

Document Pack

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



31st May, 2011

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, 3rd June, 2011 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
2. **Corporate Plan and Performance Management**
 - (a) Corporate Plan 2011-12 and Future Development (Pages 1 - 8)
3. **Modernisation and Improvement**
 - (a) Review of Public Administration Status Update (To Follow)
4. **Democratic Services and Governance**
 - (a) Fixed Term Working Groups (Pages 9 - 18)
 - (b) Special Responsibility Allowance (Pages 19 - 22)

- (c) Allowances for the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and High Sheriff (Pages 23 - 24)
- (d) A Sustainable Transport Future - Local Government Consultation Event (Pages 25 - 26)

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



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Corporate Plan 2011/12 and future development
Date:	Friday 3rd June 2011
Reporting Officer	Peter McNaney, Chief Executive
Contact Officer:	Sharon McNicholl, Strategic Planning and Policy Manager

Background information

The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the Council and its corporate priorities through the development of the corporate plan. The Committee is also responsible for allocating resources to ensure that corporate priorities as agreed in the corporate plan are implemented.

At the meeting, Members will receive a presentation from officers which is intended to inform Members about work underway to support the Committee in fulfilling this role and to allow Members to begin to consider the ways in which they wish to shape the future direction of the Council and the city. This paper is intended to act as context to the presentation and to highlight some of the key processes which exist to help the Committee get things done.

The Corporate Plan

The Council is the largest local authority in Northern Ireland, employing over 2300 people with an annual expenditure of around £168 million. It has 6 operational departments delivering a wide range of services from street cleansing and refuse collection to running the city's parks and leisure facilities. It has a wide regulatory role, involving services such as environmental health and building control and works in partnership with other organisations to tackle issues such as community safety and health improvement. The Council plays an important role in supporting local economic growth, the arts and tourism and promoting the development and regeneration of the city. It is consulted on key issues impacting upon the city and its people and communities, including local area planning.

In short, the Council is a large and diverse organisation which plays an important role in shaping, developing and investing in the city and local areas. A key role of the SP&R Committee is to provide overall direction to this work, to make sure that the resources are available to deliver it and to hold officers to account for making it happen. The corporate plan and processes linked to it, including the setting of budgets and the development of the capital programme help the Committee to fulfil this role.

The Corporate Plan – current status

The corporate plan, helps Members get things done by setting out:

- The Council's vision for the city and its priorities – based upon engagement with

local people and analysis of data about the city;

- The key actions that will be implemented in the year ahead;
- Performance indicators, allowing for regular review of progress;
- Financial information, setting out how resources have been allocated across the Council to ensure that things get done.

The Council's previous corporate plan covered the period 2008 – 2011. A key task for the coming year will be for officers to work with the Committee to agree the Council's priorities and plans and how resources will be allocated to these for the remainder of the Council term. A detailed project plan, outlining a timetable and process for developing the new plan will be brought to Committee for approval in August.

Over the past year, the SP&R Committee worked with all Members to prepare a draft update of the plan for 2011/12 so that there might be continuity in terms of the Council's over-all direction, whilst the new Committee considers future priorities. This update work was carried out in line with the development of the Council's budget for 2011/12, which was agreed by the SP&R Committee in February 2011.

In updating the corporate plan, the Committee was guided by analysis of information about the type of city that Belfast is, the issues that people across the city face and by feedback from local people about what they believe the Council's priorities should be. Feedback from residents in 2010, obtained through surveying over 1600 citizens in their own homes was that the Council's priorities should be:

- Creating a safer city
- Making the city cleaner and greener
- Supporting children and young people
- Investing in improving local areas
- Helping to support and improve the city's economy
- Providing value for money services

These priorities are reflected in the Council's draft vision and priorities for 2011/12 which are set out at Appendix 1.

Further information on the draft interim corporate plan for 2011/12 and on the actions that departments will undertake to achieve the Council's priorities will be brought to the next meeting of the Committee.

Related work – managing people, projects, money and assets

Whilst working with the Committee to develop the new corporate plan, officers will also be working with Members to develop key strands of work designed to ensure that resources are available to allow the Council to continue to invest in the city, make sound financial plans to safeguard vital service delivery, and ensure the Council is run efficiently and provides value for money. At the meeting, Chief Officers will set out the key pieces of work involved and how Members will lead the process of taking these forward.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the report by way of background to a presentation by Chief Officers at the meeting about development of the Committee's key strands of work for the year ahead.

