

Document Pack

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



19th September, 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, 23rd September, 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
2. **Corporate Plan and Performance Management**
 - (a) Members' Workshop of 17th August - Feedback and Next Steps (Pages 1 - 52)
3. **Democratic Services and Governance**
 - (a) Review of Parliamentary Constituencies (Pages 53 - 54)
 - (b) Minutes of Meeting of Member Development Steering Panel - 30th August (Pages 55 - 60)
 - (c) Use of City Hall and Provision of Hospitality (Pages 61 - 64)
 - (d) 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Activity (Pages 65 - 74)
 - (e) Ulster Orchestra Society Board (Pages 75 - 76)
 - (f) Good Practice Visits - Irish Medium Initiatives
 - (g) National Association of Councillors – Annual General Meeting (Pages 77 - 78)

4. **Finance**

- (a) Finance Update Report (Pages 79 - 82)
- (b) Value for Money - Review of Procurement Unit (Pages 83 - 88)
- (c) Land and Property Services/Belfast City Council Memorandum of Understanding - Quarter 1 Performance Report (Pages 89 - 110)
- (d) Capital Funding - European Regional Development Funds and Tourism Development Scheme Funds (Pages 111 - 116)
- (e) Property and Projects - Management Arrangements (Pages 117 - 120)
- (f) Minutes of Meeting of Budget and Transformation Panel - 10th September (Pages 121 - 124)
- (g) Minutes of Meeting of Audit Panel - 14th September (to follow)
- (h) Section 115 Expenditure - Fuel Stamps Scheme (Pages 125 - 126)

5. **Asset Management**

- (a) Approval to Seek Tenders - Mechanical Installations (Pages 127 - 128)
- (b) M1 Vesting - Department for Regional Development (Pages 129 - 132)
- (c) Connswater Community Greenway - Land Assembly (Pages 133 - 136)
- (d) Ormeau Golf Club - Rent Review (Pages 137 - 138)
- (e) Licence and Lease Renewal - Community Usage (Pages 139 - 142)
- (f) Smithfield Market Unit Lettings (Pages 143 - 146)
- (g) Place Shaping Conference (Pages 147 - 148)
- (h) Donation of Historic Clock to the Council (Pages 149 - 150)

6. **Good Relations and Equality**

- (a) Minutes of Meeting of Historic Centenaries Working Group - 6th September (Pages 151 - 162)
- (b) Minutes of Meeting of Good Relations Partnership - 12th September (to follow)
- (c) Notice of Motion - Removal of Peace Walls (Pages 163 - 166)
- (d) Notice of Motion - King James Bible (Pages 167 - 168)

7. **Cross-Cutting Issues**

- (a) Response to Department of Justice Consultation - Police and Community Safety Partnerships (Pages 169 - 196)
- (b) Age-Friendly Cities Conference (Pages 197 - 206)
- (c) Northern Ireland Housing Executive Consultation - City Centre Waiting List (Pages 207 - 234)

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

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Review of Parliamentary Constituencies
Date:	23 rd September, 2011
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (ext 6314)
Contact Officer:	

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland published its Provisional Proposals Report for the 6 th Review of Parliamentary Constituencies on 13 th September. The report sets out for public consultation the boundaries and names of the proposed new constituencies.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The Council has in the past when previous reviews were being conducted, agreed to display the report and constituency maps in the Reception area of the City Hall in order to inform the public and to assist those interested to submit responses to the consultation. Accordingly, the map and report were once again displayed in the Reception area on 13 th September.
2.2	The Council's accepted practice when considering consultations on proposed changes to electoral boundaries is not to make a corporate response but rather to leave it to each of the Political Parties to respond. This is due to an acceptance that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to reach a consensus on a matter where there is likely to be different or opposing views taken by the various Parties.

3	Resource Implications
	None

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	None

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>The Committee is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant retrospective authority for the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland's Provisional Proposals Report for the 6th Review of Parliamentary Constituencies to be displayed in the Reception area of the City Hall with effect from 13th September, and • Refer consideration of responses to the Consultation to each of the Political Parties on the Council.

6	Decision Tracking
<p>Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager</p> <p>September, 2011</p>	

Member Development Steering Group**Tuesday, 30th August, 2011****MEETING OF MEMBER DEVELOPMENT STEERING GROUP**

Members present: Alderman Rodgers; and
Councillors Convery, Hendron, McCabe and
Robinson.

In attendance: Mrs. Jill Minne, Head of Human Resources;
Mr. Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager;
Mrs. Lisa Rogan, Principal Human Resources Advisor;
Mr. Gareth Quinn, Senior Democratic Services Officer;
Mrs. Julie Lilley, Democratic Services Officer.

Election of Chairman

The Members agreed that Councillor Hendron be elected to fill the position of Chairman.

Member Development Update and Future Work Plan

The Steering Group considered the undernoted report:

“1 Relevant Background Information

1.1 The All-party Member Development Steering Group was constituted in the last Council term to review the Council’s existing Member Development Framework and in particular to develop:-

- **the roles and responsibilities for Elected Members**
- **a revised Induction programme**
- **a revised PDP process**
- **a programme of development activities which would be aligned to the delivery of the priorities in the new Corporate Plan.**

1.2 The Group, supported by officers from the Democratic Services Section and the Human Resources Section, held a number of meetings from November, 2010 to March, 2011. Members agreed a series of actions and initiatives, details of which are set out below, to ensure that a robust and comprehensive Member Development Strategy would be implemented in the new Council term.

1.3 The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 3rd June, agreed that the Member Development Steering Group be reconstituted and tasked with taking forward the Member Development Strategy.

2 Key Issues

2.1 Northern Ireland Charter for Elected Member Development

The Member Development Steering Group, at its meeting in January, agreed to adopt the Member Development Charter framework in order to inform the Council's revised Member Development Strategy.

The Council subsequently submitted a bid to NILGA to be considered for participation in the Charter programme and was successful in being chosen as one of four pilot projects which are being rolled out in Northern Ireland.

In March a formal launch of the Charter, hosted by the Lord Mayor, took place in City Hall. Since then, work has continued on a range of issues which were highlighted as requiring further work by the Council if we were to be successful in achieving Charter status.

In order to decide if the Council will be accredited with the Charter, a formal assessment, which will be undertaken by the South East Employers organisation, will take place on 29 November, 2011.

The assessment will involve a series of interviews with members of the Steering Group and Chief Officers as well as a workshop for cross-party Elected Members.

Should we be successful in achieving the charter it is expected that a number of Members and officers will be offered the opportunity of being trained as assessors in respect of other Councils which may decide to seek accreditation through the Charter process.

2.2 Members' Induction Programme

At its meeting in February, the Steering Group agreed to the delivery of a Members' Induction Programme comprising a number of briefing sessions to be delivered between May and October, as well as specialist Committee briefings and site visits. In line with best practice, the Induction Programme has focussed on what information is most useful to Members in the early months of the new Council term, and what will assist them in carrying out their roles and responsibilities.

Evaluation of the induction programme thus far would indicate that Members have found it worthwhile and the content of the briefing sessions to be useful and pitched at the right level.

2.3 Women Leaders Programme

The Steering Group, at its meeting in January, agreed to the delivery of a Women Leaders Programme, a bespoke three day programme which brings together female Elected Members and senior officers from the Council.

The main purpose of the programme is to increase the effectiveness of each participant in her area of influence and to facilitate joint Member-officer development.

During March and April, a Women Leaders Programme was delivered which was attended by three female Members and eight officers.

2.4 Additional Training Modules

The Steering Group oversaw also the delivery of four sessions of training held by Advice NI to raise the awareness of Members on the relevant issues associated with the Welfare Benefits system. Advice NI also produced a comprehensive Benefits Manual designed specifically for Members as a tool to assist them when dealing with their constituents' benefits queries.

Members of the Steering Group also agreed to the delivery of a Suicide Awareness Training Session. The session, which was delivered in April by the Belfast Trust, was well attended and an evaluation of the session rated it as very worthwhile. It is intended that this session will be delivered again over the coming months for the benefit of the newly elected Members and also those Members who were unable to attend the previous session.

2.5 Personal Development Plans for Members

In the previous Council term the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) were commissioned to undertake PDP interviews with Members and produce individual plans which identified the areas of development activity considered to be most beneficial for elected representatives working in a political environment. Members who undertook a PDP were able to access a dedicated individual budget, set at a maximum of £2,000 per annum, which could then be used to undertake a range of development activities designed to further build Members capacity.

One of the roles of the Steering Group is to undertake a review of the current approach to Members' Personal Development Planning (PDP). A separate report will be considered by Members in this regard.

However, it was considered important that while the Steering Group explores possible options for the revised process that Members are still given the opportunity to increase their capacity and access appropriate development activities. With this in mind, a light-touch PDP process has been implemented to identify each individual Member's needs and put in place the necessary training and development activities.

- 2.6 In addition to the light touch process, Members are actively engaging in the Corporate Planning Process which aims to set the priorities for the Council for the current term. Arising out of these discussions, it has become clear that there may be additional development needs identified. The main themes which are emerging through this process are around leadership, the environment, the economy and people and communities.

These development needs can be addressed through a variety of approaches; individually developed workshops, one-to-one training and examining best practice elsewhere in the UK and Ireland. The new approach to the PDP process seeks not to be prescriptive in how Member Development can be achieved. This can be done at an individual, Party or Council level and members can, once a development need is identified, discuss with officers how best this can be met and the approach taken will be flexible to ensure that individual needs are addressed.

2.7 Roles and Responsibilities of Members

As work continues to improve support for Members' development and in keeping with the requirements of the Member Development Charter, it is important that a comprehensive analysis of the roles and responsibilities of Members is undertaken. This will allow for the necessary development opportunities to be put in place in order to ensure that Members have the capacity to deliver effectively in carrying out their roles as a local elected representative.

With this in mind, the Steering Group is asked to agree to the holding of a half-day workshop which will take place in a venue outside the City Hall. It is recommended that the session is facilitated by a suitable Peer Member who will engage Members in identifying the relevant roles and responsibilities so that a robust framework can be put in place to support Members in effectively delivering on these. It is proposed that this session would be held in October.

2.8 Community Leadership Role

A number of Members have recently expressed an interest in undertaking development opportunities which will assist them in effectively delivering their role as a leader within their community.

With this in mind it was felt important to highlight to Members upcoming work which will assist Members in doing this effectively.

Members will be aware that Belfast City Council is the lead partner in the Belfast Community Planning Consortium which was awarded a contract by the BIG Lottery Fund to deliver one of three community planning projects in Northern Ireland. To support the aims of this project, the Consortium have agreed that a formal, accredited, capacity building programme should be developed and run in tandem with the ongoing engagement and participation elements of the project. The programme will be specifically tailored to Belfast but content will also incorporate broader community planning awareness; sessions will include concepts of Community Planning, planning and budgeting processes in community planning, roles and responsibilities, role of data, effective partnerships, best practice in community planning etc. It is envisaged that the programme will comprise a flexible series of sessions, scheduled over the equivalent of a two-day period, for 20 – 25 people including Members and representatives from the statutory, voluntary and community sectors.

Furthermore, commencing in October 2011 and running through to May 2012, the Good Relations Unit will host a series of lunchtime seminars on the theme of 'engagement'. The series is part of the PEACE III funded 'Growing a Shared City' project and aims to provide attendees with the opportunity to hear current thinking on various issues which impact on socio-economic growth of the city and region. Members will be issued with a personal invitation to each seminar and the anticipated audience is Council staff, representatives from other local councils, central government and the voluntary and community sector.

3 Resource Implications

- 3.1 The Roles and Responsibilities Workshop is estimated to cost £1,500 and can be met from the Members' Development Budget

4 Equality Implications

- 4.1 N/A

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 The Steering Group is requested to agree to the contents of this report and to the holding of a half-day workshop which seeks to identify the roles and responsibilities of Members. The session, which will be facilitated by a Peer Member, will be held in October in an external venue.

After discussion, the Steering Group noted the contents of the report and agreed to the holding of a half-day workshop to help assist in identifying the roles and responsibilities of Members.

Personal Development Planning

The Principal HR Advisor reminded the Steering Group that an Elected Member personal development planning process had been in place since 2007. She advised Members that the process, which had been voluntary in nature, had been facilitated by the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA).

The Group was informed that the PDP process was being reviewed in line with the overall Council approach in order to gain Member Development Charter status and also to take account of best practice approaches to personal development planning for Members.

The Steering Group was advised that an interim PDP process had been in place from July involving a self-assessment exercise and that to date twenty members have a PDP.

The Principal HR Advisor outlined the following three options for undertaking Members' PDPs in future:

Option 1:

PDP meetings to be facilitated by an external provider. Based on maximum daily costs of approximately £1,000 and a maximum of 51 members partaking in the PDP process the maximum costs of externally facilitated PDPs would be in the region of £17,000 annually (based on three PDP meetings conducted per day).

Option 2:

PDP meetings to be facilitated internally by senior Democratic Services and/or senior HR staff. There would be no direct costs with this option.

Option 3:

PDP meetings facilitated internally by senior Democratic Services and/or senior HR staff but with an option of facilitation by an external provider for those members who would prefer this method. The costs involved with this option will depend on the number of members who would wish to avail of external facilitation. However based on an estimate of 10% of members wishing to have an externally facilitated PDP meeting the maximum costs would be in the region of £2,000 per annum (based on a maximum of £1,000 daily costs).

Following consideration of the options, the Steering Group agreed to implement option 3.



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Additional request for the use of the City Hall
Date:	Friday, 23 September, 2011
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 has been applied to the requests contained within the appendix and the recommendation has been made to the Committee on this basis.
3.	Resource Implications
3.1	The approximate cost of hospitality is detailed within the appendix.
4.	Equality Implications
4.1	N/A
5.	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is asked to approve the recommendation as set out in the Appendix.

6.	Decision Tracking
Officer responsible – Gareth Quinn	
October, 2011	
7.	Key to Abbreviations
Not applicable.	
8.	Documents Attached
Appendix 1 – Schedule of Applications	

Organisation/ Body	Event/Date - Number of Delegates/ Guests	Request	Comments	Recommendation
British Mensa Ltd	British Mensa Annual Conference Dinner 22nd September, 2012 Approximately 120 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-dinner drinks reception	Delegates will be staying in accommodation in Belfast and the conference will take place within the city. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City leadership, strong, fair, together' and Better opportunities for success across the city'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of red/white wine and soft drinks. Approximate cost £500
Duke of Edinburgh's Award	Silver Award Presentation for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award 28th November, 2011 Approximately 500 attending	The use of the City Hall and provision of hospitality in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits	These awards aim to recognise the development of citizenship amongst young people and to acknowledge the newly found skills and talents which will enable them to develop and mature as individuals. The event meets the Council's Key Themes of 'Better support for people and communities' and 'Better opportunities for success across the city' and in addition would contribute to the Council's thematic area of Children and Young People.	The use of the City Hall and provision of hospitality in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits Approximate cost £1250
Health and Social Care Board	Regional Social Work Awards Ceremony 8th June, 2012 Approximately attending	The use of the City Hall	This event will seek to recognise those Social Workers who operate across a range of specialities and who have demonstrated outstanding service to the people of Belfast. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'Better support for people and communities' and 'Better services – listening and delivering'.	The use of the City Hall
Social Security Agency	Launch of the Social Security Agency 'Innovation Fund for Benefit Uptake' 1st November, 2011 Approximately 150 attending	The use of the City Hall	This event will launch an initiative which seeks to increase benefit uptake through an Innovation Fund. It will also seek to strengthen partnership working with the voluntary sector and other key stakeholders. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'Better support for people and communities'; 'City	The use of the City Hall

			leadership, strong, fair, together' and 'Better services – listening and delivering'.	
Corrymeela Community	<p>Inclusive Neighbourhood Project - 'Sharing the Learning'</p> <p>29th November, 2011</p> <p>Approximately 200 attending</p>	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits.	<p>This event, which concludes the Peace III funded 'Inclusive Neighbourhood Project' seeks to support integration between the refugee and host community in Northern Ireland. The event aims to do this by sharing and disseminating the learning, launching the final evaluation report and community training resources and celebrating individual achievement with a certificate presentation.</p> <p>This event, which would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City leadership, strong, fair and together', 'Better opportunities for success across the city' 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 £500</p>
Andersonstown Traditional & Contemporary Music School	<p>Showcase Concert</p> <p>14th November, 2011</p> <p>Approximately 600 attending</p>	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits.	<p>This free to attend event will aim to showcase the talent of the children and young people to many different communities from across the city of Belfast by actively inviting such groups to attend.</p> <p>This event seeks to recognise the achievements of the Music School and to pay tribute to past and present pupils.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City leadership, strong, fair and 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 and biscuits</p> <p>Approximate cost £1500</p>



Report to:	Strategic, Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	2012 Olympic and Paralympic Activity
Date, Time and Venue:	14 September 2011
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Gerry Copeland, City Events Manager ext. 3412
1.0 Purpose	
<p>1.1 This purpose of this report is to update Strategic, Policy & Resources on the current status of BCC related London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic activity. The report is also seeking approval from Members for: the installation of the Olympic and Paralympic emblems on the City Hall; for the hosting of the Paralympic Flame Festival at City Hall and for the selection of two Olympic Torch bearers which the Council has been offered by London 2012.</p> <p>1.2 A number of reports have been taken to Council over the last number of years in regard to plans for the 2012 year. Therefore, the planning process has started on the events programme for the year.</p>	
2.0 Background	
<p><u>2.1 London 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games</u> There are a number of strands relating to the London 2012 Games connected to Belfast. These are highlighted below.</p> <p>2.2 Pre-Games Acclimatization and Competitions – There will be details confirmed on these issues in the near future as the information is currently embargoed. It should be noted that this process has been facilitated by the work of the Council's Sports Development Unit, alongside DCAL, Sport NI and a variety of regional sports bodies. The output of this process would see significant numbers of international athletes either using Belfast for pre-Games competitive events and or making the city their home for pre-Games acclimatization. However, at the current time, Australia has issued a letter of intent and Hungary & Canada are considered potentials.</p> <p>2.3 Olympic Torch Relay – In May 2011 it was announced that Belfast will be part of the UK Olympic Torch Relay. The Northern Ireland Olympic Torch Relay will culminate in Belfast on the 6 June after a three day tour across the region. The route for the Belfast leg is attached in Appendix 1. This route has been selected by LOCOG 2012 with no input from BCC Officers and is not open for change as the final selection of both the route and</p>	

torch bearers rests with the London 2012 Olympic Games organisers. The plan is to welcome the arrival of the Olympic Flame to City Hall, on the evening of the 6 June. The cortege would be met by a range of performers, some of which will be supplied by LOCOG. However, there will be a cost to Council, which is currently estimated at circa £50,000. This money would be found within the agreed finances for the City's overall 2012 activity and have matched funding from other bodies such as NITB; DSD and Sport NI.

2.4 Olympic Torch Bearer Nominations – Along with the Relay there was also an opportunity for the general public and a range of sporting and non-sporting individuals to be nominated to carry the Olympic flame through Belfast. The public selection of these individuals closed at the end of June 2011. However, the Council now has the opportunity to nominate two individuals to carry the Olympic flame. These nominations must be completed by the 31 October 2011. It should be noted that due to LOCOG 2012 guidelines the Council is **not** permitted to make a public call or campaign for nominations. Therefore, it is being recommended that the Chair and Deputy, along with Officers from the Council's Sport Development Unit look at winners from the Belfast Sports Awards which have been staged over the last number of years.

2.5 2012 Paralympic Games Flame Festivals (24 to 29 August) – Council Officers have just received details in regard to this element of the 2012 year. The proposed event, which the Council has yet to agree to, would be proposed to be staged on Saturday 25 August and be focused in and around Belfast. There is no nation wide torch relay, like the Olympic Games, and the event would involve the Paralympic Flame being transported to Edinburgh, Belfast, Cardiff and London between the above dates. The proposed Belfast 'Flame Festival', if agreed by Council, would open with lighting of a Paralympic light at sunrise in Belfast (probably Stormont), followed by a series of community visits culminating in an evening celebration at the Belfast Live Site location at City Hall. This latter element will involve Council financial resources which are estimated around circa £35,000. This money would be found within the agreed finances for the City's overall 2012 activity and have matched funding from other bodies such as NITB; DSD and Sport NI.

2.6 Inspire Mark – The 2012 'Inspire Mark' is the official London Games brand endorsement for community, civic and cultural activities (see appendix 2). To date the Council has only made limited use of the endorsement London 2012 Games 'Inspire Mark'. However the series of Inspire Marked "Try-it" events hosted in Leisure Centres have made use of the brand to attract funding from DCAL and BT. To date over one thousand local primary school and summer scheme children have taken part in a range of Olympic sports, as well as Gaelic and Asian sports activities.

2.7 Olympic & Paralympic Spectaculars – A proposal, from the Government Olympic Executive and DCAL, has been received to install both the Olympic Rings and the Paralympic Agitos on Belfast City Hall. Appendix 3 indicates the nature and size and scale of the proposal. At this stage the Government Olympic Executive are seeking Council approval to install the symbols. If approved by Council the Rings and Agitos would require approval from NI Planning Service & NIEA. It would be anticipated that installation period would be from the 31 December 2011 to the 10 September 2012 (the day after the closing ceremony of the Paralympic Games). The cost of the production, installation and removal would be met by the Government Olympic Executive. The Council would be required to look at a launch event for the 'Spectaculars'. The proposed launch would be date would be mid-night on the 31 December 2011. The cost for this event would be met by the Government Olympic Executive as part of their Olympic 'Look' campaign.

2.8 Live Site Screen - Belfast City Council now has one of LOCOG/BBC funded Big Screens (all so known as Live Sites). In total there are twenty-one of these large LED screens around the UK, with a possible twenty-second planned for Derry~Londonderry as part of its preparations for the City of Culture in 2013. The Belfast screen is based in the grounds of City Hall. To date the screen has relayed promotional campaigns for the Council and facilitated musical, operatic and sports events. The Live Site is also available for the use of community, cultural, sports and arts organisations. This could simply be the promotion of a certain initiative or the staging of an event in front of the Big Screen. The screen costs the Council a maximum of £20,000 per year, which covers maintenance, insurance and security expenditure. The screen has temporary planning consent for three year period after which, according to NI Planning Service, it should be moved out of the grounds of City Hall, unless the Council decides otherwise and objects.

3.0 Key Issues

- 3.1 The following section indicates the key matters required to be addressed by Council.
- 3.2 Olympic Torch Bearer Nominations – Agreement from Members that the Parks & Leisure Committee Chair and Deputy, along with Officers from the Council's Sport Development Unit, assess two nominations from previous award winners of the Belfast Sports Awards as the Council's two Torch Bearer nominees. It should be noted that those selected by BCC are not guaranteed to be part of the 2012 Torch Relay until LOCOG 2012 run their own checks and scrutiny process.
- 3.3 2012 Paralympic Games Flame Festival (24 to 29 August) – The Council will need to commit at least £35,000 of its planned 2012 budget to this project. If agreed, the Council will work closely with LOCOG 2012 and a number of local partners to deliver this significant ceremonial event for the city. Members will also need to agree to the usage of the City Hall grounds in order to stage this event.
- 3.4 Olympic & Paralympic Spectaculars – There are a number of key issues here. Firstly, Members will need to agree to the erection of these items on City Hall. It will also require input from planning professionals within the Council re the installation of the symbols and applying for temporary planning consent. The unveiling of the symbols would be financed by the Government Olympic Executive through its Olympic 'Look' campaign. The planned unveiling of the Olympic Rings for Belfast would be coordinated with events in Edinburgh, Cardiff and London and would take place on the 31 December 2011, with the Belfast event taking place at City Hall.

4.0 Resource Implications

- 4.1 Finance
- 4.2 Pre-Games Acclimatization and Competitions – Costs have yet to be established.
- 4.3 Olympic Torch Relay – It is likely that this event would cost the Council £50,000. It is anticipated that part of this money would be found within the agreed finances for the City's overall 2012 activity and have matched funding from other bodies such as NITB; DSD and Sport NI.
- 4.4 Olympic Torch Bearer Nominations – No cost
- 4.5 2012 Paralympic Games Flame Festival (24 to 29 August) – This element will involve

Council financial resources which are estimated around circa £35,000. It is anticipated that part of this money would be found within the agreed finances for the City's overall 2012 activity and with matched funding sought from other bodies such as NITB; DSD and Sport NI.

- 4.6 Inspire Mark – No cost to the usage of the LOCOG 2012 brand.
- 4.7 Olympic & Paralympic Spectaculars – There would be costs attached to any agreed planning application with the largest finance attached to the proposed launch date at mid-night on the 31 December 2011. The unveiling of the symbols would be financed by the Government Olympic Executive through its Olympic 'Look' campaign to the sum of £30,000.
- 4.8 Live Site Screen - The agreed screen costs for Council is a maximum of £20,000 per year, for three years from 2011 to 2013. This covers maintenance, insurance and security expenditure.
- 4.9 Staffing – It would be envisaged that at least two additional staff would be required to deliver the sited events. This is based on the experience of previous events such as the World Cross Country; World Boxing and the 2009 Tall Ships events. This issue will be addressed in broader paper on overall 2012 and 2013 event activity.

