governance Arrangements for the Council (Pages 97 - 112)
- 5. **Finance/Value-for-Money**
 - (a) Notice of Motion re- Northern Ireland Hospice (Pages 113 - 122)
 - (b) Minutes of Meeting of Budget and Transformation Panel (Pages 123 - 124)
 - (c) Capital Programme – Approval request to move projects from ‘Stage 1- Emerging Projects’ to ‘Stage 2’ (Pages 125 - 136)
- 6. **Human Resources**
 - (a) Standing Order 55 – Employment of Relatives (Pages 137 - 138)
- 7. **Asset Management**
 - (a) Attempted Break In – City Hall (Pages 139 - 140)
 - (b) Illuminate Project City Hall – Additional Days (Pages 141 - 144)
 - (c) Corporate Accommodation Strategy Update (Pages 145 - 148)
 - (d) Request for Use of City Hall Grounds During G8 Summit (Pages 149 - 150)
- 8. **Good Relations and Equality**
 - (a) Minutes of Meeting of Good Relations Partnership (Pages 151 - 156)
 - (b) Flying of the Union Flag at Half Mast from the City Hall (Pages 157 - 158)
 - (c) Minutes of Meeting of Joint Group of Party Leaders' and Historic Centenaries working Group (To Follow)
- 9. **Cross-Cutting Issues**
 - (a) EU Summit - Active and Healthy Ageing Dublin (Pages 159 - 162)



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Investment Programme – Study Visit to Dublin
Date:	Friday, 19th April, 2013
Reporting Officer:	Mr. John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext. 3509
Contact Officer:	Mr. Barry Flynn, Democratic Services Officer, ext. 6312

1.0	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members will recall that the Committee, at its meeting on 24th August, 2012, agreed to undertake a study visit to Dublin in order to view The Digital Hub, the headquarters of Waterways Ireland and the Convention Centre Dublin. Given the proposal under the Investment Programme to establish a digital hub in Belfast, extend the Waterfront Hall and the long-term plans to rejuvenate the Lagan Canal, it was felt that such a visit would provide a valuable insight into the level of investment and planning which would be required to deliver such projects.
1.2	Accordingly, the visit took place on Wednesday, 27th March, and was attended by Aldermen M. Campbell and Rodgers; Councillors Attwood, Curran, Haire, Mullan, McCarthy, McVeigh, Mac Giolla Mhin, O' Donnghaile and O' Muilleoir. They were accompanied by the Directors of Development and Property and Projects, together with a Democratic Services Officer.
1.3	The Members were also welcomed to the Mansion House by Cllr. Claire Byrne, the Deputy Lord Mayor, representing the Lord Mayor of Dublin who was in San José on Council business.

2.0	Key Issues
2.1	<p><u>Waterways Ireland</u></p> <p>The deputation visited the headquarters of Waterways Ireland, which is based at the Grand Canal Dock, south of the River Liffey. The body is one of the six North/South Implementation Bodies established under the Good Friday / Belfast Agreement in 1998. It is responsible for the management, maintenance, development and restoration of inland navigable waterways, principally for recreational purposes.</p>

The waterways under the remit of the body are the Barrow Navigation, the Erne System, the Grand Canal, the Lower Bann, the Royal, the Shannon-Erne Waterway and the Shannon Navigation.

The Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure works with Waterways Ireland in the management, maintenance, development and restoration of operational waterways throughout Northern Ireland. However, the Lagan Canal does not come under the remit of Waterways Ireland and, as such, the British and Irish governments would be required to enact legislation to adopt the waterway formally for redevelopment. At this time, there are no plans for such a step to be taken.

2.2 **The Convention Centre Dublin**

The Deputation proceeded on foot to the Convention Centre Dublin (CCD) overlooking the River Liffey, which was opened in 2010. The tour of the facility was quite beneficial, given that a significant conference/exhibition was ongoing at the time and Members were able to see the centre from an operational perspective.

The CCD was developed by the Irish Government as part of a public private partnership and has become a landmark building with its unique glass-fronted atrium running the full height of the building, which gives visitors panoramic views of the River Liffey, Dublin city centre and the Wicklow mountains. The facilities at the CCD include 22 multi-functional rooms suitable for meetings, conferences and exhibitions. In addition, the top floor of the CCD contains a 2,000 seat auditorium with full theatrical stage; 4,500 square metres of exhibition space; theatre capacity for 3,000 delegates in The Forum and Banqueting facilities for up to 2,000 guests.

2.3 **The Digital Hub**

The deputation was the provided with an overview of The Digital Hub by Breandán Goss, the Hub's Enterprise Development Manager. He outlined its role in supporting innovation and encouraging collaborative working on technological, strategic and commercial levels. He explained that the Hub, which had been established in 2003 by the Irish Government, had supported over 2,000 jobs and 170 enterprises. It is based in a nine acre site, formerly owned by Guinness, and has played a vital role in regenerating the adjacent Liberties area of inner-city Dublin. He outlined the range of successful companies which had originated in the facility and explained how the Hub had worked closely with the local community and provided vital opportunities for schools and colleges to engage with the digital economy.

The Digital Hub is the base for a wide range of companies at the forefront of animation, computer games, web design, mobile applications and online media. It is managed to ensure that its tenant companies enjoy the benefits of a collaborative space. Relationships are fostered and encouraged between suppliers and vendors, creators and consumers, inventors, entrepreneurs and investors.

2.4	<p><u>Courtesy Meeting with the Deputy Lord Mayor of Dublin</u></p> <p>The Deputy Lord Mayor of Dublin received the Members and provided a tour of the Mansion House. She was accompanied by Michael Sands, Deputy Director for International Relations, who gave a brief update on a number of initiatives being progressed by Dublin City Council, in particular the City's plans to launch its Digital Dublin strategy in the near future. Mr. Sands indicated that he would welcome representatives from Belfast City Council to the launch and that his department would like to explore areas of potential mutual economic benefit where the two councils could work in partnership.</p>
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3.0	Resource Implications
	The travel costs for the trip was £400.

4.0	Equality Implications
	None

5.0	Recommendations
	The Committee is requested to note the information provided and take such action thereon as may be determined.

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Efficiency Programme 2014/15 - 2015/16
Date:	19 April 2013
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan Director of Finance & Resources
Contact Officers:	Mark McBride, Head of Finance and Performance Charlie Thompson, Principal Consultant, Efficiency Unit

Purpose of Report
The purpose of this report is to provide an overview for Members of the proposed approach to the development and delivery of the 2014/15 - 2015/16 Efficiency Programme to meet the target of £20m by 2015/16.
Background
The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (SP&R) on 15 April 2011 agreed an indicative efficiency target of £2m per year for the 3 years up to 2015/16 to ensure that a total of £20m of efficiencies are realised by that date. The efficiency target was a key element of the Investment Programme commitment to maintain the increase in the district rate at or below the rate of inflation over the three year period to 2015/16.
The 2013/14 revenue estimates included £2.12m of efficiency savings arising from the efficiency programme, as against the target of £2m and this contributed to the council setting a zero district rate for 2013/14. The £2.12m of savings brought the total savings from the Efficiency Programme to £16m since 2006.
Key Issues
Financial Pressures
The following pressures all contribute to making the realisation of cash savings from the efficiency programme more difficult in 2014/15 and future years. These include:-
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The quick win efficiencies within the council have already been realised in previous years. • The cash savings removed in previous years have significantly reduced the budgets for expenditure on external services meaning that the major element of a number of service budgets now relate to employee costs. • While the implementation of improvement plans has generated cash savings, some of these

savings have been redeployed to support other priority initiatives, such as improving job opportunities, and so are not available to offset against the district rate.

- The significant capital expenditure savings in vehicle procurement arising from the review of the council's fleet, has not resulted in a reduction in the annual capital financing budget as the savings are being used to finance the full capital expenditure commitments of the Investment Programme.
- Transformational savings within Leisure Services will be required to support additional capital investment in the Leisure Estate rather than to offset the district rate requirements.
- The need to consider ways to enhance income generation particularly through demand led services such as the Zoo and Belfast Castle.

The above pressures mean that the bulk of the efficiency savings will have to come from wider business transformation / value for money projects which are complex, may require collaboration with other local authorities and public bodies and have longer lead in times.

Approach to Efficiency programme 2014/15 - 2015/16

The key themes of the efficiency programme, and the associated projects, will continue to be based on the HM Treasury Guidance and these are:-

- Procurement
- Assets & Land
- Budgetary Challenge
- ICT
- Income Generation
- Service Reviews/Employee Costs

Current Projects in Progress

The Efficiency Unit is currently supporting the implementation of improvement programmes following the completion of the Value for Money (VFM) reviews in the thematic areas of Procurement & Fleet. Both of these projects have been agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and will generate significant cash savings over the next 2 years to contribute to the £20m efficiency target by 2015/16.

A VFM review of Security is also in progress and the final report expected by the end of April 2013 which should also identify further opportunities to realise cash savings for 2014/15. The outcome of the review and proposed efficiency savings will require Strategic Policy and Resources Committee approval.

The other main projects which are in progress are:-

- Fleet Utilisation and Route Optimisation in Cleansing Services - Terms of reference are being prepared with the department.
- Office Accommodation - Review in progress, supported by external consultant.
- Energy and Utilities - Review completed and implementation plan to be developed and agreed.
- Review of BCC Marketing - Terms of reference being developed.
- Overtime & Agency – Revised overtime policy being drafted and analysis of costs has been completed. Implementation plan to be developed which will include agreed balance between job creation and cash savings.
- ICT Strategy – Being commissioned and will include wider Local Government Reform opportunities and business case for future Microsoft licensing arrangements.
- Advertising on Assets and Income - Review completed and implementation plan to be agreed.
- Budgetary Challenge - Challenge will continue on current budgets.

Proposed New Projects

The proposed approach to further projects to be included in the Efficiency Programme will be based on the following actions:-

- Complete a high level strategic cost driver analysis review across BCC against the top expenditure areas and by Department / Service to identify the potential for realising cash savings or highlighting areas requiring a more detailed VFM review.
- Complete an analysis of potential service review areas based on the net cost of the service to the ratepayer.

A further report on the 2014/15 Efficiency Programme and a revised programme of service reviews arising from the above actions will be presented to SP&R in June 2013.

Trade Union Support

As we move into conducting more transformation thematic and prioritised VFM review type work there will be an increasing potential for there to be implications for staff. In order to ensure that we are in a position to effectively manage any potential human resource and employee relations issues it will be essential that we work closely with the Trade Unions to ensure that effective communication channels remain open and to ensure that staff concerns and issues have a mechanism to be addressed. At present there is a specific Trade Union Efficiency Sub Group made up of representatives from Human Resources, Finance, Trade Union Coordinators and representatives from the Trade Unions and it will be important to work closely with this group to ensure that they are fully engaged.

Conclusions

At present £2m will be required annually over the next 2 years to meet the £20m efficiency target by 2015/16 as agreed as part of our Investment Programme.

By June 2013 the council will have received the final Actual Penny Product from Land and Property Services, for 2012/13 and this will enable the efficiency target to be reviewed in the context of the district rate for 2014/15.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Note the contents of this report and agree the direction of travel for the Efficiency Programme
- Agree that a detailed report on the Efficiency Programme 2014/15-2015/16 be brought to SP&R in June 2013.

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Investment Programme – Local Investment Fund
Date:	19 th April 2013
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects, Ext; 6217
Contact Officer:	Donal Rogan, Head of Contracts, Ext: 2460 Keith Sutherland, Urban Development Manager, Ext: 3578

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	In April 2012 the Strategic Policy and Resources (SP&R) Committee agreed to convene five Area Working Groups (AWGs) to support effective ‘place-shaping’ and make recommendations to SP&R Committee on capital investment decisions for the local area.
1.2	To support this work the Council established a £5million Local Investment Fund (LIF) for investments of between £15,000 and £250,000 in the development or improvement of local assets. £100,000 was also made available to each AWG for local interventions that would add value to the capital investments made through LIF.
1.3	While LIF is a Council-led, capital investment programme it was intended that projects would be developed, and potentially delivered, by or in conjunction with local groups and partner organisations. Members will be aware though that, as some organisations did not have the capacity to develop detailed proposals or experience of capital works, it was agreed by Council (3 rd September 2012) that Council could undertake project delivery if required.
1.4	LIF proposals have now been developed by each AWG and currently 60 individual projects have been offered ‘support in principle’ from this Committee. Officers and Members are working closely with responsible groups/organisations to put in place formal agreements to allow works to commence and it is anticipated that by May 2013 one-third will have received formal funding agreements; representing a contribution of over £1million.
1.5	The following report therefore contains: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. recommendations regarding the use of accompanying intervention funding 2. proposals to expedite the delivery of projects; and 3. a proposal to raise awareness of the Council’s investment through LIF

2	Key Issues
	<u>Local Intervention funding</u>
2.1	South AWG - Since the last meeting of this Committee, the South AWG has met again

	and resolved that a proportion of its intervention monies be allocated to support retail initiatives in South Belfast and also agreed that the Lisburn Road Business Association should benefit through assistance from this specified resource.
2.2	<p>The South AWG is therefore recommending that SP&R Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approve a sum of £50,000 out of the intervention monies for South to support a range of retail initiatives in South Belfast; and • that the Lisburn Road Business Association be allocated £15,000 from this retail initiative budget (on the basis that the Association provide match-funding) to enable it to employ a Development Officer
2.3	It is also suggested that the Director of Development takes this particular intervention forward given his economic development remit in the same way as the Director of Health and Environmental Services is supporting the community safety intervention in west Belfast.
2.4	East AWG - Members should also note that the East Belfast Area Working Group intend to meet just before the Strategic Policy and Resources committee. A verbal report of emerging recommendations will be made to the committee including recommendations regarding the allocation of their intervention monies.
	<u>Project delivery and procurement</u>
2.5	As noted, due to limited organisational capacity, it has been agreed that the Council may undertake project delivery of LIF projects. Appendix A provides an indicative list of initiatives where Council has been identified as the delivery body. Others may though arise in the course of the development of project proposals and options.
2.6	The Council is now ready to enter into formal agreement in respect of a number of projects that have submitted the pre-requisite information and are going through the required due diligence checks and being screened for delivery options. The scheme of delegation currently requires Council approval for works contracts in excess of £30,000; though authority for this may be delegated to the appropriate Director.
2.7	As such it is proposed that delegated authority be given to the Director of Property and Projects for the invitation of tenders, award of contracts, extension of existing contracts and the use of appropriate procurement frameworks to support delivery of Council-led and delivered projects within LIF.
2.8	Members should be assured that the Council's governance and audit procedures will be applied throughout; including due diligence, equality screening and the application of contractual terms and conditions etc in order to ensure that there is proper financial control and value for money.
	<u>Local Investment Fund Event</u>
2.9	Lastly, in recognition of the progress made by the Area Working Groups it is proposed that an event will be organised at City Hall with the involvement of the various groups from this first round of formal agreements. All Members of Council will be invited to attend this event. It is proposed that the event takes place on the 16 th May 2013 in City Hall; further details will be forwarded by the Communications team when arrangements are finalised.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	The above recommendations can be accommodated within the existing LIF and Intervention budgets. Indirect costs such as officer time will also be met by existing revenue estimates.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	None

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>It is recommended that Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. endorse the recommendations of the South Belfast Area Working Group, as set out at point 2.3 above; and 2. endorse the recommendations of the East Belfast Area Working Group as provided by verbal report 3. grant delegated authority to the Director of Property and Projects for the invitation of tenders, award of contracts, extension of existing contracts and the use of appropriate procurement frameworks to support delivery of Council-led and delivered projects within LIF. 4. support the proposal for a Local Investment Fund event, on the 16th May 2013.

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APPENDIX A

Indicative schedule of LIF projects likely to be Council LED and Delivered:

Reference Number	Project
ELIF 010	Fraser Pass Titanic Link (Westbourne Church Trail)
NLIF 045	Benview Community Centre
NLIF 007	WISP (North Belfast Women's Initiative) Community Facility
SHLIF 018	Springmartin Astroturf facility
NLIF 041	Ballysillan Community Forum
NLIF 039	Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre
WLIF 025	Glor na Mona community facility

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Special Meeting – Stadia Development Update
Date:	19 th April, 2013
Reporting Officer:	Mr Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager
Contact Officer:	

1.0	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Committee will that, at its meeting on 8 th March, it received a report on Maximising the Regeneration Impact of the Stadia Developments at Windsor Park and Casement Park.
1.2	At that meeting, Members were apprised of the progress and the timetables in relation to the developments.

2.0	Key Issues
2.1	In order to update the Members on the current progress of the developments, it is proposed to hold a special meeting for this purpose.
2.2	The meeting has been scheduled for 12.00 noon on Friday, 26 th April and permission is being sought from the Committee to approve the holding of the meeting.

3.0	Resource Implications
3.1	None associated with this report.

4.0	Equality Implications
4.1	None associated with this report.

5.0	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is asked to agree to the holding of the special meeting as outlined.