Draft Vision and Priorities 2011/12

Our vision is to ensure that *'The Council, working with communities and stakeholders, takes a lead role in improving quality of life now and for future generations for the people of Belfast by making the city and its neighbourhoods better places to live in, work in, invest in, study in and visit'*.

To deliver on this vision our Corporate Plan sets out 5 themes, these are:

Theme	What they mean
City leadership	Providing leadership and strategic direction for shaping, developing and managing the city
Environment	Caring for Belfast's environment and creating a sustainable, clean and healthy living space for all
Economy	Creating a vibrant, sustainable and inclusive economy
People and communities	Creating stronger neighbourhoods
Improving our Services	Delivering value for money, customer focused services with the right level of resources to deliver Council and ratepayer priorities

More information about each of these themes is set out in the following pages.

City Leadership

Contributing to the leadership and strategic direction for shaping, developing and managing the city

Our priorities:

Place Shaping

- Using our capital programme and City Investment Fund to improve the city's economy and help regenerate local areas;
- Finding new ways of attracting funding to create sustainable investment across the city;
- Influencing the future development of the city and identifying the physical infrastructure needed to support the city's future economic competitiveness and growth;
- Preparing for the effective delivery of the new responsibilities that we will receive as a result of local government reform;
- Creating an effective Community Planning Framework.

Good Relations and Equality

- Creating better relationships with organisations locally, regionally and internationally to tackle poverty, address inequality and improve quality of life in the city
- Leading the development of good relations across the city, mainstreaming equality and respecting diversity
- Securing Peace III investment to create shared space and positive relations in the city.

What local people said about city leadership

- 96% of residents say they enjoy living in Belfast and more than four in five (84%) are satisfied with living in their local area
- In the last three years, more than half of residents think that the city has improved
- 80% of residents think that the council is important in their everyday lives
- 73% of residents think that the council makes Belfast a better place to live
- 66% of residents agree that the council is the organisation best placed to direct the future shape of the City
- one in three residents feel that 'investing in improving local areas' should be one of the Council's key priorities
- 75% of residents feel that the council is helping to promote good relations in the city

Environment

Caring for Belfast's environment and helping to create a sustainable, clean and healthy place to live for everyone.

Our priorities

Making the City Cleaner and Greener

- Keeping all parts of the city clean
- Improving the quality of parks and open spaces
- Promoting Belfast as a Sustainable City which looks after its environmental, social and economic future
- Improving the Council's energy efficiency and carry out services in a way which reduces our carbon footprint

Zero Waste Direct to Landfill

- Achieving our target of zero waste direct to landfill by 2015
- Increasing ways for households to recycle

High Quality Urban and Local Environment

- Improving the appearance of local areas across the city

What local people said about improving our environment

- 96% of residents say they enjoy living in Belfast and more than four in five (84%) are satisfied with living in their local area
- Residents have stated that making the City cleaner and greener should be one of council's top three priorities
- Almost nine in ten feel that the council is working to make the City cleaner and more attractive
- 28% of residents felt that cleaner streets would most help to improve their quality of life
- 31% of residents felt that the streets need to be better maintained

Economy

Creating a vibrant, sustainable and inclusive economy

Our priorities

Cultural and Tourism Experience

- Maximising tourism potential and making best use of the city's cultural products to promote Belfast
- Delivering a programme of events which will enhance the vibrancy of and attract tourism to the city

Contributing to regeneration and growing the rates base

- Developing relationships with those working to grow the local economy
- Supporting local regeneration activity
- Supporting growth of the city's rate base
- Developing the economic potential of the North Foreshore

Supporting Economic Growth

- Helping to maximise employability
- Supporting job creation
- Supporting business growth and competitiveness
- Working with our partners to improve the overall city centre experience and vitality
- Ensuring our markets continue to provide a unique shopping experience for residents and visitors alike.