5.0 Equality and Good Relations Implications

5.1 As with all major civic events, public events like this have the potential to bring together people from a wide range of backgrounds and therefore promote good relations in the city.

6.0 Recommendations

- 6.1 SP&R are being asked to recommend:
- Agree that a report goes to the Parks and Leisure Committee in order that an internal nomination, for the Council's two Olympic Torch Bearers, is achieved by the 31 October 2011. This would involve the Chair and Deputy Chair of Parks and Leisure with input of Officers in the Sports Development Unit.
 - Staging of the Paralympic Flame Festival at a costs of circa £35,000 plus match funding from external partners. Finance for this event would be as part of the Council agreed 2012 budgets from the Development Department.
 - Olympic & Paralympic Spectaculars – That Members agree to the 2012 'Spectaculars' being installed on City Hall by the 31 December. In addition to the staging of an event on the New Year's Eve to mark the unveiling of the Olympic Rings, with the cost of this event being met by London 2012.

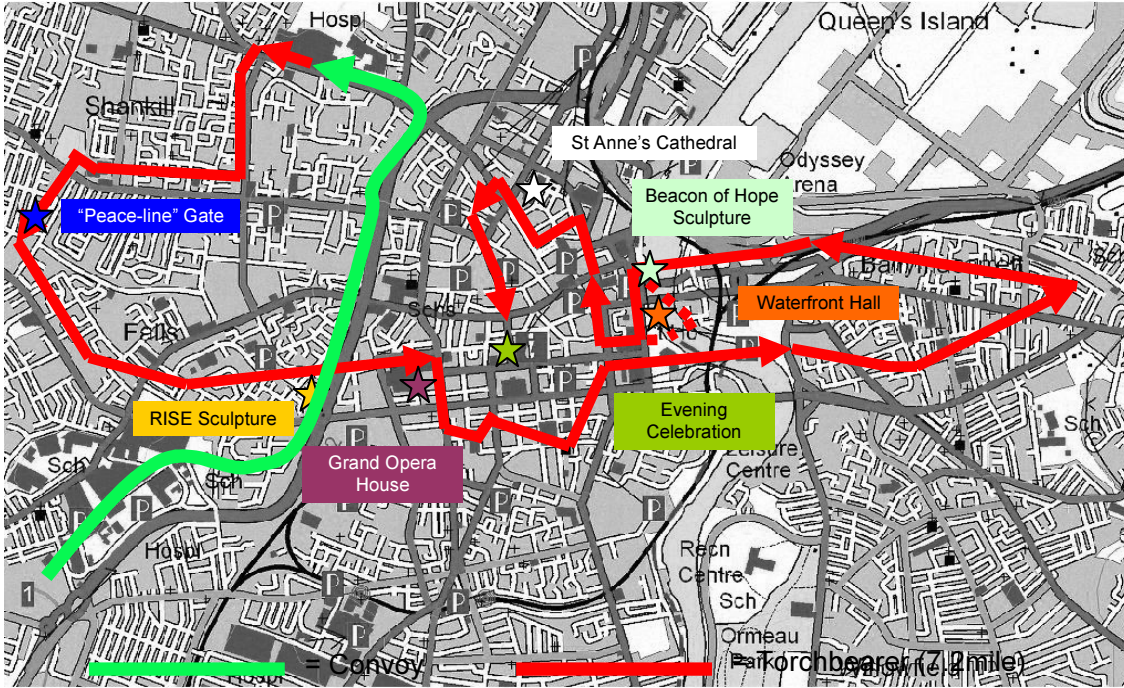
7.0 Documents attached

Appendix 1 – Belfast's Olympic Torch Route

Appendix 2 – Inspire Mark

Appendix 3 - Olympic Rings and Paralympic Agitos Images on Belfast City Hall

Route into "Evening Celebration" – Belfast.



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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Board of the Ulster Orchestra Society Limited
Date:	Friday 23 September 2011
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (ext. 6314)
Contact Officer:	Gareth Quinn, Senior Democratic Services Officer (ext. 6316)

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members will recall that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 19 August, considered correspondence from the Ulster Orchestra Society Ltd which indicated that the status of the Council representation on the Board has been changed from that of a 'representative' to that of an 'observer'.
1.2	The Committee agreed that in the first instance the Chairman and the Council's current representative on the Board meet with representatives of the Ulster Orchestra Board to discuss this change of status.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The Council's representative on the Board of the Ulster Orchestra Society Limited (Cllr C Maksey) has since had a discussion with Mr Declan McGovern, the Chief Executive of the Ulster Orchestra, and raised with him the concerns which had been expressed by Members at the meeting of the Committee. The Town Solicitor/Assistant Chief Executive also had a subsequent discussion with Mr McGovern for the purpose of clarifying some of the background issues.
2.2	Mr McGovern has explained that, following the appointment of a new Chairman to the Ulster Orchestra, a major review was carried out in relation to its governance. This included the appointment of a consultant to carry out a good governance review. Out of that review, a number of recommendations were made. One of these was that there were too many directors and that the Board should be reduced from fourteen to seven. The review also concluded that there needed to be a reduction in the number of Board meetings, and that there was a need for the members of the Board to receive full training. A key recommendation arising out of the review was that any member of the Board who represents a funding organisation should not be a formal director, but should rather have status as an "observer". However, as an observer, that individual will still receive all Board papers and will have the right to participate in

	discussions at the Board meetings, but would not have any formal right of voting. Mr McGovern has explained that this recommendation has been made in order that there can be a board of directors which is seen to be completely independent in terms of its formal decision making.
2.3	The Chief Executive of the Ulster Orchestra was keen to reiterate that those individuals with observer status will have access to the same information as other board members. He has also pointed out that the governance proposals have been fully supported by the Arts Council, which is a primary stake holder, and that the reality is that almost all decisions of the Board are taken by consensus, and that it is rare to require a vote.
2.4	It is to be noted that the Council itself will be looking at its own governance issues over the next few months and that the Town Solicitor/Assistant Chief Executive will be leading on taking a report back to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee in relation to the creation of a constitution for the Council, which will include a review of issues such as relationships with outside bodies and the role of Members who are appointed to or nominated to those bodies.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	N/A

4	Equality Implications
4.1	N/A

5	Recommendations
5.1	It is recommended that the Committee notes the foregoing report and that the issue of the role of Members on outside bodies will be given fuller consideration in the context of the forthcoming report to be brought by the Town Solicitor/Assistant Chief Executive.

6	Decision Tracking
Officers responsible: Gareth Quinn, Senior Democratic Services Officer October 2011	

7	Key to Abbreviations
N/A	

8	Documents Attached



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	National Association of Councillors - Annual General Meeting and Conference
Date:	Friday, 23rd September, 2011
Reporting Officer:	Mr. Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (extension 6314)
Contact Officer:	Mrs. Alison Potter, Democratic Services Assistant (extension 6308)

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The National Association of Councillors is holding a weekend Conference and Annual General Meeting from Friday 14 – Sunday 16 October, 2011 at The Hallmark Hotel, Carlisle.
1.2	The Conference has aims to tackle public disorder and discuss delivering community safety by considering the importance of community policing and the benefits of a stronger more visible police presence in our communities. The matter of alcohol related problems and the issues of crime and disorder which can arise out of this will also be examined.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The business of the Annual General Meeting falls within the criteria set out in Section 38 of the 1972 Local Government (Northern Ireland) Act in that it involves issues connected with the discharge of the functions of the Council and/or affecting the district or its inhabitants.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>Delegate Fee: £350 Travel: £184 Accommodation: £120</p> <p>Total per delegate: <u>£654</u></p>

4	Equality Implications
	N/A

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>It is recommended that the Committee authorises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the attendance at the National Association of Councillors Conference and Annual General Meeting of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, the Council's representatives on the National Association of Councillors (Northern Ireland Region), and a representative of each of the Parties on the Council not represented by the aforementioned Members.

6	Decision Tracking
<p>Officers responsible:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Alison Potter, Democratic Services Assistant</p> <p>October 2011</p>	



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Finance Update Report
Date:	23 September 2011
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources
Contact Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources

Relevant Background Information

At the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 19 August, the potential for unutilised funds becoming available for re-allocation was highlighted. A review of the forecast year end position has confirmed that up to £2m, in the context of the overall financial position of the organisation, is available for re-allocation. The reason for funds becoming available is due to slippage in a number of capital projects and a reduced vehicle replacement requirement.

The purpose of this report is to agree the principles to be used to determine the re-allocation of the funds and to present options for utilisation.

Key Findings / Issues

Principles

It is recommended that the following principles are adopted by Members to allocate the unutilised funds:

1. They are used to support one-off initiatives rather than on-going expenditure. This means there will be no negative impact on the rate setting for 2012/13 and beyond.
2. For any agreed revenue projects, the money must be spent by 31 March 2012.
3. There are a number of initiatives which the council is committed to delivering but are currently unfunded. These initiatives should have first call on the available finances.
4. Money may be allocated to reserves for specific future use.
5. Priority should be given to initiatives which have a direct benefit to the city and its ratepayers.

Options

Commitments requiring funds

1. **£54,000** to finance the winter gritting materials and equipment required by the Parks Service as agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 19 August 2011.
2. **£160,000** to finance the potential purchase of property adjacent to the Reverend Robert Bradford Memorial Park as agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 19 August 2011.

3. Members are aware that the council has agreed to extend the opening hours of Roselawn Crematorium. This means that the service will be in operation during hours of darkness. At present suitable lighting is not available along the entrance avenue. It is recommended that **£60,000** is set aside to finance the installation of suitable lamp standards and luminaries.

Future Commitments requiring funds

1. The council has agreed to host or compete for a number of events over the period 2012/13 - 2015/16. In 2012/13 the Titanic Centenary celebrations and the World Irish Dancing Championships will require funding of £400k and £200k, respectively. In addition, in 2013/14 the World Police and Fire Games and the All-Ireland Irish Dancing Championships will require a total of £600k. As these events are non-recurrent in nature it is recommended that a specified reserve is created in order to build up a pot of money which will cover the additional finance required. This means that the events can be funded without having to increase the district rate. In the first instance it is recommended that **£600,000** is placed in a specified reserve to cover the 2012/13 expenditure.

Additional Initiatives

1. The underspend provides an opportunity to support elements of the Parks and Leisure programmes of work which are currently not supported by the department's budget. By allocating finance to non-recurrent items of expenditure, it means that major areas of improvement to services provided to the public can be delivered without impacting on the ratepayer in terms of increased rates bills. The following areas have been identified as being suitable for non-recurrent financing:
 - a. A programme of 3G and grass resurfacing which has been identified as being required through the Pitches Strategy.
 - b. The resurfacing of the cycling track at Orangefield Park which is used as a training facility for national cyclists who compete in the Commonwealth and Olympic Games.
 - c. A programme of improvements and renewals in parks and leisure facilities, including lighting and equipment.
 - d. A programme of community initiatives including playgrounds, community gardens and local community events.

It is recommended that **£800,000** is allocated to the overall programme of work and that the Parks and Leisure Committee agree the allocation of money to specific initiatives.

2. Members are aware that the council is currently in the process of developing a portfolio of city projects in partnership with the public, business and community sectors. In order for Members to prioritise these projects and to support external funding applications, a reasonable level of detail is required in terms of costs, benefits, delivery implications, and so on. A feasibility study is the approach used to gather this information. It is recommended that **£125,000** is set aside to develop feasibility studies where these are required.
3. A recent study by the Office for National Statistics showed that 4.9 million people connected through wi-fi hotspots over the last year in the UK, up from 0.7 million in 2007. At the last of meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee the issue of wi-fi access in the City Hall was raised. Permission is sought from the Committee to carry out a feasibility study on providing wi-fi access in the City Hall and the Waterfront Hall to enhance the offer of these buildings to the public, tourists and business users. On completion of the feasibility study a report will be provided to

the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

4. There are a number of planned maintenance projects which can be brought forward from 2012/13 and completed by 31 March 2012. It is recommended that **£260,000** is allocated to this area.

Implementation Issues

Members should note that progress in delivering the agreed initiatives will be closely monitored and will be reported to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee as part of the quarterly finance reports. The half year finance position will be brought to the Committee in November. At this point the Committee will also be in a position to review the future potential financial requirements of the city investment strategy and the forecast year end rates position.

Decision Required

Recommendations / Decisions Required

It is recommended that Members note the report and agree to the following:

- (a) the principles to be applied to the allocation of funds;
- (b) £54,000 is allocated to finance the winter gritting materials and equipment required by the Parks Service as agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 19 August 2011;
- (c) £160,000 is allocated to finance the potential purchase of property adjacent to the Reverend Robert Bradford Memorial Park as agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 19 August 2011;
- (d) £60,000 is set aside to finance the installation of suitable lamp standards and luminaries in Roselawn Crematorium;
- (e) A specified reserve is established with the purpose of building up funds for major city events and that £600,000 is allocated to this reserve in the first instance;
- (f) £800,000 is allocated to support a programme of work in Parks and Leisure and that the Parks and Leisure Committee agree the allocation of money to specific initiatives;
- (g) £125,000 is set aside to develop feasibility studies for city projects where these are required;
- (h) A feasibility study on providing wi-fi access in the City Hall and the Waterfront Hall to enhance the offer of these buildings to the public, tourists and business users is carried out;
- (i) £200,000 is allocated to support planned maintenance projects which can be brought forward from 2012/13 and completed by 31 March 2012.

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Report on the Review Procurement
Date:	23 September 2011
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources
Contact Officer:	Shane McCourt, Efficiency Unit

Relevant Background Information

The Council's procurement spend on supplies, works and services is approximately £80 million per annum with approximately 60% of the Council's supply base being SMEs. Within the Council there is currently a combination of centralised and devolved procurement. There is a small central Procurement Unit, which is advisory in nature, within the Property and Projects Department. Each department is then responsible for their own budgets, deciding what to procure and when. Where there are departmental contracts put in place each department is responsible for the management of these contracts and contractors.

A key strand of the council's Efficiency Programme is procurement, with an objective of delivering a programme of sustained procurement savings. As a result of this, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed to review the council's approach to procurement and to engage an independent procurement specialist to aid in this process. This report details the key findings / issues and recommendations made. It also includes an improvement programme for the implementation of the recommendations. Appendix One provides a copy of the Executive Summary of the Procurement Report.

Key Findings / Issues

The following is a summary of the key findings of the review.

The Procurement Function

- The Procurement Unit is currently operating as the provider of professional advice and guidance to departments who conduct their own procurement activities. In order to deliver further sustained procurement savings the procurement function needs to develop enhanced strategic and policy leadership roles.
- The procurement needs of the organisation are changing. This will require a greater emphasis on category management.
- Enhanced officer capability is required in order to assist Members to set the strategic and policy direction for the council, to ensure greater value for money procurement is delivered and to pursue sustainable procurement efficiency savings.
- A move to setting strategic and policy direction would afford the procurement function an opportunity to incorporate category management ultimately leading to enhanced VFM.

- There are opportunities to enhance the performance of suppliers and contractors through the application of higher level contract management skills applied across BCC especially around post-contract award.
- In departments, those involved in procurement activities require further training and performance assessment from the central procurement unit.

Value for Money

- To date there have been notable cost reduction achievements. Going forward, a demanding but realistic cost saving goal on all third party expenditure should be set. This can be done without jeopardising the delivery and quality of services.

Indicators

- The Procurement Unit currently has KPI's in place. These need to be re-focussed to ensure that they reflect any revised areas of performance and value for money.

Gateway Reviews

- The Council has introduced and is conducting Gateway Reviews. This is an excellent foundation for applying the process to a wider range of procurements and ensuring that effective challenges take place.

Information Provision

- There is a need to better utilise the functionality of the computerised procurement system as it impacts on procurement decisions and future strategy. Better analysis of expenditure will help the development of procurement strategies and policies. Currently this situation has been recognised and resources have been committed to resolving outstanding issues.

Local Collaboration

- There is a possibility for collaboration in the Northern Ireland public sector. The council can establish itself as an exemplar procurement organisation and encourage collaboration with other public sector bodies, not limited to other councils. There is opportunity for aggregation of expenditure and benefits to all collaborating bodies.

A synopsis of the key recommendations made in the report is provided below:

- Establish a strategic procurement function:
 - Appoint a Head of Strategic Procurement (Please read accompanying paper for details)
 - License non procurement specialists in departments
 - Introduce category management
- Strengthen the corporate contract management activity
- Introduce Value for Money Indicators for procurement
- Enhance the Gateway Review process
- Enhance the information provision on procurement activity
- Introduce local area collaboration

Implementation Programme

An Improvement Programme has been developed around the above recommendations and specific actions required for completion under each recommendation have been determined. Resources required, an overall responsible officer and timeframes have been allocated to each action. This has allowed for activities to be prioritised, linkages and interdependencies to be established and a critical path to be identified.

Implementation Actions and Timeframes

The implementation programme falls into three main stages of improvement activity.

1. *To appoint of a Head of Strategic Procurement.* Please read accompanying paper for details

2. *Pre Head of Service appointment Actions.* These are actions that can be completed, using current resources, before a Head of Service is appointed. These include the development and introduction of a suite of value for money indicators, enhancement of the gateway process, enhancement of the information provision on procurement activity and SAP improvement. *These pre-appointment improvement actions have been agreed with the Director of Property and Projects.* The timeframe for these actions is ongoing until a due completion date of January 2012.

3. *Post Head of Service appointment Actions.* These are improvement activities which will be completed once a Head of Service is appointed. In order for these improvement actions to be successful and engrained within the organisation a Head of Strategic Procurement would be best placed to ensure they are delivered, as this post will have both the operational knowledge and procurement expertise to ensure this. They include the licensing of non procurement specialists in departments, the introduction of category management, strengthening the corporate contract management and local area collaboration.

Staffing Implications

Falling out of the recommendations made there are various staffing implications. In the first instance there is the creation of the Head of Strategic Procurement.

It would also be necessary to create Licensed Buyer posts within each department (number to be determined through the improvement programme). It is envisaged that these posts would be filled from the current staff and seen as a development opportunity for those interested in this position.

The introduction of category management will mean a refocus for the Procurement Unit staff. This will signify a change of role for the current staff in this unit. It would be seen as a development / specialism opportunity.

Decision Required

Recommendations / Decisions Required

It is recommended that Members note the report and agree:

- (a) the key recommendations made are necessary to provide a strategic procurement approach for the council.

Key to Abbreviations

VFM - Value for Money
 KPI - Key Performance Indicator
 BCC - Belfast City Council

Documents Attached

Appendix One: Executive Summary of Procurement Report by Farrington Limited (a full copy of this report will be placed in the Members Library)

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1. Executive Summary

We have great pleasure in providing this Executive Summary in respect of our review of Procurement in Belfast City Council (BCC).

1. Procurement is currently operating as the provider of professional advice to departments who are, largely, conducting their own procurement activities. There is now the opportunity to refocus procurement to provide strategic and policy leadership. This will position BCC to take further initiatives to enhance Value for Money.
2. When the current procurement activity makes the transition to setting strategic and policy direction it can incorporate category management. Procurement specialists who are expert in specific categories of expenditure and who can engage in all the key phases of procurement thereby complementing Departmental technical skills.
3. BCC should adopt an Invest to Save strategy, one facet of which will be the appointment of a Head of Strategic Procurement. Very clear and demanding cost savings should be a Key Performance Indicator, with regular reporting of achievements. This will be one facet of organisational stepped change improvement goals.
4. Our recommendations take into account the future possibility for collaboration in the Northern Ireland public sector. BCC can establish itself as an exemplar procurement organisation and, if appropriate, encourage collaboration with other public sector bodies, not limited to other Councils. The opportunity for aggregation of expenditure and benefits to all collaborating bodies should be fully reviewed.
5. There is a requirement for all Councils to deliver Value for Money (VFM) on third party expenditure. We acknowledge that BCC has already achieved savings and that the approach can be the springboard for enhanced VFM, using, for example, a scrutiny of cost drivers as a key methodology.
6. BCC Procurement Unit currently has Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) in place. These can be re-focussed to ensure that the Indicators reflect revised areas of performance and provide the Senior Management Team and Elected Members with the information they need to monitor and review performance on a continuing basis.
7. There are facets of the procurement process that warrant immediate consideration. The Remedies Directive is, increasingly, motivating unsuccessful tenderers to consider a challenge to decisions on the award of contracts. Allegations of non-compliance with EU Procurement Directives can present BCC with legal and financial pressures. It is therefore imperative that Pre-Qualification and Tender evaluation models are robust and applied with rigour.
8. We commend BCC for introducing and conducting Gateway Reviews. This is an excellent foundation for applying Gateway Reviews to a wider range of procurements and ensuring that effective challenges take place, as a

minimum, at the Outline Business Case and Investment phases of the procurement process.

9. There is an urgent need to utilise the functionality of the SAP system as it impacts on procurement decisions and future strategy. The current lack of availability of fully analysed expenditure will hinder the creation of procurement strategies and policies. BCC recognise this situation and are committing resources to resolving outstanding issues.
10. Our recommendations are founded on a strategy of an evolution of procurement. We acknowledge the achievements made in a number of areas and wish to build on the achievements. To that end we are NOT recommending centralisation of procurement. However, we are recommending that those who will, in future, have delegated procurement authority in Departments will, be required to be 'licensed.' Their licence will be granted when they have undertaken a course of training to equip them with the necessary procurement and related knowledge and skills.
11. There have been notable cost reduction achievements. We are encouraging BCC to set a demanding but realistic cost saving goal on all third party expenditure. This can be done without jeopardising the delivery and quality of services. It will require a co-ordinated strategy and we are confident that all those involved in procurement would respond positively to a co-ordinated and actively managed cost reduction programme.
12. BCC currently does not have outsourcing as a strategic option for the delivery of services. Whilst there are critics of outsourcing, the strategy has delivered significant benefits to many Councils, including savings, investment in services and delivery of higher quality services. BCC may in the future consider outsourcing as a strategic option.
13. We have identified opportunities to enhance the performance of suppliers and contractors through the application of higher level contract management skills applied across BCC. The effort expended pre-contract award must be matched by the effort applied post-contract award. This would be aided by a greater understanding of cost drivers and the use of open book contracts with suppliers. There is the potential for integrating the changes in procurement with those required in contract management.



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	LPS/ BCC MOU Quarter 1 Performance Report
Date:	23 September 2011
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources, Ext 6083
Contact Officer:	Donal Rogan, Building Control Manger Emer Husbands, Strategic Performance Manager

1 Relevant Background Information

- 1.1 Land & Property Services (LPS) is an executive agency within the Department of Finance and Personnel. It is responsible for maintaining the valuation list of all properties in NI and the billing and collection of rate bills.
- 1.2 The Council receives 74% of its income from the rate. The performance of the rating system is therefore critical to the financial performance of the Council. For this reason at the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 18th March 2011, Members agreed a suite of progress indicators which would be used to monitor the performance of both the council and LPS in various areas of rating activity. These indicators relate directly to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between LPS and Belfast City Council and the Committee also agreed that quarterly performance reports on the progress of the indicators should be presented to the Committee.
- 1.3 At their meeting the Committee were also advised that in order to make the performance information more useful and help identify areas for improvement that the Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation (IRRV) would provide benchmark information from GB authorities to use for comparison purposes. Paragraph 2.3 (below) provides information on progress to date on benchmarking activity.
- 1.4 The information from quarter 1 of this year has now been collated from data supplied both by LPS and the Council's Building Control Service. In addition the IRRV produced benchmark data based on a selection of GB Local Authorities that have similar population and property counts to Belfast. These Councils are then analysed against the Nobel indicators and the GB Deprivation Analysis to make sure they are as close a match as possible. A list of these Councils is provided at

Appendix I.	
2	Summary of Performance
2.1	The quarter 1 performance report is attached at Appendix II and provides full details of each indicator including definition, data, benchmark information, analysis and actions for improvement. A summary of the key issues is outlined below.
2.2	A number of the indicators are reported on annually and are therefore not included in this quarter's report. In addition, a number of the indicators continue to be refined to ensure that they are defined and reported on in a manner that supports analysis and improvement.
2.3	In the coming months, BCC and LPS officials will meet with IRRV to ensure that the benchmark information is as close as like-to-like as the different situations in Northern Ireland and Great Britain allow. The discussions will allow us to ensure that the benchmarking process is robust and transparent.
2.4	<p>The time taken to process the information required to issue a rates bill</p> <p>LPS has written to council officials (Appendix III) to highlight issues with the original data they had provided for the two indicators relating to this area. They have now requested that this data is withdrawn from the quarter 1 report.</p>
2.5	<p>The collection of rates</p> <p>In quarter 1 the LPS collected 31% of the rate compared to a target of 36%. This is a lower than the same period last year, principally due to the payment of rates by a number of Belfast based public bodies in early July 2011, rather than late June, for example assessments of £5.8 million was received from an education public body in early July 2011, compared with late June last year. Taking these timing differences into account, year on year performance is broadly comparable.</p>
2.6	<p>The loss on vacant properties</p> <p>6.6% or £21.2 million of potential rate for Belfast is lost due to the amount of vacant properties which are entitled to a reduction (up to 100%) on their rate bill. The measure reports a higher percentage shortfall than that recorded in Q1 2010/11. The key reason for this is the economic downturn which has increased levels of vacancies across the city.</p>
2.7	<p>The Cost of Collecting the Rates</p> <p>Average cost of collection rose from £27.74 in 2009 /10 to £28.20 in 2010/11 which is a rise of 1.66%. The GB benchmark shows a reduction in cost over the same period from £29.56 to £27.46. Because of the particular difficulties in comparing GB and Northern Ireland figures on this indicator, this will be a particular focus of discussions with IRRV.</p>
2.8	<p>Debt Collection</p> <p>The level of rating debt for the BCC area at 31 March 2011 was £52.5m which shows a reduction of 6.1% during 2010-11. This is despite a continuing downturn in the economic climate and was achieved by the following :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The implementation of an LPS Debt Action Plan; ○ The promotion of rating support benefits.