6.0	Decision Tracking
Officer responsible – Jim Hanna	



Belfast City Council

Report to	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Severance Arrangements for Councillors
Date:	19th April, 2013
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (ext 6314)
Contact Officer:	

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Department of the Environment has issued a consultation document on severance arrangements for councillors (copy attached at Appendix 1). Responses to the consultation are to be with the Department no later than 31st May, 2013.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The consultation document asks a number of questions in relation to options as to how the scheme should be delivered. The main aspects of the scheme are summarised below.
2.2	<p><u>Eligibility - The Prescribed Period</u></p> <p>The prescribed period means that only those serving councillors who are in office on the date the Regulations come into force and who resign their seat before 31st March, 2015 will be eligible for severance under the scheme.</p>
2.3	<p><u>Application Periods</u></p> <p>It is proposed that there will be two periods during which councillors can apply for severance. The first period would start from the date the Regulations come into operation and end on 31st December, 2013. Councillors who apply in the first period would resign their seats immediately and the vacant seat would be filled using the current co-option arrangements.</p>

2.4	<p>The second period would commence on 1st January, 2014 and end on the closing date for nominations for the local government elections. Councillors who apply in this period would have to resign before 31st March, 2015.</p> <p>The scheme is clear that it will not be possible for a councillor who stands for election in 2014 and fails to be elected to then apply for severance. The decision to apply under the scheme must be made in one of the two prescribed periods. In addition, applicants under the severance scheme will be required to sign a declaration that they will not seek re-election.</p> <p>Severance payments would be made on or after the date of the councillor's resignation.</p> <p>The first question in the consultation document asks if the Council agrees with this two stage application process and, if not, what alternative would it suggest? The second question asks if the Council would foresee any practical or administrative difficulties with the prescribed period ending on 31st March, 2015?</p> <p>It is recommended that the Council should respond supporting the two stage process and that it does not foresee any difficulties with the prescribed period ending on 31st March, 2015.</p> <p>The Minister is considering discussing with the Secretary of State the possibility of amending electoral legislation to allow a vacancy on an existing council to be filled by co-option after 1st January, 2014 and question three asks if the Council would be supportive of this proposal.</p> <p>All political parties appear to be satisfied with the current co-option system for dealing with casual vacancies on a council. It is considered that the extension of these arrangements beyond 1st January in an election year would not disadvantage any particular party and would allow incoming co-opted councillors to gain valuable experience both in constituency work and in familiarising themselves with council procedures. Accordingly, it is recommended that the Council should support this proposal.</p> <p><u>Eligibility – The Qualifying Period</u></p> <p>The proposed scheme will take account of all periods of service of an elected member from the local government elections in 1973 to the date of the councillor's resignation. There is no requirement for these periods to be concurrent.</p> <p>It is proposed that the length of service would be measured in years rather than council terms of office. This takes account of councillors elected at a by-election or co-opted during a council term.</p> <p>The scheme will only be open to those councillors who have a minimum qualifying period of 12 years service. Periods when a councillor was also a Member of the Assembly, an MP or an MEP would not count towards the qualifying period.</p>
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	<p>Question four asks if the Council agrees that such periods should be excluded from the calculation when determining the eligibility of councillors and question five asks if the Council feels that the minimum qualifying period for severance should be longer than 12 years?</p> <p>The Council had responded to a previous consultation document on a severance scheme for councillors in 2009 and had adopted the position that serving MLAs, MPs and MEPs should be included in the scheme but that their entitlement to an award should only be calculated on those years of local government service which they had acquired prior to their election to another tier of government. As such, the current proposals would be consistent with the Council's former position and it is recommended that the Council support the current proposal. It is also recommended that the Council support the proposal that the minimum qualifying period for severance should be 12 years.</p> <p>2.5 <u>Reckonable Service Within the Qualifying Period</u></p> <p>A severance payment will be based on the cumulative total of all periods of reckonable service since 7th May, 1973 and excludes any periods when the councillor was also an MLA, an MP or an MEP. Part years of more than 6 months will be counted as a full year and part years of less than 6 months will be discounted when calculating reckonable service.</p> <p>Question six asks if the Council agrees with this proposal and it is recommended that the Council support it.</p> <p>2.6 <u>Calculation of Individual Severance payments</u></p> <p>The consultation document proposes a graduated scheme of payments where service in the earliest years of the current 26 councils would receive a higher annual rate than service in the later years. The reasons given for this approach is that civil unrest was at its height in the earlier years and the remuneration for councillors in those years was relatively low.</p> <p>The paper offers two options for a graduated scheme. The first divides service into two bands. Band 1 for service from May 1973 till May 1998 and band 2 for service from May 1998 till the date of a councillor's resignation. The yearly payment for service in band 1 would be £1,000 and for band 2 £600.</p> <p>The consultation document explains that the use of 1998 as a break point is in recognition of the major changes to the security and political situation initiated by the Belfast Agreement and also that there was a change to the system of remuneration to councillors with the introduction of the basic allowance.</p> <p>The second option divides the service into three bands. Band 1 for service from May 1973 till May 1987, band 2 for service from May 1987 till May 2001 and band 3 for service from May 2001 till the date of a councillor's resignation. The yearly payment for service in band 1 would be £1,000, for band 2 £750 and for band 3 £550.</p> <p>The consultation document does not give any rationale to support the 3 band approach.</p>
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	<p>Question 7 asks if the Council agrees with the proposal to consider two options for calibrating individual severance payments and question 8 asks which option the Council would find most suitable.</p> <p>As a reasonable rationale has been provided in the consultation document for option 1 it is recommended that the Council support this option.</p> <p>The scheme proposes that the maximum severance which can be paid to any individual should be capped at £36,000. It is pointed out that the first £30,000 of any severance payment would be tax free with the rate of tax payable on any amount over £30,000 being dependent upon individual circumstances.</p> <p>Question nine asks if the Council agrees with this maximum limit.</p> <p>Under the two options for considering the payment of severance to an individual councillor, there is not any circumstance where an individual would be liable for a payment exceeding £36,000 and therefore it is recommended that the Council support the proposal.</p> <p>2.7 <u>Death of an Applicant for a Severance Payment</u></p> <p>When applying for severance, a councillor will be able to nominate a beneficiary or beneficiaries to receive the payment in the event of the councillor's death. The severance will be paid only to the beneficiary or beneficiaries nominated by the councillor.</p> <p>2.8 <u>Meeting the Cost of the Severance Scheme</u></p> <p>Councils will be responsible for making the severance payments but the cost will be reimbursed by the Department.</p>
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3	Resource Implications
3.1	As the cost of the scheme will be reimbursed to the Council by the Department of the Environment, the net cost to the Council will be nil.

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	None.

5	Recommendations
5.1	It is recommended that the Council reply to the consultation document in the terms set out in the report.

6	Decision Tracking
	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager May, 2013

7	Documents Attached
Appendix 1 – Severance Arrangements for Councillors and Draft Local Government (Severance Payments for Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013	

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**Severance Arrangements for Councillors
and
draft Local Government
(Severance Payments for Councillors)
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013**

Consultation Document

April 2013



Department of the
Environment

www.doeni.gov.uk

**SEVERANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR COUNCILLORS
AND
DRAFT LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SEVERANCE PAYMENTS FOR
COUNCILLORS) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2013**

This Consultation Document seeks views on the Department's proposals for a severance scheme for councillors, and the proposed Local Government (Severance Payments for Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013.

Comments should be sent by 31 May 2013 to:

**Local Government Policy Division
Department of the Environment
1st Floor, Millennium House
17-25 Great Victoria Street
Malone Lower
Belfast
BT2 7BN**

E-mail: LGPDConsultations@doeni.gov.uk

Fax No. 02890 416737

Textphone 02890 540642

The following persons will be able to answer queries in relation to the proposed scheme:

Name	E-mail	Telephone
Julie Broadway	julie.broadway@doeni.gov.uk	028 90 416735
Marie Cochrane	marie.cochrane@doeni.gov.uk	028 90 416779

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**SEVERANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR COUNCILLORS
AND
DRAFT LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SEVERANCE PAYMENTS FOR
COUNCILLORS) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2013**

PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

1. The Department of the Environment is seeking views from consultees on the proposed arrangements for severance payments to district councillors.

BACKGROUND

2. In a statement to the Assembly on 3 July 2012 the Minister of the Environment, Alex Attwood, advised that he would bring forward proposals for a one-off severance scheme for councillors who were leaving political life in the run up to local government reorganisation. Minister Attwood said the severance scheme would recognise the contribution made by those councillors who have served their communities for a long time, much of which was during the period of civil unrest.
3. The Department had previously consulted on a severance scheme in 2009. Those proposals have been reviewed in the light of the Executive and Assembly decisions on the total number of councillors in the 11 new district councils and the economic downturn with its consequent pressure on public finances.

4. The core components of the proposed councillor severance scheme would include:
 - a minimum eligibility period;
 - calibration of payments; and
 - a cap on individual payments.

5. Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 (“the 2010 Act”) contains a power enabling the Department to make regulations for severance payments by councils. The regulations would provide for:
 - the amount of severance payments;
 - the method of calculating the amount of severance payments; and
 - the procedure for applying for severance payments and for dealing with such applications.

6. The 2010 Act also provides that:
 - any period when a councillor was also a member of the Assembly, the House of Commons or the European Parliament is disregarded when calculating a severance payment; and
 - a recipient of a severance payment is disqualified from being elected, or being, a councillor.

7. On 12 June 2012 the Assembly approved the boundaries of 11 new local government districts, and the 462 wards making up those districts. As the number of wards equates to the number of council seats, there will be 120 fewer councillors than there are at present.

8. The proposed Local Government (Severance Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013 (“the Regulations”) outline the terms of a one-off severance scheme for councillors, linked to local government reorganisation and the resulting reduction in the number of council seats across Northern Ireland. A draft of the Regulations is provided at Annex A.

9. The Department intends to make the Regulations before the Assembly rises for its summer recess and bring them into operation in August 2013.

DETAILS OF THE PROPOSALS

Eligibility – the prescribed period

10. Section 19(1) of the 2010 Act, requires that an individual applying for a severance payment must have been a councillor immediately before the start of a period prescribed in regulations, and must resign their council membership before the end of that prescribed period.
11. The prescribed period is, therefore, the period during which councillors will be able to apply for severance and be required to resign their council membership.
12. It is proposed that the prescribed period will start on the date the Regulations come into operation, and end on 31 March 2015. The prescribed period would run until the current 26 district councils are dissolved.

Application periods

14. It is proposed to have two periods during which councillors can apply for severance. Both periods would be before the next local government elections.
15. The Secretary of State has agreed in principle that the next local government elections will be held in 2014. The date of the election will not, however, be determined until the legislation is made to establish the district electoral areas for the 11 new local government

districts. Councillors who were elected to the 26 councils remain as such until either, they resign, or their term of office expires. The existing 26 councils will continue to provide services until 1 April 2015 when the 11 councils will take over.

Stage One

16. The first period, stage one, would be from the date the Regulations come into operation to 31 December 2013. Councillors who apply during stage one would resign their seat immediately. The vacant seat would then be filled using the co-option arrangements.

17. It is expected that some councillors who are sure that they do not want to seek re-election in 2014 would stand down during stage one. Political parties will be able to put forward individuals who intend to stand for election in 2014 to fill the vacant seats. This will have the advantage of enabling those individuals to gain some experience of the role and responsibilities of a councillor before they stand for election.

Stage Two

18. It is proposed that the second application period, stage two, would be from 1 January 2014 to the closing date for nominations to stand at the next local government elections (the closing date).

19. It is recognised, however, that there are councillors who do not wish to seek election again but who do want to complete their term of office. Furthermore, there are other councillors who have not yet decided whether they wish to seek election to the 11 new councils. Some of those councillors may consider that they cannot make a

decision until they know what the district electoral areas will be. A District Electoral Area Commissioner (DEAC) has recently been appointed and is expected to report to the Secretary of State in early 2014.

20. The severance scheme is designed to recognise the service given by councillors who are retiring from public life. It is not intended that an individual who is currently a councillor in one of the 26 councils and who stands for election in 2014 but is unsuccessful should then be able to apply for a severance payment. The closing date for stage two has been chosen to limit that possibility. In addition, applicants will be required to submit a signed declaration that they will not seek re-election.
21. Councillors will be free to decide when, within the prescribed period, they wish to resign from office. They will, however, be required to provide a written declaration of their date of resignation when they apply for the severance scheme.
22. The severance payment would be made on, or after, the date of the councillor's resignation. This is because a councillor who has received a severance payment is disqualified from being a councillor.
23. Section 11 of the Electoral Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1962, as amended, prevents a vacancy which occurs after the 1st of January in an election year being filled before the election. The local government elections in 2014 will, however, be to the 11 new councils.

24. There may be a risk that an existing council would have insufficient councillors to conduct its business or meet its quorum, for some of the period from 1 January 2014 to 31 March 2015.

Question One

Do you agree with the proposed two stage application process? If not, what alternative would you suggest?

Question Two

Do you foresee any practical or administrative difficulties with the prescribed period ending on 31 March 2015?

25. As it is important that the reorganisation of local government proceeds as smoothly as possible, the Minister has indicated that he would consider discussing the possibility of amending the electoral legislation to allow a vacancy on an existing council to be filled by co-option after 1 January 2014, with the Secretary of State. The views of consultees on whether the electoral law should be amended would be welcomed.

Question Three

Do you agree that the Secretary of State should be asked to amend the electoral law to allow a vacancy in any of the 26 existing councils to be filled by co-option after 1 January 2014? If yes, what benefits do you think would result from such an amendment.

Eligibility – the qualifying period

26. The proposed severance scheme will take account of all periods of service as an elected member of a council, from the local government elections in May 1973 to the date of the councillor's resignation.
27. It is proposed that length of service should be measured in years, rather than council terms of office. This will take account of mandates that exceeded or fell short of the standard 4-year term, for example, councillors elected in the 2005 elections had their term extended to 6 years. This method also recognises the service of councillors elected at a by-election, or co-opted between elections.
28. It is also proposed that a councillor should have served for a minimum qualifying period of 12 years before becoming eligible for a severance payment. Periods when the councillor was also a Member of the Assembly, MP or MEP would not count for the qualifying period.
29. In his statement to the Assembly, Minister Attwood said he would consider views on whether it would be more suitable to set the minimum eligible period at 16 years or more.
30. The length of the qualifying period will affect the number of councillors who are able to apply for severance. If the qualifying period is 12-years, an estimated 267 councillors would be in the eligible group. The eligible group would fall to an estimated 177 councillors, if a 16-year qualifying period is used.

Question Four

Do you agree that periods when a councillor was also a Member of the Assembly, the House of Commons or the European Parliament should be excluded when determining the eligibility of councillors? If not, what alternative would you propose?

Question Five

Do you think that the minimum qualifying period for severance should be longer than 12 years? If so, what do you think the minimum qualifying period should be and why?

Reckonable service within the qualifying period

31. The severance payment will be based on the cumulative total of all periods of reckonable service since 7th May 1973.
32. Reckonable service is a period of service as a councillor, excluding any periods when the councillor was also a member of the Assembly, the House of Commons or the European Parliament.
33. It is unlikely that the total reckonable service will be in complete years for all applicants. It is, therefore, proposed that a part period of six months or more will be treated as a full year in office, while a part period of less than six months will be disregarded.

Question Six

Do you agree with the proposed method of dealing with part periods of service? If not, what alternative would you suggest?

Calculation of individual severance payments

34. The amount of severance payable will be calculated on the basis of a set amount for each year of reckonable service. To achieve the Minister's intention that the severance scheme treats councillors with longer periods of service in a fair and proportionate manner, it is proposed to have a graduated scheme of payments. Service in the earliest years of the current 26 councils, when civil unrest was at its height and the remuneration for councillors was relatively low, would be recognised through a higher annual rate. More recent service would receive a lower annual rate.
35. To reflect the proposals for a scheme of graduated payments, the Regulations will be drafted on the basis of bands of service. Options include:
- Option 1 - service falling into two bands, and
 - Option 2 - service falling into three bands.

Option 1

36. In this option there would be two bands for the periods of service. These would be:
- Band 1: commencing on 7 May 1973 and ending on 10 May 1998; and
 - Band 2: commencing on 11 May 1998 and ending with the date of the councillor's resignation.
37. The yearly amount in Band 1 will be higher than the yearly amount in Band 2. Proposed annual payment amounts are given below.

	BAND 1	BAND 2
Band range	7 May 1973 to 10 May 1998	11 May 1998 to the date of resignation
Yearly amount	£1,000	£600

38. The use of 1998 as a break point is in recognition of the major changes to the security and political situation in Northern Ireland initiated by the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement. Also at that time there was a change to the system of remuneration for councillors with the introduction of a basic allowance. Basic allowance is paid in recognition of a councillor's representational role and to assist with incidental expenses such as the use of their home and private telephones.

Option 2

39. In Option 2 there would be three-bands for the periods of service. These would be:

- Band 1: commencing on 7 May 1973 and ending on 10 May 1987;
- Band 2: commencing on 11 May 1987 and ending on 6 May 2001; and
- Band 3: commencing on 7 May 2001 and ending on the date of the councillor's resignation.

The 3 Bands are of approximately equal duration. The proposed level of annual payment for each band is given below.

	BAND 1	BAND 2	BAND 3
Band range	7 May 1973 to 10 May 1987	11 May 1987 to 6 May 2001	7 May 2001 to the date of resignation
Yearly amount	£1,000	£750	£550

Question Seven

Do you agree with calibration based on service bands?

If not, what alternative basis for calibration would you suggest?

Question Eight

Which of the two options do you consider most suitable? If neither, what alternative would you suggest?

40. It is proposed that the maximum amount of an individual severance payment should be capped at £35,000. At the moment tax would only be payable on the amount over £30,000. The rate of tax which would apply to the amount above £30,000 will depend on the individual councillor's income.

Question Nine

Do you agree that individual severance payments should be capped at £35,000? If not, what alternative limit would you suggest?

41. To illustrate the possible effects of using Option 1 or Option 2, worked examples, showing calculation of possible individual severance payments, are provided at Annex B.

Death of an Applicant for a Severance Payment

42. When applying for severance, a councillor will be able to nominate a beneficiary, or beneficiaries, to receive the payment in the event of the councillor's death.
43. The severance will be paid only to the beneficiary or beneficiaries nominated by the councillor.

Total estimated cost of severance

44. From the date of the 1973 local government elections, the maximum time a councillor could have served by 13 March 2015 would be nearly 42 years – the equivalent of more than 10 standard local government terms.
45. The total cost of the severance scheme has been calculated on the basis that all eligible councillors would apply and they would remain in office until 30 March 2015 in two possible scenarios.

Scenario 1

46. Minimum qualifying period of 12 years, and reckonable service falls into two service bands, attracting:
- £1,000 per year in Band 1; and
 - £600 per year in Band 2.

47. The total maximum cost of the scheme, if all councillors who were eligible applied for severance, is approximately £4.29m.

Scenario 2

48. Minimum qualifying period of 12 years, and reckonable service falls into 3 service bands, attracting:

- £1,000 per year in Band 1;
- £750 per year in Band 2; and
- £550 per year in Band 3.

49. The total maximum cost of the scheme, if all councillors who were eligible applied for severance, is approximately £3.88m.

Meeting the Cost of the Severance Scheme

50. The Northern Ireland Executive agreed (20 February 2013) that some financial support is required to deliver the reform of local government. The Executive agreed to fund various transitional elements including a severance scheme for councillors. Although councils will be responsible for making the severance payments, the cost will be reimbursed by the Department.