What local people said about improving the local economy

- 55% of residents feel that the council is helping to improve the local economy
- 33% of residents feel that better employment opportunities would most help to improve their quality of life
- A quarter of residents questioned stated that 'helping to support and improve the city's economy' should be one of the council's key priorities

People and Communities

Improving quality of life across all neighbourhoods

Our priorities

People feel safer

- Helping to make people feel safer and addressing antisocial behaviour

People are Healthier

- Giving people opportunities to be more active
- Working with partners and communities to improve health and well-being in the city
- Provide high quality regulatory services to protect people's safety and health, such as building control and food safety

Engaged and Active Communities

- Making sure the Council is better engaged with local people and is involving them in improving the city and their local areas
- Helping local people get the best use out of the Council's assets
- Supporting local community development

Younger and Older People

- Creating and co-ordinating opportunities for children and young people
- Working with partners to improve services to older people and reducing isolation

Dealing with Emergencies

- Supporting local people affected in a crisis such as during flooding or severe weather

What local people said about improving life for people and communities

- More than half of residents feel that there is a strong sense of community in their local area
- Safety is the top key priority for residents, especially in the City centre after dark.
- Almost half of residents questioned feel that lower levels of anti-social behaviour and crime would be most likely to improve their quality of life.
- Residents feel that investing in improving local areas is also a key priority for the Council.
- 37% of residents felt that more activities for children and young people would most help to improve their quality of life
- 56% of residents feel that the council is helping to create a better city for older people
- 75% of residents believe the council is helping to promote healthier and more active lifestyles
- 86% of residents are generally satisfied with our Parks and Open Spaces

Improving our services

Delivering value for money, customer focused services

Our Priorities

- Enable value for money service delivery by ensuring efficient use of resources to achieve Council priorities
- Make best use of technology to deliver services when and where they are needed
- Providing adequate support to our services to ensure that resources are fully aligned to our corporate priorities
- Attracting and developing people who will work together to deliver our services and develop the organisation for the future
- Facilitating the effective planning, management and reporting of Council activities

What local people told us about improving services

- 78% of residents are satisfied with the services which the council provide
- 75% of residents thought that the council makes Belfast a better place to live
- 64% of residents thought the council was efficient in the delivery of its services
- 53% of residents felt our services had got better over the past three years whilst just 4% felt that they had got worse
- 23% of residents felt that 'providing value for money services' should be one of the council's key priorities

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Fixed-Term Working Groups
Date:	3rd June, 2011
Reporting Officer:	Mr. Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (extension 6314)
Contact Officer:	Mr. Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer (extension 6313)

Relevant Background Information

Members may recall that, in adopting the Council's Governance Arrangements in 2007, it was acknowledged that the Standing Committees would wish to appoint short-term Working Groups to focus on issues of particular relevance. In addition, the Council had agreed previously to adopt the following principles in appointing Working Groups:

- Working Groups should be established only if they are considered to be essential for the achievement of effective and efficient decision-making;
- such Working Groups should be appointed only for a fixed-term and for a specific purpose;
- the Groups would not have decision-making powers but rather would produce a report with recommendations for consideration by the appointing Committee;
- after the Working Group has fulfilled its remit it would cease to exist; and
- Working Groups should be formed on the basis of All-Party representation with nominees sought from the leaders of the Political Parties.

Key Issues

The range of Working Groups, which had been established during the previous Council term, ceased to exist on 5th May, coinciding with the Local Government Elections. Therefore, it is now a matter for the Committee to consider whether it wishes to reconstitute the following groups whose remit falls under the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee:

1. Accommodation Steering Group

Established by Policy and Resources Committee on 19th January, 2007, this Group's original remit was to oversee the arrangements for the refurbishment of the City Hall. Since the completion of the work to the City Hall, meetings of this Group have been called periodically by the Director of Property and Projects to address staff and Political Party accommodation issues. In particular the Group's remit is as follows:

- to consider and advise upon future occupancy and accommodation requirements at the City Hall / Cecil Ward Building / Adelaide Exchange, together with outlying Council properties, and, in the case of the City Hall, in regard to public access and facilities; and
- to act as a communication channel to Political Parties and Members in general and ensure that issues regarding accommodation issues are fully understood.

Previous Membership

One representative from each Political Party.

Anticipated Life Span

Should this Group be reconstituted, it will meet on an ad hoc basis under the guidance of the Director of Property and Projects.