- An increased level of court processes
- The agreement of payment arrangements with ratepayers experiencing payment difficulties

The Committee should note that the rating debt impacts on the Council when LPS decide to write off debt. This is still an area of concern to the Council and Members may wish to gain assurances from LPS on the recovery of the outstanding £52.5m.

2.9 Adherence to agreed timetables for sharing information

The Council and LPS continue to have a pro active working relationship and information relating to the EPP is consistently provided to the agreed timetable

2.10 LPS Forecast Information

At the end of Q1 LPS advised that they now anticipate that there will be a shortfall of £161,000 in the final Actual Penny Product. Committee will be aware how important the accuracy of this figure is in the rate setting process and the issues that arose last year due to the late notification of a significant change to this figure. BCC and LPS will continue to review this projection as per the agreed timetable and officers will continue to update Members on any variations.

3 Summary of Improvement Actions and Next Steps

3.1 Officers from the Council and LPS met to discuss the first quarter report and have summarised a number of improvement actions which are included in the report. In particular the following areas have been agreed as priorities.

- **Reducing the loss on vacant properties**

- The Council has commissioned a piece of work to help identify ways, in partnership with others, that it can help enhance the rate base. This scope of this work will cover
 - Changes to rating policy
 - The management of vacant properties and
 - The introduction of business incentives
- Once the Rating of Empty Homes is implemented, LPS will be turning its attention to ensuring that records of non-domestic vacant properties and exclusions from Non-Domestic Vacant Rating are fully up to date, and all appropriate assessments raised.
- The Council's Building Control Service intend to continue to inspect vacant properties to see if they are in fact occupied and should be paying the full rate.

- **Cost of collection**

LPS will continue with work to clear backlogs and implement a revised service delivery model which encompasses the end to end rating process, and drives improvements to all elements of the process.

• **Debt Management**

LPS will build on the work of the 2110-11 Debt Action Plan; reviewing and revising procedures and systems and revising the LPS Collection and Recovery Strategy.

3.2 Members should note that the Budget and Transformation Panel have requested that officers from the LPS attend its meeting in October. The outcome of this meeting will be reported to this Committee.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 Members are asked to note the content of the report including the quarter 1 data and the actions for improvement

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 – Benchmark Councils

Appendix II – Quarter 1 LPS / BCC MOU Performance Report

Appendix III – Letter from LPS

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Land & Property Services and Belfast City Council Memorandum of Understanding Progress Indicators

Reporting Period - Quarter 1 2011/12



**Land &
Property
Services.**

PROGRESS INDICATOR DASHBOARD

PI #	Frequency	Progress Indicator	Actual	RAG	Page
MoU 1	Quarterly	Average time from the occupiable date to the creation of a valid rating assessment for new domestic properties	Data not available		N/A
MoU 2	Quarterly	Average time from the occupiable date to the creation of a valid rating assessment for new non-domestic properties, regardless of property status	Data not available		N/A
MoU 3	Quarterly	Collection performance excluding the Rating of Empty Homes	31.0%		4
MoU 4	Quarterly	Loss on vacant properties	- 7.09%		6
MoU 5	Annual	Average cost of collection per hereditament	£28.20		8
MoU 6	Quarterly	Conformance with the agreed APP / EPP timetables	0 days		9
MoU 7	Annual	Variation between Estimated Penny Product and Final Actual Penny Product	N/A		10
MoU 8	Annual	Change between the outstanding arrears at the end of the financial year as compared to the outstanding arrears at the end of the previous financial year	N/A		11
MoU 9	Quarterly	% Cash collected or discharged against the in-year Non Domestic Vacant Rating Assessments	44.6%		12

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

BACKGROUND

Managing performance is key to ensuring that Belfast City Council (BCC) provides the best quality service that it can to its citizens, whilst maintaining value for money. A vitally important part of our funding process, to enable us to provide the services, is the operation of the rating system, which is carried out on our behalf by Land & Property Services (LPS) – LPS also undertake this service for the other Councils throughout Northern Ireland.

Over the last year, BCC has worked closely with LPS to put in place an enhanced joint monitoring system, to support a culture of continuous improvement across the rate setting and collection process. The purpose of this Report is to record, analyse and convey relevant information to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee in relation to current performance levels across a range of progress indicators.

EXPLANATION OF THE DATA

Status

The RAG status colour coding refers to the current performance during the period against target. 'Green' is when performance is equal to or above target, 'Amber' is below target but within an appropriate tolerance level for each PI, 'Red' is below both the target and the agreed tolerance level whilst 'Grey' is shown when data has not been provided or for when targets have not been set.

Direction of Travel (DoT)

The Direction of Travel (DoT) colour coding compares performance against the same period the previous year, thereby removing impacts of seasonality etc. Where historic data is not available there is no colour code.

Benchmark

These figures are supplied by the Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation (IRRV) and they provide comparable details of average performance by Councils in GB. The source of the data is a mixture of the national PI's published by Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and the basket of Local Authority data that IRRV has put together as being comparable to Belfast City Council. The benchmarking process is currently being refined and developed, to ensure it is comparing like with like. For this quarter, IRRV has provided a statement of the comparable GB figures; officials will shortly meet with IRRV to understand more detail of the figures they have provided, and to seek quarter by quarter data (rather than the once off figures quoted in this report). This will allow further transparency in the reporting of benchmarking data in future reports.

PERFORMANCE IN Q1 2011/12

RAG Status

At the outset it should be noted that 4 of the progress indicators are reported upon quarterly (a 5th progress indicator 3.1 goes 'live' in Q3), and 3 of the remaining indicators are annual progress indicators and will be reported each year in the Q4 Report. LPS has written to Council officials concerning data robustness on the remaining 2 (concerning billing times) (See latter at Appendix 3); we will work with LPS officials to provide a report on these indicators for quarter 2.

For the 'live' progress indicators reported this period:

1. 1 is performing at or beyond target (Green),
2. 0 are below target but within the agreed tolerance levels (Amber)
3. 1 below both the target and the tolerance level (Red).
4. 6 are 'Grey' as targets have not been set or data is unavailable.
5. 3 are annual indicators, so will not be reported on until Q4

PRIMARY ACTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

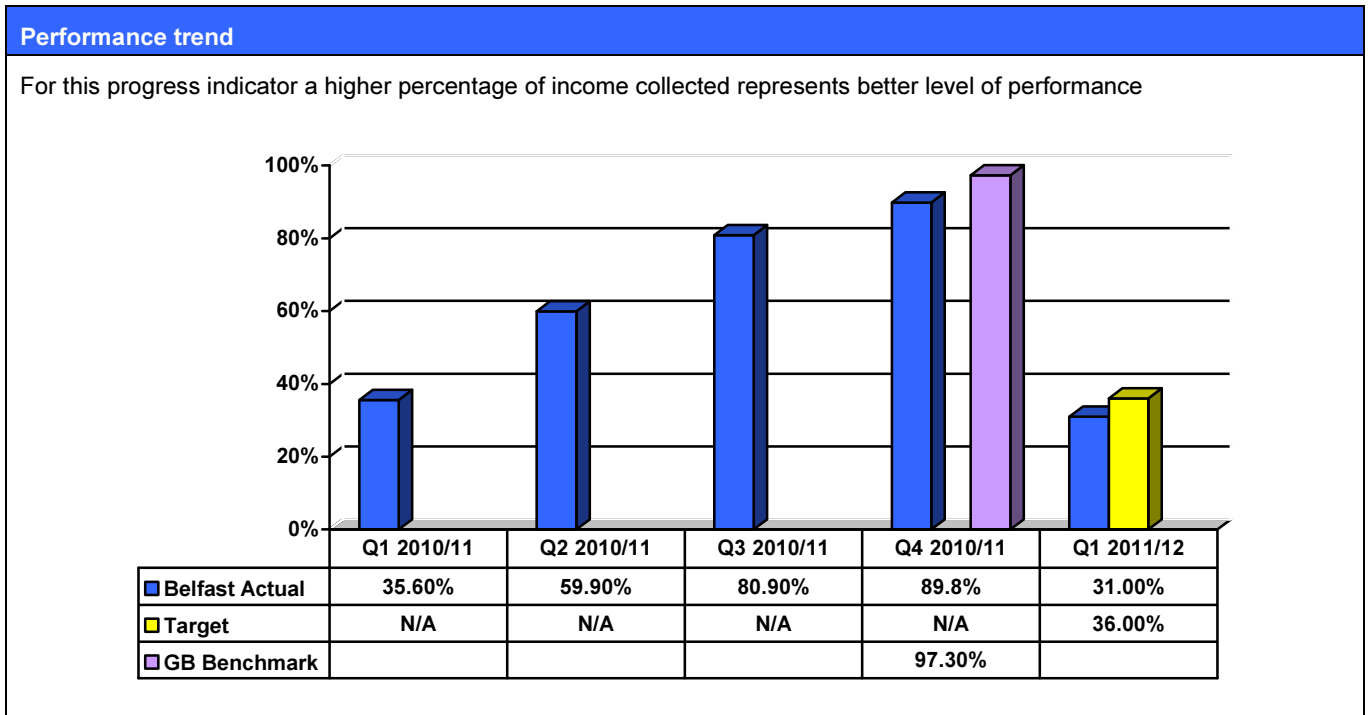
The key areas being worked on by BCC and LPS are to drive residual old work through to completion . The current work of completing older, complex cases, following the stabilisation of Northern Ireland's rating system following a period of profound reforms, is having the effect of increasing reported turn round times because of the statistical impact of these old cases. LPS is also in the process of implementing an end-to-end Service Delivery Model for its rating work, which will improve all elements of the work going forward, and build on all of the expertise and information in LPS.

In addition to this BCC is undertaking a piece of work to identify ways it can enhance the rate base. This will include targeting empty business premises in the city and see if there are ways to get them occupied.

ONGOING ACTIVITY

- Finance and Building Control in BCC and LPS will continue to work to establish robust action plans to address shortfall in performance in areas highlighted above
- Two additional progress indicators are being developed to measure the time taken for notification of new street names and the time taken to respond to address queries.
- The Performance Team in BCC will continue to work with their contacts in IRRV to obtain further data and information relating to the benchmark figures, to ensure that the benchmarking process is robust and transparent

Measure						Collection performance excluding 'Rating of Empty Homes'	
PI number	MoU 3	Frequency	Quarterly	Reporting method	The figure reported each quarter is YTD at that time.		
Performance	31.0%	Target	Q1 36.0% Y/E 90.0%	RAG Status		Direction of Travel	



Background

This measure represents the collection performance during the year expressed as the total in year income collected as a percentage of the net debit raised in the year. PI is taken on a quarterly basis to monitor progress. The net debit is the sum due and collectable after the deduction of reliefs, rebates and allowances. This measure excludes the Rating of Empty Homes which comes into effect on 1 October 2011.

The measure is important to BCC as it is an indicator of how much of the in-year rates assessed that LPS collects. Comparison with GB needs to be considered in the context of different legislation and the significant reforms to the Northern Ireland rating system in recent years.

It should be noted that this PI is different from the LPS ministerial collection target, which is 96% and is based on the collection or discharge of all Northern Ireland assessments raised as at 30th April 2011.

Analysis

- The RAG status is Red as the score (31.0%) is lower than target (36.0%).
- The collection performance during Q1 2011/12 is lower than the same period last year, principally due to the payment of rates by a number of Belfast based public bodies in early July 2011, rather than late June, for example payment of £5.8 million was received from an education public body in early July 2011, compared with late June last year. This has impacted the Q1 result.
- Expressed in financial terms the amount of income collected during Q1 was £102.9 million as a proportion of the full year target of £331.9 million.
- The Direction of Travel is Red as the percentage of income collected in Q1 2011/12 (31.0%) is lower than that recorded in Q1 2010/11 (35.6%), for the reasons of timing set out above.

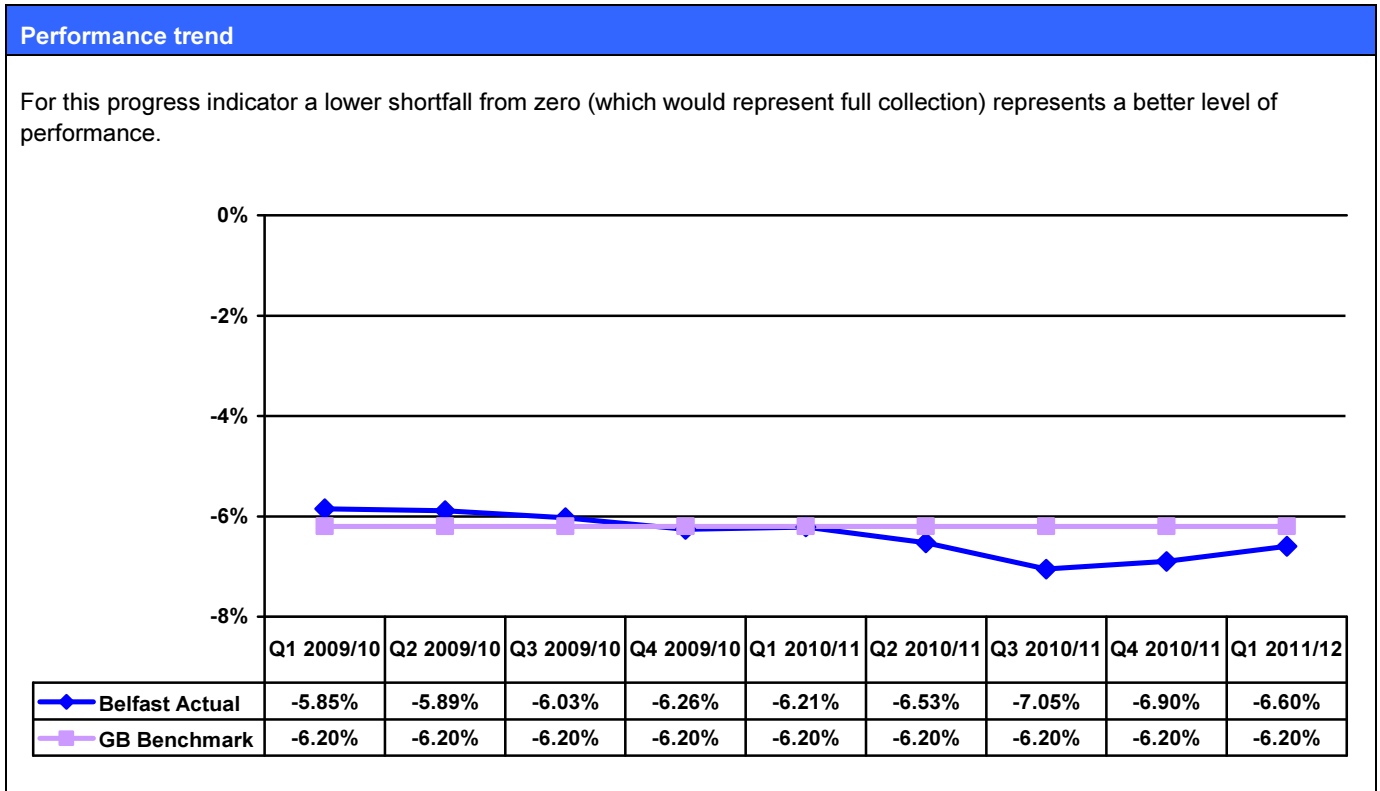
- IRRV advises that the equivalent 'year end' benchmark figure for Councils in GB is 97.1% (average of Council Tax and National Non Domestic Rate). IRRV advises that for benchmarking purposes it is not appropriate to compare LPS's performance during Q1-Q3 with Councils in GB as there is a discount for prompt payment in NI, hence only a year end (Q4) benchmark is appropriate.

Actions For Improvement

LPS will be undertaking the following improvement actions:

- Continuing to drive forward its work to improve collection and recovery, now that the period of profound rating reforms is largely over. This includes building on the work of the 2010-11 Debt Action Plan; reviewing and revising procedures and systems; and revising the LPS Collection & Recovery Strategy
- Implementing a revised Service Delivery Model which encompasses the end to end rating process, and one of the focuses of which is to ensure that all data required for billing is collected at as early a stage of the rating process as possible

Measure		Loss on vacant properties					
PI number	MoU 4	Frequency	Quarterly	Reporting method	The figure reported each quarter is YTD at that time.		
Performance	- 6.60%	Q1 Target	No target set	RAG Status		Direction of Travel	



Background

This measure represents the cash value of rates not collected on all vacant properties (including those which have never been occupied) as a percentage of the gross rate income raised year to date.

The measure is important to BCC as it is an indicator of the level of losses incurred from vacancies as a percentage of the income raised year to date. The predominant factor in the measure is likely to be the state of the economy, which impacts the numbers of vacant properties.

Analysis

- The data provided is relevant in considering actions that Northern Ireland government (local and regional) can take to reduce the number of vacant properties. Anecdotal evidence around the city is that levels of vacant properties are growing, and this is borne out by the Belfast data reported for this PI.
- The measure reports a higher percentage shortfall than that recorded in Q1 2010/11. Expressed in financial terms the shortfall in rates not available for collection on vacant properties was £21.2 million. This indicates that the Direction of Travel is Red; the economic downturn and the corresponding increase in the number of businesses going into administration is likely to have had a significant impact on the vacancy loss.

Actions For Improvement

Whilst recognising the dominant factor in this PI is the overall economic situation, LPS will be undertaking the following improvement actions:

- Once the Rating of Empty Homes is implemented, turning its attention to ensuring that records of non-domestic vacant properties and exclusions from Non-Domestic Vacant Rating are fully up to date, and all appropriate assessments raised. This will include working with BCC Building Control staff to use BCC local knowledge to ensure that properties are correctly billed for vacant or occupied rates.

BCC will be undertaking the following actions:

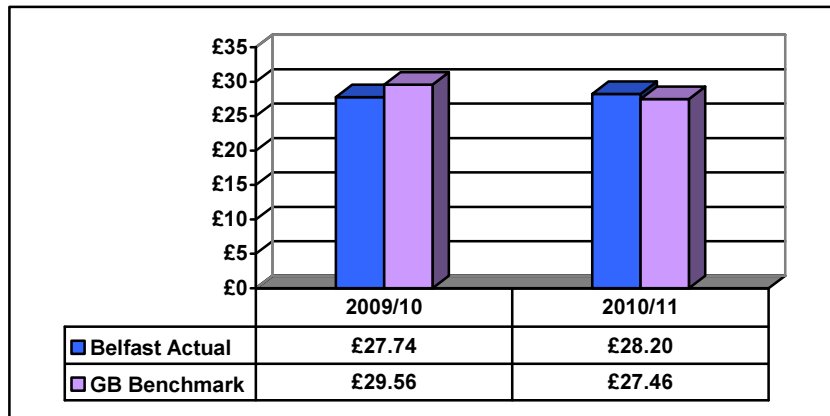
The Council has also commissioned a piece of work to help identify ways, in partnership with others, that it can help enhance the rate base. As part of this exercise BCC's Economic Development Section intends to target empty premises in the city to identify ways to get businesses to occupy them. This is dependent on receiving data on the location of empty non domestic premises; LPS is currently clarifying legal advice that data protection legislation does not allow the Agency to share the information with BCC.

Working with IRRV to access quarter by quarter benchmark figures, which will allow trends in Belfast and GB to be compared.

Measure		Average cost of collection per hereditament					
PI number	MoJ 5	Frequency	Annual	Reporting method	The figure reported is for the full year.		
Performance	Annual Figure	2010/11 target	No target set	RAG Status		Direction of Travel	

Performance trend

For this progress indicator a lower cost represents a better level of performance



Background

This measure is the cost of collection per property in accordance with the statutory definition i.e. properties on the Valuation List. The measure is therefore the total costs for collection divided by the total number of hereditaments. NOTE - the term 'hereditament' is defined as property which is or may become liable to a rate, being a unit of such property which is, or would fall to be, shown as a separate item in a valuation list..

The measure is important to BCC as the cost of collection is met by every ratepayer because it is deducted from the overall levy.

Analysis

- The cost of collection increased by 1.6% between 2009-10 and 2010-11.
- Many of the costs incurred by LPS are determined externally to the Agency, including decisions on reforms to the rating system which require work to implement and operate them; and civil service pay rises. LPS continues to clear backlogs of work that accumulated during the period of profound rating reforms, and this also impacts the staff required (and therefore costs).
- The IRRV have advised that the average cost of collection in GB Councils dropped from £29.56 to £27.46. Over the same period they rose in LPS from £27.74 to £28.20. This is, however, a difficult area in which to make comparisons, because of different legal systems, different pension scheme arrangements and so on.
- The increased cost of £0.46 in LPS equates to a rise of 1.66%.

Actions For Improvement

LPS will be undertaking the following improvement actions:

- To continue the work to clear backlogs, and return to steady state operation
- Implementing a revised Service Delivery Model which encompasses the end to end rating process, and drives improvements to all of the individual elements of the process

Measure							Conformance with the agreed APP / EPP timetables	
PI number	MoU 6	Frequency	Quarterly	Reporting method	The figure reported each quarter is specific to the 3 month period.			
Performance	0 days	Q1 Target	0 days i.e. on time	RAG Status		Direction of Travel		

Performance trend					
For this progress indicator a negative figure represents the number of days behind the timescale whilst a positive figure would mean that LPS were ahead of schedule.					
	Q1 2010/11	Q2 2010/11	Q3 2010/11	Q4 2010/11	Q1 2011/12
Belfast Actual	0	0	-1	0	0
Target	0	0	0	0	0
GB Benchmark	0	0	0	0	0

Background
<p>All EPP and in-year forecast APP advisory notifications are issued in line with an agreed timetable for the year. This measure reports performance for the delivery of the actual figures / results against the agreed timetable (this includes the in-year APPs) i.e. zero day's variance represents delivery of all data on schedule.</p> <p>This measure is important to BCC as the timely and accurate delivery of the figures is a major factor in fixing budgets and striking the rate.</p>

Analysis
<p>The RAG status is Green as the advisory notification was issued in line with the agreed timetable.</p> <p>IRRV advise that the benchmark within GB is zero days i.e. all delivered within timescale.</p> <p>The Direction of Travel is Green as Q1 performance in both years was in line with the agreed timescale.</p> <p>This measure reports LPS's performance for the delivery of the actual figures / results against the agreed timetable, and this is important to inform BCC's budgeting process and to strike a District Rate for the incoming year.</p> <p>It is also important to note that LPS is on target to conform with the agreed APP / EPP timetable and the first quarter APP is due w/c 25 July 2011.</p>

Actions For Improvement
As the target dates have been achieved no 'Actions for Improvement' are necessary.

Measure						
Variation between Estimated Penny Product and final Actual Penny Product						
PI number	MoU 7	Frequency	Annual	Reporting method	The figure reported is for the full year.	
Performance	Annual Figure	2011/12 Target	TBA	RAG Status		Direction of Travel

Performance trend

For this progress indicator a better level of performance is shown by a smaller variance to target.

Background

This progress indicator records the variance between the Estimated Penny Product (EPP) at the start of the year and final Actual Penny Product (APP) at the end of the year.