Proposed Regulations

51. A copy of the proposed Regulations, based on Option 1 (details of Option 1 are given on page 10) is attached at Annex A. The Department would welcome comments on the draft regulations.

HUMAN RIGHTS

52. The Department believes that the proposals are compatible with the Human Rights Act 1998.

EQUALITY

53. Under the terms of section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Department carried out screening for equality impact and is satisfied that the proposed legislation will not lead to discriminatory or negative differential impact on any of the section 75 groups. A copy of the screening form can be viewed on the Department's website http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/information/equality_unit.htm.

REGULATORY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

54. The Department has not conducted a regulatory impact assessment as the proposed regulations do not impose any associated costs on, or result in savings for, businesses, charities, social economy enterprises or the voluntary sector.

RURAL PROOFING

55. The Department has assessed the proposed measures and considers that there would be no differential impact in rural areas or on rural communities.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – CONFIDENTIALITY OF CONSULTATIONS

56. The Department will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. The Department can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. Before you submit your response, please read Annex E on the confidentiality of consultations, which will provide guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

ALTERNATIVE FORMAT

57. This document is available in alternative formats. Please contact us to discuss your requirements.

CONSULTATION

58. Comments should be sent by 31 May 2013 to the address below, or by e-mail to LGPDConsultations@doeni.gov.uk

59. The following persons will be able to answer queries in relation to the proposals:

Name	E-mail	Telephone
Julie Broadway	julie.broadway@doeni.gov.uk	028 90 416735
Marie Cochrane	marie.cochrane@doeni.gov.uk	028 90 416779

60. This Consultation Document is being circulated to the persons and bodies listed in Annex F, and is also available to view at:

http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/local_government/local_government_consultations.htm.

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 STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2013 No.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
**Local Government (Severance Payments to Councillors) Regulations
(Northern Ireland) 2013**

Made - - - - - ***

Coming into operation - *1st August 2013*

The Department of the Environment makes the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010^(a).

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Local Government (Severance Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013 and shall come into operation on 1st August 2013.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations—

“calculation period 1973 to 1998” means the period that commences on 7th May 1973 and ends on 10th May 1998;

“calculation period 1998 to 2015” means the period that commences on 11th May 1998 and ends on the councillor’s date of resignation;

“clerk of the council” means the clerk of an existing council;

“councillor” means a member of an existing council;

“prescribed period” means the period that commences on 1st August 2013 and ends on 31st March 2015;

“qualifying period” means the period that commences on 7th May 1973 and ends on 31st March 2015;

“resignation” means a resignation in accordance with section 8 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972^(b); and

“severance payment” means a payment made in accordance with these regulations.

Eligibility for severance payment – prescribed conditions

3. For the purposes of section 19(1)(c) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010, the prescribed conditions are:-

- (a) by the date of making an application for a severance payment, the councillor has accrued a minimum of twelve years reckonable service as a member of any existing council during the qualifying period; and
- (b) in accordance with regulation 4, the councillor has made an application for a severance payment.

^(a) 2010 c.7 (N.I.)

^(b) 1972 c.9 (N.I.)

Application for a severance payment

- 4.—(1) An application for a severance payment shall be made to an existing council.
- (2) An application for a severance payment shall be—
- (a) (i) made between the beginning of the prescribed period and 31st December 2013; or
 - (ii) made between 1st January 2014 and the closing date for nomination as a candidate in the next local government elections;
 - (b) written, and in such form as the council may direct;
 - (c) made to the clerk of the council;
 - (d) accompanied by a written declaration of the councillor's date of resignation; and
 - (e) a written declaration that the individual will not stand for election at the next local government elections.
- (3) The date of resignation mentioned in (2)(d) shall be—
- (a) in the case of an application made under (2)(a)(i), between the dates mentioned in that paragraph; or
 - (b) in the case of an application made under (2)(a)(ii), before 31st March 2015.
- (4) An application for a severance payment shall be accompanied by the councillor's nomination of one or more beneficiaries to receive the severance payment in the event of the councillor's death before payment is made.

Amount and calculation of severance payment

- 5.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the amount of severance payment shall be determined by the existing council.
- (2) The amount of severance payment shall be the lesser of—
- (a) the sum of—
 - (i) £1,000 per year for each year of reckonable service in the calculation period 1973 to 1998, plus
 - (ii) £600 per year for each year of reckonable service in the calculation period 1998 to 2015; or
 - (b) £35,000.

Calculation of reckonable service

- 6.—(1) For the purposes of regulations 3 and 5, a period of reckonable service shall—
- (a) commence on the day the councillor came into office and end on the councillor's last day in office; and
 - (b) exclude all periods for which the councillor was both a councillor and—
 - (i) a member of the Assembly (within the meaning of the Northern Ireland Act 1998^(a));
 - (ii) a member of the House of Commons; or
 - (iii) a member of the European Parliament.
- (2) All periods of reckonable service shall be aggregated to give a total amount.
- (3) Where total reckonable service includes a part year, that part year—
- (a) being a period of 6 months or more, shall be rounded up to count as one year; or
 - (b) being a period of less than 6 months, shall be disregarded.

^(a) 1998 c.47

Payment of a severance payment

7.—(1) Severance payments shall not be made to those councillors who satisfy the prescribed conditions before the councillor's date of resignation.

(2) An existing council shall not make more than one severance payment to a councillor.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of the Environment on ** 2013

Linda MacHugh

A senior officer of the Department of the Environment

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations make provision for the payment of severance payments to councillors under section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010.

Regulation 3 provides the prescribed conditions for eligibility for severance payment. It specifies that councillors must have accrued a minimum of twelve years reckonable service by the date of application to be eligible for a severance payment.

Regulation 4 provides for applications for a severance payment. It specifies how and when such applications are to be made. It also provides for the resignation dates of councillors making such applications.

Regulation 5 provides for the calculation of the amount of a severance payment.

Regulation 6 provides for the calculation of total reckonable service.

Regulation 7 provides for the making of severance payments. It also provides that only one severance payment shall be issued to eligible councillors.

Examples of Severance Payments

Example 1

Mr Smith is currently a councillor of AB Council. He intends to apply for severance during stage one of the application period and resign on 1 December 2013.

Mr Smith was first elected as a councillor in May 1973 and was re-elected in May 1977. He chose not to stand for election in the next 4 local government elections (1981, 1985, 1989 and 1993). Mr Smith stood again for election as a councillor in May 1997 and was successful in that election and subsequent elections. He has accrued the following periods of service as a councillor.

Election year	May 1973	May 1977	May 1981	May 1985	May 1989	May 1993	May 1997	May 2001	May 2005	May 2011
Mr Smith's service	Full term	Full term	X	X	X	X	Full term	Full term	Full term	Currently a councillor
Duration of reckonable service	4 years	4 years	None	None	None	None	4 years	4 years	6 years	2.5 years - ending on 1.12 13

By the date of application, Mr Smith has accrued just over 24.5 years of reckonable service, and is therefore eligible for severance.

Under a 2-band scheme, with Band 2 commencing on 11 May 1998, Mr Smith has served 9 years in Band 1, and 15.5 years in Band 2.

Reckonable service	BAND 1	BAND 2
	7 May 1973 to 10 May 1998	11 May 1998 to 1 December 2013
Actual	9 years	15.5 years
Reckonable service (Rounded as proposed in paragraph 25)	9 years	16 years
Yearly amount	£1,000	£600
Total	£9,000	£9,600

Mr Smith's severance payment, under a 2-band scheme would be £18,600

Example 2

Mrs Jones is currently a councillor of YZ Council and intends to apply for severance in February 2014. Mrs Jones has decided to complete her term of office and will resign on 30 March 2015.

Mrs Jones was first elected as a councillor in May 1977. She was elected again in the following local government elections, in May 1981 but was not successful in the 1985 elections. Mrs Jones was subsequently elected in May 1989 but was not re-elected again until May 2005. She was elected in the subsequent election in May 2011. For a period of 2 years from May 1989 she was both an MP and a councillor. She has accrued the following periods of reckonable service as a councillor.

Election year	May 1973	May 1977	May 1981	May 1985	May 1989	May 1993	May 1997	May 2001	May 2005	May 2011
Mr Smylie's service	X	Full term	Full term	None	Full term	X	X	X	Full term	Currently a councillor
Duration of service	None	4 years	4 years	None	4 years	None	None	None	6 years	4 years - ending in 2015
Duration of reckonable service	None	4 years	4 years	None	2 years	None	None	None	6 years	4 years - ending in 2015

By the date of application, Mrs Jones has accrued almost 20 years reckonable service, and is therefore eligible for severance.

Under a 2-band scheme, with Band 2 commencing on 11 May 1998, Mrs Jones has served 10 years in Band 1, and 10 years in Band 2.

	BAND 1	BAND 2
	7 May 1973 to 10 May 1998	11 May 1998 to 13 Mar 2015
Reckonable service	10 years	10 years
Yearly amount	£1,000	£600
Total	£10,000	£6,000

Mrs Jones' severance payment, under a 2-band scheme would be £16,000

Example 3

Mr Smith is currently a councillor of AB Council. He intends to apply for severance during stage one of the application period and resign on 1 December 2013.

Mr Smith was first elected as a councillor in May 1973 and was re-elected in May 1977. He chose not to stand for election in the next 4 local government elections (1981, 1985, 1989 and 1993). Mr Smith stood again for election as councillor in May 1997 and was successful in that election and subsequent elections. He has accrued the following periods of service as a councillor.

Election year	May 1973	May 1977	May 1981	May 1985	May 1989	May 1993	May 1997	May 2001	May 2005	May 2011
Mr Smith's service	Full term	Full term	X	X	X	X	Full term	Full term	Full term	Currently a councillor
Duration of reckonable service	4 years	4 years	None	None	None	None	4 years	4 years	6 years	2.5 years - ending on 1.12.13

By the date of application, Mr Smith has accrued just over 24.5 years of reckonable service, and is therefore eligible for severance.

Under a 3-band scheme, with Band 2 commencing on 11 May 1987 and Band 3 commencing on 7 May 2001, Mr Smith has served 8 years in Band 1, 4 years in Band 2, and 12.5 years in Band 3.

Reckonable service	BAND 1	BAND 2	BAND 3
	7 May 1973 to 10 May 1987	11 May 1987 to 6 May 2001	7 May 2001 to 1 Dec 2013
Actual	8 years	4 years	12.5 years
Reckonable service rounded as proposed at paragraph 25)	8 years	4 years	13 years
Yearly amount	£1,000	£750	£550
Total	£8,000	£3,000	£7,150

Mr Smith's severance payment would be £18,150

Example 4

Mrs Jones is currently a councillor of YZ Council and intends to apply for severance in February 2014. Mrs Jones has decided to complete her term of office and will resign on 30 March 2015.

Mrs Jones was first elected as a councillor in May 1977. She was elected again in the following local government elections, in May 1981, but was not successful in the 1985 elections. Mrs Jones was subsequently elected in May 1989 but was not re-elected again until May 2005. She was elected in the subsequent election in May 2011. For a period of 2 years from May 1989 she was both an MP and a councillor. She has accrued the following periods of reckonable service as a councillor.

Election year	May 1973	May 1977	May 1981	May 1985	May 1989	May 1993	May 1997	May 2001	May 2005	May 2011
Mr Smylie's service	X	Full term	Full term	None	Full term	X	X	X	Full term	Currently a councillor
Duration of service	None	4 years	4 years	None	4 years	None	None	None	6 years	4 years - ending in 2015
Duration of reckonable service	None	4 years	4 years	None	2 years	None	None	None	6 years	4 years - ending in 2015

By the date of application, Mrs Jones has accrued almost 20 years reckonable service, and is therefore eligible for severance.

Under a 3-band scheme, with Band 2 commencing on 11 May 1987 and Band 3 commencing on 7 May 2001; Mrs Jones has served reckonable service of 8 years in Band 1, 2 years in Band 2, and 10 years in Band 3.

	BAND 1	BAND 2	BAND 3
	May 1973 to 1987	May 1987 to 2001	May 2001 to 2014
Reckonable service	8 years	2 years	10 years
Yearly amount	£1,000	£750	£550
Total	£8,000	£1,500	£5,500

Mrs Jones' severance payment would be £15,000
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The Freedom of Information Act 2000 – confidentiality of consultations

1. The Department will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. The Department can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. Before you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations for guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.
2. The Freedom of Information Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, the Department in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Department cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity, should be made public or be treated as confidential.
3. This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:
 - the Department should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in

connection with the exercise of any of the Department's functions and it would not otherwise be provided;

- the Department should not agree to hold information received from third parties "in confidence" which is not confidential in nature; and
- acceptance by the Department of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

4. For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner's Office (or see website at: <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>).

List of Consultees

Age Concern NI

All Northern Ireland District Councillors

All Northern Ireland District Councils

An Munia Tober

Association of Local Government Finance Officers

British Chamber of Commerce

Belfast Solicitors Association

Carers NI

Chief Local Government Auditor

Church of Ireland

Civil Law Reform Division

Coalition on Sexual Orientation

Commission for Older People NI

Community Relations Council

Confederation of British Industry

Construction and Employers Federation

Disability Action

District Judge - Magistrates Court

Equality Commission for NI

Equality Forum NI

Federation of Small Businesses

Food Standards Agency for Northern Ireland

Gingerbread

Help the Aged NI

HM Revenue & Customs

Human Rights Commission

Irish Bankers Federation

Law Centre (NI)

Law Society of Northern Ireland

Local Government Staff Commission

MENCAP

Men's Project

MEPs

Methodist Church in Ireland

Ministry of Defence

MLAs

MPs

National Association of Councillors

NI Assembly / Committee for the Environment

NI Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux

NI Chamber of Commerce and Industry

NI Chamber of Trade

NI Council for Voluntary Action

NI Gay Rights Association

NI Political Parties

NI Public Service Alliance

Northern Ireland Court Service

Northern Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions

Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission

Northern Ireland Law Commission

Northern Ireland Local Government Association

Participation and the Practice of Rights Project

Presbyterian Church in Ireland

QUB – School of Law

RNIB

RNID

Save the Children

Secretary – Catholic Bishops of Northern Ireland

Society of Local Authority Chief Executives

The Executive Council of the Inn of Court Northern Ireland

The General Consumer Council for Northern Ireland

The Law Society of Northern Ireland

The Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities

UU – School of Law

Women's Support Network

Youthnet

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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, 19th April, 2013
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
Lighthouse Ireland	Mental Health: Talk About It – Harlem Shake Event 24th May, 2013 Approximately 400 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee, soft drinks and biscuits	<p>This event aims to raise awareness and break down barriers around suicide and mental health. Northern Ireland has the 3rd highest level of youth suicide in Europe and the organisers will use this opportunity to emphasize the need for people to talk about all aspects of mental health. It is hoped that by using the global phenomenon of the Harlem Shake this event will bring people together help to dispel the stigma attached to mental health.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together' and 'Better Support for People and Communities'.</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee, soft drinks and biscuits</p> <p>Approximate cost £1,000</p>
Pobal	Seoladh Chearta agus Ceilúradh 2013 / Launch of Rights and Revelry 2013 19th June, 2013 Approximately 40 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits	<p>This event will be a community and media launch of the 'Rights and Revelry' Irish language Festival which was previously supported by the Council's Community Festivals Fund. This launch will give a preview of what the Festival will offer and will showcase some of the music and arts which will be available during the Festival. The Festival will provide an opportunity for the community to celebrate its successes and show its support for the Irish Language Act.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together', 'Better care for Belfast's environment' and 'Better support for people and communities'.</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits</p> <p>Approximate cost £100</p>

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Area Working Groups – review and future work
Date:	19 April 2013
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance & Resources Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects
Contact Officer:	Sharon McNicholl, Strategic Planning and Policy Manager Gareth Quinn, Senior Democratic Services Officer

1.0	Relevant Background Information
1.1	<p>The Council at its meeting on 2 April 2012 adopted five Area Working Groups consisting of-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - North Belfast comprising the Castle and Oldpark District Electoral Areas (DEAs) - South Belfast comprising the Balmoral and Laganbank DEAs - East Belfast comprising the Pottinger and Victoria DEAs - West Belfast comprising the Lower Falls and Upper Falls DEAs; and - Shankill comprising the Court DEA.
1.2	<p>The interim terms of reference for the AWGs were agreed as to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - act as community advocates to identify local priorities and support effective ‘place-shaping’; - make recommendations to SP&R Committee on investment decisions for the local area; - offer advice and guidance to SP&R Committee and officers in the development and implementation of local projects; - participate in and facilitate community engagement and communications activities with a wide range of groups on investment in local areas; - consider other area-based issues as referred by SP&R Committee; - monitor progress and produce an annual report on performance. <p>In governance terms, the Groups were established to have an advisory role, informing the implementation of the Belfast Investment Programme. It was agreed that the AWGs would have no delegated authority and no budget.</p>
2.0	Review of first year
2.1	The Area Working Groups have met consistently since their establishment, largely on a

	<p>monthly basis. Work to date of the AWGs has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Considering and making recommendations to the SP&R Committee of project proposals under the Local Investment Fund. To date approx 60 projects have been agreed in principle for funding; - Using local intelligence to explore key issues at a local level; - Holding a series of workshops looking at examining the role of Members in place-shaping and community engagement, in the context of the LIF, as well as the wider context of community planning. - Receiving a range of presentations from a variety of stakeholders presenting issues/projects of specific interest to each AWGs - Considering integrated multi-organisational interventions at a local level. <p>Since their establishment, the Area Working Groups have had a positive impact in the development of area based interventions and Members have begun to explore the potential presented by local area working.</p>
<p>2.2</p>	<p>In discussions at the Area Working Groups, members have highlighted a number of positive aspects of the approach to date including that the process has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • helped move forward a significant stream of funding to local areas through LIF which has developed Members and officers shared understanding of project implementation; • through LIF, Feasibility Fund and recently BIF , helped focus purpose around delivery and city and local issues; • provided useful sharing of emerging thinking/priorities in SIF area plans; • acted as a channel for the emergence of local ideas and issues; • provided a more informal and creative environment for the generation of ideas about improving local areas; • acted as a forum within which local area issues and initiatives can be presented without the need for formal committee deputations; • provided Members and officers with practical learning opportunities in relation to resolving “live” community issues; • External workshops with community planning experts were well-received and generated new ideas • Helped understanding of the value of data and evidence e.g. citystats information as evidence for interventions • Begun to shape shared ambition re: local outcomes

<p>2.3</p>	<p>On the whole, the AWGs have worked productively within their interim terms of reference as agreed by SP&R and have stimulated discussion on wider governance issues.</p> <p>Moving forward, it is important to build on the groundwork of the Area Working Groups to date and to take forward their future development in the context of local government reform and the overall review of governance underway within the Council.</p> <p>Members have highlighted a number of areas that require consideration, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance of the Area Working Groups; • Chairmanship of the Groups; • Agreed agendas and forward workplans; • Preparing for community planning. <p>These issues are explored further in the remainder of the report.</p>
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<p>3.0</p>	<p>Issues and proposed way forward</p>
<p>3.1</p>	<p>Governance</p> <p>As outlined previously, to date the AWGs have had no decision making powers, with recommendations going to the SP&R Committee for decision. In progressing the work and role of the Area Working Groups, it is now necessary to consider their governance in the context of the overall review of governance currently underway.</p> <p>Key issues will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirming the role of Area Working Groups in terms of their relationship to other committees/decision making structures; • The optimum number of area working groups to ensure good governance and delivery; • The degree of delegation, if any, to Area Working groups; • The role of Area Working Groups and of other committees/decision making structures in taking forward community planning. <p>A separate report on the Committee’s agenda provides further information on the timescales and approach to the review of governance.</p>
<p>3.2</p>	<p>Nomination of chairs for the Area Working Groups</p> <p>Two AWGs (South and North) have appointed political representatives to chair meetings in recent months but this has not been replicated across all AWGs. It is recommended that a Member is nominated to chair each of the remaining working groups within the May cycle of meetings to facilitate the effective planning and management of meetings.</p>
<p>3.3</p>	

Agreed agendas and forward work plans

The terms of reference for the Area Working Groups remain relevant. Based on discussion at the Area Working Groups and at Committee about future agendas, it is recommended that the following issues provide a focus for the work of the AWGs in the year ahead:

- a continued role in implementing LIF and working through BIF projects and other related capital projects including those emerging under the Social Investment Fund (SIF);
- development of integrated, area-based interventions;
- consideration of the local dimension of key strategic Council projects such as leisure transformation; renewing the routes; tourism etc.;
- using set-piece workshop sessions as ‘creative spaces’ and opportunities for capacity building, designing interventions and problem solving;
- Member and Officer Development and
- Exploring the organisational consequences of area working and building capacity.