2. Audit Panel

The purpose of Audit Panel, which was established by the Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 20th April, 2007, is to provide impartial assurance on the adequacy of the Council's risk management framework and associated control environment. It meets on a quarterly basis and provides independent scrutiny for the Council's financial and non-financial performance and highlights areas of concern which exposes the Council to risk and weakens the control environment. The Panel also oversees the Council's annual financial accounting process.

Previous Membership

One representative from each Political Party Grouping together with an external member appointed by the Council.

Anticipated Life Span

It is anticipated that this Panel, if reconstituted, will meet on a quarterly basis throughout the Council term under the guidance of the Director of Finance and Resources.

The first meeting of this Working Group has been scheduled for 1.00 p.m. on 9th June as it will be required to review the Annual Accounts prior to the next meeting of the Committee.

3. Belfast Flooding Members' Group

This Working Group was established by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 23rd January, 2009, to oversee the implementation of the recommendations within the Belfast Flooding Report 2008. It seeks to work with other bodies and agencies to put in place prevention measures to address the risk of future flooding across the City. Its remit is at follows:

- to oversee the implementation of the recommendations in the Council's 2008 Belfast Flooding Report;
- to provide political influence and leadership for stakeholders and partners involved in flood work in Belfast; and
- to support community engagement in flood work in Belfast

Previous Membership

One representative from each Political Party.

Anticipated Life Span

Should this Group be reconstituted it will meet on an ad hoc basis (normally monthly) under the guidance of the Director of Health and Environmental Services.

4. Budget and Transformation Panel

This Panel was established by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 6th February, 2009. Its aims and objectives, as set out below, outline the objectives of the Panel, its deliverables, manner of working, governance arrangements and programme of work:

Overall Objective

- The overall objective of the Budget and Transformation Panel is to provide political leadership and oversight of the Council's efficiency and transformation agenda and the Council's finances in general.

Detailed Objectives

- to provide political support in terms of Political Parties and the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for the delivery of the Council's efficiency and transformation agenda;
- to scrutinise the alignment of the Council's efficiency and transformation agenda to corporate priorities;
- to support the development and implementation of the Council's efficiency and transformation programme;
- to hold officers to account for the delivery of an agreed efficiency and transformation programme;
- to track and monitor the achievement of agreed financial savings; and
- to provide an overview of the Council's finances.

Previous Membership

Leaders of each of the Political Parties.

Anticipated Life Span

Should this Group be reconstituted, it will meet on an ad hoc basis under the guidance of the Director of Finance and Resources.

5. City Investment Strategy Working Group

This Group, which was established by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 22nd October, 2010, seeks to address and manage the Council's budgetary constraints within the current challenging economic conditions. Accordingly, the Group works to ensure that the Council fulfils its obligation to retain its vision of strategic, equitable and sustainable development across the City. To this end, the Group seeks to engage with key stakeholders and to lobby Ministers at the Northern Ireland Assembly to focus and drive investment and resources to Belfast.

Previous Membership

Chairmen of Strategic Policy and Resources and Development Committees plus one representative from each of the other Political Parties.

Anticipated Life Span

Given the current economic climate, it is recommended that Group be reconstituted for the forthcoming Council term and meet on an ad hoc basis under the guidance of the Director of Property and Projects.

6. Cross-Party Reference Group on Community Planning

The Group reports on all issues affecting the future direction of Community Planning in Belfast which will be taken by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

The purpose of the Reference Group is to support, influence, monitor and challenge the development of community planning in Belfast and related projects. Specifically, the Reference Group works:

- to provide strategic direction to the Belfast Community Planning Consortium (BCPC) - which is responsible for overseeing the BIG Lottery funded community planning pilot project;
- to ensure the BCPC and BIG Lottery Community Planning Project is connected to the political process;
- to monitor the progress of the BIG Lottery Community Planning Project and contribute to the evaluation of the project;
- to provide strategic / political direction and input to the development of the health planning process within Belfast.
- to assess the learning for Belfast City Council and its implications for the ongoing development of community planning within Belfast;
- to act as a reference panel in the wider development of the Council's community planning framework;
- to make recommendations to Strategic Policy and Resources regarding the developing community planning framework for Belfast. This may include recommendations on timelines, resources and structures;

- to champion a cohesive approach within the Council to Community Planning; and
- to develop and maintain expertise in the field of community planning.

Previous Membership

Two representatives from each of the Political Parties.