The measure is important to BCC as the EPP measures how much additional income an increase of one penny on the rates would raise. Any variation between the actual and the estimate affects the budget and expenditure relevant to that budget. If it is negative the sum has to be met from balances whereas if it is positive it means the rate levy was unnecessarily excessive. The measure therefore quantifies the accuracy, and hence, quality of the estimating process within LPS. When considering this variation, it must be remembered that the rate base of the city alters on a daily basis, as properties are completed, become derelict, or move into or out of use.

Analysis

- Progress against this indicator is an annual figure and therefore will not be reported until the end of the year
- At the end of Q1 LPS advised that they anticipate that there will be a shortfall of £161,000 in the final Actual Penny Product at the end of 2011/12. They will continue to review this projection at the end of each future interim quarter.
- LPS analysis of 2010-11 data identified a number of key issues impacting on the outturn for Belfast. These included the number of properties removed from the Valuation List. There is also the growing number of vacant properties in and around the city adding to losses in those sectors, businesses going into administration / bankruptcy arising from the economic downturn and the ensuing need to increase write-offs.
- IRRV advise that the equivalent figure for Councils in GB is in a range of minus 0.3% to plus 1.8% (this is for the Council Tax Base) with an average of plus 0.52%.

Actions For Improvement

LPS will be undertaking the following improvement actions:

- Continuing to work with Councils to improve the robustness of the estimating and monitoring process. A meeting of the Penny Product Working Group on 1 September 2011 confirmed that it was content with the process used to produce the Q1 2011-12 figures; asked for the addition of some small further amounts of supporting information; and agreed the timetable and process for the 2012-13 estimating process

Measure		Change between the outstanding arrears at the end of the financial year as compared to the outstanding arrears at the end of the previous financial year					
PI number	MoU 8	Frequency	Annual	Reporting method	The figure reported is for the full year.		
Performance	Annual Figure	2011/12 target	-4%	RAG Status		Direction of Travel	

Performance trend

For this progress indicator a lower figure represents a better level of performance – the target is to have a negative figure of 4%.

Background

This PI records the change between the outstanding arrears at the end of the financial year relative to the level of outstanding debt at the end of the previous financial year expressed as a percentage (increase or reduction as the case may be).

This measure is important to BCC as it gives an indication of the year on year collection performance and is a factor in estimating the potential level of debt that won't be recovered. The cost of bad debts is included in the rate levy and is therefore met by every individual ratepayer.

Analysis

- Progress against this indicator is an annual figure and therefore will not be reported until the end of the year
- However, LPS reduced the overall rating debt in the BCC area by 6.1% during 2010-11, despite a continuing downturn in the economic climate. This was achieved by the following :
 - ↳ The implementation of an LPS Debt Action Plan;
 - ↳ The promotion of rating support benefits.
 - ↳ An increased level of court processes.
 - ↳ The agreement of payment arrangements with ratepayers experiencing payment difficulties.
- IRRV advises that the GB benchmark figure is + 0.3% i.e. an increase in outstanding arrears of 0.3%.
- The level of rating debt for the BCC area at 31 March 2011 was £52.5m

Actions For Improvement

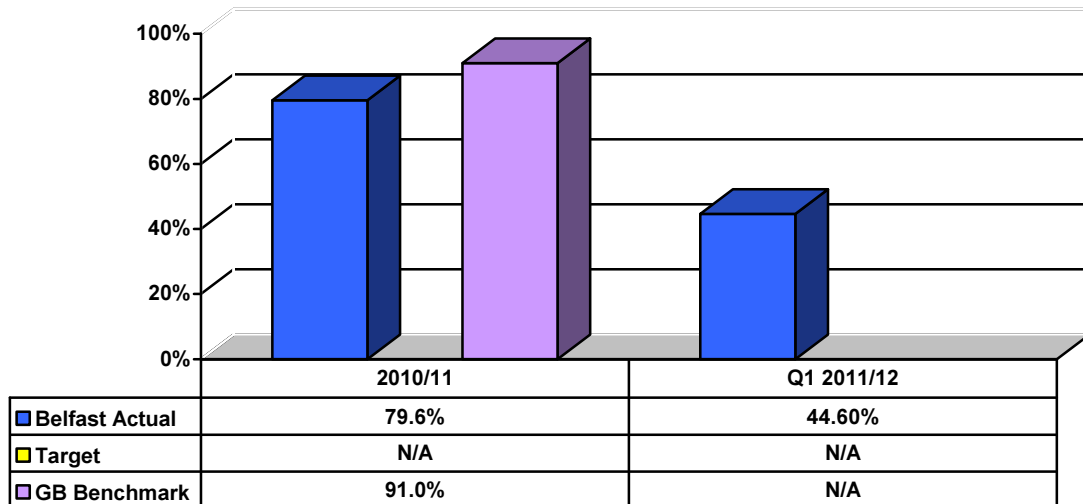
LPS will be undertaking the following improvement actions:

- Continuing to drive forward its work to improve collection and recovery, now that the period of profound rating reforms is largely over. This includes building on the work of the 2010-11 Debt Action Plan; reviewing and revising procedures and systems; and revising the LPS Collection & Recovery Strategy
- Implementing a revised Service Delivery Model which encompasses the end to end rating process, and one of the focuses of which is to ensure that all data required for billing is collected at as early a stage of the rating process as possible.

Measure		% Cash collected or discharged against the in-year Non Domestic Vacant Rating Assessments					
PI number	MoU 9	Frequency	Quarterly	Reporting method	The figure reported each quarter is YTD at that time.		
Performance	44.6%	2011/12 target	80%	RAG Status		Direction of Travel	

Performance trend

For this progress indicator a higher figure represents a better level of performance.



Background

This measure reports the percentage of cash collected or assessments discharged in year (i.e. excluding arrears) against current year Non Domestic Vacant Rating (NDVR) Assessments.

This measure is important to BCC as the levy on empty properties raises extra revenue which reduces the overall levy.

Analysis

- There is no RAG status for this progress indicator i.e. it is shown as Grey, as whilst a 'Year End target of 80.0%' has been set there is no historic profiling data available to set targets for each interim quarterly period. This will be addressed for 2012/13.
- IRRV advises that the equivalent 'year end' figure for Councils in GB is 91.0%.
- The Direction of Travel is Grey as figures are not available for Q1-Q3 2010/11.
- The only target for 2011/12 is for Q4 as the first figure collected for this progress indicator was in Q4 2010/11 and hence there is no previous profiling data available to set interim targets for Q1 - Q3 2011/12. In future years we will endeavour to have targets set for each quarter.
- The first quarter performance reflects the fact that a number of non-domestic ratepayers will be paying by monthly instalments until year end.

Actions For Improvement

LPS will be undertaking the following improvement actions:

- Continuing to drive forward its work to improve collection and recovery, now that the period of profound rating reforms is largely over. This includes building on the work of the 2010-11 Debt Action Plan; reviewing and revising procedures and systems; and revising the LPS Collection & Recovery Strategy
- Implementing a revised Service Delivery Model which encompasses the end to end rating process, and one of the focuses of which is to ensure that all data required for billing is collected at as early a stage of the rating process as possible.



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Ronan Cregan
Director of Finance and Resources
Belfast City Council

15 September 2011

Dear Ronan

MOU PROGRESS INDICATORS

As you will recall, we discussed these indicators at a meeting in your office on 2 September. As a follow up to that meeting, LPS statisticians reviewed the detail of the data provided to you and highlighted concerns with the statistical reliability of the data provided for indicators 1 and 2 (billing times). I have reviewed the data and agree with the statisticians that the population size (the number of cases) is not sufficient to provide reliable statistics. With apologies for the lateness of formally informing you of this, I therefore am withdrawing the information provided on these two indicators.

LPS staff will work with City Council staff over the coming weeks to provide information that is reliable and can form the basis of reporting against these indicators for quarter 2. This process will helpfully proceed in parallel with discussions with IRRV officials on the benchmark information on all of the indicators, to ensure that we are (as far as the differences between systems allow) comparing like with like.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Iain Greenway".

IAIN GREENWAY

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Appendix I

List of Benchmark Councils

London Borough of Harrow

Pembrokeshire County Council

Watford and three Rivers Shared Service

Durham Unitary Authority

North Warwickshire Borough Council

Vale of Glamorgan Council

All Scottish Local Authorities

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Capital Funding – European Regional Development Funds (ERDF) Tourism Development Scheme Funds (TDS)
Date:	23 September 2011
Reporting Officers	John Mc Grillen, Director of Development Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources

1.0	Purpose
	<p>The purpose of the report is to inform Members;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • of the potential to secure funding for capital projects from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Tourism Development Scheme (TDS) • of the deadlines which are associated with applications to the fund; • and to seek agreement on applications for projects within the deadlines set by DETI and NITB
2.0	Background
	<u>ERDF</u>
2.1	<p>The European Regional Development Fund aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the European Union by correcting imbalances between its regions. In short, the ERDF finances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct aid to investments in companies (in particular SMEs) to create sustainable jobs; • Infrastructure linked notably to research and innovation, telecommunications, environment, energy and transport; • Financial instruments (capital risk funds, local development funds, etc.) to support regional and local development and to foster cooperation between towns and regions;
2.2	<p>The current ERDF Programme runs until 31 December 2013. This in effect means that for a project to be eligible for funding, all approvals must be obtained and match funding committed by 31 December 2013, however actual spend on the project can be incurred beyond this date so long as all expenditure is completed by 31 December 2015.</p>
2.3	<p>The Programme in Northern Ireland is administered by the SEUPB, however DETI acts as the Managing Agent for a major element of the programme, the Sustainable Competitiveness Programme which is designed to support the creation of sustainable employment particularly in the SME Sector.</p>
2.4	<p>When the BSP was originally devised a “Local Economic Development (LED)” Measure was</p>

	included within the programme. This equated to a sum of £22m which was ring-fenced for applications from local Councils. In order to access this funding projects had to be led by a local authority and match funding of 50% made available from other public sources. At the outset it was envisaged that this match funding would come from the local authority. Since the commencement of the programme in 2007 there has been a limited drawdown from the fund, mainly due to the fact that Councils have not been in a position to make match funding available. Belfast City Council has been the exception and has drawn down an average of £600k per annum over the period to match fund its economic development programmes.
2.5	In order to maximise the drawdown from the BSP Invest NI agreed last year to match fund any application from councils which aligned with its corporate objectives. In effect this means that Councils can obtain 75% external funding for any project which meets the criteria for the fund and is aligned with Invest NI objectives. Despite this incentive the financial pressure being experienced by councils has meant that the BSP fund is still substantially under-committed.
2.6	<u>TDS</u> The Tourism Development Scheme is essentially the programme devised by NITB to allocate capital funds made available from the Executive Budget to tourism related capital projects. The TDS is a competitive process and requires applicants to make bids for funding from the scheme. It is anticipated the scheme will open for a period of six weeks for applications in late September and will seek applications for funding between now and December 2015. It is expected that any application for funding for projects which the council might wish to deliver during this period will have to be submitted during this funding round. It is unlikely that successful applications will receive more than a 50% contribution from the TDS towards the capital cost of the project concerned.

3.0	Key Issues
3.1	<u>LED Measure</u> There is a substantial risk that a large proportional of the £22m under the BSP may go unspent and as a result lost to Northern Ireland. As a result the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment has written to Councils setting a deadline of 30 October 2011 for applications to the LED programme which would require programme spend before December 2013. The letter requires proposals to be “clearly defined, robust and fully costed”. The letter also makes it clear that any deficit on the £11m profiled for expenditure in that period will be reallocated to other economic development activity. A similar deadline of 30 September 2012 been set for expenditure of £10m profiled for 2014 and 2015.
3.2	The letter referred to above also informs councils that Invest NI will take on the role of Managing Agent for the LED Measure for the remainder of the Programme.
3.3	An opportunity clearly exists to draw down substantial funding towards programmes which meet with the economic development priorities identified by elected members and are aligned to Invest NI corporate objectives. In addition to this there is the potential to obtain match funding of up to 75% for economic development related capital projects which the Council might wish to invest in, either through its Capital Programme, City Investment Fund or Local Investment Fund.
3.4	At the Place Shaping Workshop on 17 August 2011 members prioritised a number of capital projects, two of which have been the subject of discussion with senior officials in Invest NI, namely the development of a Green Economy Business Park at the North Foreshore and an Innovation Centre at Springvale/Forth River. Invest NI have expressed a willingness to financially support both of these projects subject to the Council submitting viable proposals for their development and their being no displacement issues for existing premises and businesses.

3.5	The Director of Property and Projects has engaged BDO Stoy Hayward to complete an Economic Appraisal for the development of a Green Industry Park at the North Foreshore. This is due for completion in late September. At this point the cost of any potential project is not yet known however the Economic Appraisal could form the basis of a project proposal, with associated costs, for submission to Invest NI by the 30 October 2011 deadline.
3.6	Over the past 3 months the Director of Development has also been in discussion with Invest NI and the Falls Road based Local Enterprise Agency, Ortus Ltd with a view having Ortus develop a business case for the development of an Innovation Centre at the Forth River Business Park on the Springfield Road. Again it is anticipated that a submission could be made by the 30 October deadline.
3.7	In addition to the above Invest NI are keen to work in partnership with BCC to develop a Digital Hub in Belfast similar to facilities which have been developed in other cities such as the Digital Hub, Dublin, the Match Factory in Liverpool and the Custard Factory in Birmingham. Each of these facilities have been hugely successful in promoting digital technology based enterprises in their respective cities. The promotion of the creative industry sector has been identified as a priority by members of the Development Committee at their workshop on 12 August and an area of competitive weakness in Oxford Economics comparative analysis of Belfast with other cities.
3.8	At this point in time numerous organisations and locations have expressed an interest in housing this facility. Potential locations include Crumlin Road Gaol, Carlisle Memorial Church and Conway Mill amongst others. This is a project for which we would intend working up a proposal in partnership with Invest NI between now and the deadline of 30 October. Until such a proposal is fully developed it is not possible to establish the full costs of such a project however an indicative cost of £4m would not seem unreasonable. It is expected that the contribution required from the council would be around £1m.
3.9	In addition to the capital projects identified above Economic Development Officers are anticipating that the Council will receive requests for financial support for capital projects from other third parties in the near future. These include North City Business Park which is considering the development of an Enterprise Centre at the former Grove Baths Site and the Argyll Business Centre which is seeking to expand its facilities on the Shankill Road. It is unlikely that these proposals will be fully developed in advance of the 30 October deadline but there will be a further opportunity to make bids in advance of the 30 September 2012 deadline.
	<u>Non LED Funding</u>
3.10	In addition to the LED measure SEUPB can allocate funding to other economic development activity outside of the "LED Measure" referred to above. One project which has been earmarked for ERDF funding by NITB is the proposal to extend the Waterfront Hall to incorporate conference and exhibition facilities. This project was also identified as a priority by the elected members at their Place Shaping workshop on 17 August 2011.
3.11	NITB has informed the Director of Development that £10m of ERDF funding has been provisionally set aside to part fund such a project. A further bid of £2m to NITB's Capital Budget is also likely to be successful . FGS Mc Clure Watters are currently completing the Business Case for this project and is due for completion in mid- September. The projected cost of the preferred option is estimated at around £16m, excluding fit out and professional fees. Project Management Staff in Projects and Properties estimate a total project cost of £19m-£20m.
3.12	During a recent meeting as part of the economic appraisal process, executives from the NEC suggested that if the Waterfront Hall was to re-focus its business on conferences as opposed to entertainment much of this investment could be self financing through reduced costs and increased revenue.

3.13	NITB in a recent meeting (30 August) informed the Director of Development that the Council will be required to submit a funding application for this project to the Tourism Development Scheme (TDS). It is anticipated that this will open for calls in late September 2011 and close in late October 2012.
	<u>TDS Funding</u>
3.14	In addition to bidding to the NITB capital budget for the extension to the Waterfront Hall referred to above Officers have been in discussions with NITB about potential capital funding to support the relocation of the Belfast Welcome Centre from its current offices to a more appropriate location elsewhere within the City centre.
3.15	NITB has indicated that subject to an acceptable business case being submitted the Council could expect a contribution of around £800k towards the cost of the project. A full business case is currently being finalised by ASM Horwath and should be complete by the end of September. The total cost of the project is not expected to exceed £1.6m.

4.0	Resource Implications																												
4.1	Until the business cases in relation to each of the above projects are complete it is not possible to state with certainty the financial contribution required from the Council towards these projects however at this point it is estimated that the following funding could be required:-																												
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Project</th> <th>Total Cost</th> <th>Funding Expected</th> <th>Council Contribution</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>North Foreshore</td> <td>£8m</td> <td>£6m</td> <td>£2m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Springvale/Forth River</td> <td>£8m</td> <td>£6m</td> <td>£2m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Conference Facilities/ Waterfront Hall</td> <td>£20m</td> <td>£12m</td> <td>£8m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Digital Hub</td> <td>£4m</td> <td>£3m</td> <td>£1m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Belfast Welcome Centre</td> <td>£1.6m</td> <td>£800k</td> <td>£800k</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£41.6m</td> <td>£27.8m</td> <td>£13.8m</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Project	Total Cost	Funding Expected	Council Contribution	North Foreshore	£8m	£6m	£2m	Springvale/Forth River	£8m	£6m	£2m	Conference Facilities/ Waterfront Hall	£20m	£12m	£8m	Digital Hub	£4m	£3m	£1m	Belfast Welcome Centre	£1.6m	£800k	£800k	Total	£41.6m	£27.8m	£13.8m
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5.	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
5.1	There are no Equality and Good Relations considerations attached with this report.

6.	Recommendation
6.1	Given the deadlines set out above it is clear that if the Council wishes to maximise the potential for external funding for the above projects it will require business cases to be completed and applications submitted to Invest NI and NITB by the end of October 2011. This is why the report is being submitted to SP&R and the Development Committees this month.
6.2	Members are asked to consider supporting applications for each of the projects outlined above and agreeing in principle to meeting the council contribution from the Council's City Investment Fund and/or Capital Programme for the purposes of the application.
6.3	Any commitment by the Council would be subject to each project obtaining a positive economic appraisal, demonstrating a positive economic benefit to the city and being awarded the projected grant funding.
6.4	It is recommended that the report should also be submitted to the Development Committee for its consideration at its meeting on 27 September, where an update will be given on SP&R's

	consideration of the funding implications. The views of both Committees will then be able to be considered at the Council meeting on 3 October.
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5.	Decision Tracking
5.1	The Directors of Development, Projects and Property and Finance and Resources will bring appropriate reports back to Committee on the full business case for each of the projects and associated detailed costings for further consideration by the Committee in due course.

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Report on management arrangements in Property and Projects Department
Date:	23 September 2011
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources Jill Minne, Head of Human Resources

Relevant Background Information

The purpose of this report is to consider the appropriateness of the current management structure within the Property and Projects department in the context of the changing needs of the organisation.

The Property and Projects department was created by the council in September 2009 on the back of an independent report on the governance of major projects which highlighted the need to formalise the effective management of major project risks. Members agreed that a Director of Property and Projects post be created with responsibility for:

- Facilities Management (Facilities, Property Maintenance and Vehicle Maintenance).
- Asset Management
- Estates Management
- Capital Programme
- City Investment Strategy
- Procurement

Currently, a Head of Facilities Management and principal officer grade in each of the functional areas support the director.

Key Issues

Since the department was created in September 2009 the needs of the organisation have changed significantly in two key areas – the scale and complexity of physical projects which the council is becoming increasingly engaged with, and the role of procurement in delivering efficiency cash savings.

Scale and complexity of physical projects

In terms of the city investment strategy, members have expanded the role of the council to not just being a funder of projects but also to be the facilitator of project development with a range of partners across the public, business and community sectors. At present, the Property and Projects department is engaged in the development of over 30 potential partnership projects.

In addition, the council has taken on responsibility for the delivery of the Connswater Community Greenway. Members have indicated their desire for the council to use its project delivery experience to support the development of a number of agreed schemes across the city to enable them to bid for funding from council funding streams such as the city investment strategy, and local investment fund and external funding such as ERDF, Peace III and the social investment fund.

Consequently, the majority of the section's time is now being spent on the development of city investment projects and the delivery of Connswater Community Greenway.

Role of Procurement

The council has agreed efficiency targets of £2m for each of the next two years. The efficiency programme is a key element of the financial strategy of the organisation and the savings it generates supports the additional investment in capital projects while at the same time keeping the district rate as low as possible. Procurement is a key strand of the efficiency programme and members have already considered today an independent report which recommends that a more strategic approach is required if further procurement savings are to be delivered. The report also recommends that a Head of Procurement post should be created.

Key Recommendations

It is recommended that a new head of service post is created in the Property and Projects department. This post would be responsible to the director for the council's procurement function and the Project Management Unit. The post holder would be responsible for delivering the recommendations contained in the independent review of procurement and the operational elements of the capital programme and city investment strategy. The creation of the post would therefore serve to enhance the council's ability to assist schemes to be developed to a stage where they are capable of being delivered subject to funding.

It is also recommended that the post should be self-financing through the delivery of procurement savings which means that there would be no additional cost to the ratepayer. These savings would be delivered in the context of an overall procurement efficiency target which would be set by Members.

Members are requested to note that the Budget Panel, at its meeting on 13 September 2011, agreed with the creation of the proposed Head of Service post. The Panel, while recognising that the number of Heads of Service posts has been reduced from 26 to 15 over the past five years, also recommended that further review of senior management posts in the organisation should take place as part of the 'employee costs' strand of the council's efficiency programme.

Implementation Issues

In accordance with the Local Government Staff Commission's Code of Procedures on Recruitment and Selection:

- the post would be publicly advertised and the selection panel would comprise the Chair of the Committee and two other elected members from political parties not already represented by the Chair, along with the Director of Property and Projects and another director/appropriate head of service;
- the entire selection panel would be representative of gender and community background with all panel members having attended recent training in non-discriminatory recruitment and selection techniques; and
- an observer from the Local Government Staff Commission and a professional assessor could also be in attendance during the selection process but with no voting rights.

The proposed recruitment and selection is as follows:

- following council ratification, the vacancy to publicly advertised on 3 and 4 November 2011 with a closing date of 18 November 2011;
- the panel short-list to take place on 29 November 2011 from 1:30pm to 3:30pm;
- short-listed candidates invited to attend a full day assessment centre on 6 and 7 December 2011;
- Members' briefing and the selection panel meeting to approve the outcome of the assessment centre to be held on 8 December 2011 from 9:30am to 10.30am; and
- the selection panel interviews to be held on 15 December 2011 (all day to be kept free).

Financial Implications

A job description has been prepared for the proposed post of Head of Procurement and Projects with an evaluated indicative grade of SCP66 - £56,755 – SCP74 - £67,565.

Decision Required

Members are asked to agree the following:

- (a) The creation of a new Head of Procurement and Projects.
- (b) The new post holder will be responsible to the Director of Property and Projects for the Procurement Unit and the Project Management Unit.
- (c) The post will be financed through procurement efficiency savings.
- (d) Further review of senior management posts in the organisation to be included as part of the 'employee costs' strand of the council's efficiency programme.
- (e) The post will be recruited in accordance with the Local Government Staff Commission's Code of Procedures on Recruitment and Selection
- (f) That in the interests of making an early appointment, the selection panel be given full delegated authority (through the Director of Property and Projects) to offer the post to the recommended candidate with the outcome of the appointment being reported back to committee for notation.
- (g) That a review of the number of senior management posts be undertaken as part of the employee costs strand of the council's efficiency programme.

Key to Abbreviations

None

Documents Attached

None

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Budget and Transformation Panel**Wednesday 14 June 2011****Present:**

Cllr D Hargey	SF (Chair)
Cllr T Attwood	SDLP
Ald D Browne	UU
Cllr M Hendron	ALL
Cllr J McVeigh	SF
Cllr R Newton	DUP

P McNaney	Chief Executive
R Cregan	Director of Finance and Resources
G Millar	Director of Property and Projects
J McGrillen	Director of Development
J Minne	Head of Human Resources
S McNicholl	Planning and Policy Manager

Apologies: Cllr H Smyth PUP

1. Investment Package

The Chief Executive reminded the Panel that at the “place-shaping” workshop held on 17 August and at the Development Committee workshop on 12 August, Members had asked that clear messages be developed on how the Council would help the city, its businesses, families and individuals deal with the impact of the economic downturn. Officers are working on this “investment package” and he informed Members of progress to date. Members were content with the direction that development of the package was taking and again reinforced the importance of setting out the Council’s investment in the city and its communities, what will be done to support businesses and tackle issues such as employability and skills, access to training, work experience, internships, long-term unemployment, support for the retail sector and supporting the local economy through Council’s own spend. **It was agreed that an update report would be brought to SP&R Committee on 23 September, with an initial illustration of how this information might be presented. Action: P McNaney**

As part of the update on the investment package J McGrillen circulated information to the Panel about funding opportunities which had arisen as part of the European Regional Development Fund for specific kinds of local economic development projects. The Minister for Enterprise Trade and Investment had written to the Council asking that applications for the first tranche of funding be made by 30th October 2011 for expenditure up to December 2013 and September 2012 for expenditure profile for 2014/15. If successful, the potential exists to draw down up to 75% of the project cost.