3.4

Community Planning

In addition to the above, at the Voluntary Transition Committee meeting on 5 April, Members considered the potential role of the Area Working Groups in helping to develop our approach to community planning at a local level.

Members agreed that the Area Working Groups could help the Council prepare by:

- Developing an effective, inclusive, approach to area-based planning, connected to emerging approaches to local regeneration;
- Exploring issues of engagement and partnership and delivery at a local level;
- Using local intelligence and information to build a stronger understanding of local needs, priorities and outcomes, connected to the development of a city outcomes framework.

3.5

It is recommended that preparation for community planning forms a central focus for the working groups in the months ahead and that their next task should be to begin the creation of local area plans, involving partners and engaging local communities as part of this process. A further report to set the context for this work will be brought to Committee shortly.

3.6

Schedule of meetings

Consideration needs also now to be given as to how to best integrate the meetings of working group into the overall meeting schedule in order to better align the decision making process. In scheduling meetings it is also important to be cognisant of the number of meetings which Members are now attending both within and external to Council.

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4.0	Recommendations
4.1	<p>Members are asked to agree the proposals set out at paragraphs 3.2-3.6 in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The nomination of political chairs for all the Area Working Groups;• The proposed future focus of future working groups agendas;• The role of the groups in community planning;• Review of the scheduling of Area Working Group meetings to create better alignment with decision making cycles.

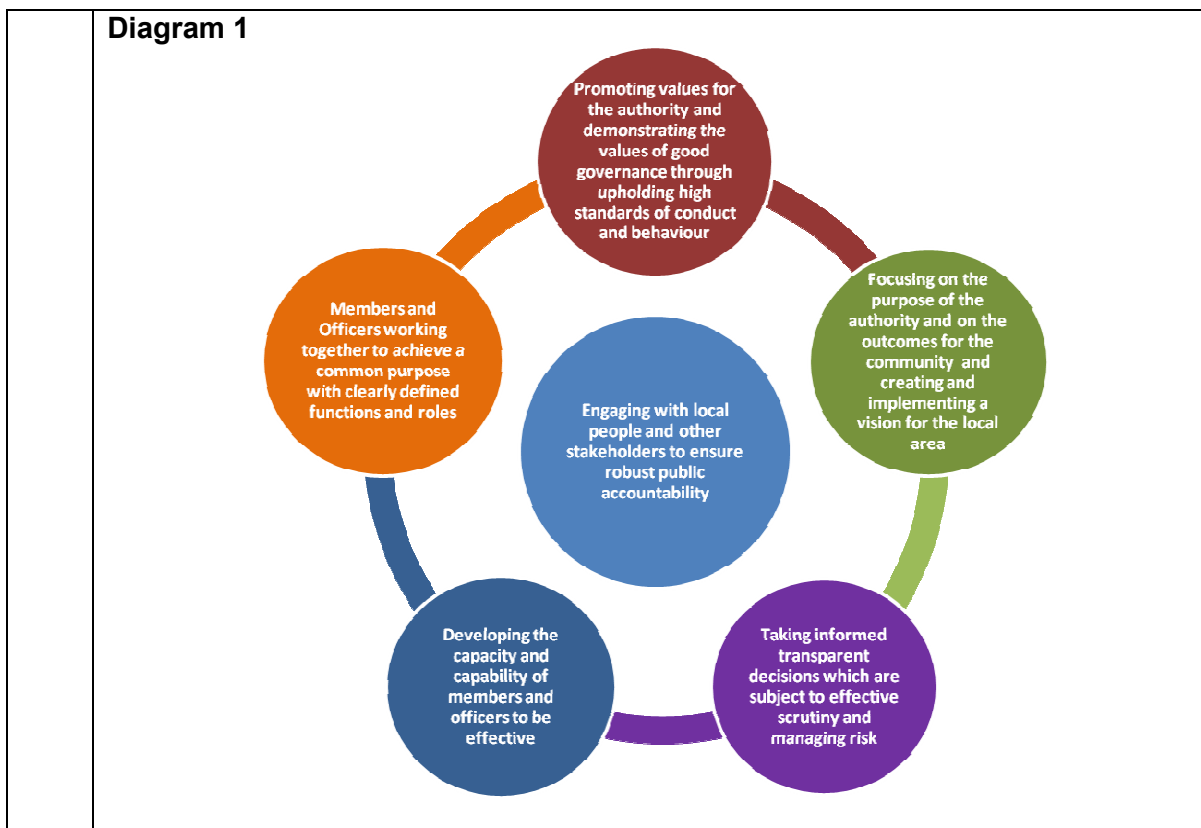
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Belfast City Council

Report to	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Update on Future Governance Arrangements for the Council
Date:	19th April, 2013
Reporting Officer:	Peter McNaney, Chief Executive Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources
Contact Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (Ext 6314)

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Committee, at its meeting on 14th December, 2012, considered a report on the ongoing review of governance and political management arrangements for the Council. At this meeting Members had been provided with a high-level overview of the range of options which are likely to emerge as part of the local government reform legislative programme (i.e. Reorganisation Bill) regarding future governance and political management arrangements. It was highlighted that the Reorganisation Bill is expected to present three options for the consideration of councils including (i) Traditional Committee System, (ii) Cabinet System, (iii) Streamlined Committee System. A copy of the relevant report is attached as Appendix 1 for Members information.
1.2	In considering the potential future political management arrangements, it is important to restate the good governance principles within which the Council currently operates – see diagram 1.
1.3	At the meeting on 14 December 2012, it was agreed that Party briefings would be held, facilitated by Jonathan Huish, to enable Members to explore what options may exist regarding future governance and political management arrangements for the Council.
1.4	The purpose of the report is to provide an update on Members' discussions to date and the key issues emerging; set out the current legislative timetable linked to local government reform; and to outline the proposed next steps.



2	Key Issues
2.1	<u>Legislative Timetable</u>
	<p>The Environment Minister confirmed at a recent Regional Transition Committee meeting that he intended to introduce the Local Government Reorganisation Bill to the Assembly in April. Members should note that the Bill is expected to include high level enabling legislation on future governance options but that a significant amount of the detail which will be required for the Council to take informed decisions will be issued thereafter as part of a detailed programme of subordinate legislation.</p>
2.2	<p>Regardless of the system of governance selected for the new Council in 2015, the Reorganisation Bill is likely to introduce a series of new checks and balances including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Proportionality</i> – to be applied in the appointment of committees and key positions within council and to external bodies. • <i>Weighted Majority Voting</i> – It is expected that an 80% weighted majority voting will be introduced for decisions which are taken on a number of key areas including e.g. selection of governance structures and major capital projects. • <i>Call-in</i> - it is likely that a system of call-in will be introduced whereby a 15% of the total number of members (in the new council this would be 9 members) will be the trigger point to request a call-in.
2.3	<p>It will be necessary to await the publication of the Reorganisation Bill and subordinate legislation before we can be certain as to how the checks and balances might impact upon effective decision-making but it would be prudent for the Committee to bear in mind that the system will certainly impact upon how we operate in the future.</p>

2.4	<p><u>Establishment of Statutory Transition Committees</u></p> <p>The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 includes enabling powers for the Statutory Transition Committee regulations to be made. It is now expected that draft regulations will be laid in the Assembly in April. The Department has pointed out that, subject to the passage of these draft regulations through the Assembly process, this would allow for the Transition Committees to be placed on a statutory footing in June.</p>
2.5	<p><u>Members' Severance</u></p> <p>A consultation document on the Severance Arrangements for Councillors has been released by the Department and a separate report is on the Committee's agenda to consider a Council response.</p>
2.6	<p><u>Members' Remuneration</u></p> <p>The Department has held interviews for the appointment of members to the Remuneration Panel. It is expected that the Panel, which will advise the Minister on the system and level of allowances appropriate for the new councils in 2015 and, potentially the Shadow Councils in 2014, will report by November, 2013. No information is available at this stage as to the identity of the Panel members.</p>
2.7	<p><u>Party Briefings on Future Governance Structures</u></p> <p>As agreed by Committee, Jonathan Huish has completed a series of Party briefings to explore with Members their early views on potential future governance and political management arrangements within the Council. During discussions, Members raised a number of issues for further consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to evolve structures so they are fit for future purpose • Need for an inclusive process – ensuring all members are clearly involved • Recognise the criticality of getting the degree of delegation right. • Governance needs to be more joined up across structures • Need to develop scrutiny function – internal and external • Need to further develop approach to area working • Need to have a more strategic city leadership role – engagement with external bodies and partnership working • Recognise the potential benefits of moving towards a more themed approach and greater integration of service delivery • Recognition of potential need for a strategic committee role to co-ordinate • Need to consider impact of local government reform and transfer of new functions including community planning, planning, regeneration etc • Need to streamline structures and reduce meetings so as to free up Members time and capacity to engage in strategic leadership issues • Need to review future member roles and responsibilities (and review allowances accordingly) • Need to build development activities into Belfast Members Academy to ensure members have capacity and knowledge to meet new challenges

<p>2.8</p>	<p>It was clear from the briefings that the Parties would prefer to await the release of the Reorganisation Bill before committing the Council to a particular governance system. Members had requested that on release of the Reorganisation Bill, they would seek further engagement and discussions on the emerging operational models and the potential implications for the Council.</p>
<p>2.9</p>	<p><u>Next Steps</u></p> <p>In moving forward it is suggested that the following practical steps be taken to prepare for and to maximise the benefits from the significant change programme that the Council faces over the next couple of years linked to the local government reform process.</p> <p>(i) <u>Members' Capacity and Time Commitments</u></p> <p>One of the most important resources which will be required in addressing the programme of change which the reorganisation of Council governance will present is that of Members time. Members are central to the process of agreeing and embedding change at an organisational level and it will be vital to ensure that there is sufficient time created to allow Members to prioritise this work.</p> <p>With the introduction of regular monthly Party Briefings and the development of the Area Working groups over the last year there has been a marked increase in the number of meetings which Members are being required to attend. Attached at Appendix 2 is an analysis of the number of meetings which have been held for the last three financial years. Members might be surprised to learn that there has been a 50% increase in the number of meetings in the 2012/13 year when compared to the 2011/12 year (258 in 2011/12 and 387 in 2012/13).</p> <p>The Committee may wish to consider that a report be prepared on how Members time can be freed up within the monthly schedule to allow for the programme of work involved in the preparation for the new Council in 2015 and the potential Shadow Council in 2014 to be accommodated.</p> <p>(ii) <u>Drawing upon Good Practice</u></p> <p>Members have already highlighted the importance of drawing upon good practice and experiences from elsewhere to inform the approach to local government reform, the transfer and integration of new place-shaping functions and any governance or political management changes introduced.</p> <p>At its meeting on 5th April, the Council's Voluntary Transition Committee considered detailed reports on the return of Planning & Regeneration powers to the Council as well as the introduction of the Community Planning model. It was acknowledged at that meeting that it would be essential to seek to learn from high performing authorities and it was suggested that it would be beneficial for learning opportunities with Councils from Scotland and the Republic of Ireland to be sought. If the Committee is in agreement, a report will be brought back to Committee in May 2013 setting out detailed proposals regarding a series of good practice visits either to or from such Councils over the next number of months.</p>

	<p>(iii) <u>Reorganisation Bill</u></p> <p>On release of the Reorganisation Bill in April/May 2013, officers will undertake a detailed analysis of what is being proposed; examine the implications for the Council and to identify key issues requiring political consideration. It would be the intention that further Committee and Party briefing sessions would be scheduled in May/June 2013 to explore the detail with Members.</p> <p>(iv) <u>Area Working Groups</u></p> <p>Members have requested that a review be undertaken of the Area Working Groups and the effectiveness of approach to local area working. A separate report on this is included on the Committees agenda.</p>
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3	Resource Implications
3.1	There will be cost implications arising from either visits to or from other Local Authorities but any such costs can be met from within existing revenue budgets.

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	None.

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>The Committee is requested to note the contents of the report and to:</p> <p>(i) consider and agree that a further report be brought back setting out options as to how member time could be freed up to allow for the additional commitments required to implement local government reform; and</p> <p>(ii) consider and agree that a report be submitted in May 2013 regarding a series of visits to or from other high performing local authorities who would have experience of undergoing significant governance reform and who deliver Community Planning and planning & regeneration functions.</p>

6	Key to Abbreviations
	STC – Statutory Transition Committee

7	Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 – Governance Committee report – 14 December 2012</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Details of number of meetings in the last 3 financial years</p>

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Review of Governance / Political Management Arrangements
Date:	14 December 2012
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources
Contact Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources

1.0	Relevant Background Information						
1.1	<p>In recognition of the evolving role of the council and elected Members within the city and to take account of known emerging drivers for change, as set out below, Members have indicated that it would be timely to review the political management and operational governance arrangements within the council to ensure that they remain fit-for-purpose in this new context as set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Local government reform and associated legislative and governance changes. (ii) Transfer & delivery of new statutory functions e.g. planning and regeneration and a duty to lead and facilitate community planning within the city. (iii) Shift towards thematic and area-based working. (iv) Enhanced relationships with external delivery agencies; with a growing focus on co-design and co-delivery. 						
1.2	On 5 October the council's SP&R Committee agreed that Jonathan Huish prepare, in liaison with Members and taking into account good practice elsewhere, an initial discussion paper regarding potential future political management options which may be available.						
2.0	Key Issues						
	<i>What is the changing role of Members?</i>						
2.1	<p>It is important to recognise the evolving roles undertaken by the council and councillors in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delivering key statutory and discretionary functions and services within the city; • acting as civic leader and working in partnership for the betterment of the city and its citizens; • investing in the city and its infrastructure; and • working at an area level to address identified local priorities and to improve the wellbeing and quality of lives of citizens across the city. 						
2.2	<p>It is therefore important that regardless of any future political management arrangements considered, they must embrace and enable the following four broad roles to be undertaken by Members.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="263 1630 1433 2027"> <thead> <tr> <th>FOCUS</th> <th>ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Internal</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Political leadership and oversight - Develop policies and corporate priorities - Guide the allocation of resources - Scrutinise policy and performance - Ensure value for money and effectiveness - Drive continuous improvement </td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. External</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Civic Leadership and advocacy - Co-design and co-delivery with partner agencies </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	FOCUS	ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES	1. Internal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Political leadership and oversight - Develop policies and corporate priorities - Guide the allocation of resources - Scrutinise policy and performance - Ensure value for money and effectiveness - Drive continuous improvement 	2. External	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Civic Leadership and advocacy - Co-design and co-delivery with partner agencies
FOCUS	ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES						
1. Internal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Political leadership and oversight - Develop policies and corporate priorities - Guide the allocation of resources - Scrutinise policy and performance - Ensure value for money and effectiveness - Drive continuous improvement 						
2. External	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Civic Leadership and advocacy - Co-design and co-delivery with partner agencies 						