Anticipated Life Span

Should this Group be reconstituted, it will meet on a monthly basis under the guidance of the Director of Health and Environmental Services.

7. Good Relations Partnership

The Good Relations Partnership, which was established by the Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 17th August, 2001, has overseen the development of a Good Relations Strategy, the establishment of a Good Relations Unit and has made recommendations to the Policy and Resources Committee on a range of issues, as well as the awarding of grant-aid, including substantial amounts of European funding via the Peace III Programme. The terms of reference for the Good Relations Partnership are set out below:

- to promote equality of opportunity in the discharge of the Council's responsibilities, taking into account the needs of persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation, of men and women generally, of persons with a disability and persons without and of persons with dependants and persons without;
- to promote tolerance and understanding throughout the City by providing support, including the equitable use of available budgets, for appropriate initiatives which celebrate the cultural diversity of Belfast;
- to promote good relations between people of different religious and political beliefs and different racial groups in every aspect of Council activities; and
- to use the Council's influence as a democratically elected body, providing civic leadership to the City, to promote good relations throughout society.

Membership and Anticipated Life Span

The Good Relations Partnership, if reconstituted, will consist of one Member from each Political Party, together with 16 external Members and will meet on a monthly basis. In view of its current value to the Council and its potentially greater role in relation to the delivery of the Peace III funding within Belfast, it is recommended that the Good Relations Steering Panel be reconstituted and continue to meet on a monthly basis over the current Council term.

The first meeting of the Group is scheduled for 12.00 noon on Monday 6th June as it is required to consider the award of Summer Intervention Funding.

8. Memorabilia Working Group

The Council's representatives on the Good Relations Partnership serve also on the Memorabilia Working Group. This Group, which was established by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 14th November, 2008, considers issues regarding memorabilia, language, civic ceremonies and events within the City Hall and the City Hall grounds.

Anticipated Life Span

Should this Group be reconstituted for the forthcoming Council term, it will meet on an ad hoc basis under the guidance of the Good Relations Manager.

9. Historic Centenaries Working Group

This Group was established by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 10th December, 2010, to oversee the Council's approach to the forthcoming decade of centenaries. Its terms of reference are as follows:

- to consider historic centenaries and commemorations which the Council might wish to consider marking over the next decade
- to establish a core set of principles to be applied in considering those centenaries and in identifying appropriate events to be commemorated
- to consider what actions the Council might wish to take itself, carry out with others or support the celebrations of others in the marking of those centenaries
- to give consideration to how a budget might be developed to support any actions agreed
- to make recommendations to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee regarding the issues above.

Previous Membership

One representative from each of the Political Parties.

Anticipated Life Span

Should this Group be reconstituted, it will meet on an ad hoc basis under the guidance of the Good Relations Manager.

10. Housing Forum

This Forum, which was established by the Strategic Policy and Resources on 15th June, 2007, replaced the Council's former Housing Liaison. Given the significant amount of time which Members spend dealing with housing matters, it was felt appropriate that the Council would maintain formal links with the Housing Executive through a Housing Forum. The Forum provides an opportunity for Members to develop partnerships with officials from the Executive and also a platform to discuss and/or resolve many of the issues relating to housing problems faced by their constituents.

It is therefore proposed that the Housing Forum be re-established for the forthcoming Council term and that membership be extended to all Members. The Town Planning Committee would continue to receive the annual District Housing Plans for the Belfast Area. The terms of reference for the Forum are set out hereunder:

- to receive quarterly updates on the progress of the New Build Social

Housing Programme;

- to receive reports on the Physical Programme, including annual cyclical maintenance; and
- to deal with any other Housing-related issues which the Members might wish to raise with Housing officials.

Previous Membership

All Members of the Council.

Anticipated Life Span

Should this Forum be reconstituted, invitations to attend quarterly meetings will be extended to all Members of the Council.

11. Member Development Steering Group

The Member Development Steering Group was first established by the former Members' Sub-Committee on 12th March, 2007, under the following terms of reference:

- to align the Member development strategy to the value creation map;
- to oversee the processes for the identification of development needs at individual, Party Group and Council-wide levels;
- to ensure the appropriate implementation of the Member Development Strategy and associated policies;
- to adopt a structured and timely approach to promoting Member development opportunities;
- to recommend best practice in other Local Authorities which Members can learn from and share with external partners;
- to facilitate Member development activity;
- to develop mechanisms for the evaluation of Member development activities; and
- to review, update and revise the Member development strategy at appropriate levels to ensure that it continues to address the development needs of Members.