Owing to the imminent nature of the first deadline, officers had been in discussion with InvestNI about suitable projects for the initial applications – these projects needed to be at an advanced state of readiness for submission in terms of feasibility

and economic appraisal – the proposed projects had all been highlighted by members at the placeshaping workshop on 17 August. These being:

- Green economy business park, Northforeshore;
- Innovation Centre at Forth River Business Park on Springfield Road;
- Digital Hub.

J McGrillen also outlined an opportunity to draw down funding for an extension to the Waterfront Hall to provide conference and exhibition facilities, allowing the city to become truly competitive in the business tourism sector and considerably enhancing city competitiveness. Work was underway to explore the feasibility of this project and an update would be brought to the SP&R and Development Committees at their next meetings.

After discussion the panel approved the proposals for applications to the ERDF funds for submission to the SP&R and Development Committees.

Action: J McGrillen

2. Financial Position

R Cregan outlined the current financial position. He outlined proposals for use of unutilised funds on initiatives including, improving parks and leisure facilities, winter gritting, city projects development and crematorium lighting. The Panel noted the information and agreed the proposals for submission to the SP&R Committee on 23 September.

3. Property and Projects Management arrangements and review of procurement.

R Cregan outlined the recommendations of a review of the Council's procurement arrangements designed to ensure the most effective approach to procurement in the Council with a particular focus on realising further procurement efficiencies. One of the recommendations of the report was that a Head of Strategic Procurement post be created, to ensure that the efficiency targets set by Members are met. In addition the scale and complexity of the Council's physical projects was increasing with attendant risk management and delivery issues. Consequently it was being proposed that a new head of procurement and projects post be created on a self-financing basis, funded through the delivery of procurement savings and at no additional cost to the rate-payer. **The Panel agreed that this recommendation should be made to the SP&R Committee and also asked that a review of senior management in the Council at Head of Service Level and above to ensure that Council structures remain efficient and effective. Action: R Cregan to submit the report to the SP&R Committee and add a recommendation re. review of the level of senior management at Head of Service level and above.**

4. LPS Performance Report

The Panel agreed that John Wilkinson, Chief Executive of the LPS would attend the Panel's meeting in October to discuss progress on the development of performance

measures and issues related to the rates. The panel stressed the importance of continued dialogue with LPS on these issues.

Report on overtime and agency

R Cregan circulated a report on vacant posts and staff costs, including agency and overtime, at quarter 1 2011/12. The Panel noted the report. The Panel discussed the potential impact of managing agency and overtime on individuals but also the potential for the process to create vacancies which would provide employment opportunities.

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Fuel Stamps Scheme
Date:	23 September 2011
Reporting Officer:	Suzanne Wylie, Director of Health and Environmental Services, Ext 3260
Contact Officer:	Mark McBride, Business Support Manager, Ext 3261

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Following the successful pilot of the Fuel Stamps Scheme in early 2009, the Committee agreed the roll out of the scheme across the Belfast City Council area at its meeting on 8 May 2009.
1.2	It is estimated that 38% of households in Belfast are currently in fuel poverty. To help people, particularly older people, budget for expensive winter oil bills, the scheme enables residents to purchase £5 savings stamps from local shops, garages, credit unions and some local Council facilities.
1.3	To date almost 69,000 stamps totalling over £334,000 have been sold to the public through the scheme.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The annual cost of the scheme is £45,000 which includes the administration, printing and promotion costs. The cost of the scheme is funded through the Council's thematic budget allocation and, given the nature of the expenditure, it requires the Committee to grant authority under Section 115 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 to incur the expenditure.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	The annual cost of the Fuel Stamps Scheme is £45,000 which is funded through the thematic budget allocation.

4	Recommendations
4.1	That the Committee grants authority under Section 115 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 to incur the expenditure of £45,000 during 2011/12 on the fuel stamps scheme, it being the opinion of the Committee that the expenditure would be in the interest of, and would be of direct benefit to, the District and the inhabitants of the District, with the Committee being satisfied that the direct benefit so accruing would be commensurate with the payment to be made.

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BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Approval to seek Tenders – Mechanical Installations
Date:	23 rd September 2011
Reporting Officer:	George Wright, Head of Facilities Management
Contact Officer:	G. Wright (Ext. 5206/2438)

Relevant background information

Members will be aware that, under the revised Scheme of Delegation, approval must be sought from the relevant Committee prior to inviting tenders for the supply of goods or services.

Members will also be aware that, in the course of providing maintenance services at all Council properties, the Property Maintenance unit makes regular use of a number of external contractors, both in order to provide specialist services and also to supplement the existing in-house workforce during times of peak demand.

One of these existing measured-term contracts will expire on 30th April 2012 in respect of Mechanical Services Installations as detailed in Appendix A. The estimated annual value of this contract is **£500,000**, and the cost-control mechanism in place is the use of a schedule of rates (PSA).

Detailed specifications are to be prepared in order to permit the contracts to be let, and subject to Committee approval advertisements will be placed in the local press inviting applications for inclusion on a Select List.

Key Issues

The duration of the contract is to be for 1 year with an option to extend for a further 2 years granted dependant on performance. This is felt to provide the optional balance between regularly testing the market to obtain the keenest prices and minimising the bureaucracy and administration associated with the procurement process.

Submissions will be evaluated in accordance with agreed evaluation criteria and in liaison with the Procurement Section where appropriate.

Resources Implications

Financial

Regularly testing the market via competitive tendering ensures that we obtain the best possible value for money and standards of service from our external suppliers, which in turn assists us in driving down costs and minimising the rate burden.

Human Resources

There are no direct HR implications in respect of this report.

Asset & other implications

Having a range of experienced and efficient contractors available is an important factor in delivering effective property maintenance to the Council.

Recommendations & Decisions

The Committee is recommended to approve the following:

- (a) To invite applications for inclusion on a Select List and the submission of Tenders in respect of Mechanical Services Installations.

Key to Abbreviations

None.

Documents attached

None.



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	M1 Vesting – Department of Regional Development
Date:	23 September 2011
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar Director of Property & Projects, Ext: 6217
Contact Officer:	Celine Dunlop, Estates Surveyor, Property & Projects, Ext: 3419

1.0	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Department of Regional Development (DRD) have completed the upgrading of the section of the M1 Motorway from the existing two lanes to provide three continuous lanes in each direction between Blacks Road, Dunmurry and Divis Street, Belfast.
1.2	DRD have acquired lands from Belfast City Council (the Council) comprising mainly waste bogland alongside the M1 Motorway to the rear of land and premises fronting onto Boucher Crescent, Belfast together with a small triangular piece of land at the Grosvenor Road Recreation Centre site at the corner of the Grosvenor Road and the Westlink by two Vesting Orders dated 2 nd August 2004 and 15 th November 2004
1.3	A figure of £1,428,884.79 has already been paid to the Council by DRD in respect of the 2 nd Aug 2004 Vesting Order. A report was brought to Committee on the 15 th Nov 2006 in relation to an agreement which had been provisionally reached with the Valuation and Lands Agency (VLA) regarding the compensation.
1.4	While compensation for both Vesting Orders was agreed with the VLA, DRD were not satisfied that Belfast City Council had title to the entire land comprised within the 15 th November 2004 Vesting Order.

2.0	Key Issues
2.1	DRD had instructed the VLA to negotiate compensation on its behalf and the Estates Management Unit acted for Belfast City Council. The VLA had initially

	<p>contended that the land comprised almost entirely of a narrow landlocked strip of overgrown bogland which was incapable of development and as such it was virtually worthless. The Estate Management Unit took the view that the land could be developed in conjunction with the adjoining Balmoral Estate and following prolonged negotiations this argument was accepted by VLA. Payment of compensation was subject to proof of title.</p>
2.2	<p>It had been provisionally agreed that the compensation in respect of the 0.1161 ha showed outlined red on the plan attached at Appendix '1' comprised in the 15th Nov 2004 Vesting Order was £260,000, but this agreement was subject to Belfast City Council proving title to the land therein.</p>
2.3	<p>DRD subsequently claimed that Belfast City Council did not own any part of the land comprised in the 15th November 2004 Vesting Order and as such no further compensation was payable.</p>
2.4	<p>The difficulty in determining ownership arose because DRD could not locate the plan which was attached to the 1965 Conveyance of land at this location from the Belfast Corporation to the Ministry for Development (DRD's predecessor). The only plan available was the Council's terrier plan which while indicative of the conveyance map could have been incorrectly transcribed and was almost certainly distorted.</p>
2.5	<p>The Estate Management Unit and Legal Services Section met with the Ordnance Survey Northern Ireland (OSNI) to clarify the position regarding the interpretation of the OSNI plans and aerial photographs. The OSNI could not provide that clarification due to the distortion in the 1965 copy conveyance plan, a revision to the way OSNI plans were produced and the absence of more detailed aerial photography than that previously obtained.</p>
2.6	<p>Following protracted negotiations and only after the Legal Services Section issued a High Court Writ against DRD seeking payment of the compensation, DRD eventually provided mapping based on the OSNI mapping showing that DRD owned 64% and the Council owned 36% of the lands falling under the November 2004 Vesting Order and a topographical survey carried out on DRD's behalf by BAPTIE which showed DRD owning 45% and the Council owning 55% of the said lands.</p>
2.7	<p>Following protracted negotiations it was eventually agreed that the BAPTIE survey represented the best evidence as it was made prior to the November 2004 Vesting Order and took accurate measurements of physical features on the ground prior to the M1 Motorway upgrade. Senior Counsel employed by Legal Services Section confirmed that this agreement represented good commercial sense.</p>
2.8	<p>On the basis that the Council own 55% of the 0.1161 ha, and on the basis of the previously agreed figures the compensation is £143,000 plus statutory interest from the operative date of the Vesting Order until the date of payment.</p>

3.0	Resource Implications
3.1	<p>Financial The compensation of £143,000 plus statutory interest from the 29th December</p>

	2004 (the operative date of the Vesting Order) can be used in furtherance of the City Investment Fund or other corporate priorities.
3.2	<p>Human Resources</p> <p>Staff resource required from the Estates Management Unit and Legal Services Section.</p>
3.3	<p>Asset and other Implications</p> <p>The land vested by DRD has now been incorporated into the M1 Motorway upgrade scheme without material impact on the adjoining Belfast City Council owned Balmoral Industrial Estate. The settlement represents an extremely satisfactory outcome given the protracted and technically detailed nature of the negotiations and DRD's stance that the Council did not have title to any part of the land.</p>

4.0	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	There are no equality or good relations implications to this issue.

5.0	Recommendations
5.1	It is recommended that the Committee grant approval to the Council accepting the compensation figure of £143,000 plus statutory interest for Belfast City Council's fee simple interest in the lands acquired by DRD Roads Service by virtue of the Vesting Order dated 15 th November 2004.

6.0	Decision Tracking
6.1	Action to be completed by Legal Services Section by 30 th October 2011.

	Key to Abbreviations
	DRD – Department for Regional Development
	VLA – Valuation and Lands Office now Land and Property Services.

	Documents Attached
	Plan at Appendix '1'.

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Belfast City Council

Report to: Strategic Policy & Resources Committee

Subject: Connswater Community Greenway Update

Date: 23rd Sept 2011

Reporting Officer: Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects

Contact Officer: Celine Dunlop, Estates Surveyor, Property & Projects

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Belfast City Council, as part of the City Investment Strategy, has agreed to co-ordinate the acquisition of lands to enable the Connswater Community Greenway (CCG) Programme to proceed. The Council will secure rights over the land needed for the Greenway and shall be responsible for the management and maintenance of this land and any assets on the land.
1.2	Northern Ireland Water (NIW) require part of the land acquired by Belfast City Council for the CCG in order to construct a mechanical screen for its existing combined sewer outfall.

2	Key Issues
2.1	<p>The area of land at Linen Gardens, shaded yellow on the plan attached at Appendix'1' has been acquired by the Council for the CCG.</p> <p>The area of land shaded blue on the plan attached at Appendix'1' has been agreed for sale to the Council for the CCG: Legal Services are in the process of completing the purchase from Clanmil.</p> <p>NIW require the area of land consisting of 275 square metres shown outlined red on the plan attached at Appendix'1' to construct an underground mechanical screen as part of its existing combined sewer outfall at this location. Following discussions with Council officials and McAdam Design, project managers for the CCG, it has been established that the NIW proposals can be accommodated without conflict with the CCG. As the structure is underground and the area will not be fenced off access will be available for the general public.</p>
2.2	Council officials have agreed, subject to Committee approval, to sell this area of land to NIW by way of a ninety nine year lease for a one off premium of £3000

	plus payment by NIW of the Council's reasonable legal fees. Legal Services will draw up a lease which will restrict use of the site to 'management of storm/foul water overflows and associated kiosk to provide an electricity supply'.
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3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p>Finance</p> <p>The value of the land consisting of 275 square metres shown outlined red on the plan attached at Appendix '1' has been agreed with Land & Property Services at £3000 and NIW have agreed to pay Council's reasonable legal costs.</p>
3.2	<p>Human Resources</p> <p>Staff resources required from Estates Management Unit and Legal Services.</p>
3.3	<p>Asset and Other Implications</p> <p>While ideally the Council would wish retain ownership of all lands acquired for the CCG, the proposed arrangements minimise the impact of the NIW scheme and will facilitate improvement to the quality of any storm overflow waters which enter the Knock, Loop and Connswater rivers from the sewerage system.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	The CCG will have a positive impact in terms of equality of opportunity and good relations.

5	Recommendations
5.1	It is recommended that the Committee grant approval to the disposal of the land outlined red on the plan attached at Appendix '1' to NIW, on a 99 year lease for the sum of £3000, subject to detailed terms to be agreed by the Estates Manager, Property & Projects, a suitable legal agreement to be drawn up by Legal Services .

6	Decision Tracking
6.1	Action by Celine Dunlop and Lisa Armstrong to be completed by 30th Nov 2011

7	Key to Abbreviations
7.1	<p>NIW – Northern Ireland Water</p> <p>CCG – Connswater Community Greenway</p> <p>L&PS – Land & Property Services Agency</p>

8	Documents Attached
8.1	Plan at Appendix '1'.



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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Ormeau Park – Ormeau Golf Club Rent Review
Date:	23 September 2011
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects Department, Ext 6217
Contact Officer:	Cathy Reynolds. Estates Manager, Ext 3493

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	At its meeting on 11 January 1990 the Council's former Parks Committee agreed to lease approximately 38 acres of golf course at Ormeau Park to the Ormeau Golf Club for a term of 30 years. A lease to this effect between the Council and the Club commenced 1 July 1990. In addition to this the Client Services (Parks and Amenities) Sub-Committee at its meeting on 13 November 2001 agreed to lease an additional portion of parkland extending to 0.56 acres to the Club by way of Supplemental Lease dated 1 April 2004.
1.2	Under the terms of the Lease the rent is subject to review every 7 years and is to be ascertained by the District Valuer (Land & Property Services).

2	Key Issues
2.1	Following discussions between the Trustees of the Club and Land and Property Services, agreement has been reached to revise the current rent of £12,500 per annum upward to £13,750 per annum. This rent will commence on 1 July 2011 and is payable for the next 7 year period of the Lease.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>Revised rental of £13,750 per annum represents an additional rental income of £1,250 per annum. This revised rent is for the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2018 and arrears accrued to date will be invoiced.</p>

3.2	<u>Human Resources</u> Further input from the Estate Management Unit and Legal Services Department required to finalise rent review.
3.3	<u>Asset and Other Implications</u> Completion of this rent review represents effective asset management.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	No known equality or good relations issues associated with this matter.

5	Recommendations
5.1	In accordance with Standing Order 46, Committee is recommended to grant approval to the proposed revised rent of £13,750 per annum.

6	Decision Tracking
6.1	The Director of the Department of Property and Projects to ensure that the increased rent is processed for invoicing before 1 November 2011.

7	Key to Abbreviations
7.1	None

8	Documents Attached
8.1	None



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Licence & Lease Renewal: Community Usage
Date:	23 September 2011
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects, Ext. 6217.
Contact Officer:	Cathy Reynolds, Estates Manager, Ext. 3493.

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	<p>Approvals were given at the Development Committee on 15th June 2011 in relation to the extension of existing lease and licence arrangements for the premises listed below subject to a report being brought to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee in accordance with Standing Order 46. Background details in respect of each of the leases /licences are set out in the minute of the Development Committee of 15 June 2011, attached at Appendix 1. The leases /licences are in respect of the following:</p> <p>Benview/Ballysillan Play Centre Loop River Play Centre BELB – Clarawood Community Association – Anne Napier Centre Walkway Community Association, Finvoy Street Percy Street Community Centre</p>
1.2	<p>Benview/Ballysillan Play Centre The Development Committee recommended that the licence agreement with Benview/Ballysillan Tenant's association for is renewed for a further 12 months from 1st July 2011 with the Council paying a rental amount to the tenants association of £4025.56 (2010/11) for the council's partial use of their facility.</p>
1.3	<p>Loop River Play Centre The Development Committee recommended that the licence agreement from 26th Scout Group is renewed for a further period of 18 months from 1st July 2011 at a cost of £190.00 per week.</p>
1.4	<p>BELB/Clarawood Community Association – Anne Napier Centre The Development Committee recommended that the lease for the Anne Napier Centre between BELB & BCC and the sub lease between BCC & Clarawood Community Association are renewed for a further 2 years from the 1st July 2011 subject to the revenue grant allocation to the Clarawood Community Association being sufficient to meet all related costs.</p>
1.5	<p>Walkway Community Association The Development Committee recommended that the lease for the site at 1-9</p>

1.6	<p>Finvoy Street with Walkway Community Association is renewed for a further 5 years from the 5th November 2010 at a revised rent of £475 per annum. It was further recommended that the Council renew their lease with DRD Roads Service for the site at 1 Finvoy Street for a further 5 years from November 2010 subject to a rent of £1 if demanded.</p> <p>Percy Street Lease The Development Committee recommended that the licence agreement with the Lower Shankill Group Welfare Committee in respect of the Percy Street Community Centre is changed to a lease agreement similar to other independently managed centres such as Grosvenor & Shaftesbury Recreation Centres at a rent of £1550 per annum from 1st April 2011.</p>
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2	Key Issues
2.1	<p>Members are asked to endorse the recommendations of the Development Committee of 15 June 2011 (as outlined above and as set out in the Development Committee minute attached) to extend the existing lease or licence arrangements for Benview/Ballysillan Play Centre, Loop River Play Centre, BELB – Clarawood Community Association – Anne Napier Centre, Walkway Community Association and Percy Street Community Centre.</p>

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p>Financial</p> <p><u>Benview/Ballysillan Play Centre</u> Council pay £4025.56 (2010/11) for partial use of this facility</p> <p><u>Loop River Play Centre</u> Council pay a rent of £190.00 per week to the 26th Scout Group.</p> <p><u>BELB/Clarawood Community Association – Anne Napier Centre</u> Council pay BELB £2300 p.a. for use of the facility. Council are also responsible for a service charge of £5533 and a ground maintenance fee of £155. no The first year costs are funded within existing budgets with the costs relating to the BELB/BCC lease being met from the revenue grant allocation to Clarawood Community Association. The costs for 2012/13 will be subject to a successful revenue support allocation from Clarawood Community Association. The lease with BELB will terminate after one year if the revenue support application from Clarawood Community Association is unsuccessful.</p> <p><u>Walkway Community Association</u> The revised rent of £475 per annum is payable by the Walkway Community Association and the lease from DRD is subject to a nominal amount.</p> <p><u>Percy Street Lease</u> The rent of £1550 per annum will be included within the annual Council grant to Lower Shankill Group Welfare Association and deducted before the grant is released.</p> <p>Human Resources Legal Services and Estates Management resource required in finalising and completing the agreements.</p>

	<p>Asset & Other Implications</p> <p>Completion of these lease /licence agreements accords with effective asset management.</p>
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4	<p>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</p> <p>Equality and Good Relations considerations as set out in the report to Development Committee on 15th June 2011. Appendix 1</p>
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5	<p>Recommendations</p> <p>In accordance with Standing Order 46, Committee is recommended to endorse the decisions of the Development Committee of 15th June 2011 in respect of the extension of lease and licence arrangements at Benview/Ballysillan Play Centre; Loop River Play Centre; BELB/Clarawood Community Association – Anne Napier Centre; Walkway Community Association Finvoy Street; and Percy Street Community Centre, subject to the terms being incorporated in appropriate legal agreements.</p>
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6	<p>Decision Tracking</p> <p>Legal Services and Estates Management will complete the extensions of these leases/licences within three months</p>
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7	<p>Key to Abbreviations</p> <p>BELB – Belfast Education & Library Board BCC - Belfast City Council</p>
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8	<p>Documents Attached</p> <p>Appendix 1 – Copy minute Development Committee 15th June 2011</p>
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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Smithfield Market Unit Lettings
Date:	23 September 2011
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects, Ext: 6217
Contact Officer:	Cathy Reynolds, Estates Manager, Ext: 3493

Relevant Background Information

Unit Lettings at Smithfield Market

Functional responsibility for dealing with the property related issues in relation to the lettings rests with the Director of Property & Projects, approval of the letting terms for the units is to be undertaken by him, on the basis that the terms are reported retrospectively to the Strategic Policy & Resources.

Key Issues

The Committee is asked to note the letting of units in Smithfield Market as agreed under the delegated authority of the Director of Property and Projects:

Unit 2 – Smithfield Market – Watch and Jewellery Repairs and sales

Tenant:	Desmond McKenna	Ibrahim Salami
	2 Mulroy Park	54 Stranmillis Wharf
	Belfast	Belfast

Unit Size: 178 sqft

Terms: £208.00 per Month

Tenancy Agreement for Six Months and monthly thereafter commencing 25th July 2011.

Desmond McKenna previously occupied unit 1 and is moving to unit 2 a slightly larger unit with his new business partner Ibrahim Salami to expand the range of services offered.

Units 9/10 – Smithfield Market – Camping and outdoor equipment

Tenant: Gary McCann
11 Knock Eden Park
Belfast
BT6 OJF

Unit Size: Ground Floor 838 sqft
Mezzanine Floor 450 sqft

Terms: £910.00 per Month
Tenancy Agreement for 6 Months and monthly thereafter commencing
11 July 2011.

Units 34 – Smithfield Market – Camping and Outdoor equipment

Tenant: Gary McCann
11 Knock Eden Park
Belfast
BT6 OJF

Unit Size: Ground Floor 283 sqft
Mezzanine Floor 140 sqft

Terms: £395.00 per Month
Tenancy Agreement for 6 months and monthly thereafter commencing
11 July 2011.

Charles McCann, Gary McCann's father had been a tenant in Smithfield since 1987. Charles McCann died earlier this summer and his son is taking over the business having worked with his father previously.

Unit 38 – Smithfield Market – Dress Making, stitching and garment repairs

Tenant Brenda Herald
72 Duneden Park,
Belfast,
BT14 7NF

Unit size - Ground floor
Mezzanine Floor

Terms: £395.00 per month
Tenancy Agreement for 6 Months and monthly thereafter commencing
11 July 2011.

This unit has been let to Jennifer Woods since 1998. Brenda Herald has operated the unit for several years for Ms Woods who is unable to continue to trade due to ill health.

Recommendations

Committee is asked to note the terms of the lettings as set out above.
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Key to Abbreviations

None

Documents Attached

None

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BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Place Shaping Conference
Date:	23 September 2011
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar – Director of Property & Projects, Ext: 6217
Contact Officer:	Gerry Millar – Director of Property & Projects, Ext: 6217

1. Relevant background information

- 1.1 In 2010 the Committee agreed to participation in a conference 'Urban Promo' in Venice, Italy as part of promoting Belfast in Europe. The conference and associated seminars aims to promote innovation in public, private partnership and to boost investment in cities by exchanging knowledge experience.
- 1.2 An exhibition consisting of 30 large panels highlighting the story of physical development in Belfast since the early 1990s was produced for the event with some of the images since being used at Member workshops.
- 1.3 Besides the exhibition a number of presentations were made by Belfast City Council; Titanic Quarter; PLACE, University of Ulster, FAB and Ard Architects who had largely been responsible for pulling the exhibition together. The event was also supported by the British Council as an additional event linked to the Venice Biennale, a major art and architecture event held on a regular basis.
- 1.4 The Mayor of Venice hosted an evening for the board of event and the Italian press showcased the conference in several different articles.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The largely Italian audience was quite impressed at the amount of physical development that had taken place in Belfast in a 15 year period. The Neapolitan Campania region undertook a low key visit to Belfast earlier this year and paid for a number of the Belfast participants to speak in Naples in May 2011 particularly in regard to private sector engagement and alternative funding mechanisms.
- 2.2 The organisers of the Venice event have since awarded Belfast a prestigious Urbanistica International prize 2011 for 'Best Balance of Interests' ie private, public and community in regeneration. The award is to be presented on 9 November 2011 in Bologna during Urban Promo 2011 , Belfast representatives are invited to attend.
- 2.3 A special issue of the journal Urbanistica published by the Italian Urban Institute dedicated solely to Belfast will be published in December and circulated across Italy and further afield.