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage/stimulate investment into the city - Representational role on external agencies
	3. Regulatory & Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oversee the delivery of statutory responsibilities e.g. licensing, regulatory environmental health issues, waste, cleansing, building control, registration of births/deaths/marriages, burials etc. - Establishing standards and undertaking audit and scrutiny roles - Future delivery of statutory planning functions including creation of development plans, adjudication of planning applications and enforcement against breaches to planning decisions.
	4. Community/Area Working	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community leadership and advocacy - Facilitating community planning process and community engagement - Place-Shaping and regenerating local areas - Improving quality of life and well-being of citizens - Responding to constituents enquires and representations - Informing the prioritisation and allocation of resources at a area level (e.g. local investment fund)
What is good governance?		
2.3	<p>Governance in local government is currently defined by CIPFA/SOLACE and the Audit Commission as follows:</p> <p><i>'Governance is about how local government bodies ensure that they are doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people in a timely inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner. It comprises the systems and processes for the direction and control of local authorities through which they account to, engage with and lead their communities.'</i></p>	
Effective political management principles?		
2.4	<p>A key element of good governance is ensuring that effective political management arrangements are in place which deliver an appropriate balance across the following core principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear political leadership and oversight - Democratic inclusiveness - Enhanced role of elected Members in strategic decision making - Effective and timely decision making and implementation - Greater co-ordination and alignment of activities - Clear accountability - Effective scrutiny of policy and performance - Adaptability to changing political, legal or governance circumstances - Outward focused and responsive organisation 	
Political management and operational governance options		
2.5	<p>The council's current system of governance has served the organisation well and has led to a gradual move towards a more integrated and strategic approach by the council to addressing some of the big challenges facing the city in recent years.</p>	

2.6	<p>If however the council is to fully maximise the opportunities presented by the local government reform programme and Members are to simultaneously deliver their ambitions for the city and its communities whilst keeping rates low, there is a need to ensure our political management and governance arrangements are fit-for-purpose within this new context. With elections to the 11 new Shadow Councils scheduled for June 2014, it is therefore suggested that the possible introduction of any new political management arrangements should be considered within, and coincide with, this timescale.</p>
2.7	<p>Research has shown that there is no single preferred governance model which is applied across the board but rather a spectrum of models which take account of local political circumstances and desires. The common trend is for the introduction of a tiered form of governance based around a strategic tier and a thematic/portfolio tier supported by area/local committees with increased levels of delegation from full Council to committee and committee to officers.</p>
2.8	<p>Based on preliminary discussions undertaken with Members through the Party Leaders Forum, there appears to be three broad options emerging ranging from retaining the status quo through to a cabinet style type model.</p> <p>Option 1: Traditional Committee System (Status Quo)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council business and decisions are progressed through a number of Standing Committees (normally linked to functional areas). - Majority of decisions taken by Standing Committees remain subject to ratification by Full Council. The Full Council may agree to delegate certain decisions to a particular Committee (e.g. Licensing and Town Planning). - Strategic Policy and Resources Committee provides a Member led focus on strategic planning and resource allocation. - The role and remit of each Committee and relationship with Full Council is clearly defined within the Council's Standing Orders. - All elected Members are represented, based on the principle of proportionality, across all Council Committees. <p>Option 2: Cabinet Style System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Executive responsibility for all operational decisions is devolved from the Full Council to a relatively small, defined group of Members. - Clear separation between the role of the Cabinet, which acts as the political executive and decision-making body; and the Full Council which normally agrees policy and holds the cabinet to account. - The Council would delegate the Executive powers to be undertaken by the cabinet; with all decisions taken by the cabinet being a decision of the authority. - The Cabinet may choose to identify individual portfolio holders from within its membership to lead and make decisions within specific themes. - Decisions of a non strategic nature are normally delegated to officers. - Non-Cabinet members undertake a scrutiny role – both in terms of pre-cabinet policy development and performance scrutiny. - Additional scrutiny mechanisms (i.e. committee) are built into the governance arrangements. – with representation from non-cabinet Members. <p>Option 3: Streamlined Committee System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This model is an evolution of the council's current Committee system. - It enables a strategic Committee/Board, a defined group of decision makers, to operate in a strategic manner with a degree of delegated authority from Full Council for certain decisions. - The strategic Committee/Board can further delegate to designated thematic and/or

	<p>area Committees who make decisions within defined policies/framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - These Committees are normally engaged in both policy development and scrutiny - Members would be nominated to the central Strategic Committee and/or other Committees or a proportional representation basis. 			
2.9	<p>The table below provides an initial high-level summary of the perceived pros and cons of each model.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="280 506 1417 2002"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="280 506 1417 555">Advantages and disadvantages of each model</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="280 555 1417 1167"> <p>Traditional Committee System</p> <p><i>Advantages:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimal change and disruption - Inclusive/participatory based model with all councillors directly involved in making and influencing decisions - Politically accepted and known system <p><i>Disadvantages:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a risk of decisions being made in silos as cross-cutting issues can be difficult to identify & address - reduces the strategic role of elected Members - Slow decision making and overly focused on operational matters rather than policy and results - May not be resilient within the changing operational environment emerging as a result of local government reform </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="280 1167 1417 2002"> <p>Cabinet Style System</p> <p><i>Advantages:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Member driven process - Speed of decision making - Reduced meetings; releasing Member capacity to discuss strategic issues - Works effectively in majority councils - Clear political leadership and accountable decision making - Provides a mechanism to establish specific working groups or panels to explore defined issues which may emerge <p><i>Disadvantages:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Difficult to operate in hung councils - Requires strong party discipline/trust - Not inclusive/participatory decision making – Executive decisions taken by a limited number of Members - Need for a parallel scrutiny process to be built into the governance model - Potential distance/tensions between members of the cabinet & Full Council - </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Advantages and disadvantages of each model	<p>Traditional Committee System</p> <p><i>Advantages:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimal change and disruption - Inclusive/participatory based model with all councillors directly involved in making and influencing decisions - Politically accepted and known system <p><i>Disadvantages:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a risk of decisions being made in silos as cross-cutting issues can be difficult to identify & address - reduces the strategic role of elected Members - Slow decision making and overly focused on operational matters rather than policy and results - May not be resilient within the changing operational environment emerging as a result of local government reform 	<p>Cabinet Style System</p> <p><i>Advantages:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Member driven process - Speed of decision making - Reduced meetings; releasing Member capacity to discuss strategic issues - Works effectively in majority councils - Clear political leadership and accountable decision making - Provides a mechanism to establish specific working groups or panels to explore defined issues which may emerge <p><i>Disadvantages:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Difficult to operate in hung councils - Requires strong party discipline/trust - Not inclusive/participatory decision making – Executive decisions taken by a limited number of Members - Need for a parallel scrutiny process to be built into the governance model - Potential distance/tensions between members of the cabinet & Full Council -
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	<p>Streamlined Committee System</p> <p><i>Advantages:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More inclusive/participatory based model - Streamlined and timely decision making processes - More strategic and integrated approach to key decisions - Reduced meetings; releasing Member capacity to discuss strategic issues - Degree of delegation to Committees can evolve over time - Can accommodate a focus on thematic and/or area-based working - Provides a mechanism to establish specific working groups or panels to explore defined issues which may emerge <p><i>Disadvantages:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Political accountability for decision making not as strong as in cabinet model - The degree and type of executive decisions to be delegated must be agreed through political consensus within Full Council 	
	<p>Annex 1 attached sets out an initial benchmark assessment of each of the aforementioned models against the proposed principles of 'effective political management arrangements' set out at paragraph 2.4 above.</p>	
2.10	<p>Clearly there are a number of important detailed issues which need further development to inform any consideration given by Members in regards to potential future political management and governance arrangements. As a phase II detailed work will be progressed, in liaison with Members and Party Groups on the following key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Defining the roles and responsibilities of the various tiers of governance. - The number, size and proportionality of any Committees put in place. - The degree and nature of delegated decisions introduced. - Frequency of meetings and associated decision making processes. - Relationship and interface between the tiers of internal governance put in place. - Relationship between internal Committees and any external governance arrangements which may be put in place e.g. community/area committees. - Members' remuneration and allowance schemes aligned to any new political management arrangements. 	
	<p>Party Briefings</p>	
2.11	<p>In advance of moving forward with phase II of any detailed work around potential political management arrangements, it is suggested for Members consideration that briefings take place with Party Groups in January 2013 to discuss the report in more detail.</p>	
3.0	Resource Implications	
	There are no financial or HR implications contained within this report	
4.0	Recommendations	
	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) note the contents of this report; (ii) agree that briefings be held with Party Groups in January 2013 to explore with Members in more detail and to capture initial views. 	

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	Financial Year			total
	2012/13	2011/12	2010/11	
Council Meetings (incl. Special Council Meetins)	13	15	13	41
Committee Meetings (incl. Special Committee Meetings)	123	114	124	361
Working Group Meetings	102	43	40	185
District Policing and Community Safety Partnership Meetings	81	60	63	204
Party Briefings	68	26	0	94
All Meetings	387	258	240	885

Meetings

Audit Panel	5	4	4
Belfast Voluntary Transition Committee	7	0	0
Council	13	15	13
Cross-Party Reference Group on Community Planning	7	7	6
Development Committee	23	23	29
East Belfast Area Based Working Group	8	0	0
Emergency and Severe Weather Working Group	0	0	1
Good Relations Partnership	11	10	13
Governance Working Group	3	2	0
Greater Shankill Area Based Working Group	11	0	0
Health and Environmental Services Committee	16	14	16
Historic Centenaries Working Group	0	4	3
Housing Forum	6	5	4
Joint Group of Party Group Leaders' Forum and Historic Centenaries Working Group	9	6	0
Licensing Committee	14	16	14
Members' Development Steering Group	3	3	0
North Belfast Area Based Working Group	8	0	0
North Foreshore Steering Group	0	0	1
Parks and Leisure Committee	14	16	16
Reference Group on Older People	9	6	10
South Belfast Area Based Working Group	11	0	0
Strategic Policy and Resources Committee	25	20	19
Town Planning Committee	25	20	26
Waste Plan Implementation Working Group	0	1	2
West Belfast Area Based Working Group	10	0	0

Notes

first met 10 aug 2012

first met 12 oct 2010

first met 1 may 2012
last met 25 May 2010

first met 30 Jan 2012

first met 2 may 2012

first met 7 feb 2011, last met 14 nov 2011

first met 30 sept 2010

first met 13 Jan 2012

first met 26 Jan 2011

first met 3 may 2012

met once - 31 oct 2011

first met 3 may 2012

first met 22 feb 2011, last met 13 apr 2011

first met 30 april 2012

District Policing and Community Policing Partnership Meetings

Principal - 8	22	8	8
North - 13	16	15	13
South - 13	14	13	13
East - 14	15	12	14
West - 15	14	12	15

Part Briefings (all parties)

Sinn Fein	11	4	0
Democratic Unionist Party	12	5	0
Social Democratic and Unionist Party	14	5	0
Alliance Party	11	4	0
Ulster Unionist Party	8	4	0
Progressive Unionist Party	12	4	0

Notes

records exist from January 2012 only

records exist from January 2012 only

records exist from January 2012 only

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Notice of Motion re: Northern Ireland Hospice
Date:	19 April 2013
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources
Contact Officer:	Mark McBride, Head of Finance and Performance

1.0	Relevant Background Information
1.1	<p>The Committee will recall that the Council, at its meeting on 3rd April considered the undernoted Notice of Motion which had been proposed by Councillor Convery and Seconded by Alderman Humphrey:</p> <p><u>Northern Ireland Hospice</u></p> <p>“This Council recognises the significance of the work of the Northern Ireland Hospice and its contribution to healthcare in our City and beyond.</p> <p>The Northern Ireland Hospice has contributed significantly to the welfare of the seriously ill by providing palliative care within the Hospice and by providing a service in the community throughout Northern Ireland. It also helps and assist families who at these times are under extreme emotional pressure.</p> <p>Accordingly, the Council agrees to allocate payments of £250,000 in each of the next two financial years to the Northern Ireland Hospice Redevelopment Fund using its special expenditure powers under Section 37 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.”</p>
1.2	In accordance with Standing Order 11(e), the Motion stood referred to the Committee.

2.0	Key Issues
2.1	Members will recall that the Committee on 22nd February considered a report regarding a request for funding from the Northern Ireland Hospice (copy attached).
2.2	The Committee agreed to contribute, from the under spend for 2012/13 in accordance with Section 37 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, £200,000 towards the redevelopment of the Northern Ireland Hospice. The expenditure was financed from the in year under spend as the Council does not have a separate budget for Section 37 expenditure.
2.3	<p>In considering the Notice of Motion Members must consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question 1: Does the payment fall within the agreed criteria approved by the Council? • Question 2: If the payment was made, would the Council's total payments be within the limit allowable for the Council under Section 37 of the Local Government Finance Act 2011? • Question 3: Is there available finance within the Council's budgets to cover the expenditure?
2.4	Question 1: The Legal Services Section has confirmed that the payment to the NI Hospice for the purposes of the redevelopment of the Hospice would meet the criteria agreed by the Council.
2.5	Question 2: The total payments that can be made under Section 37 in 2013/14 and 2014/15 are approximately £305,000 each year. The only other Section 37 payments currently committed for 2013/14 and 2014/15 are £7,600 per annum for the Oil Stamps Scheme. This means that should it be agreed to make the £250,000 payments to the NI Hospice in the next two years the Council would still be within the allowable limit.
2.6	Members should note, however, that the maximum value of additional requests that could be considered in 2013/14 and 2014/15 within the Finance Act limit would be £47,400. Based on previous years, this amount would be adequate to meet expected demand.
2.7	Question 3: Before a payment can be made to the NI Hospice, Members must be satisfied that sufficient resources are available to finance the payments. In-year re-allocations (the method used to finance this type of payment) are considered by the Committee in November each year as part of the half year finance review. It is therefore recommended that if the Committee is minded to approve the payments to the Hospice consideration is given to the affordability as part of the half year finance report in November 2013.
2.8	In summary, the Notice of Motion meets the legal requirements and the payments would be within the financial limits set out in the Local Government Finance Act 2011.

3.0	Equality Implications
3.1	There are no equality implications arising from this report.

4.0	Recommendations
4.1	<p>Should Members wish to commit to payments of £250,000 for the next two financial years, to the NI Hospice then the following recommendation should be approved:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That Committee approve in principle a payment of £250,000 in 2013/14 and 2014/15, subject to the Director of Finance and Resources confirming that there are resources available to meet these payments within each of the financial years. • The financing of the £250,000 payment is considered as part of the half year finance report which will be brought to the Committee in November 2013.

6.0	Decision Tracking
<p>The Director of Finance and Resources will report the forecast financial position to Committee in November 2013 at which time a final decision regarding the payment for 2013/14 can be considered by Committee</p>	

	Key to Abbreviations

	Documents Attached
Appendix 1: SP&R Report 22 February 2013	

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Appendix

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Request for Funding – NI Hospice
Date:	22 February 2013
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources
Contact Officer:	Mark McBride, Head of Finance and Performance

1.0	Relevant Background Information
1.1	This report presents a request for financial assistance from the Northern Ireland Hospice towards the cost of the re-development of the hospice at Somerton House, Belfast.
1.2	The redevelopment will provide 18 beds in single en-suite rooms with supporting facilities for staff, families and volunteers. It will also create a dedicated Education and Resource Centre and a new Day Hospice facility capable sustaining the current level of support and clinical interventions in an enhanced environment.
1.3	The cost of the project is estimated at £11m with plans by the Hospice to raise approximately £3m from a public capital appeal over the next 3 years.
1.4	Under Section 37 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, the council has discretion to consider exceptional requests for financial assistance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council has the statutory authority to make such payments • Assistance is not available from the remit of another Committee
1.5	The criteria for assessing requests for assistance which would fall within the council's special expenditure budget were approved by the Policy and Resources Committee on the 18 June 2004 and are included as Appendix 1.

2.0	Key Issues
2.1	The people cared for at Somerton House include some of the most economically and socially deprived in Northern Ireland.
2.2	The facility provides regular employment for some 111 staff and is a focal point for around 321 local volunteers, who give regularly of their time and talents in the service of the hospice.
2.3	The local community has invested heavily in the facility over the years generating revenue of over £5m each year in voluntary funds.
2.4	<p>The request submitted by the NI Hospice states that the project supports Belfast City Council's Corporate Strategic Objectives in the following ways:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The NI Hospice cares for people at a time of great need and engenders a sense of confidence that the City will look after its citizens – from cradle to grave." • "Hospice volunteers contribute to a strong sense of community in the local area." • "The Hospice is a rare shared place in North Belfast and promotes positive relations amongst the whole community both through care received there and in fundraising for the service." • "Investment in the hospice is an investment in North Belfast – an area of tremendous need." • "Internationally, the Hospice has a remit around education and research, with links in palliative care, education and training in the USA, India and Asia and aspires to be a world leader in palliative care developing models that can be replicated worldwide." • "The NI Hospice is founding member of the All-Ireland Institute of Palliative Care." • "The NI Hospice is the largest hospice (by income/expenditure) in the UK and trains all junior doctors in Northern Ireland in Palliative care as well as a range of healthcare professional from both private and public sector."
2.5	Legal Services have reviewed the request for funding and have advised that the proposal would fall within the criteria agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee on the 18 June 2004 and that the request may therefore be considered by the Committee for funding support.

3.0	Resource Implications
	<u>Financial</u>
3.1	<p>In additional to the specific circumstances under which the council may consider a request for an exceptional payment, Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 also limits the total amount of payments that can be made by the council in any year, to the aggregate of:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) the product of a rate of 0.596p in the pound on the rateable value of all hereditaments in a NAV list in the district; and b) the product of a rate of 0.00082p in the pound on the rateable capital value of all hereditaments in a capital value list in the district.

3.2	On the basis of the above limit and the exceptional payments already approved by the council during 2012/13, the council could consider a payment of up to £200,000 to the NI Hospice Project without exceeding the current limit as defined by the Finance Act. Such a payment could be funded through the use the forecast departmental under spend being considered by the committee as part of the Quarter 3 financial report.
3.3	Officers are aware that the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and High Sheriff designate specific charities for support during their period of office; however the NI Hospice Capital Appeal would provide the opportunity for staff within the council to engage in fund raising activity which would add to the approved donation by the council itself. Staff fund raising activities could be supported in ways such as allowing the free use of the Great Hall on a number of occasions during the year for fund raising events.

4.0	Recommendations
4.1	<p>It is recommended that the Committee considers a contribution of £200,000 towards the redevelopment of the NI Hospice, Somerton Road, Belfast and, if agreed, passes the undernoted resolution:</p> <p>“That the expenditure in respect of the aforementioned event be approved under Section 37 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, it being the opinion of the Committee that the expenditure would be in the interest of, and would bring direct benefit to the District, and its inhabitants of the District, with the Committee being satisfied that the direct benefits so accruing would be commensurate with the payment to be made.”</p>
4.2	It is also recommended that officers explore the potential for other fund raising activity by staff within the council and that a further report is presented to committee which outlines the way in which the council could support this fund raising process.