Previous Membership

One representative from each of the Political Parties.

Anticipated Life Span

It is recommended that this Group be reconstituted. It will oversee the implementation of the Members' Development Strategy, including Personal Development Plans for Members, a revised and enhanced Induction Programme and core development activities.

12. New Regional Hospital for Women and Children Working Group

This Working Group was established by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 12th December, 2009. Its remit is to oversee a campaign and to lobby for the establishment in Belfast of a new regional hospital for children and women. In addition,

the following Notice of Motion was passed unanimously by the Council at its meeting on 1st July, 2009:

“Belfast City Council calls on the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety and the Northern Ireland Executive to make the completion of the new regional hospital for children and women, on the site of the Royal Group of Hospitals, a matter of top priority in the next comprehensive spending review. The Council calls on the Minister of Health and the Executive to secure the resources now for clearing the site, which is an essential first step in progressing the new hospital for children and women. The Council agrees to work in partnership with the Royal Maternity Hospital Liaison Group to lobby the Northern Ireland Executive and Assembly to secure the capital funds necessary to build the new regional hospital for children and women.’

Previous Membership

One representative from each of the Political Parties.

Anticipated Life Span

Given the previous Health Minister’s decision in relation to the hospital, this Group has not met since December, 2009. therefore, it is recommended that it does not be reconstituted.

13. North Foreshore Steering Group

This Group was established by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 18th May, 2010. Its remit is to oversee the management of the North Foreshore, especially in regard to policy, resource allocation and financial risk of future development at the site

Previous Membership

The previous Steering Group held its first meeting on 16th December, 2010. This meeting was attended by the Chairmen of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, the Parks and Leisure Committee, the Health and Environmental Committee and the Development Committee. At that meeting it was agreed that membership of the Steering Group would be extended to include Councillors from the Castle and Oldpark District Electoral Areas (14 Members in total).

Anticipated Life Span

Given the importance of political governance and direction in the development of major Council projects, such as the North Foreshore, it is recommended that Group be reconstituted for the forthcoming Council term and that it meet on an ad hoc basis under the guidance of the Director of Property and Projects.

14. Reference Group on Older People

The Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 21st April, 2006, established an All-Party Reference Group on Older People. The Group is supported by the Head of Environmental Health with policy input from the Corporate Policy Unit. The Group was set-up to engage directly with other agencies, including those in the voluntary sector and its role is to:

- to consider the potential future strategic direction of the Council's work on older people to inform the development of the Council's Corporate Strategy and Plan;
- to explore improve methods of maximising the impact which the Council

could have in working with other partners to meet older people's needs;

- to work with Belfast Healthy Cities on developing the Council's input to the Intersectoral Plan;
- to have an overseeing role in respect of the Intersectoral Plan on Older People and an advocacy role; and
- to consider the services provided currently by the Council for older people.

Previous Membership

One representative from each of the Political Parties.

Anticipated Life Span

Should this Group be reconstituted, it will meet on an ad hoc basis under the guidance of the Head of Environmental Health.

Resource Implications

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

Recommendations

- The Committee is asked to consider which, if any, of the Working Groups it wishes to reconstitute and the membership of each of the Groups.
- The Committee may also wish to consider, given the number of Working Groups, whether or not to combine the work of some of the Groups.

Decision Tracking

Officer Responsible: Mr. Jim Hanna (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

Timescale: A letter will be forwarded to each of the Party Leaders following the meeting to seek representation on each of the Groups which are reconstituted.

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Special Responsibility Allowance
Date:	3 rd June, 2011
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager
Contact Officer:	

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Local Government (Payments to Councillors) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007 provide that the maximum amount which the Council is permitted to spend on Special Responsibility Allowance is £82,000 per annum.
1.2	Following the Local Government Elections in May and the recent changes agreed by the Council to the Standing Orders, which recognise Party Political Parties on the Council rather than Political Groupings, the time is considered to be right to review the distribution of these allowances.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The proposed division of the Special Responsibility Allowance between the Chairmen and the Deputy Chairmen of the Standing Committees and the Officers of the Political Parties on the Council is set out in Appendix 1.
2.2	The total proposed allocation is £82,000.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	The recommended levels of allowance are provided for within the current revenue budgets.