2.4 In addition SOLACE (Society for Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers) would like to make a short film in relation to this work for their annual conference in Edinburgh in October as part of their 'thought leadership' features. These features are used to demonstrate areas of excellence in local government by those seeking to improve social and economic regeneration.

2.5 A lot has been made of this exhibition and regeneration story outside of Belfast but nothing in the City itself.

2.6 With the development of the proposed investment package before Christmas and the publication in Italy in December it is proposed to host the exhibition in City Hall in January.

2.7 There would also be an opportunity to host a conference on the place shaping agenda now being formulated by Council to engage the wider development and regeneration sector and to present the Council's ideas. It may also be useful to invite the Italian experts to give an independent view of how Belfast has and is developing.

Resources Implications

Financial:

The exhibition is already paid for there will only be a cost for small scale catering.

Should a decision be taken to attend the award ceremony there would be flight and accommodation costs.

Human Resources:

There are no additional HR implications in respect of this report.

Asset Implications:

There are no additional asset or other implications.

Equality & Good Relations Implications

None at this time.

Recommendations & Decisions

1. Members are requested to agree to host the exhibition as part of a conference on the broader place shaping agenda.
2. Members are asked if the Committee wishes to be represented at the prize award ceremony.

Decision Tracking

If agreed a date in January will be set subject to City Hall availability.

Key to Abbreviations

PLACE – Planning, Landscape, Architecture, Community, Environment
FAB – Forum for Alternative Belfast



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resource Committee
Subject:	Offer to donate an important clock to Council
Date:	Friday 23 September 2011
Reporting Officer:	Mr. Peter McNaney , Chief Executive
Contact Officer:	Mr Robert Heslip Heritage Officer (ext 3583).

Relevant Background Information

An offer has been made to donate an important clock that was first used to regulate the Albert Clock and then placed in the City Hall to set the time pieces there. In the early 1970s the clock was considered redundant and sold by Council to the person who was contracted to look after their clocks. His family are now offering to donate the piece to be returned to the City Hall.

Regulators are precision timepieces often used to time astronomical observations or adjust more workaday clocks to keep the best possible time. This example dates to the 1860s and is signed by F. Moore, who had premises at the bottom of High Street – including his own observatory – and whose business included supply navigational chronometers to ships, as well as looking after the Albert Clock.

The clock has a significant historical connection to the City and a very close association with Council from the construction of the Albert Memorial 1865-69 up to the 1970s. It is in excellent condition having recently undergone professional conservation.

Key Issues

An important historical artefact associated first with the Albert Memorial clock, later with the City Hall, has been offered to Council as a donation.

There is an expectation that, if accepted, the piece would be to some degree visible to the public which may impose some constraints on where it might be positioned.

There are some issues round conservation and security and specialist expertise will be required to install and set-up the clock. It should be accepted that on perhaps a five year cycle minor maintenance will be required.

Acceptance of the clock would provide an opportunity for a small ceremony by the Lord Mayor to acknowledge the generosity of the family.

Resource Implications

Financial

The estimated cost of moving and setting up the clock is £300. A similar amount may be required on a five year cycle for maintenance.

Human Resources

The proposals would be carried out within current staffing resources.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members :

1. Accept the donation by means of a formal transfer of title process
2. Agree to the provision £300 to cover associated costs

MEETING OF HISTORIC CENTENARIES WORKING GROUP**Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, 6th September, 2011**

Members present: Councillors Curran, Hanna and Reynolds.

In attendance: Mrs. H. Francey, Good Relations Manager;
Ms. A. Deighan, Good Relations Officer;
Mr. R. Corbett, Records Manager; and
Mr. B. Flynn, Democratic Services Officer.

Apology

An apology for inability to attend was reported from Councillor Kyle.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 7th March were taken as read and signed as correct.

Election of Chairman

The Working Group agreed to defer to a future meeting the election of a Chairman.

**Draft Principles that might be used in the
Selection of Events to be Marked**

The Good Relations Manager reminded the Working Group that the forthcoming Decade of Centenaries would provide the Council with an opportunity to contribute to a better understanding of the past and to promote respect for the complexity of our shared history. She added that it was essential that the Working Group carried out its work in a positive, constructive and open manner, based on shared civic values and respect for cultural diversity. Accordingly, she tabled for discussion the undernoted Draft Principles which, she suggested, might form a basis for selecting events to be marked throughout the forthcoming decade:

- Events supported by the Council should provide opportunities to include a range of different perspectives and ideologies, rather than a single viewpoint, aiming to increase understanding and appreciation of other perspectives and identities;
- They should be based on historic accuracy and robust academic expertise – engagement with universities, museums, libraries, the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland, etc. is essential to ensure this evidence base;
- The interpretation of events should be in a broad historical context and understanding of the national and European setting of the time;

- The Council should develop strong links with other institutions – that is, museums, libraries, the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland and other relevant organisations, to ensure that there is no duplication and that events and programmes are complementary;
- The Council will provide and/or support a range of different types of events – including lectures, discussions, debates, films, drama, activities that attract schools and children/families, etc – so that events can not only be educational but participative, creative and enjoyable; and
- The Council will provide and/or support events and activities that are not exclusive but are welcoming to all sections of our increasingly diverse community in Belfast.

The Good Relations Manager outlined the main aspects of the Draft Principles. She informed the Working Group that the Northern Ireland Community Relations Council had, in a discussion paper entitled: 'Marking the Decade of Ideas 2012-22', agreed to adopt the following principles to oversee its approach to identifying events to be marked and supported throughout the decade. In essence, events marked by the Community Relations Council would:

- 1) Start from the historical facts;
- 2) Recognise the implications and consequences of what happened;
- 3) Understand that different perceptions and interpretations exist; and
- 4) Show how events and activities can deepen understanding of the period.

She indicated that the Community Relations Council had agreed that the Decade of Centenaries must be addressed within the context of an 'inclusive and accepting society'. She pointed out that this approach might assist the Working Group in considering its programme of events to be marked over the forthcoming decade.

A prolonged discussion ensued during which the following points were made by the Members:

- That the Council, at all times, must be mindful of the current financial constraints when allocating funding towards events to be marked. The view was reinforced that the Council must be able to demonstrate that events marked would provide tangible benefit to the City, provide value for money and be relevant to all communities.
- That the programme of events should be inventive and should seek to link into the rich history of the City, identify and acknowledge inspirational figures associated with the period and, at all stages, seek also to involve and address the needs of young people.
- That the programme of events should seek to promote and uncover aspects of hidden history related to the era, for example, the part played by the Ulster Unionist Thomas Sinclair, better known as the founder of the Sinclair Seamen's Church, who drafted the 1912 Solemn League and Covenant.

- That, whilst the decade was, in the main, related to events that were of interest to both the Unionist and Nationalist populations of Belfast, the Working Group should endeavour to make the events relevant to all ethnic communities within the City. It was noted, for example, that the rich Jewish history of Belfast during the period could be explored in this regard.
- That the Council should seek to use a range of methods to promote the Decade of Centenaries and could, for example, utilise resources such as the recently-erected screen within the City Hall grounds to display archive footage of the era or to broadcast relevant programmes.
- That the Decade of Centenaries should be promoted consistently by the Council by using a common brand and logo which would emphasise the ideal of a shared history in the City.

After discussion, the Working Group adopted the Draft Principles and agreed to endorse the comments and points made in relation thereto. The Working Group also agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee that these principles should apply to any key anniversaries being marked by the Council.

Suggested Programme of Key Events and Associated Budget

The Working Group considered the undernoted report:

“Relevant Background Information

- 1 The Council has already agreed that the forthcoming Decade of Centenaries provides the opportunity for the Council to contribute to a better understanding of the past and promote respect for the complexity of our shared history.**
- 2 Any events led by the Council should aim to increase appreciation of a range of different perspectives and ideologies and should challenge simplistic views of history. We should organise and support events that are welcoming to all sections of our community and that illustrate diverse viewpoints.**

Key Issues

- 3 At its last meeting on 7 March 2011, the Working Group considered a proposal that forthcoming centenaries might be grouped under 3 strands, in a natural chronological order. This would allow each period to be examined separately and for individual events within each period to be identified and marked in an appropriate manner.**

Obviously proposals for the earlier periods are more detailed.

The three periods were:

- 4 (i) from 1912 to 1914: the Signing of the Covenant and the Home Rule Crisis and including:**

- the rise of the women's suffrage movement
- the emergence of the Gaelic revival
- the signing of the Ulster Covenant
- the formation of the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF)
- the ITGWU strike (lockout) in Dublin
- the formation of the Irish Citizen Army
- the formation of the Irish Volunteers (IVF)
- gun-running by both the UVF and IVF.

- 5 This period could be entitled either 'Shared History, Differing Allegiances' or 'Rights, Resistance and Rifles'.
- 6 I would propose that an exhibition be commissioned to cover the whole period, where differing allegiances and approaches to politics, nationalism and self-determination could be explored.

Within this, individual events to be marked would include:

- 7 The rise of the women's suffrage movement, in view of the links to the wider work of the Council, and in particular to the current imbalance within City Hall memorabilia of items relating specifically to women. This might be in the form of a drama production, possibly held in the Council Chamber, and archive photographs could be sourced and displayed. These could be supplemented by details on women in the Council over the past 40 year period 1971-2011, with a photograph of the newly elected women Members of Council in May 2011. Other women from Belfast who have been successful in political life elsewhere (e.g. President Mary McAleese) or who have campaigned for women's rights or broader humanitarian issues (e.g. Baroness May Blood) could be included. This could be commissioned immediately.
- 8 The signing of the Ulster Covenant, in view of its significance in shaping Northern Ireland's history, the important role of the City Hall and Ulster Hall in this and the fact that the original table is still in the Council Chamber. The text of the Ulster Covenant could be compared with that in the Irish Proclamation of 1916 and the parallels between the two examined.
- 9 These events could be marked by special lectures (e.g. on the life of Edward Carson, or Joe Devlin), publications, or drama productions. The views of the Working Group are requested on these proposals.
- 10 The Working Group may be interested to learn that in 1962, to mark the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Ulster Covenant, the Council hosted a reception at City Hall in the morning and a banquet in the evening of 28 September (Ulster Day). There were various other activities in the city, including the laying of wreaths at the graves of both Carson and Craigavon, and a large parade and service at the main event at Balmoral, but these were organised by the Orange Order.

- 11 Interestingly, the Belfast Telegraph of 29 September 1962 reported that, at the main Balmoral parade, Sir George Clark, Grand Master of the Orange Order 'made an appeal for a calmer climate in Ulster politics'. In a far-sighted speech, he stated that 'It is our duty as citizens of this generation to strive ceaselessly to ensure a better understanding of each other's problems, not only in our day but in those of our children'.

Partnership working

- 12 The Good Relations Manager will continue to liaise internally with other relevant Council staff to ensure a co-ordinated Council approach, given the likely visitor and media interest. To ensure that the Council's programme of events complements those planned by other agencies in the city and to minimise duplication, the Good Relations Manager has contacted a number of other local organisations to ascertain their plans for the forthcoming period.
- 13 At this stage, most organisations have not planned beyond 2012; with the exception of the Titanic-related events, these centre round the Centenary of the Signing of the Ulster Covenant. For example, Libraries NI are planning 2 lectures and an exhibition in the Central Library; PRONI is hosting a book launch for a new publication by Dr Alan Parkinson entitled Friends in High Places – Ulster Resistance to Home Rule 1912-1914; and Double Band Films are preparing a documentary film entitled The Covenant Trail for BBC 1 NI.
- 14 The Belfast County Grand Orange Lodge has specifically requested that the Council organise an exhibition relating to the Ulster Covenant period, covering all aspects, in the City Hall in September 2012 (see separate report on this agenda).
- 15 The Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland has also written to us, stating that they are developing their own exhibition on the Ulster Covenant which will be available for community facilities; they have offered this to us for display in the City Hall during 2012.
- 16 The Linen Hall Library will be holding its own exhibition on the Ulster Covenant from September to December 2012 but staff have indicated that they are happy to be partners in an event and to loan certain relevant artefacts for display in the City Hall to the Council during September 2012. These items include: Lord Carson's personal scrapbook; postcards from the period both pro- and anti- Home rule; photographs and ephemera items; and newspapers and periodicals of the time.
- 17 PRONI holds a number of collections which contain material relating to the signing of the Ulster Covenant in 1912, unionist opposition to Home Rule generally and the nationalist campaign for self-government.

- 18 The PRONI collection contains correspondence, posters, photographs, postcards, badges, arm-bands etc relating to the Covenant generally and the signing in Belfast specifically; photographs include those of the unionist leaders signing the Covenant on the table now in the Council Chamber and the 'signing booths' along the ground floor corridors. PRONI also holds the actual forms on which people signed the Covenant as part of the Ulster Unionist Council archive. PRONI has also offered to loan artefacts to the Council for an exhibition, subject to agreement.
- 19 The Ulster Museum also holds various relevant artefacts, including postcards, photographs, but generally requires a year's notice for the loan of material.
- 20 The professional expertise of the Linen Hall Library, PRONI and the local university would assist in ensuring the academic accuracy and historical context of any exhibition and a collaborative approach with these agencies is strongly recommended.
- 21 It is also recommended that some element of community involvement and/or educational outreach be incorporated into each of the 3 periods under review. For example, in relation to the Centenary of the Covenant, the Good Relations Manager has been in contact with the Education, Community Heritage & Outreach Officer (ECHO) from the Ulster Hall. The ECHO is examining a potential educational day-long programme with cross-community schools, including possibly a visit to the Ulster Museum in the morning, viewing artefacts with a talk by a specialist; a tour and educational workshop in the afternoon in the Ulster Hall (also iconic in terms of its role in the Covenant period) on the theme of remembering, facilitated by a local expert; finishing with an inter-active debate in the Council Chamber, chaired by the Lord Mayor or civic dignitary. Such a programme would be beneficial for young people in allowing them to consider a historical event from a non-contentious perspective and to investigate issues around political sensitivity.
- 22 The Working Group may wish to 'retain' a small panel of academics as advisors, for example, Gordon Lucy and Dr. Eamon Phoenix, who facilitated our workshop earlier this year.
 - (ii) 1914-18: World War I, including the Somme and the Easter Rising
- 23 This period could be entitled 'War and Revolution'. I would propose that separate exhibitions for these events be commissioned and that these should be linked and complementary, each clearly referencing the other and showing the wider European context of each.

- 24 One would outline Belfast's involvement in the Great War, particularly the devastating effects on local communities of the news of the huge casualties suffered in the Somme, and the role played by all those Divisions involved, emphasising the recent change in approach to the role of the Irishmen who fought.
- 25 The second exhibition would examine the rise of Irish nationalism, the events in Dublin of 1916 and the response of the British authorities, and the consequences for the country as a whole, including the legacy in Belfast.
- 26 In addition, lectures and appropriate drama productions could be organised.

(iii) 1918 to 1921 – Northern Ireland and the Irish Free State.

- 27 This period could be entitled 'the birth of two Governments'.
- 28 It is difficult in 2011 to predict what might be acceptable in 7 years time to what will be a new Council but again I would suggest a mix of exhibitions, lectures, drama and publications.
- 29 The views of the Working Group are requested on all these proposals.
- 30 Other anniversaries not listed above, but which have been previously raised within the Centenaries Working Group, include:

2012

- 31 Former Councillor Adamson had referred to the 1400th anniversary in 2012 of the founding by St. Columbanus of Bobbio Abbey in northern Italy which had been invaluable in the spread of Christianity throughout Europe. A meeting was held with various Council staff to initiate plans to mark this historical event.
- 32 The Development Committee has now agreed, at its meeting on 15 June 2011, to provide financial assistance through its European Unit towards a mini festival in Belfast in October 2011 to celebrate the Christian and cultural linkages between the Belfast Lough area and Saint Gallen in Switzerland. This festival is to mark the 1400th anniversary of the founding of the St. Gallen monastery in Switzerland, which had been designated a world heritage site.

2013

- 33 April 1613 will mark the 400th anniversary of the granting by James I of the city's original Charter, which established the first Belfast Corporation and enabled parliamentary representation. An academic conference entitled Belfast – the Urban Experience 1613-1939, was held in September 2010 as

part of the build-up to the 400th anniversary and was organised by the Heritage Officer within the Council's Culture & Arts Unit.

- 34 The Heritage Officer is already involved with plans to produce a new book on the history of Belfast, due to be published towards the end of 2012 to mark the 400th anniversary. It is proposed that the issues round this anniversary would be more appropriately dealt with by the Culture & Arts Unit in accordance with broader ongoing work around the telling of the Belfast Story.
- 35 In view of this, it is not proposed to include either of these two last named anniversaries within the remit of those being considered by this Working Group in the Decade of Centenaries 1912-1922. However, the Working Group is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee that the set of principles agreed should apply to any key anniversaries being marked by the Council.

Resource Implications

- 36 The exhibition to mark the 70th anniversary of the Belfast Blitz cost £15,000. Therefore we could assume that a similar sized exhibition plus a number of supplementary events – photographic exhibition, drama, lectures, publications etc - could be undertaken for around £30,000, for the first period 1912-1914.
- 37 This figure does not include the additional cost of any civic hospitality that the Council may choose to provide at particular events (see separate report re: a request from the Belfast County Grand Orange Lodge). If this is included, at a cost per event in the region of £10,000, the total cost for the 1912-1914 period would rise to approximately £40,000 – i.e. £20,000 per financial year.
- 38 To ensure equality of opportunity and consistency of approach, it is recommended that similar civic hospitality be considered and approved on a case by case basis over future months, to mark other major key centenary events, in accordance with the existing civic hospitality policy. This will have to be balanced with the increasing focus of the Council on value for money, in view of the challenging economic climate.
- 39 Given the current challenging economic climate and the financial position of the Council, it is difficult to predict accurately beyond that period, but it would be fair to estimate a similar expenditure for the likely programme of exhibitions, drama, lectures, publications etc. proposed for the longer period 1914-1918 to be in the region of £80,000 i.e. £20,000 per year.

- 40 It may be possible for the Council to make application for financial assistance for this work to either the Community Relations Council or the Heritage Lottery Fund, but this cannot be guaranteed. Both of these bodies are still actively considering, not only principles to be used and events to be commemorated, but also the reserving of funds for this work.
- 41 Currently, no provision has been made to cover this expenditure. If this Decade of Centenaries is to be marked in this way, the Centenaries Working Group is requested to make a recommendation to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee that an appropriate budget stream to support this work be established.

Equality and Good Relations Implications

- 42 All of the proposals outlined above would have positive implications in terms of the promotion of equality and good relations, if undertaken in an inclusive manner.

Recommendations

- 43 The Working Group is requested to approve the contents of the report; in summary:
- that the Decade of Centenary events be grouped into 3 periods as set out above
 - that an exhibition be commissioned as outlined for the period 1912-1914, in partnership with appropriate external agencies
 - that individual events to be marked should focus on the rise of the women's suffrage movement and the Signing of the Ulster Covenant
 - that public lectures be arranged on key individuals from that period
 - that the outline programme for the later periods 1914-1918 and 1918 – 1921 be adopted, with more detailed reports to be brought back for approval in due course
 - that a recommendation be made to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee that an appropriate budget stream to support this work be established."

Officer to contact for more information

Hazel Francey, Good Relations Manager, ext 6020"

The Working Group adopted the recommendations as set out.

**Centenary of the Ulster Covenant –
Request from the Belfast County Grand Orange Lodge**

The Working Group considered the undernoted report:

“Relevant Background Information

- 1 The Working Group will be aware that the Centenary of the Signing of the Ulster Covenant will be in September 2012 and that this will be the first major event to be marked in the forthcoming Decade of Centenaries from 2012-2022.
- 2 As part of their own preparations for this, representatives from the Belfast County Grand Orange Lodge have met with the Chief Executive and the Good Relations Manager and followed this up with a formal written request.
- 3 Their letter notes that the Covenant is an *‘historic event in our somewhat turbulent history’* and states that they sincerely hope that the Covenant Centenary, as *‘the first of a series of very significant events in our history, will be the benchmark and set the tone for all events in the forthcoming decade of anniversaries’*.
- 4 They have requested a programme that includes the following elements, to be supported both practically and financially by the Council:
 - an exhibition relating to the Ulster Covenant period, covering all aspects, in the City Hall in September 2012
 - a formal civic dinner in the City Hall on 24 September 2012
 - some type of community/educational outreach programme by the Council in partnership with appropriate agencies.

Key Issues

- 5 The Working Group will be aware, from a separate report on this agenda, that proposals are already underway to host such an exhibition and a related educational outreach programme.
- 6 This report has been brought initially to the Centenaries Working Group since it is important that Members are aware of all the aspects of the proposed centenary programme.
- 7 Importantly, as the Belfast County Grand Orange Lodge itself notes, the Covenant centenary will, as the first in a series of events, be the *‘benchmark and set the tone’*.
- 8 To ensure equality of opportunity and consistency of approach, it is therefore recommended that similar civic hospitality be considered on a case by case basis over future months, to mark other major key centenary events, in

accordance with the existing civic hospitality policy. This will have to be balanced with the increasing focus of the Council on value for money, in view of the challenging economic climate.

Resource Implications

- 9 The Belfast County Grand Orange Lodge representatives have requested a civic dinner, for which the estimated costs are in the region of £11,000, to cover the costs of the meal and associated drinks.
- 10 The Democratic Services Officer has confirmed that there is provision within the Council's civic hospitality budget to cover a number of civic dinners throughout the year and that provision can be made for the 2012-13 year, should Members agree to hold the event.

Equality and Good Relations Implications

- 11 All of the proposals outlined above would have positive implications in terms of the promotion of equality and good relations, if undertaken in an inclusive manner.

Recommendation

- 12 That the Centenaries Working Group recommends to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee that approval be granted to the Belfast County Grand Orange Lodge for a civic dinner to be held in the City Hall in September 2012 and that, to ensure equality of opportunity and consistency of approach, similar civic hospitality be considered on a case by case basis over future months, to mark other major key centenary events, in accordance with the existing civic hospitality policy."

After discussion, during which the Democratic Services Officer and the Good Relations Manager clarified a number of matters in respect of the request, the Working Group agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it accede to the request for the use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality as set out.

Unionist Centenary Committee

The Good Relations Manager reported that she had received from the Secretary of the above-mentioned organisation a request to re-enact the signing of the Ulster Solemn League and Covenant in the City Hall on Friday, 28th September, 2012. She suggested, given that further information in respect to the potential size and scale of the event would need to be submitted to the Working Group before it could consider the request, that the matter be deferred to enable her to meet with the representatives of the Unionist Centenary Committee and she undertook to update the Members accordingly.

The Working Group agreed to this course of action.

Date of Future Meeting

The Working Group agreed that it would meet again on Monday, 17th October at 12.30 p.m.