5.0	Decision Tracking
The Director of Finance and resources will confirm the decision of council and arrange payment and conditions if agreed.	

6.0	Documents Attached
Appendix 1 – Criteria for the assessment of requests for financial assistance.	

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B Policy and Resources Committee,

2772 Friday, 18th June, 2004

Special Expenditure Budget - criteria to be applied in the assessment of requests

- (1) whether there are sufficient funds remaining in the Council's Special Expenditure budget for the relevant financial year;
- (2) whether the application for financial assistance links to any of the Council's Corporate Objectives;
- (3) whether the direct benefit to be obtained is specific to the Council or its district or inhabitants;
- (4) whether the activity or initiative in respect of which assistance is being sought is being promoted by a person or organisation living or operating, or otherwise having a direct connection with, the City;
- (5) whether the request for financial assistance relates to an event or initiative which falls within the remit and statutory power of any other Committee of the Council (in which case it should be so referred);
- (6) whether the request relates to a specific event, activity or initiative as distinct from a request for a contribution to general funds;
- (7) whether the benefit to be obtained will be commensurate with the payment to be made.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Council would nevertheless reserve to itself the right to give special consideration to any particular request for financial assistance if the Members consider that special circumstances apply and legal advice has been sought where appropriate.

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**Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel Meeting
11 April 2013**

1. Attendance

Members:

Cllr Deirdre Hargey (Chair)
Cllr Tim Attwood
Cllr Maire Hendron
Cllr Lee Reynolds

Apologies:

Ald. David Browne
Cllr John Kyle
Cllr Jim McVeigh

Officers:

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

2. Efficiency Programme

The Director of Finance and Resources referred to the draft report on the Efficiency Programme 2014/15 - 2015/16 which would be presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the 19 April 2013.

The report highlighted that the £16m of savings made to date through the efficiency programme had been used to keep the rate increase at a low level and in the most recent year to keep the rate increase to zero. In 2014/15 – 2015/16 the council will face increased inflationary and uncontrollable cost increases while trying to keep the rate increase below inflation and generate additional capital financing to fund the review of the leisure estate.

Also given the level of cash savings already removed from the revenue estimates, the majority of future savings would have to be based on value for money reviews and transforming the way we provide services. As this would require difficult decisions and as some individual projects would have long lead in times, it was important that the programme became more project and programme management focused to ensure that the £20m target of efficiencies is generated by 2015/16.

The Director of Finance and Resources highlighted some of the financial pressures facing our fees and income based services such as the Waterfront Hall, the Zoo, Malone House and Belfast Castle. He explained that a key focus of future work in these areas would be to maximise potential income as well as challenge costs. The Director also referred to a number of “Value for Money” (VFM) reviews which are already in progress and which would require political decisions if the target of keeping the district rate increase low and investing in our assets is to be achieved. These reviews include Security, Accommodation and Energy. He added that the Energy report, which would be presented to Committee in June 2013, would not only consider energy from the point of view of the council as a consumer, but would also consider the councils wider role of leading and promoting energy efficiencies for the City.

He advised that an analysis of services based on gross expenditure and net expenditure was being undertaken to inform the next phase of value for money reviews.

Following discussion regarding the existing target for efficiencies for 2014/15, the Director of Finance and Resources commented that the proposals for financing the review of the leisure estate would be presented to committee in May 2013 and by June 2013 the council will have the 2012/13 rates finalisation confirmed. The efficiency target for 2014/15 will therefore be considered in June 2013 taken into account these factors.

3. Capital Programme / Local Investment Fund

The Director of Property and Projects advised that a Strategic Outline Case (SOC) had been completed for the following three projects which were included in the Stage 1 "Emerging Projects" list of the Capital Programme:-

- Drumglass Park
- Half Moon Lake
- Whiterock Corridor

The panel agreed that a request to move these three projects to the Stage 2 "Uncommitted Projects" list should be presented to Committee on the 19 April 2013.

The Panel noted that the proposed process and governance arrangements for the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF) would be presented to Committee in May 2013 along with an update report on the capital programme.

4. Cost Analysis for Waterfront Hall Convention Centre Projects

The Director of Development summarised the main points arising from a draft report on the development of the proposals and estimated costs for the Waterfront Hall Convention Centre project. He also provided an update on progress with regard to the external funding for the project.

Members noted the complexities of the project and the ERDF funding framework and the reasons for the changes to the estimated cost of the project in line with the enhanced scheme.

It was agreed that a full report should be presented to Committee when finalised.

5. City Investment Conference

The Chief Executive advised the date for the City Conference has been set for 22 May 2013.

After receiving an overview of the proposed content of the event, the panel discussed the proposed venue. As the conference format included main plenary sessions and a number of smaller workshops, the number of suitable venues for the event was limited. A venue for the conference is currently being investigated including the Crumlin Road Gaol, the Mac, the Lyric and the Waterfront Hall.

6. Date of Next Meeting

10.00am, 16 May 2013.



Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Capital Programme – Approval request to move projects from ‘Stage 1- Emerging Projects’ to ‘Stage 2’
Date:	19 April 2013
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects, Ext: 6217
Contact Officer:	Donal Rogan, Head of Contracts, Ext: 2460

1.0	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The SP&R Committee is the Council’s investment decision maker. In order for the Council to ensure that it is able to monitor all capital spend, all capital related decisions must be taken to SP&R Committee. Members will recall that they approved the Council’s Capital Programme at the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee Meeting on 22 March.
1.2	As part of this, Members were reminded that all capital projects must go through a Stage Process where the decision on which projects progress are taken by SP&R Committee as outlined below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stage 1 - Emerging proposals: proposals which require completion of a Strategic Outline Case (SOC) before they could be considered further by SP&R Committee. ▪ Stage 2 - Uncommitted projects: projects where an SOC has been agreed by Committee and work on the project is being progressed through the development of an Outline Business Case (OBC), but they have not yet been developed to a stage where permission could be sought from SP&R to proceed to tender. ▪ Stage 3 - Committed projects: projects which have completed a Full Business Case (FBC) and where approval has already been obtained by SP&R to proceed to tender. These projects will be at the tender award, contract or construction stage.
1.3	SP&R Committee approval at each of these Stages will ensure that projects are robustly managed, that assurance on successful delivery is provided and that any issues are identified and communicated at an early stage. This process will also afford Members an opportunity to stop/defer projects which are not feasible/viable and enable them to refocus funding on those projects which Members consider priority. Member are asked to note that officers have developed supporting documents around each of the Stages to ensure that projects are all completing the same information so that Members can take informed decisions. Detailed processes are also being developed around each of these Stages.

2.0	Key Issues suspend								
2.1	Members have approved the list of Stage 1 Emerging Projects (see Appendix A). SOC's have now been completed for three of the projects on this list and approval is sought to advance these to ' <i>Stage 2 – Uncommitted</i> '.								
2.2	An SOC examines the following issues in relation to a proposed project (i) Background to the project; (2) Feasibility; (3) Affordability; (4) Deliverability and Sustainability. Members are asked to note that at SOC level the affordability of a project is only examined at a very high level and this is tested and challenged further during Stage 2 and Stage 3.								
2.3	Members are asked to note that as part of the Stage 1 process, an internal Gate review is conducted to confirm the need and requirement of a project. This Gate Review identifies key areas of work that needs further examination, particularly around demonstrating affordability, achievability, deliverability and sustainability.								
2.4	<p>SOC's have been prepared for the following three projects on the Stage 1 Emerging Projects list:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="316 790 1398 1765"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="316 790 639 831">Emerging Project</th> <th data-bbox="639 790 1398 831">Project Aim</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 831 639 1182">Whiterock Community Health and Well Being Hub (<i>note name change from Whiterock Community Corridor</i>) See Appendix B for Site map</td> <td data-bbox="639 831 1398 1182">To improve the environmental quality of Council's Whiterock site to encourage the use of the services in and around the site, attract community activity and participation that positively impacts on the health and well being of the community and visitors but also encourages collaboration between the services on site. Site proposals include community buildings; environmental improvement scheme/public realm; increased pedestrian access points.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 1182 639 1453">Half Moon Lake – See Appendix C for Site map</td> <td data-bbox="639 1182 1398 1453">To support the evolution of the Half Moon Lake through improved access and to provide for a safe learning environment for the many school, community and local interest groups who enjoy this unique environmental asset located within a dense urban environment. Part funding for this project may be available through DCAL.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 1453 639 1765">Drumglass Park – See Appendix D for Site map</td> <td data-bbox="639 1453 1398 1765">To explore the opportunity to develop the current Drumglass Park in order to exploit fully it's role and function in the economic and tourism fabric of the Lisburn Road. This is proposed through civic realm improvements and public art installation which will facilitate enhanced usage by local people and visitors. Part funding for this project may be available through the Arts Council for NI.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Emerging Project	Project Aim	Whiterock Community Health and Well Being Hub (<i>note name change from Whiterock Community Corridor</i>) See Appendix B for Site map	To improve the environmental quality of Council's Whiterock site to encourage the use of the services in and around the site, attract community activity and participation that positively impacts on the health and well being of the community and visitors but also encourages collaboration between the services on site. Site proposals include community buildings; environmental improvement scheme/public realm; increased pedestrian access points.	Half Moon Lake – See Appendix C for Site map	To support the evolution of the Half Moon Lake through improved access and to provide for a safe learning environment for the many school, community and local interest groups who enjoy this unique environmental asset located within a dense urban environment. Part funding for this project may be available through DCAL.	Drumglass Park – See Appendix D for Site map	To explore the opportunity to develop the current Drumglass Park in order to exploit fully it's role and function in the economic and tourism fabric of the Lisburn Road. This is proposed through civic realm improvements and public art installation which will facilitate enhanced usage by local people and visitors. Part funding for this project may be available through the Arts Council for NI.
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Drumglass Park – See Appendix D for Site map	To explore the opportunity to develop the current Drumglass Park in order to exploit fully it's role and function in the economic and tourism fabric of the Lisburn Road. This is proposed through civic realm improvements and public art installation which will facilitate enhanced usage by local people and visitors. Part funding for this project may be available through the Arts Council for NI.								
2.5	As part of the development of these emerging projects, Members are asked to note the involvement and assistance of individual Members in the development of the SOC including the Councillor led steering group for the Whiterock Community Corridor proposal and Councillor meeting to develop Drumglass Park proposal. Members are asked to note that a cross-departmental approach has been taken in relation to the development of each SOC in order to ensure that the benefits of the projects are maximised.								

2.6	Specific to the Whiterock Community Health and Well Being Hub an important factor in the development of this project will be the commitment of a number of stakeholders, such as the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and NI Libraries. Both organisations are property and land owners adjacent to this site and as part of the SOC process have been identified as integral in progressing with this proposal. In order to complete Stage 2 officers will seek to fully engage with key stakeholders.
	Next steps
2.7	If Committee approves the advancement of these projects to Stage 2, each project will be required to conduct a robust appraisal, proportionate to its scale, in order to assess its affordability, achievability, deliverability and sustainability requirements. This process will also more robustly test and challenge the costs associated with the project. This will enable a report back to Committee on the appraisal outcome and subsequent recommendation for a decision on whether to proceed to Stage 3.
	Stage Approval process
2.8	As outlined above the SP&R Committee is the Council's investment decision maker. There is increasing demand on the Council to deliver projects within increasingly scarce financial resources. As part of this the Council has a duty to ensure public money is spent wisely and the Council's investment is properly protected. Members are also aware there is an opportunity cost of approving spend on one project which means that something else will fall down the list and will not proceed.
2.9	Update reports on the Capital Programme will be brought to the Committee on a quarterly basis moving forwards. As part of this all capital projects requiring investment decisions will be presented to Members as part of this quarterly reporting cycle. This will enable Members to take investment decisions in the context of overall affordability limits and will help Members prioritise those projects which can have maximum benefits and investment return for the city and local areas.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	Completion of the Stage 2 OBC for the above projects will be resourced within current staff levels. Any external expertise that may required, proportionate to the project, will be resourced from the Council's Feasibility Fund.

4	Equality Implications
4.1	Once approved to advance to Stage 2 on the Capital Programme, each project will be equality screened.

5.0	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to consider the contents of this report and agree the advancement of the following projects proposals to 'Stage 2 – Uncommitted' under the capital programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whiterock Community Health and Well Being Hub • Half Moon Lake • Drumglass Park

6.0	Decision Tracking
	The Director of Property and Projects will oversee the implementation of the recommendations within this report.

7.0	Key to Abbreviations
	SP&R – Strategic Policy and Resources Committee SOC – Strategic Outline Case OBC – Outline Business Case FBC – Full Business Case




8.0	Documents Attached
	Appendix A - Stage 1 – Emerging Projects list (as approved by SP&R, 22 March 2013) Appendix B - Site map of Whiterock Community Health and Well being Hub proposals Appendix C - Site map of Half Moon Lake Appendix D - Site map of Drumglass Park

Appendix A – Stage 1 – Emerging projects

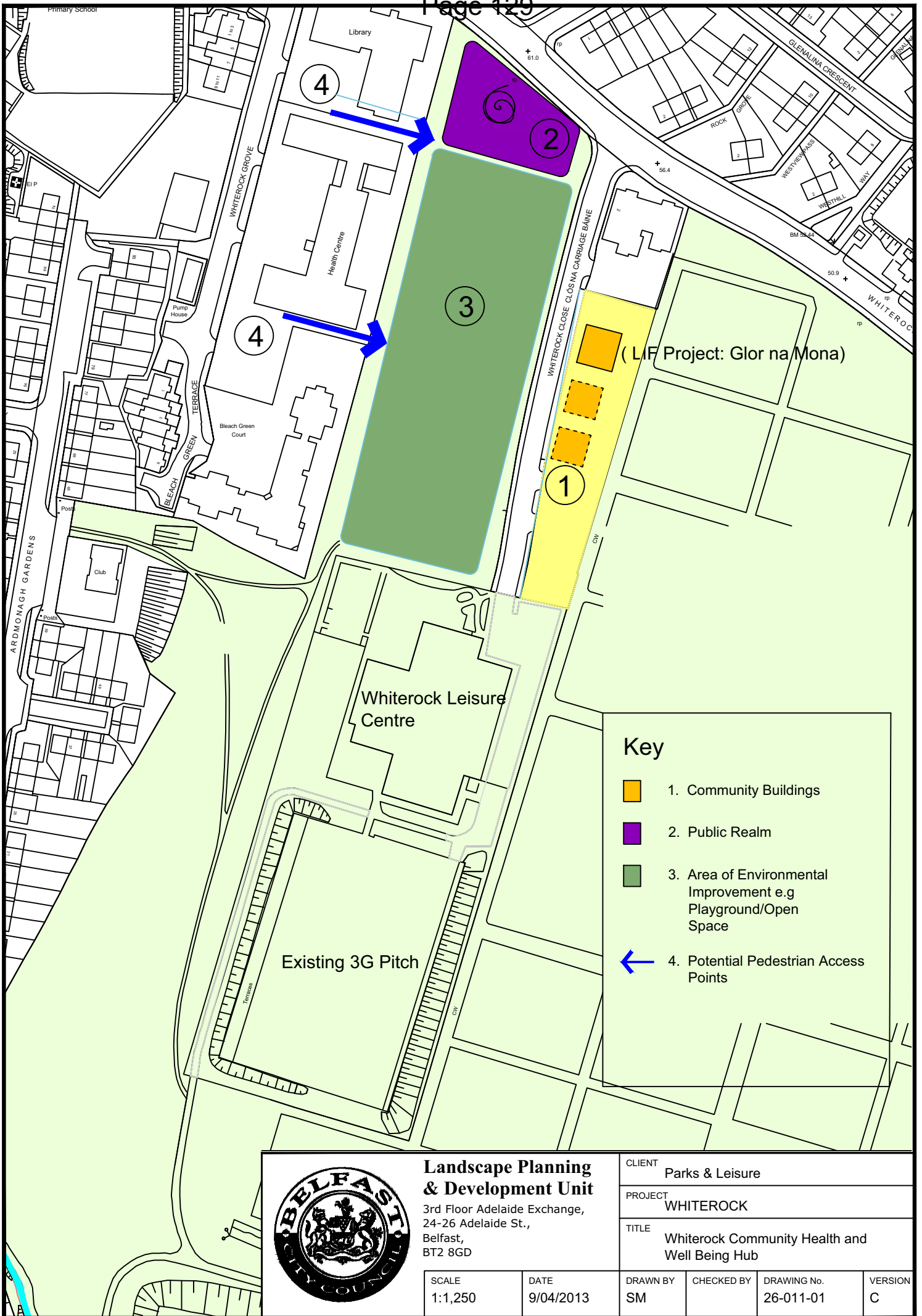
For which SOC's are to be developed

PROJECT	STAGE APPROVAL STATUS/COMMENTS	STATUS
Whiterock Community Corridor	Approved as Stage 1 project by SP&R June 2012– SOC now completed	
Half Moon Lake	Approved as Stage 1 project by SP&R June 2012– SOC now completed	
Drumglass Park	Approved as Stage 1 project by SP&R June 2012– SOC now completed	
Leisure Transformation programme	Approved as Stage 1 project by SP&R June 2012 – SOC underway	
Falls Park Masterplan	Approved as Stage 1 project by SP&R June 2012 – SOC underway	
City Hall Works (East Wing, parenting room, Changing Places toilet, East Grounds etc.)	Approved as Stage 1 project by SP&R June 2012– SOC underway	
Alleygating Phase 4	Approved as Stage 1 project by SP&R June 2012– SOC underway	
Orangefield Cycle track	Approved as Stage 1 project by SP&R June 2012 – SOC not yet progressed	
New MUGA's	Approved as Stage 1 project by SP&R June 2012– SOC not yet progressed	
MUGA Refurbishment	Approved as Stage 1 project by SP&R June 2012– SOC not yet progressed	
Digital Hub	Approved as Stage 1 project by SP&R Feb 2013 – SOC not yet progressed	
Public Convenience Strategy	Approved drop down from Stage 2 SP&R Mar 2013 – SOC to be developed	
Floral Hall	Approved drop down from Stage 2 SP&R Mar 2013 – SOC to be developed	
Skegoniel Site	Approved drop down from Stage 2 SP&R Mar 2013 – SOC to be developed	
MUGA Springfield Road	Approved drop down from Stage 2 SP&R Mar 2013 – SOC to be developed	
New Cemetery	Approved drop down from Stage 2 SP&R Mar 2013 – SOC to be developed	
New Crematorium	Approved drop down from Stage 2 SP&R Mar 2013 – SOC to be developed	
Roselawn Extensions(Z1- 2015, Z2- 2020,Z3- 2025, Z4-2030)	Approved drop down from Stage 2 SP&R Mar 2013 – SOC to be developed	
Gasworks Northern Fringe Infrastructure	Approved drop down from Stage 2 SP&R Mar 2013 – SOC to be developed	
Maysfield demolition/clearance	Approved drop down from Stage 2 SP&R Mar 2013 – SOC to be developed	
North Foreshore Infrastructure	Approved drop down from Stage 2 SP&R Mar 2013 – SOC to be developed	
Springvale Recycling Centre	Approved drop down from Stage 2 SP&R Mar 2013 – SOC to be developed	
Sliabh Dubh Playground	Approved drop down from Stage 1 SP&R Mar 2013 – SOC to be developed when contaminated land issue resolved	
Connswater 3G Pitch	Approved as Stage 1 project by SP&R Mar 2013 – SOC to be developed	
Cathedral Gardens	Approved as Stage 1 project by SP&R Mar 2013 – SOC to be developed	
ICT Strategy	Approved as Stage 1 project by SP&R Mar 2013 – SOC to be developed	
Accommodation Strategy	Approved as Stage 1 project by SP&R Mar 2013 – SOC to be developed	
Commercial Waste Bin Weighing System	Approved as Stage 1 project by SP&R Mar 2013 – SOC to be developed	
Loughside Playing Fields	Approved as Stage 1 project by SP&R Mar 2013 – SOC to be developed	