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	None. The division of the Special Responsibility Allowance is based upon the positions held by individual Members either as Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of Committees or as Officers within the Political Parties. The allocations are consistent with the Council's system of proportionality which seeks to allocate positions in accordance with the relative strength of the Parties within the Council.

5	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is recommended to agree the allocation of the Special Responsibility Allowance with effect from 20 th May for the Party Officers and with effect from 26 th May for the Chairmen and the Deputy Chairmen of the Committees.

6	Decision Tracking
<p>Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager</p> <p>1st June, 2011.</p>	

7	Documents Attached
<p>Appendix 1 – Allocation of Special Responsibility Allowance</p>	

Appendix 1**Allocation of Special Responsibility Allowance – May, 2011****Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of Standing Committees**

Position	Allowance	Number of Posts	Total
Chairmen	£5,125	6	£30,750
Deputy Chairmen	£2,307	6	£13,842
Total			£44,592

Political Party Officers

Party Officer Basic Allocation £2,307

Remainder allocated to Political Party leaders £194.48 per Member of the Party

Position	Number of Members	Allocation per party Member	Allocation by Party Strength	Basic Allocation	Total
SF Party Leader	16	£194.48	£3,111.68	£2,307	£5,418.68
SF Deputy Leader				£2,307	£2,307
SF Secretary				£2,307	£2,307
DUP Party Leader	15		£2,917.20	£2,307	£5,224.20
DUP Deputy Leader				£2,307	£2,307
DUP Secretary				£2,307	£2,307
SDLP Party Leader	8		£1,555.84	£2,307	£3,862.84
SDLP Deputy Leader				£2,307	£2,307
Alliance Party Leader	6		£1,166.88	£2,307	£3,473.88
Alliance Deputy Leader				£2,307	£2,307
UUP Party Leader	3		£583.44	£2,307	£2,890.44
PUP Party Leader	2		£388.96	£2,307	£2,695.96
	50		£9,724	£27,684	£37,408

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Allowances for the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and High Sheriff
Date:	3 rd June, 2011
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (ext 6314)

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	<p>It has been the practice for the Personal and Entertainments Allowances paid to the Lord Mayor, the Deputy Lord Mayor and the High Sheriff to be reviewed annually.</p> <p>The Lord Mayor's Personal and Entertainments Allowances for 2010/11 were £34,800 and £25,900 respectively. Both the Deputy Lord Mayor's and the High Sheriff's Personal and Entertainments Allowances had been set at £6,250 and £735 respectively.</p>

2	Key Issues
2.1	The established practice has been that the Personal and Entertainments Allowances should take into account increases in the cost of living by increasing the allowances in line with the Consumer Price Index.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	Provision for these increases has been made in the revenue budget.

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	None.

5	Recommendations
5.1	It is recommended that the Committee approves the increasing of the Personal and Entertainments Allowances for the Lord Mayor, the Deputy Lord Mayor and the High Sheriff in accordance with the Consumer Price Index as at 1 st May, 2011.

6	Decision Tracking
Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager	
4 th July, 2011	



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	A Sustainable Transport Future – Local Government Consultation Event
Date:	Friday, 3 June, 2011
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (Ext. 6314)
Contact Officer:	Julie Lilley, Democratic Services Officer (ext. 6321)

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Department of Regional Development has published a revised Regional Transportation Strategy which sets out a range of high level aims and strategic objectives which map out the future direction for transportation in Northern Ireland beyond 2015, when the current transport plans will expire.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) in conjunction with the Department of Regional Development is holding a consultation event, specifically for Councillors and officers, on Wednesday, 15 June, 2011 to examine the proposals included in the Revised Regional Transport Strategy. The Consultation Event will be held in the Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown commencing at 9.30am and finishing with a light lunch at 1.00pm

3	Resource Implications
3.1	There is no cost for Councillors or officers to attend the event.

4	Equality Implications
	N/A

5	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is recommended to authorise the attendance at the Consultation Event of any Member who so wishes.

6	Decision Tracking
Officers responsible: Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager June 2011	

7	Key to Abbreviations
NILGA – Northern Ireland Local Government Association	