Chairman



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Notice of Motion re: Removal of Peace Walls
Date:	23 September 2011
Reporting Officer:	Peter McNaney, Chief Executive

1.0	Relevant Background Information
1.1	<p>At the Council meeting on 1 September 11, Alderman Ekin proposed:</p> <p>“This Council can demonstrate true civic leadership by agreeing to tackle one of the biggest problems which affects all of the citizens of the City, that is, the continued existence of the so called ‘Peace Walls’.</p> <p>These walls performed a necessary security purpose in the past in the several interface areas of the City but now serve to increase alienation and to inhibit regeneration and development of those very same areas and the time has now come to seek to move towards their removal.</p> <p>The Council agrees to take the lead in devising a strategy which seeks to move towards the removal of a number of these walls within the current Council term. This strategy should be inclusive and include the direct involvement of all appropriate organisations from the business, public and voluntary and community sectors, with the wishes and needs of those people who live in the interface areas being paramount.”</p> <p>The proposal was seconded by Councillor Kyle.</p> <p>In accordance with Standing Order 11(e), the Lord Mayor indicated that the matter would be referred to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee without debate.</p>
1.2	<p>Previously, at the monthly meeting of the Council 3 March 2008, Councillor Maginness had proposed:</p> <p>“Belfast City Council resolves that it is now time to begin to work towards the reduction and the ultimate removal of the so called ‘peace walls’ and barriers that presently divide our City.</p> <p>To this end, the Council therefore agrees to establish a working group to explore ways and means to initiate such a process and to report back with proposals by September, 2008.”</p> <p>The proposal was seconded by Councillor Long and the matter was referred to the Good</p>

	<p>Relations Steering Panel without debate.</p> <p>At that time, the Good Relations Steering Panel integrated a series of actions related to working in interface areas into its Peace and Reconciliation Plan 2009-2011 as well as the Good Relations Plan. Over £1.5m was spent on initiatives focussed on work at the interface during the first phase of the Council's Peace III Programme.</p>
2.0	Key Issues
2.1	<p>Drawing from a series of research reports, it is clear segregation has significant costs in the city. This includes the distortion of labour markets, the inefficient use of services and facilities, significant urban blight and poverty. The 'diseconomies of segregation' are borne disproportionately by the most disadvantaged communities. All of this projects a negative backdrop as Belfast presents itself as an outward looking and modern location for living, investment and tourism.</p> <p>Health and well-being are inextricably linked to community cohesion. Health tends to decline (with premature mortality and increased morbidity, particularly in stress related conditions) in communities where levels of interaction are low and where people feel insecure.</p>
2.2	<p>From the outset of the Council's good relations work, it was acknowledged that social divisions in Belfast were deep-rooted and that it would require a joint approach from a number of agencies, both statutory and voluntary, to effect change in our city and address issues such as sectarianism and racism. Since 2002, the Council has co-operated and partnered with a range of other agencies in the city in examining and tackling the issues that cause division.</p>
2.3	<p>While the removal of interface barriers is critical to the success of Belfast, it also presents an enormous threat to those who feel most protected by their existence. It is more likely that by promoting connections and access to safe and affordable shared spaces and high-quality services, community interaction will increase and suspicion and mistrust will diminish. Ultimately, it is hoped that safety and security in Belfast will only truly be guaranteed through interaction rather than hard physical measures such as barriers.</p> <p>Equally, we must proactively work with, and expedite bureaucratic processes for, those communities who through community consultation, are seeking to remove or reduce the interface barriers in the city.</p>
2.4	<p>Since the publication of the Good Relations Strategy in 2003, we have always advocated a 'commitment rather than minimal compliance' approach. As the public sector is increasingly challenged to meet the needs of our society within a reducing public purse, it is critical that good relations work continues to be seen as a central part of the city agenda rather than additional burden or an optional extra.</p>
2.5	<p>As part of the Council's Safer City Strategic Group business plan for 2010/11, an internal officers' group was established to develop a co-ordinated Council-wide approach to interventions at interfaces in Belfast. The Safer City group has identified three potential roles for Council in its approach to interfaces:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A civic leadership role – setting the vision that ultimately we should be seeking to develop a City without physical barriers 2. An influencing role – seeking to use the influence of the Council to ensure that all master plans, developments, regeneration projects seek to contribute to a City without physical barriers

	<p>3. A practical role – using the resources of the Council (assets, facilities, funding) to complement and support wider initiatives aimed at promoting and ultimately achieving a City without physical barriers.</p>
2.6	<p>This Council group is currently considering ways in which a one Council approach can link with the work of the inter-agency Interface Working Group (IWG), convened by the Community Relations Council.</p> <p>The Interface Working Group has developed a number of initiatives, particularly around barrier removal. While the Council has no direct involvement in the erection or removal of interface barriers, a template has been devised through the IWG to assist communities seeking barrier removal and there is a defined role for Council's in this process. The principles involved in this are that in all responses to the legacy of physical segregation, the safety and security of the people living near to interfaces and interface barriers will be the priority. At the same time it is the responsibility of government to develop responses to the real challenges of fear and threat which do not rely on permanent barriers or patterns of exclusion and violence.</p> <p>The Council has a key role within this process and this role will be reflected in any strategy and action plan emerging from this report, in line with the principles contained within the IWG.</p>
2.7	<p>It is therefore proposed that a detailed framework for action, in relation to the interface barriers in the city, is developed under the 5 strategic themes of the Council. Across all of these areas of city development, there are multiple opportunities to promote good relations and community cohesion outcomes, with a focus on neighbourhoods located at the interface.</p>
2.8	<p>Some indicative actions may be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Better leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The place-shaping agenda in Belfast can proactively transform contested space in the city. City centre must be secured and promoted as a shared space alongside other iconic projects, such as University of Ulster, Girdwood, Springvale and Connswater Greenway. In addition, the Council can set an overall vision of a city without physical barriers and use its influence to permeate that vision within the wider regeneration agenda. ▪ Better opportunities for success across the city <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Labour mobility in the city is dependent on ease of access and reduction in the perception of risk to personal safety. There is potential for orbital and cross-city routes, building public transport demand. – There is opportunity in Belfast to work with local areas on a series of linked cultural tourism and night-time economy projects which promote a unique 'City of Neighbourhoods' and ensures that the social and economic value of the multiple cultural identities of the city is maximised. ▪ Better care for Belfast's environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Segregation has a carbon cost too, with distances travelled to access services in the city, such as schools, greater as a result of the distorted travel horizons we have in the city. Safe and shared connections for walking and cycling will impact upon the environment of the city as well as promote accessibility and connectivity. ▪ Better support for people and communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – It is critical that we work with local neighbourhoods who are seeking to reduce and remove barriers, in the context of local area working. There are already a number of communities who are looking for leadership and support in their desire to transform

	<p>and remove barriers. We could seek to support and advocate for a number of pilot areas in Belfast, located at the interface, to regenerate the neighbourhood while safely and sensitively removing/reducing barriers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Better services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Duplication and restricted access are key efficiency and value for money questions for asset management and service delivery in Belfast. We must develop a neighbourhood asset management model which will maximise social outcomes while at the same time reduce segregation.
2.9	It is recommended that a cross-cutting interfaces strategy be developed identifying resources, necessary partnerships and a monitoring framework for presentation to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

3.0	Resource implications
3.1	<p>Financial: To be determined</p> <p>Assets: To be determined</p> <p>Human: Officer time to draft an interfaces strategy and associated action plan.</p>

4.0	Equality considerations
4.1	A screening exercise will be undertaken as part of the development of the strategy and action plan.

5.0	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee recommends the Good Relations Partnership works with the Safer City Group to develop a strategy and action plan focussed on neighbourhoods located near/at the interface. This will be presented to the SP&R Committee for discussion at a meeting in November 2011, for integration into the forthcoming corporate plan and subsequent business plans in 2012/13.

6.0	Officers to contact for further information
6.1	Peter McNaney, Chief Executive (Ext. 6001)

7.0	Documents attached
	None



Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	400 th Anniversary of the King James Bible
Date:	23 rd September 2011
Reporting Officer:	Hazel Francey, Good Relations Manager (Ext. 6020)

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	<p>The Council, at its meeting on 1st September, considered the undernoted Notice of Motion which was proposed by Councillor Kingston:</p> <p><i>“The Council notes that this year marks the 400th anniversary of one of the English language’s most pre-eminent books – the King James Version of the Bible.</i></p> <p><i>The Council recognises that this publication combined an accuracy of translation with an authoritative and poetic use of language which has made it the most widely used version of the Bible, with over one billion sales. The Council recognises also the significance of the role which the King James Bible played in the development and the global spread of the English language, with a richness of expression which has enhanced our language and continues to do so to this day.</i></p> <p><i>The Council commends those churches and groups in Belfast and elsewhere which have organised events and activities in recognition of the 400th anniversary of this treasure in the Christian heritage of our country and requests the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to give consideration as to how the Council might also recognise this important and historic anniversary.”</i></p> <p>The Motion was referred to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for consideration and report.</p>

2	Key Issues
2.1	<p>In order to provide the Committee with proper information, some initial consultations were held between Councillor Kingston and Mr. John Doherty from the Bible Society Northern Ireland with a view to looking at how best to mark this anniversary should the Committee decide to adopt the Motion.</p>
2.2	<p>There are a number of events being planned by several churches and groups in Belfast to mark this anniversary. Therefore, to complement these events that are happening at a community level, the option of delivering a lunch-time event in the City Hall has emerged as a potentially appropriate way to mark this anniversary.</p>
2.3	<p>In consultation with the Bible Society Northern Ireland, this event could take the form of a</p>

2.4	<p>selection of the following activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions of Biblical phrases that still hold good in Belfast speech today • A shared reading of a passage of the Bible by senior church representatives in Belfast • A display of items associated with the King James Bible, such as different historical versions, ancient Greek and Hebrew texts, an audio display, along with other translations • Locating the King James version of the Bible within the historical chronology of Bible translations <p>The display could remain within City Hall for a short time after the event.</p>
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3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>Up to a maximum of £1,500 to organise and run the lunch-time event, to cover the costs of refreshments and the transport and positioning of artefacts. It might be possible to fund the event from the Good Relations budget, 75% of which can be recouped from the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister through the District Councils Good Relations Programme. If this is not possible then the costs could be met from the Civic Hospitality budget.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Human Resources:</u></p> <p>Good Relations and other staff would be involved in the organisation of the event.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	<p>The event and display would be an exploration of the King James version of the bible within the context of the various translations of the bible over the years and therefore contribute to a shared historical perspective of the Bible.</p>

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>The Committee is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold a lunch-time event in November, along the lines of the above mentioned content, in partnership with the Bible Society Northern Ireland • Facilitate an ongoing display of items for a short period following the event in order to enable those who cannot attend to view the artefacts

6	Decision Tracking
<p>Hazel Francey, Good Relations Manager</p> <p>November, 2011</p>	



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Consultation Response on Police and Community Safety Partnerships
Date:	23 September 2011
Reporting Officer:	Suzanne Wylie, Director, Health and Environmental Services, ext 3260
Contact Officer:	Stevie Lavery, Safer City Manager, ext. 3258

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	As Members are aware, Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) will be established as new statutory bodies under the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and should be in place by April 2012.
1.2	To move this process forward the Department of Justice (DOJ) is consulting on the implementation of PCSPs and has asked for responses on 3 key areas in this consultation, namely: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Details of what should be contained in the code of practice for the operation of PCSPs (and in the case of Belfast, District Police and Community Safety Partnerships); 2. Processes for the designation of statutory bodies on the partnership; 3. A Draft Code of Practice on the appointment of Independent Members
1.3	Party group briefings were held in August in order to formulate a response for approval at the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in September. The draft response to the consultation is attached as Appendix 1. It should be noted that DOJ has agreed to consider the Committee's response following this meeting, despite the fact that the original deadline was 13 th September 2011. the full consultation can be found at www.dojni.gov.uk/...consultations/...consultations/consultation_on_the_implementation_of_pcsp-2.pdf
1.4	The Committee should also note that a further report on the new PCSP structure will be brought to the October meeting of the Committee, asking for a decision on the number of members who should sit on the PCSP and also the process for making political nominations to be made to the partnerships.

2	Key Issues
2.1	There is recognition by all parties that the existing processes surrounding the functions of the DPP are bureaucratic for both Members and officers. There was a general consensus that resources, both financial and human, should as far as possible be used for local service delivery to tackle community safety issues and effective engagement at community level.

2.2	<p>Draft Response – Summary A draft response is provided at Appendix A. the key issues highlighted Include:</p>
2.2.1	<p>Belfast Code of Practice – We are proposing that, due to the unique make up of Belfast, there should be a separate code of practice and that the code should take the form of a flexible framework, with an outline only of roles and responsibilities, good practice guidelines and minimal reporting requirements. This would mean that the detailed procedures could be developed locally.</p>
2.2.2	<p>Administrative procedures - We strongly recommend a significant shift from the mandatory / formal requirements of the existing Code Of Practice (COP) to a more flexible and locally determined approach which will allow local partnerships to assign the bulk of their resources to tackling ASB, crime and community safety issues, rather than resources being over committed to administrative functions.</p>
2.2.3	<p>Local communities – The response proposes that local communities are at the core of the new partnership arrangements. It is therefore essential that the Belfast Code of Practice facilitates a locally determined relationship with communities which is responsive and provides effective service delivery at a local level. We recommend that arrangements for local engagement, allocation of funds, monitoring of functions / plans and management of meetings etc is left to the discretion of councils and local partnerships.</p>
2.2.4	<p>Allowances – The fact that the legislation does not include any reference to payment of allowances (just out of pocket expenses) has caused concern among some parties. A number of those points are highlighted below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The potential to reduce the number of people applying to become independent members is likely to lead to a reduction in the range and quality of the pool of candidates and could ultimately affect ongoing participation. ▪ The principle that membership should be reflective of the community and representative of the local political parties could be undermined. ▪ Money saved from not paying allowances should be passed back to the PCSP for investing in programmes.
2.2.5	<p>Role of Principal Policing Committee –Clarity is sought on the relationship between the Principal Policing Committee and local Policing Committees. This is something which caused a problem with the current arrangements and the opportunity should be taken o rectify this in the future. More detail is provided in the Appendix.</p>
2.2.6	<p>Review of partnerships - In order to ensure there is effective local service delivery for communities we have asked that there is flexibility in relation to the operational and administration of partnerships and that there is scope for a review of regional and local codes of practice / frameworks to allow for improvements / changes to be made after the partnerships are in operation. Such a review should be carried out after 18 months;</p>
2.3	<p>Potential to Pay Chairs Allowances There may be a possibility of paying chairs of the partnerships a special responsibility allowance, but this would require sanction from the Department of the Environment to raise the current cap on these payments and would also have to come from Council funds. If the Council wished to pursue this approach the Committee would need to write to the DOE to request that this is done.</p>
2.4	<p>DOJ / NILGA Workshop A workshop is being held in Craigavon Civic Centre on 28th September 2011 from 9.30am – 2.00 pm to discuss the implementation plans for the new partnership. Belfast City Council has been invited to send four Members and one officer.</p>

3	Resource Implications
3.1	The future funding from the DOJ and the NIPB will need to be agreed via the Joint Committee. During this transitional year (2011/2012) both partners have agreed the same level of funding as last year. Future funding proposals have still to be agreed.
3.2	It should also be noted that there is no provision within the new Partnership arrangements to pay an allowance to Members, either elected or independent, for attendance at meetings of the partnerships. Out of pocket expenses will be paid.

4	Equality Implications
	None

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approve the draft response attached as Appendix 1; ▪ Agree that the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Committee, the Chair of the Principal DPP (or their nominees) and another Member from a different political party attend the DOJ / NILGA workshop on 28th September. ▪ Consider whether it wishes a letter to be sent to the DOE asking for the Special Responsibility Allowance threshold to be increased to enable chairpersons of the partnerships to be paid an allowance.

	Key to Abbreviations
District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (or PCSPs) District Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (or DPCSPs) Department of Justice (DoJ) Department of the Environment (DOE)	

	Appendices
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft response to consultation 2. Updated Diagram of proposed Belfast structures 	

	Decision tracking
<p>The Director of Health and Environmental Services will bring a report back on the new PCSP structure will be brought to the October meeting of the Committee, asking for a decision on the number of members who should sit on the PCSP and also the process for making political nominations to be made to the partnerships.</p>	

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Draft BCC Response to Department Of Justice (DOJ)
Consultation on the implementation of
Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs)

Background

The Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) are new statutory bodies established under the Justice Act (NI) 2011 (to be fully operational by April 2012) designed to combine the work of the current District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) and Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in a single unified partnership. The DOJ is consulting on how these new partnerships will operate and wish to examine critically what has gone previously and ensure the new partnerships are able to respond effectively.

There are three strands to the consultation:

1. The practical operation of PCSPs, including the Policing Committee;
2. The issue of designation (whereby bodies which have a contribution to the work of PCSPs are granted membership);
3. Draft code of practice for the appointment of independent members to PCSPs

Useful documents can be downloaded as follows

Consultation Document

<http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/public-consultations/current-consultations.htm> (this includes draft code of practice for appointment of members)

Justice Act (Northern Ireland 2011)

www.legislation.gov.uk/nia/2011/24/contents

Belfast City Council's response below takes the form of general comments, followed by answers to the list of questions posed by DOJ.

Section One: Operation of PSCPS and DPCSPS

1) **General Comments on the practical operation of PCSPs (p 7-11 consultation document)**

Belfast City Council (BCC) would firstly like to highlight a number of key comments, principles and themes running through our response to the consultations for the DOJ / PBNI to take into consideration regarding the practical operation of the Policing Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) and relevant code of practice as follows;

- I. **Administrative procedures** - BCC strongly recommend a significant shift from the mandatory / formal requirements of the existing Code Of Practice (COP) (currently applicable to the DPP) so that the new partnerships can operate with less of an administrative burden being placed on members and officers, thus enabling them to focus on tackling ASB and improving community safety at a regional and local level. The new code should, in the Council's view, be considered as a framework only, outlining the roles and responsibilities of the new partnerships, suggesting good practice and detailing only minimal requirements in respect of reporting, etc. The code or framework should allow as much operational flexibility as possible, with the specifics of how the partnerships should operate being largely determined locally.

It is important to note that in recommending this approach, the Council does not consider that the need to consult with the community at various levels would be reduced, but rather that this function should be strengthened by considering what works locally. Each DPCSP should be able to consult / engage, plan and monitor as they decide is best for local people as opposed to having to follow rigid requirements which are often not seen as relevant.

To reduce the burden on members in terms of formal meetings, there should be sufficient scope to ensure that the Policing Committees do not need to meet separately from the PCSP by for example creating a clear decision making protocol for restricted functions.

- II. **Belfast Code of Practice** - As Belfast will retain a unique but significantly changed structure with the formation of one PCSP and four District Policing Community Safety Partnerships (DPCSPs) **we strongly recommend that Belfast will require its own separate code of practice / framework.** BCC would be happy to work with the DoJ/NIPB to develop this;
- III. **Allowances** – It is clear that the change to the legislation to allow Members (both elected and Independent) to receive expenses only is a significant issue for a number of the political parties, although not all.

Concerns raised include:

- The potential to reduce the number of people applying to become independent members is likely to lead to a reduction in the range and quality of the pool of candidates and could ultimately affect ongoing participation. There will still be a significant burden on members in the new structures considering the time that required to make the new partnerships successful.
- The potential to reduce the level of participation in the new structures could possibly undermine the principle that membership should be reflective of the community and representative of the local political parties.
- The issue of security was highlighted by some as another reason why allowances should be paid as in the past threats were made to DPP members and in some instances attacks on property and vehicles were carried out as a result of their involvement.
- That the withdrawal of allowances is not equitable as members of the Policing Board will continue to receive allowances.
- That the Council should not have to meet the costs for Members using ratepayers' money.
- Money saved from not paying allowances would not be passed back to the PCSP for investing in programmes.

There was an opinion from some parties that the Chairs and possibly vice chairs of the partnerships should at least be paid as they may well take on a much more strategic role, attend more meetings and have more delegated powers which will require a considerable amount of time. However there was little support for this cost being met by the ratepayer.

Even though all parties in Belfast City Council were not in agreement on the allowances issue, the fact that it was raised by four out of six of the party groups means that it is an issue that the DOJ and NIPB will need to consider in moving forward.

In conclusion on this point, it is imperative that the DOJ and NIPB think through the implications of not paying allowances, clarify what will be paid under expenses and appropriately market the recruitment of independent members along with district councils.

- IV. **Relationship with Local communities** - BCC believes that it is imperative that the practical operation of PCSPs / DPCSPs should ultimately lead to improved community safety and policing across the city. It is therefore essential that the Belfast Model enables the establishment of structures that support responsive and effective service delivery at a local level. We recommend that arrangements for local engagement, allocation of funds, management of meetings etc is left to the discretion of councils and again flexibility is at the core of the new partnerships. It has also been recommended that there are structures already in place throughout Belfast which are tackling ASB and community safety issues and there should be more formalised links between local fora and the new DCSPs. There is no

wish to create more community structures or duplicate those which already exist. There may also be some opportunity for rationalisation at a local level to reduce duplication of effort e.g. Police and other partners being called to numerous meetings in an area to discuss the same issues which can reduce the effectiveness of inputs.

- V. **Financing & Resourcing** – BCC would seek assurances that there is no real cut in financial and resourcing terms to the cost of administering and setting up of the new partnerships e.g. the recruitment of independent members. As previously pointed out, any savings from bringing the two partnerships together (including any savings from allowances) should be redirected towards service delivery;
- VI. **Staffing** – BCC will be carrying out a review of its staffing arrangements in light of the new partnerships and would wish to make DOJ and NIPB aware of this. Currently, the DPP and CSP staff are under significant pressure to carry out their core duties. An example of this is the increase in membership of DPP from 19 to 55 after the St Andrew's agreement. Despite this increase staffing levels supporting the DPP have remained the same which has caused an adverse impact on the level of service given to the running of the DPP. BCC is of the opinion that there is likely to be a need to increase staffing levels if required in the new structure and Council does not feel it should be responsible for bearing the cost of this.
- VII. **Governance** – BCC would like clarification on the governance arrangements of the new partnerships and in particular the relationship and accountability mechanisms between local Councils (taking into consideration that the Chief Executive is the accounting officer) and the Joint Committee (DOJ / PBNI)
- VIII. **Accountability** – BCC wishes to see the reporting lines for the new partnerships being streamlined. The draft new model suggests there are two lines of accountability, one from the Policing committees (five in Belfast) to Policing Board and another from the PCSPs to Joint Committee. BCC has concerns that the accountability to both the Joint Committee and Policing Board will result in an increase in bureaucracy and reduce the amount of resources, both financial and staffing, that can be used to deliver local solutions in local communities. It is fundamental to the success of the new partnerships that the new partnerships should either report directly to the Joint Committee or that reports expected are streamlined considerably so there is no duplication.
- IX. **Relationship between PCSP and DPCSP** – Further clarification is sought on this as members who currently sit on the Principal DPP have indicated that they are not clear about its current role and the relationship between the Principal DPP and four sub groups in Belfast. Further discussions need to take place regarding this (particularly the role of the citywide Policing Committee) and included in a Belfast Code of Practice. This is imperative for success and in obtaining nominations from members. There is a view that perhaps the citywide policing committee would not formally

perform a role in practice but that the members would focus on the PSCP roles in terms of co-ordination, citywide planning and programmes etc.

There is a view that dual membership, as far as is practical, of both the PSCP and the DPCSPs would help with continuity and the functioning of the PCSP itself. However, there is also an understanding that this would represent a considerable time commitment from elected and independent members.

- X. **Review of partnerships** - In order to ensure there is effective local service delivery for communities we would ask that there is flexibility in relation to the operational and administration of partnerships and that there is scope for a review of regional and local codes of practice / frameworks to allow for improvements / changes to be made after the partnerships are in operation. Such a review should be carried out after 18 months;
- XI. **User friendly** – BCC would ask that any documentation regarding the new partnership arrangements e.g. code of practice/framework should be written from a user’s perspective using the principles of Plain English to ensure that there is a clear understanding by a wider audience of how the different functions build into a cohesive and comprehensive approach.
- XII. **Monitoring of PSNI against Policing Plan / Meetings in Public**
Whilst it is recognised that there needs to be a mechanism to enable the public to question the district commander and to be assured that the PSNI are being monitored against the targets in the Policing Plan, the Council is of the opinion that the current arrangements are not effective. Again we would call for a less prescriptive approach to how these functions are carried out at a local level.

2. Answers to question posed in the consultation document

A1 How prescriptive should the code of practice on the exercise of functions be?

BCC strongly recommends that the code should not be prescriptive at all unless there are essential mandatory functions / responsibilities that need to be delivered in a certain way and these should only be included if absolutely necessary. BCC requests that the code should take the form of a framework only, with an outline of roles and responsibilities, suggest good practice and detail only minimal requirements in respect of reporting, etc. This would enable local partnerships to have the level of flexibility required to assign the majority resources towards tackling ASB, crime and local community safety issues.

We would stress the need to try and use the opportunity of the development of the new Partnership arrangements to reduce the bureaucratic burden on members and officers as much as possible and only to seek reports where they serve a useful purpose. A good example is the current attendance policy and performance appraisal of members which is a cumbersome process that requires a significant amount of work from both members and officers to implement. However, there is a strong opinion among current members that this information (and other information) gathered is not used nor is the process useful.

The Belfast PCSP code of practice needs to provide a **framework** on the distinct mandatory functions of the PCSP and the DPCSPs (and the respective Policing Committees), as well as giving guidance on the reporting structure / lines and relationship that will exist between the PCSP, DPCSPs, Policing Committees and Designated Organisations. This framework should be for guidance only and should allow local partnerships to have the flexibility to ensure that service delivery in local communities is the priority of the new partnerships. This code of practice /framework should make it clear what is required by the PCSP / DPCSP to meet legislative requirements and what is considered good practice. It must also allow flexibility and a pragmatic approach to ensure that bureaucracy and administrative burdens are kept to a minimum.

The member's handbook that was developed historically for DPP members was thought to be very helpful. We would recommend that a handbook is developed for the new Model and forms the basis for the induction and training of members of the PCSPs. Further, it is suggested that the handbook and the training which is developed is piloted with practitioners to ensure that it meets the needs of the end users and can be updated / reviewed as appropriate if required.