Status key -

	Complex project or other dependencies
	Political / Officer process decisions necessary
	Straightforward, subject to normal construction risks

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Key

- 1. Community Buildings
- 2. Public Realm
- 3. Area of Environmental Improvement e.g Playground/Open Space
- 4. Potential Pedestrian Access Points



Landscape Planning & Development Unit

3rd Floor Adelaide Exchange,
24-26 Adelaide St.,
Belfast,
BT2 8GD

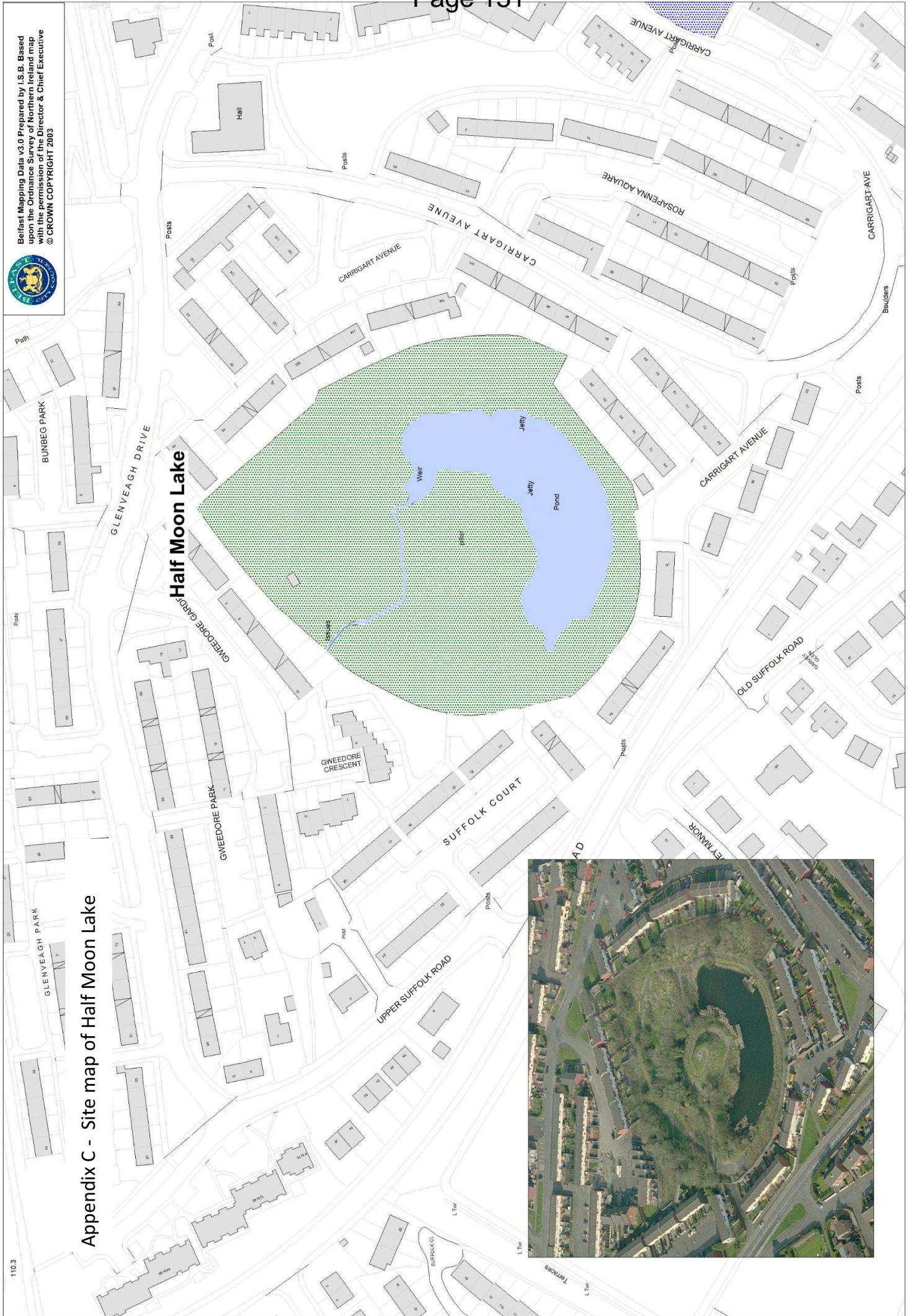
CLIENT		Parks & Leisure			
PROJECT		WHITEROCK			
TITLE		Whiterock Community Health and Well Being Hub			
SCALE	DATE	DRAWN BY	CHECKED BY	DRAWING No.	VERSION
1:1,250	9/04/2013	SM		26-011-01	C

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Belfast Mapping Data v3.0 Prepared by I.S.B. Based upon the Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland map with the permission of the Director & Chief Executive © CROWN COPYRIGHT 2003



Appendix C - Site map of Half Moon Lake



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Belfast Mapping Data v3.0 Prepared by I.S.B. Based upon the Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland map with the permission of the Director & Chief Executive © CROWN COPYRIGHT 2003



Appendix D - Site map of Drumglass Park



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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Standing Order 55 – Employment of Relatives
Date:	19 April 2013
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 individual who is related to an existing officer 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 appointment is authorised by the Director under Standing Order 55.

NAME OF NEW EMPLOYEE	POST APPOINTED TO	RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING OFFICER	NAME OF EXISTING OFFICER	DEPARTMENT
Aileen Dunne	Casual Coach	Daughter	John Dunne	Parks & Leisure

Resource Implications

Financial

Provision for this post 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 appointment authorised by the Director of Finance and Resources in accordance with Standing Order 55.

Key to Abbreviations

Documents Attached



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Attempted Break In – City Hall
Date:	19 April 2013
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects, Ext: 6217
Contact Officer:	George Wright, Head of Facilities Management, Ext: 6232

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members may be aware from media reports that there was an unsuccessful attempt to break in to the City Hall in the early hours of Friday 5 th April 2013. The sequence of events was as follows:-
1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at 03:58 the BCC Control Room staff were alerted by their motion-detection system of an attempted break-in at the exterior window of the party room of the Progressive Unionist Party (PUP); • at around the same time some Cleansing city-centre night-shift staff also spotted the individual concerned and reported this to the Control Room; • the PSNI were called and arrived a little before 04:20 and arrested the individual at the scene.
1.3	It is important to note that the individual involved did not succeed in entering the building, and that the enhanced security measures installed following the last incidents were instrumental in providing early warning of the incident to Control Room staff.
1.4	The person arrested by police is to be charged with attempted burglary and has since been bailed under certain conditions. When questioned as to his motive for the attempt the individual involved apparently stated that he was 'frustrated' with the council and decided to break a window, however the CCTV footage shows a sustained attempt to gain entry (using what appeared to be a knife).
1.5	In terms of actual damage there was some minor damage caused to an exterior pane of glass and the wooden frame, however following a short delay while the Scenes of Crime Officers (SOCO) were on-site the Property Maintenance unit made good the damage. Contrary to reports, the bullet-resistant glass was not damaged and there was no damage caused to the actual PUP room itself.
1.6	It is unfortunately the case that at least one local newspaper reported the incident in a way which was almost completely inaccurate, and gave the impression that the person involved had successfully gained entry to the building by scaling the front façade and had then broken a window and made his way to the PUP room and caused damage. The council's Corporate Communications unit has contacted the newspaper in question

	with a view to securing a retraction and/or correction of the report.
1.7	However, this incident illustrates how easily incorrect media reporting can cause concern for members in circumstances where they are contacted for a response about an incident by the media but have no topical information with which to respond.
1.8	Consequently it has been agreed that, should there be any similar incidents involving the City Hall in the future, the existing text notification system operated by the Emergency Control Room will be used to inform all members of the incident and the scale and scope of what has occurred as soon as possible after the event.

2	Key Issues
2.1	It is firstly pleasing to note that the incident was detected early by security staff using the new equipment, that they responded promptly and correctly and that this resulted in an arrest.
2.2	The incident also highlights the need for information to be made available to members promptly where these sorts of incidents occur, and hopefully the text-notification system will achieve this to members' satisfaction.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	There are no direct resource implications arising from this report.

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	There are no equality implications arising from this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	It is recommended that the Committee notes this report and recognises the prompt response by the security team to the incident. It is also recommended that the Committee endorses the proposal to use the text-notification system to apprise members of any similar incidents in the future.

6	Decision Tracking

7	Key to Abbreviations
None	

8	Documents Attached
None	



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Illuminate project – City Hall – Additional Days
Date:	19 April 2013
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects, Ext: 6217
Contact Officer:	George Wright, Head of Facilities Management, Ext: 6232

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members are aware that the Illuminate project, which has been partly funded by the EU, has replaced the existing City Hall façade lighting on the front, east and west facades as well as the main dome and turrets with a new low-energy LED lighting infrastructure. The key aim of the project is to sustainably reduce energy consumption and significantly reduce CO ₂ emissions.
1.2	One of the other benefits of the project is that it will also enable the City Hall to be illuminated in a variety of colours and colour combinations which are not currently possible. The lights which have been installed are the same technology which is used on the Empire State Building and other iconic buildings around the globe and the system which has been installed on the City Hall is one of the most advanced in the world. All Members were invited to attend the formal switch on event of the Illuminate project on Thursday 11 April which was very positively received.
2.0	Key Issues
2.1	<p>Members were updated on the progress and proposed governance arrangements of the Illuminate project at the SP&R Committee meeting on 21st February. As part of this it was highlighted to Members that the new lighting features could be used to promote inclusivity and cultural awareness by recognizing days of particular significance to groups within the wider community through the illumination of the City Hall in the relevant colour(s). It was proposed that 6 specific days of particular interest to local people and communities be included in the schedule namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - St. Patrick's Day (Green) - Polish Independence Day (red and white) - Orangefest (Orange) - Chinese New Year (red and yellow) - St. Valentine's Day (Red) - Gay Pride (rainbow) <p>It was also proposed that 12 nominated charities selected by the Council's civic dignitaries (Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and High Sheriff) will be able to use the new lighting features for charity events etc. These days had been equality screened and there were no equality implications arising. Members were asked to note that further days of cultural/social significance could be added to the schedule if agreed by the SP&R Committee. Members were however asked to note that given the iconic status of the City Hall the over-use of the lighting facilities on too many days per year could adversely affect the image and reputation of the building.</p>

2.2	<p>During the discussion at SP&R on 21st February, the proposed days as outlined above were agreed. The Committee had further discussion about a number of other days which could be illuminated. As part of this, it was proposed that 2 additional days be added to this list, namely</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May Day (red) and - International Women's Day (purple) <p>However after further discussion the Committee decided that, as these days had not formed part of the equality screening carried out on the proposal, they should not to be included at that time. There was, however, widespread acceptance by Members that these 2 days would be a useful addition to the Illuminate schedule.</p>
2.3	<p>Members are asked to note that the additional days (May Day and International Women's Day) have now been equality screened and there are no equality implications arising from the inclusion of these two days. Members are therefore asked to decide if they now wish the two additional days of May Day and International Women's Day to be added to the schedule. Members are asked to note that May Day this year is on 6th May 2013 and will be the first day that the new lighting will be used. This will generate significant media and public interest.</p>
2.4	<p>At the full Council meeting on 4th March, there was further discussion around a number of other potential days which could be added to the schedule however none of these were agreed. It was agreed that the City Hall should be illuminated in orange and purple at Orangefest.</p>
3.0	Resource Implications
3.1	<p>The Illuminate Project will generate significant savings for the Council in terms of costs, both because of the lower consumption of energy and also because of the significantly longer life span of the lighting units. The system also provides the opportunity for a significant reduction in CO2 emissions.</p>
4.0	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	<p>The proposed additional days of May Day and International Women's Day have been equality screened in line with the Council's Equality Scheme and there are no implications arising. Members are asked to note that any further days which are proposed will be subject to equality screening.</p>
5.0	Recommendations
5.1	<p>Members are asked to note the contents of this report and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - agree if they wish to include the additional two days of May Day and International Women's Day on the Illuminate schedule. These days have been equality screened and there are no equality implications arising - note that if this is agreed that May Day is on 6th May and will be the first day that the lighting features will be used as part of the Illuminate project. This is likely to generate significant media and public interest. - note that the City Hall will be illuminated in orange and purple at Orangefest as agreed by Council on 3rd March - are reminded that other events/days may be considered by SP&R Committee as necessary if specific requests are made. As outlined in 5.1 above any further days will also be subject to equality screening
6	Decision Tracking

Director of Property & Projects to ensure recommendations are progressed in relation to the Illuminate project are progressed.	
7	Key to Abbreviations
N/A	
8	Documents Attached
N/A	

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Corporate Accommodation Strategy Update
Date:	19 April 2013
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects, Ext: 6217
Contact Officer:	Cathy Reynolds, Estates Manager, Ext: 3493

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Strategic Policy & Resources Committee of 8 th June 2012 agreed that an economic appraisal and options report was undertaken in respect of the Council's office accommodation in order to recommend a way forward for development of a Corporate Accommodation Strategy for the Council with further reports to be brought back to Committee. Following this a significant amount of work has been undertaken by officers to collate the necessary baseline information across the Council's property estate (floor areas, desk layouts, annual running costs, condition and maintenance reports, asset values and Lease details etc)
1.2	CIPFA Property have been appointed to provide an initial analysis of the Council's existing office accommodation and provide high level recommendations on the development of an accommodation strategy.
1.3	Following completion of this initial stage of analysis CIPFA Property will provide the Council with a range of options that, following further Committee decisions to proceed, will inform a second and more detailed stage of work that would analyse working practices, ICT etc and provide a property solution based on a full business case.
1.4	CIPFA Property have been briefed on the main drivers for developing this strategy previously considered by Members at the June 2012 committee meeting and in particular the need to demonstrate efficiencies together with provision for additional accommodation requirements arising from RPA.
1.5	At a previous Strategic Policy & Resources Committee meeting on 24 th September 2010 it was agreed to re-establish a Member's Accommodation Working Group which met only once on 25 January 2011 whilst further work

	was undertaken to establish baseline data in respect of the Council's current office stock comprising 10 properties.
--	--

2	Key Issues
2.1	CIPFA Property were provided with the baseline information on the existing office buildings together with relevant staff numbers at each location, and have completed site visits to all of these Council's properties that accommodate in excess of 1,000 office based staff across all 6 of the Council's Departments. CIPFA Property have also conducted interviews with key Council officers in order to undertake the initial stage of analysis.
2.2	CIPFA Property's initial report will provide Council with a range of high level accommodation solutions based on both Workstyle Solutions (explore new modern way of working aimed at improving efficiency and optimisation of space utilisation) and Estate Solutions (retaining existing working methodology but to explore potential to improve efficiency and space utilisation) Upon completion of this initial stage a further report will be taken to the June Strategic Policy & Resources Committee to decide on progression to the second and more detailed stage of work.
2.3	Either of the high level solution styles will consider and explore existing, new or replacement building stock in consideration of implementation options for the Corporate Accommodation Strategy. Whilst it is proposed that currently owned Council assets such as Maysfield, Gasworks Northern Fringe and Ormeau Avenue site etc are included for consideration in delivery options other available private sector properties/sites will be considered following a comprehensive site search of the market by a local agent.
2.4	The timeline for delivery of the Corporate Accommodation Strategy is primarily driven by break options contained in the Council's leased office premises (Lanyon Place and Adelaide Exchange) which provide the Council with the opportunity to vacate these leased premises, without a financial penalty, by 1 st January 2017 and 31 st August 2017 respectively.
2.5	In order that break options can be exercised both Leases require 12mths written notice to be given to the landlords which means that Council have to have decisions in respect of the Corporate Accommodation Strategy taken in advance of giving such notices (31st December 2015 being the earlier of the two notices required for Lanyon Place) in the knowledge that replacement accommodation will be ready for occupation by staff vacating existing leased premises commencing from 1st January 2017 .
2.6	It is anticipated that any solution requiring provision of alternative office accommodation would necessitate an investment decision by the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee by the end of 2013 thereby providing sufficient time to procure and deliver the new office premises (either new build or refurbished buildings)

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<u>Financial</u>

3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of the initial stage of CIPFA Property analysis is £11,850 plus VAT and expenses. • Additional cost for a potential second stage which depends on future Committee decisions. • The full financial implications are unknown at this stage and will be dependent upon the outcome of the Corporate Accommodation Strategy and the nature of the investment decision. <p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>Staff resources in Estates Management Unit and across the Council required to assist CIPFA Property in collating the necessary information for timely completion of their report.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>None at present but, depending upon further Committee decisions, there may be future rationalisation of the Council's current office accommodation stock and potential impact upon the Corporate Landbank assets should the Council develop one of its own non-operational sites.</p>

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

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are requested to note the report and to decide whether the Accommodation Working Group is re-established or if Members are content to have further reports brought back to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee with regard to development of the Council's Corporate Accommodation Strategy.

6	Decision Tracking
Director of Property & Projects to bring a further Corporate Accommodation Strategy report to the June 2013 Strategic Policy & Resources Committee following completion of the initial stage of CIPFA Property's analysis.	

7	Key to Abbreviations
RPA – Review of Public Administration	

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 2, 3 of the Council's Policy on the
Publication of Committee Reports on the Internet.

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**GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP
MONDAY, 8th April, 2013
MEETING OF THE GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP**

Members present: Councillor Hendron (Chairman); and
Councillors Attwood, Kyle, McVeigh and Reynolds.

External Members: Mrs. M. Marken, Catholic Church;
Mr. S. Brennan, Voluntary/Community Sector;
Mr. P. Mackel, Belfast and District Trades Council;
Mr. B. McGivern, Belfast City Centre Management;
Ms. M. De Silva, Voluntary and Community Sector;
Mrs. J. Hawthorne, Northern Ireland Housing Executive; and
Mr. P. Scott, Catholic Church.

Also attended: Ms. D. O'Loan, Community Relations Council/Pobal.

In attendance: Mrs. H. Francey, Good Relations Manager;
Mr. I. May, PEACE III Manager;
Mr. D. Robinson, Senior Good Relations Officer; and
Mr. B. Flynn, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Ms. Bannon, Ms. Chada, Mr. Galway and Archdeacon Dodds.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 11th March were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Fellowship of Messines Association

The Partnership welcomed Mr. H. Donaghy, representing the Fellowship of Messines Association, and he explained that it had been formed in May 2002 by the first graduates of The International School for Peace Studies in the village of Messines, Belgium. He stated that the Association consisted of a diverse range of individuals representing Loyalist, Republican and trade union backgrounds who worked to consolidate peace and reconciliation by examining the shared history of the people of the island of Ireland.

Mr. Donaghy outlined the various projects and initiatives which had been overseen by the Association, together with the range of training programmes which had been established under the themes of history, identity and politics. He explained that the Association aimed to contribute to the building of transformed, integrated and sustainable communities which would, in turn, strengthen social and economic

**Good Relations Partnership,
Monday, 8th April, 2013**

regeneration. In addition, the Fellowship Programme promoted inter-community activity which had the additional benefit of providing theoretical and practical support for those groups involved in building peace, reconciliation and inter-community harmony.

Mr. Donaghy thanked the Partnership Members for their support for the Fellowship under the Belfast Peace III Plan.

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

Community Relations Council / POBAL

The Chairman invited Ms. D. O'Loan to make a presentation and she proceeded to provide an overview of the work of the Consortium of the Northern Ireland Community Relations Council and POBAL in the delivery of the Peace III Programme. She outlined the Core Work Plan which the Consortium would undertake during 2013, which included a survey to develop support plans for each Partnership. In addition, the Work Plan would seek to build capacity and knowledge within each Partnership to enable its aims and objectives to be met in respect of peace-building and in the delivery of its associated activities.

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

Peace III Implementation Update

The Peace III Manager provided an update in respect of the implementation of the current phase of the Belfast Peace III Plan. He drew the Partnership's attention to the following:

Progress on Phase II Projects

Total expenditure at 28th February, 2013 was £1,126,961 or approximately 22% of the overall budget. 94% of this expenditure has been claimed back from SEUPB and the received payments to date of £654k related to claims submitted prior to December 2012. Following receipt of March 2013 information an update will be brought to the next meeting of the Partnership along with progress on the projects funded through the Strategic Grants Programme (returns due for Quarter 1 on 15th April). Also included in this month's report is a summary of progress against the output targets set for the PEACE III Plan by NISRA and SEUPB and newspaper coverage of the Community Cohesion project (034228) led by NI Housing Executive.

Consortium Event

The Community Relations Council and POBAL is holding a meeting for Chairpersons and PEACE III Managers on 12th April 2013 at Crumlin Road Gaol. The meeting will also be open for Partnership

**Good Relations Partnership,
Monday, 8th April, 2013**

Members to attend. The meeting will commence at 10.00am and conclude with lunch at 1.00pm. There will also be a tour of the venue following the meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to update Partnerships on Peace IV; to identify the issues presented by any gap between Peace III and Peace IV and to provide SEUPB and Partnerships with an opportunity to discuss options.

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

Summer Intervention Fund

The Partnership was reminded that the Council's Good Relations Unit had, for the past three years, managed and administered, on behalf of the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, its Summer Intervention Fund, which had been established to support diversionary activities for young people during times of heightened tension within communities.

The Good Relations Manager reported that the Unit would manage and administer the Fund again in 2013 and that information on the Fund and the associated application process had been publicised widely on the Council's website and within Departments and through organisations such as the Belfast Education and Library Board and the Community Relations Council. The application process had opened on 4th February and sixty-seven applications had been received requesting £260,169. Those had been assessed in accordance with the pre-agreed scoring matrix and, as a result, fifty-five applications had been recommended for funding, with amounts varying according to the quality of submissions.

After discussion, the Partnership agreed unanimously that funding, totalling £115,500, be awarded under the delegated authority of the Chief Executive to the following organisations:

REF No.	Group Name	Amount awarded (£)
354/3068	Concerned Residents of Upper Ardoyne	1,300
503/3086	174 Trust	2,500
806/3061	The HUBB	1,700
373/3055	Ballymac Friendship Trust	2,500
1060/3056	Dean Clarke Foundation	1,700
932/3062	St. James' Community Forum	1,000
1220/3051	Greater New Lodge Youth Forum	1,000
525/3095	Cavehill Antrim Road Regeneration Group	1,300
658/3050	Empire Residents Association	1,700
430/3073	Markets Development Association	2,700
1307/3069	Clonard Neighbourhood Development Partnership	2,200
475/3078	North Belfast Play Forum	1,700
1304/3053	Laganvillage Youth and Community Group	3,700
1048/3039	Crosscollyer Street Church Sunday School	1,000

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REF No.	Group Name	Amount awarded (£)
1042/3034	Norman Whiteside Sports Facility	1,300
239/3063	Forthspring Intercommunity Group	2,500
379/3048	Southcity Resource and Development Centre	3,000
412/3082	Skegoniel Community Group	2,500
930/3093	Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum	2,500
685/3072	Ligoniel Improvement Association	1,300
1305/3054	Skainos Project	3,500
399/3059	Bloomfield Community Association	3,000
919/3035	Wishing Well	1,300
951/3094	Seaview Enterprises	4,000
975/3045	The Rivers Project	1,700
725/3088	Upper Springfield Resource Centre	2,500
749/3070	Gleann ABC	2,300
1131/3089	Blackie River Community Group	4,000
322/3058	Lower Shankill Community Association	4,000
922/3036	Tigers Bay Concerned Residents Association	2,200
1037/3092	St. John Bosco Boxing Club	1,000
1217/3030	Short Strand Community Forum	2,700
723/3044	Solway Stars	2,200
1035/3085	Love Music Hate Racism NI	2,200
1287/3071	Marrowbone Residents Association	2,600
680/3067	Falls Youth Providers	3,700
891/3081	North Belfast Interface Network	1,600
1310/3090	Short Strand Drugs Awareness Group	900
319/3031	Short Strand Community Forum	1,000
222/3042	Fairhill Community Association	1,000
1309/3083	Whiterock/Westrock Residents Association	1,700
397/3079	Inner East Youth Project	2,000
788/3064	Crusaders Youth Football Club	1,700
711/3068	New Lodge Arts	2,500
1046/3057	STAR ABC	1,000
320/3032	Roden Street Community Development Association	3,500
323/3052	GVRT	1,500
607/3047	North Belfast Women's Initiative Support Project	1,000
865/3043	Carrick Hill Residents Association	3,800
622/3087	KABOSH Theatre Co.	1,500
720/3060	Tigers Bay Historical Society	3,000
1225/3077	Shamrock FC	1,500
243/3037	BACS	3,000
1056/3065	Ardoyne Kickhams	1,500
1312/3097	O' Donovan Rossa Gaelic Athletic Club	2,000

**Good Relations Partnership,
Monday, 8th April, 2013**

TOTAL		£ 115,500
<u>United Nations - International Day of Peace</u>		

The Partnership was reminded that an International Day of Peace had been established by the United Nations in 1982. The Good Relations Manager explained that the aim of the Day of Peace was to provide an opportunity for individuals, communities and organisations to highlight efforts to end conflict and promote practical acts of peace. In addition, events would be organised ranging in scale from private gatherings to public concerts and forums. In Belfast, the Day of Peace was led each year by Springboard, of which Ms. Angila Chada, a Member of the Good Relations Partnership, acted as Director. That organisation was encouraging Belfast citizens, organisations and governmental bodies to mark the day either privately or publicly and to re-dedicate their ongoing commitment to non-violence, reconciliation and peace-building.

She reported that the Council had, since 2009, supported the Belfast Peace Day event and that, since 2010, the Good Relations Partnership had hosted an event in the City Hall. Accordingly, she recommended that the Partnership agree to host an event on 20th September to mark International Day of Peace. She pointed out that the Partnership's recognition of the day would send out a message that it condemned the use of violence and supported peace-building. She added that information on the International Day of Peace would be included on both the Council's website and its events calendar and that it would be circulated to all Council employees through the internal Intercom magazine.

The Partnership granted authority for the hosting of an appropriate event on 20th September to mark International Day of Peace 2013. It was noted that appropriate hospitality, provision for which had been made within the Good Relations Unit's budget, would be provided.

Community Relations Week

The Partnership was advised that the Community Relations Council co-ordinated annually the holding of Community Relations Week in Northern Ireland. The Good Relations Manager pointed out that its aim was to raise awareness of community relations work and to encourage others to become involved in similar initiatives. She reported that Community Relations Week in 2013 would take place from 20th till 26th May under the theme "Expressing Identity/Addressing Division" and that the Council would be organising an event, which would be themed as a 'Living Library' on Friday 24th May from 11:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m.

The Good Relations Manager explained that the Living Library, where a person, rather than a book, would be on 'temporary loan', was an innovative method designed to promote dialogue, reduce prejudices and encourage understanding between communities and individuals. It enabled groups to break stereotypes by challenging the most common prejudices in a positive and humorous manner. Visitors to the mobile library would be afforded an opportunity to speak informally with participants who varied in age, sex and community and cultural backgrounds.

**Good Relations Partnership,
Monday, 8th April, 2013**

The Good Relations Manager invited all members of the Partnership to become involved and suggested that the Elected Members might wish to nominate a Council party colleague as their representative, since the event would be on the same date as the scheduled meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

The Partnership granted the approval sought.

Northern Ireland Peace Monitoring Report

The Good Relations Manager reported that Dr. P. Nolan had completed his second annual report on the above-mentioned topic and that his report, funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, would be launched later that week. She stated that it might be beneficial for the Partnership to receive a presentation thereon and it was agreed that the Good Relations Unit would organise a lunchtime seminar session, which would open to all the Members and staff of the Council and the representatives of the Partnership, on a date to be determined in early May.

Chairman



Belfast City Council

Report to	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Flying of the Union Flag at Half Mast from the City Hall
Date:	19th April, 2013
Reporting Officer:	Ciaran Quigley, Assistant Chief Executive and Town Solicitor
Contact Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (Ext 6314)

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members will be aware of the death on 8th April of Baroness Thatcher. The Chief Executive received a request as to whether the Union Flag would be flown at the City Hall on the day of the funeral and the Chief Executive contacted the Party Leaders on the Council on 9th April to explain that this would fall within the existing Council policy. The purpose of this report is to set out to the Committee the reason for this so that there should be no confusion on future occasions.
2	Key Issues
2.1	The Equality Impact Assessment which was produced in 2004 on the flying of the Union Flag noted that, apart from the specified days listed, the Union Flag could be flown at half mast on occasions, including for funerals of members of the Royal family and of office bearers such as former Prime Ministers, when special instructions were issued to that effect by the Lord Chamberlain's Department (that function now lies with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport). This practice had previously been noted in a report to the former Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 18th April, 2003.
2.2	The issue of occasions when special instructions were issued by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport to fly the Union Flag at half mast was not specifically mentioned in the 2012 Flags EQIA, which focussed more on the issue of the flying of the flag as a regular practice. The Council decision in December 2012 in this regard was in the context of amending the then current policy and the amendment focussed on the issue of the flying of the Union Flag on designated days rather than 365 days a year. Consequently, it follows that the previously existing protocol in relation to the flying of the Union Flag at half mast on specific

	occasions remains in force.
2.3	Furthermore, and in any event, the Council's decision at its meeting of 3 December, was to fly the Union flag on 'designated days', subsequently clarified through the Joint Group of Party Leaders Forum and Historic Centenaries Working Group to mean the days on the list issued by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) in Westminster. The DCMS issued an instruction on 8 April 2013 to include for the flying of the Union flag on the day of the funeral and it is accordingly appropriate for the Council to apply that instruction.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	None.

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	None. The existing protocol is in line with the Council policy on the flying of the Union Flag.

5	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is requested to note the information and that the foregoing protocol in relation to the flying of the Union flag on special occasions will continue to be applied when special notifications are issued by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

6	Decision Tracking
Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager April, 2013	

7	Key to Abbreviations
EQIA – Equality Impact Assessment DCMS - Department for Culture, Media and Sport	

Belfast City Council

Report to: Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Subject: EU Summit - Active and Healthy Ageing Dublin 13th-14th June Dublin

Date: 19th April 2013

Reporting Officer: Siobhan Toland, Head of Environmental Health Service Ext 3281

Contact Officer: Damian Connolly, Environmental Health Manager, Ext 3361

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Across the world life expectancy is increasing as are the prevalence of chronic diseases and disabilities associated with ageing.
1.2	In Belfast around 16% of the population is over 60 and the number of people aged 85+ is increasing. Average life expectancy in the City for men is currently 73.9 and for women it is 79.8 and this is the lowest in Northern Ireland. There are significant inequalities in the city and those living in more affluent areas can expect to live longer and enjoy better health in old age.
1.3	Across the world cities have to develop their structures and services to meet the requirements of their aging populations. Belfast City Council has identified older people as a priority within its corporate plan and in March 2012 the Council agreed that the Lord Mayor should sign a declaration committing Belfast to becoming a more Age Friendly City, thereby encouraging active, healthy aging.
1.4	The All Party Reference Group on Older People chaired by Councillor Kelly oversees the work of the Council in this area. The Council is currently collaborating through its role in the Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership with voluntary and public sector organisations to develop and 3 year age friendly action plan for the City.
1.5	As part of this process it is important that Belfast can learn and share experiences, good practice and work with other Age Friendly Cities in Europe and beyond.

2	Key Issues
2.1	An EU Summit on Active and Healthy Aging is being held in Dublin on 13-14 th June 2013, in association with the Irish Presidency of the Council of the EU.
2.2	This invitation event will be attended by the EU commissioner, Marie Geoghegan-Quinn, senior EU and national policy makers, senior executives, mayors and leaders of existing and aspiring age friendly cities. Belfast has been invited to attend.
2.3	The summit aims to provide a unique opportunity to set the agenda for an Age Friendly Europe at a time when the aging population is profoundly challenging fiscal sustainability.
2.4	This event provides an opportunity for Belfast City Council to help shape this agenda. It is hoped the summit will help drive Europe's prosperity by charting a path for economic growth, improved health delivery, effective financial planning, and intergenerational aspiration for life-long learning and activity.

2.5	It is anticipated that attending this summit will also provide an opportunity for Belfast City Council to learn from the experiences of other cities and ensure it is linked into emerging developments in the age friendly agenda across Europe.
2.6	A similar report will be taken to Health and Environmental Services Committee on 10 April 2013 seeking approval for the Chair or their nominee to attend the summit.
2.7	The programme for this summit is developing and the organisers have indicated they will also be extending an invitation to the Lord Mayor of Belfast together with invited mayors from across Europe to attend the event and to sign a declaration, which sets out the vision, principles and commitments for municipal and national leaders for age friendly cities in a European context.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>It is estimated the costs will be approximately £300 for travel and accommodation and will be met for this and the all party reference group representation from the revenue estimates in the service budget.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relation Considerations
4.1	There are no relevant equality and good relations implications.

5	Recommendations
5.1	It is recommended that the Chair of the Reference Group on Older People of their nominee attends this summit in Dublin on 13 th -14 th June 2013.
5.2	It is also recommended, subject to the advice that the appropriate elected member is given authority to sign the Declaration on behalf of the Council.
5.3	It should be noted that the Health and Environmental Services Committee is also considering a report for the Chair to attend this summit.

6	Decision Tracking
6.1	An update report on the summit can be provided to Members

7	Key to Abbreviations
7.1	EU European Union

8	Documents Attached
8.1	Appendix 1- EU Summit invite

Save the Date!

[Confirm Your Interest HERE](#)



EU Summit on Active and Healthy Ageing:

An Action Agenda for European Cities and Communities

In association with the Irish Presidency of the Council of the EU

Dublin 13-14th June 2013



You Are Invited to Attend

At a historic juncture when Europe's age-related demographic shift is profoundly challenging fiscal sustainability, this Summit will provide a unique opportunity for global and local policy makers and thought leaders to set the agenda for an Age Friendly Europe.

By invitation only, the Summit will be attended by EU Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, senior EU and national policy makers, CEOs and other senior-level executives in business and service provision, mayors and other leaders of existing and aspiring age friendly cities and communities.

The Summit will:

- forge a new European network of thought leaders and influencers;
- focus on tangible, best-practice solutions;
- provide action-oriented sessions to inform next stage developments at European level;
- inform future EU policy and innovation.

Join us to shape this agenda and help drive Europe's prosperity by charting a path for economic growth, improved health delivery, effective financial planning, and intergenerational aspiration for life-long learning and activity.

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