It is appreciated that there is a need to ensure some consistency of approach across NI, particularly to allow all partner organisations to plan their involvement to properly participate in the PCSP at an appropriately senior level, but this needs to be balanced in Belfast with the right level of flexibility to allow the PCSP and DCSPs to tailor delivery and develop local plans with (and for) local communities.

The framework / code should include the following key themes but the details of how to deliver on them should left to the local partnerships to determine:

- **Local delivery**

The focus on delivering an improvement in policing and community safety to make the district one which is safe to live and work in must be central to the work of the whole PCSP.

For Belfast, the code / framework also needs to clarify the role of the PCSP in relation to that of DPCSPs. The processes to develop action plans should be determined locally.

There needs to be further clarity and direction about the governance arrangements and how the policing committee relates to the whole PCSP, and vice versa, to ensure that the arrangements achieve a joined up approach to policing and community safety within the district.

The code / framework should refer to the allocation of resources for delivery. However it is our view that the PCSP / DPCSP should decide on how the local process should work.

- **Consult and Engage**

We should ensure that the full PCSP undertakes consultation and engagement on a number of levels to allow the full Partnership to identify the policing and community safety needs of the area.

It is recommended that the Joint Committee supports regular consultation and analysis of data from residents; there needs to be a long term commitment to this process so that we are able to prove the effectiveness of the partnership in the delivery of the local policing and community safety plan. This means that the same core questions should be asked each time the residents' consultation is undertaken so that the results are directly comparable.

In Belfast, each PCSP / DPCSP should be allowed to determine its own process of local consultation with community structures, hard to reach groups and minority groups to gain the necessary degree of understanding of the local policing and community safety issues and to utilise all the possible mechanisms to do this via its consultation structures within BCC and those used by other partner organisations. This consultation and engagement process should be developed for the life of the PCSP / DPCSP and cover the Section 75 Equality requirements on the Partnership. The code of practice / framework should require that the consultation and engagement plan is developed and regularly reviewed by the PCSP.

The timing of the consultations undertaken by PCSPs to determine local policing and community safety needs should fit with the funding cycles from central government and the business planning processes that the

Joint Committee and the other members of the PCSP are subject to. It is recommended timelines for the consultations and engagement plan should follow the lifecycle of local government elections, relate to the April to March business cycle that is utilised across government and allow the PCSP/DPCSP to inform the development of the annual plans of partners.

How each PCSP / DPCSP engages with the community should be an ongoing interactive process that includes all different types of public meetings, discussion forums, information sessions, work shops and focus groups, regular forum meetings. These should be determined as necessary at a local level to ensure that they are meaningful and bought into by the community. The primary function of such engagement should be to build community confidence that government has joined up how it makes the district one which is, and is perceived to be, safer to live and work in. BCC also recommends that there is flexibility in how we consult and engage and current administration burdens such as the notice for meetings, notice of receiving reports etc is not included in how we do this.

- **Identify** (Prepare Policing and Community Safety Plans)

The information from the consultation and engagement processes detailed above should allow each PCSP / DPCSP to identify the particular issues which are relevant to their district and to develop plans for how those issues can be tackled.

For Belfast it is anticipated that there will be four local plans and an overarching citywide plan, and that resources will be allocated for delivery in a way determined by the PCSP.

Local DPCSPs need to be given flexibility to ensure that there are local solutions for local problems as each area of the city will have differing priorities. Local community networks need to ensure that they reflect the views of the local community highlighting that they have robust community consultation in place as well as effective communication plans to ensure that communities are kept up to date with the work of the DPCSP.

- **Monitor** (Delivery of the Partnership and Local Policing Plans)

It is recommended that the various structures of the PCSP, the policing committees and DPCSPs have monitoring as an agenda item at regular meetings (to be determined locally) to ensure that they are responding to appropriate issues through the delivery of their work to stay relevant and responsive to the needs of the local communities.

It appears that there are two lines of accountability in the new structure. BCC has concerns that the accountability to both the Joint Committee and policing board will result in an increase in bureaucracy and reduce the amount of resources both financial and staffing that can be used to deliver local solutions in local communities. It is fundamental to the success of the new partnerships that the new partnerships should report directly to

the one body only i.e. the joint committee or that reports expected are streamlined considerably so there is no duplication.

- **PCSPs and DPCSPs**

Statistics from all relevant partner agencies along with monitoring reports from projects/interventions and the information gleaned during the ongoing engagement process will allow PCSPs to monitor the delivery of plans. **All** partners should be required to show how their activity contributes to making safer areas so that the Partnerships are able to evidence change and improve / develop interventions to increase community safety and reduce ASB.

- **Policing Committees**

Policing Committees will monitor the performance of the Police in line with the district policing plan, it is recommended that routine aspects of this monitoring function are carried out in private meetings and not in public as currently happens. We agree that Police and other partners need to be held to account but we recommend that this can be done in a less prescriptive manner in public e.g. the local DPCSPs can give an update on their plans at a meeting in public (attended regularly by the district commander) but this should also serve the purpose of illustrating how the overall partnership is making a positive impact on reducing crime and ASB and allow for improvements to be made locally if necessary.

The code / framework should outline the role of the PCSP in preparing an annual report; and that each Council is responsible for publishing it in a way it feels is appropriate. In specifying how often monitoring returns are made to the Joint Committee, it is important that these monitoring requirements are not bureaucratic but are focused on PCSPs delivering a good service for local people. Therefore, flexibility needs to be built into any monitoring framework to allow changes to be made to local plans. Reports should only be sought where they are useful to the receiver and have a purpose.

A2 Which of the issues listed on pages 8-10 definitely needs to be included within the code?

To provide clarity it is recommended that the code / framework should be written from a user's perspective using the principles of Plain English, to ensure that there is a clear understanding of how the different functions build into a cohesive and comprehensive approach. Also taking the opportunity to make the code adaptive and flexible to local circumstances rather than being too prescriptive.

Therefore BCC recommends that the framework covers the following procedures in outline only giving sufficient discretion in respect of the detail to local PCSPs / DPCSPs especially in relation to the running of meetings.

- **Arrangements for the submission by or to a PCSP or policing committee of reports and other documentation**

It is recommended that the code / framework provides guidance on arrangements for sending in reports, but reports should only be required for functions that are essential such as monitoring / financial returns. The exact timescales of reports or any other essential documentation should be agreed with the PCSP to fit in with systems already in place e.g. deadlines for financial returns should be agreed by local Councils and fit in with their systems.

- **Arrangements for the monitoring of the performance of the PCSP / DPCSP in carrying out appropriate plans**

Plans should reflect local policing and community safety priorities, and as such, the code / framework should recommend that local impact targets should be developed with the support of a crime analyst, which could then be reported quarterly on a City wide and local basis.

- **The arrangements for dealings with the joint committee**

Specific arrangements around dealings will need further consideration. It is important to understand how this will best operate to ensure effective communications and the ability to have open, useful and ongoing dialogue as the process of the new PCSPs takes shape. BCC recommends that, as far as possible, the committee should be flexible and work with PCSPs / DPCSPS to agree the easiest and most effective way of doing this.

A3 Which elements of the code of practice previously available for DPPs could be omitted?

It is recommended that the code of practice / framework omits as much of the previous prescriptive requirements as possible and makes a clear distinction between meeting the legislative requirements and good practice. BCC recommends that flexibility should be given in the code /framework on the following for both PCSP and local DPCSPs, who should be able to decide locally how they carry out the necessary functions required.

- **Meetings in public** (As a tool to monitor the performance of the police).

It is widely recognised that public attendance is low and there are often frustrations about the reporting format and responses to the supplementary questions which are posed.

A locally determined engagement process which would enable a more meaningful, flexible and targeted approach is recommended.

- **Holding of public meetings**

As public meetings will take many forms and be reactive to local concerns, it is recommended that how public meetings are held is determined locally, depending on the function of the meeting and that the code/framework provides guidance only. We recommend that arrangements for local

engagement, allocation of funds, management of meetings etc is left to the discretion of councils and partnerships.

- **Arrangements for giving notice of meetings**

BCC recommends that, as far as reasonably possible, meeting dates are set at the beginning of the year on an annual basis in order to carry out mandatory requirements such as monitoring progress against objectives / developing local plans etc. Further discussion needs to take place around the notification to be given for these meetings but again flexibility should be considered to ensure the administration of meetings does not reduce service delivery at a local level. BCC recommends that the code / framework does not stipulate the minimum number of meetings as was previously the case.

- **Procedures for meetings**

It is recommended that the new code is much less prescriptive in this regard.

- **Arrangements for enabling questions on the discharge of functions by PSNI to be put by members of the policing committee for answer by the relevant district commander or their nominee**

It is recommended that the code allows for flexibility on the above and the current mechanism to enable questions is not always productive and meaningful. All partners on PCSPs / DPCSPs should be meeting with local communities on a regular basis and should be reacting to questions on an ongoing basis. Current arrangements are too inflexible and do not assist the community engaging with Police as they are too formal in their approach.

- **Arrangements to be made in relation to obtaining the cooperation of the public with the police.**

The code/framework should give guidance only. It is important that this role is seen, as widely as possible, as being about building direct relationships between residents / communities and the PCSPs / DPCSPs not just Police.

Whilst this function is restricted to the policing committee, the code should give guidance about how it connects to the whole engagement process that the PCSP / DPCSP undertakes. If local people are to effectively engage and co-operate on an ongoing basis, then this must be done in a meaningful way through processes that suit local people and networks.

A4 What could be adjusted or amended? For example, concerns had been raised about the number of DPP meetings being held – what are your views on this?

The current Code of Practice for DPPs and the established practice of these partnerships in Belfast has resulted in too many meetings in public and private. For example, in 2010/2011 there were **118** meetings of the DPP / CSP with **108** of these meetings being held by DPP. The issue is not just about numbers of meetings but also purpose and outcomes. Members feel that the requirements of the Policing Board are too bureaucratic regarding administration functions and that Officers / members time could be served better engaging with the public through current structures and holding public meetings in local areas to deal with specific local issues.

Also the high level of formality applied to the minutes and papers of the current DPP should be greatly reduced. All papers, minutes and action plans of the new PCSP should be focused on action points and to the Plain English standard so they can be easily understood by all. The use of the current DPP models for the administration of meetings will result in a similar process being applied to the new Partnerships. There needs to be a balance struck between the more informal approaches for the arrangements around CSPs rather than shaping the new partnership to one side of the current arrangements.

BCC proposes that a minimum number of meetings needs to be decided locally to allow each PCSP to determine the best, most efficient and effective way to deliver a safer district. There should also be flexibility to allow PCSPs / DPCSPs to organise meetings in public as and when required in order to respond to local need but without having to carry out current formal procedures in order to do so – e.g. an issue may arise and the PCSP / DPCSP will need to organise an emergency meeting in a locality with those affected, they need to have the flexibility to be able to hold a meeting at short notice without being consigned to formal procedures around this.

A5 Which aspects should be left to the discretion of councils?

BCC would again stress the need to try and use the opportunity of the development of the new Partnership arrangements to reduce the bureaucratic burden as much as possible allowing flexibility at a local level. The Council strongly advocates a less prescriptive approach to the administrative arrangements than previously experienced by DPPs. This is to allow focus on delivery and a pragmatic involvement of all the relevant stakeholders and members.

Therefore we recommend that arrangements for local engagement, allocation of funds, management of meetings etc is left to the discretion of councils/partnerships and the code only provides a general framework for delivery of functions.

B. How can this code of practice help partnerships to focus on delivery of outcomes, whether in relation to the operation of the Policing Committee or the overall PCSP?

The focus of the new partnership has to be on the delivery of outcomes: to achieve this, the code / framework should ensure it facilitates a process where each partner organisation presents the necessary data to allow the impact of the work on local communities to be measured.

BCC recommends that a framework is developed to assist with the monitoring and evaluating of PCSPs / DPCSPs. This would allow each PCSP to report in a way where change is clearly measured and regularly compared.

PCSP Model

In the PCSP model (Annex A) in the consultation document there is a foot note at the bottom which states:

It is *anticipated* that pre-existing relevant groups / for a working on a community level will have *informal*.....

BCC recommends that the words anticipated and informal are removed and make this a statement of intent to ensure that local fora / groups can have a formal link with PCSPs through engagement activity etc. This should allow the relationship of the partnerships and the community to be determined locally.

Section 2. Designated Bodies (p 12-14 consultation document)

What bodies should be compulsorily designated to all PCSPs?

In order to answer this question fully BCC recommends that guidance is given in relation to the difference between regional designation and local designation. For example the guidance would need to address:

- Will the requirements be different for organisations that are compulsorily designated?
- What if local PCSPs request an organisation to be designated and they refuse?
- How will local communities and the voluntary sector be designated on local PCSPs / DPCSPs?

Currently, through the Belfast Community Safety Partnership (BCSP), the following organisations are members. These stakeholders have made a positive contribution to the development of the BCSP since its formation and provide much needed strategic direction and resources to develop our Safer Belfast plan which allows us to have local services to assist local communities reduce ASB and tackle community safety issues.

- Belfast City Council (elected members and officers)
- Belfast Area Partnership Boards
- Belfast City Centre Management
- Belfast District Policing Partnership
- Belfast Education and Library Board
- Belfast Health & Social Care Trust
- Belfast Regeneration Office
- Engage with Age
- NIACRO (on behalf of NICVA)
- Northern Ireland Alternatives
- Northern Ireland Ambulance Service
- Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue
- NI Housing Executive
- PSNI
- Probation Board NI
- Public Health Agency
- Translink
- Victim Support
- Women's Aid
- Youth Justice Agency

As mentioned, we recommend that the above organisations are represented on PCSPs / DPCSPs in Belfast and that consideration is given to including the community and voluntary sector, whilst at the same time trying to keep numbers

manageable In terms of focus and decision making. Therefore flexibility needs to be built in to allow local Councils to choose who sits on the new structures and perhaps mechanisms be put in place to co-opt organisations onto structures as required.

As you will see from the above, we are not recommending that Council officers sit on PCSPs / DPCSPs as we are assuming that they will help to facilitate the delivery of PCSPs / DPCSPs (but have no voting rights). Elected members will represent the Council and have voting rights

From a regional perspective BCC proposes the following organisations for compulsory designation

- Belfast Health & Social Care Trust
- NI Housing Executive
- Probation Board NI
- PSNI
- Youth Justice Agency

How can designated organisations be best represented on PCSPS?

BCC recommends that organisations should appoint persons who are at an appropriate accountable level within their organisation to be able to commit resources under the auspices of reducing crime and enhancing community safety, be that in financial terms or in kind.

The PCSP will consult, engage and plan; therefore the person appointed should be of a position to influence planning on a short, medium and long term basis within their organisations and feed in the priorities of PCSPs and DPCSPs and ensure their plans, policies and activities work to reduce crime and enhance community safety.

BCC also recommends that attendance at relevant meetings should be consistent e.g. if senior staff officer in any of the organisations is designated to attend the PCSP meeting then he or she should make every reasonable effort to attend. If this is not possible an appropriate deputy should attend who can make decisions re resourcing or at least come back with a quick decision on urgent matters.

What guidance should be given on the appropriate level of representation or on the consistency of representation?

Good practice only. There also needs to be an acknowledgement that DPCSPs must be given local flexibility, linked to local knowledge, issues, concerns, ability to influence and persuade within local communities

Local DPCSPs need to be given flexibility to ensure that there are local solutions for local problems as each area of the city will have differing priorities, this will

need to be reflected in the members of the group. Local community networks need to ensure that they reflect the views of the local community highlighting that they have robust community consultation (e.g. terms of reference and governance arrangements) in place as well as effective communication plans to ensure that communities are kept up to date with the work of the DPCSP. The Department may wish to consider developing some good practice guidelines about the constitutions of groups that are desirable. Councils could work with groups to build this level of capacity.

Section 3 Draft Code of Practice for appointment of independent members (p 15-17 consultation document)

How can we encourage and ensure all Section 75 groups are engaged?

NIPB should use its existing network of contacts including its Reference Groups. NIPB should liaise with other statutory bodies such as Councils, PSNI and the NIHE to link into their networks and local structures. Furthermore, NIPB should engage with regional groups who represent various Section 75 groups throughout Northern Ireland.

How can individuals be encouraged to apply for independent membership?

NIPB should develop a recruitment process which uses multiple forms of media and social networking sites. All documentation should be in 'plain English' and available in various formats and languages. Clear descriptions of the roles and functions of the structures of the PCSP, DPCSP, and Policing Committees should be provided. Furthermore, the documentation should outline the role of Independent Members on both the Policing Committee and DPCSP/PCSP as well as an indication of the time commitment required and what expenses are recoverable.

Also organisations (e.g. community and voluntary sector) may wish to nominate representatives who act on behalf of the organisation rather than in an individual capacity so targeted recruitment utilising NICVA or other similar bodies may be appropriate.

What should the 'default' mechanism be if not enough applications are received for a PCSP (paragraph 66 in the draft code)?

Paragraph 66 states that if less than twice the number of candidates are put forward by the Council, the Policing Board, in partnership with the Council, may consider reviewing the local networks of community representatives and volunteers (such as Neighbourhood Watch Groups, CPLCs/PACTs) who may be interested in becoming involved in this area of work.

The Council feels that there is a need to maintain public confidence in the appointment process and seek assurances that this would not be considered as canvassing after the application process has been completed. To ensure the credibility of the process the Council believes that the local networks of community representatives and volunteers should be targeted during the publicity/awareness-raising stage of the process.

How could the appointment process be improved further and made more cost effective?

The Council recognises that the previous process and costs need to be rationalised. We appreciate that the NIPB is considering how this can be achieved and are identifying a number of steps in the recruitment process where savings can be made. BCC would however like to express our concern in relation to the additional burden on the Councils to administer and support the process of appointment of Independent Members - the impact on the resources needed to implement this could be significant for Councils. We would therefore seek assurances that appropriate expenses for panel members will be covered by NIPB.

We recognise this is a new process and places more onerous responsibility within the Councils remit. In order to ensure the additional processes are applied to the highest standard we are likely to require additional support from experienced Human Resources staff to support the process, possibly at worst case in the same way as the current 75:25 contribution split to ensure no detriment to Council.

The NIPB should also outline their proposals as soon as possible around the support and training that will be provided to members, and any Council staff taking part in the process and the timeframe for this.

To ensure that Independent Members have the necessary skills for full participation in PCSP/DPCSP/Policing Committees, the Board should consider whether a more competency based recruitment approach could be accommodated so that we appoint the right people with the right skills. This will help identify candidates with the necessary skills and attributes to be active participants in the Partnerships. This could include some form of measurement that will identify key competencies required by an Independent Member, for example report reading/writing, consultation/presentation skills, monitoring and evaluation, strategic planning and community engagement.

Disqualification

The Code indicates that the process of appointment has several stages. Firstly, (see Paragraph 53) the Policing Board will carry out an initial sift of applications and exclude those from candidates who clearly do not meet the published criteria.

The second stage will involve the Shortlisting/Interview Panel (the Council's nominees and an independent panel member) shortlisting the remaining candidates against predetermined essential and desirable criteria (Paragraph 57 refers). Following this the Panel will interview the shortlisted candidates and forward to the Policing Board an alphabetical list of candidates deemed to be suitable for appointment.

Only after this second stage has been completed will the Policing Board request the Chief Constable to undertake a check of persons on the list to ascertain if

they have fully and accurately stated on their application form any prior criminal convictions. The legislation makes it clear that a person will not be appointable to a PCSP/DPCSP if they have a prison record and if 5 years has not elapsed since they were released either on remission or on license.

It would seem to make more common sense for this check to be undertaken between the first and second stages of the overall process, prior to the Panel undertaking the short-listing and interviews. Otherwise, the panel may waste time and public money in considering applicants who will eventually be disqualified from appointment.

The Council would recommend that a cost benefit analysis of both options is undertaken.

Any other / general comments?

Merit Principle in the Selection of Candidates

Paragraph 62 of the Code makes reference to the requirement for the panel to appoint candidates based upon the merit principle. However, the panel is permitted only to divide candidates into two pools; one for candidates suitable for appointment and the other for those unsuitable for appointment, based on a suitability pass mark which will be determined by the Policing Board in advance. The panel is permitted to grade the appointable candidates in order of merit, however, the Council is only able to submit, in alphabetical order, a list of those candidates considered suitable for nomination to the Policing Board, individual rankings should not be provided.

It is accepted that in appointing the Independent Members, the Policing Board must ensure, so far as is practicable, that the overall membership of the PCSP, both political and independent taken together, is representative of the Council area and that membership of each DPCSP is representative of that district. It is accepted also that the selection of Independent Members will be influenced by the political breakdown of the Council's nominations.

As a suggestion a better outcome may be achieved by the panel grading those persons deemed suitable for appointment in order of merit and the Policing Board then choosing the highest ranked candidates who meet the required profiles.

If legislative or other restrictions prevent the Policing Board from using the aforementioned method of selection then the Board should consider whether the requirement for the Council to nominate twice the number of appointments required could be reduced. This will result in only the candidates with the highest merit scores being put forward for consideration by the Policing Board's final appointment panels (Paragraph 65 refers).

Conflicts of Interest

The Council welcomes the commitment, outlined in Paragraphs 37 and 38, for candidates to be required to state clearly on their application forms either direct or indirect conflicts of interest. The appointment process should ensure that the Policing Board recommend that no appointments are made of persons who hold other positions, either in their employment or in other public appointments, which the public might reasonably perceive to have connections to or with policing and which may give rise to a potential or perceived conflict or which may restrict the candidate from carrying out the full range of the duties of the post.

The need to maintain public confidence in the membership of appointees should not be underestimated and any conflict of interest must be avoided in order to strengthen the credibility of the process.

Whilst the Council recognises that the Policing Board cannot produce an exhaustive list of conflicts of interest it believes that the Policing Board should provide further guidance in the application pack in relation to this issue.

Interview Panels for Sub-Groups

Paragraphs 57 to 63 outline the role of the Council's nominees to the Short-listing/Interview Panel. Paragraph 58 recommends that, to ensure consistency and because of the possibility of overlap in membership, the same panel should be involved in selecting Independent Members for the PCSP and all four DPCSPs. Furthermore, paragraph 61 states that the short-listing panel should aim to interview at least three times the number of candidates who will eventually be appointed. If this is applied to the forthcoming process, dependent on the Council determining the size of the PCSP, then a minimum of 81 candidates up to a maximum of 87 candidates would be required to be interviewed.

This will result in a considerable workload for those Members appointed to the panel. This time commitment will need to be borne in mind in making the Council nominations to the Panel. As stated earlier and at the beginning of BCC's response, the impact on the resources needed to implement could be significant for Councils and we would seek support that arrangements can be made to ensure claims for remuneration and expenses around the appointments process can be made from the NIPB budget for Belfast DPPs. We recognise this is a new process and places more onerous responsibility within the Councils' remit. In order to ensure the additional processes are applied to the highest standard we are likely to require additional support from experienced Human Resources staff to support the process.

BCC would argue that the burden on elected members to be involved in the appointment process without further clarity on remunerations is likely to be unsupported. However we recognise there is opportunity for the NIPB to consider this within the independent appointment process and we welcome your communication on this as urgently as possible. The Council therefore seeks urgent clarity on the new arrangements for financing this part of the process and

more clarity on the expectations of the additional roles and responsibilities envisaged by the NIPB.

Provision of Feedback to those Deemed Unsuitable for Appointment

During previous appointment processes candidates who had been deemed unsuitable at the interview stage received feedback from the consultants. However, for this recruitment process Paragraph 61 states that the Policing Board/service provider will arrange the interviews for the panel but it will be the responsibility of the Council to appoint a secretary for each panel and to provide feedback to candidates if requested.

The Policing Board has obviously decided to reduce the costs of the recruitment process which are associated with the hire of consultants by transferring this element of the process to the Council. However, any human/financial resources in relation to this element of the process will now have to be absorbed 100% by the Council.

The Council will need to consider what financial/resources implications that this change in the process will have and whether it is willing to absorb these costs. Therefore, as stated above, clarity around the current DPP budget claims in the 2011/12 year for the application of this process would be helpful. Councils are mindful that additional Human resources support is likely to be needed to support this process and therefore could form part of the claim. There is no budget provision within councils other than through DPP expenditure claims for the additional costs.

Remuneration of Panel Members

As with previous Codes, there is no indication given as to the mechanism to be used to reimburse the Members of Council appointed to the Short-listing/Interview Panel. In previous appointment processes undertaken in 2002/2003, 2005 and 2007 remuneration was provided, however, given that no provision has been made to pay allowances to PCSP/DPCSP Members, this issue would need to be clarified. It is our understanding that consideration is currently being given to this by the NIPB, therefore urgent clarity would be helpful.

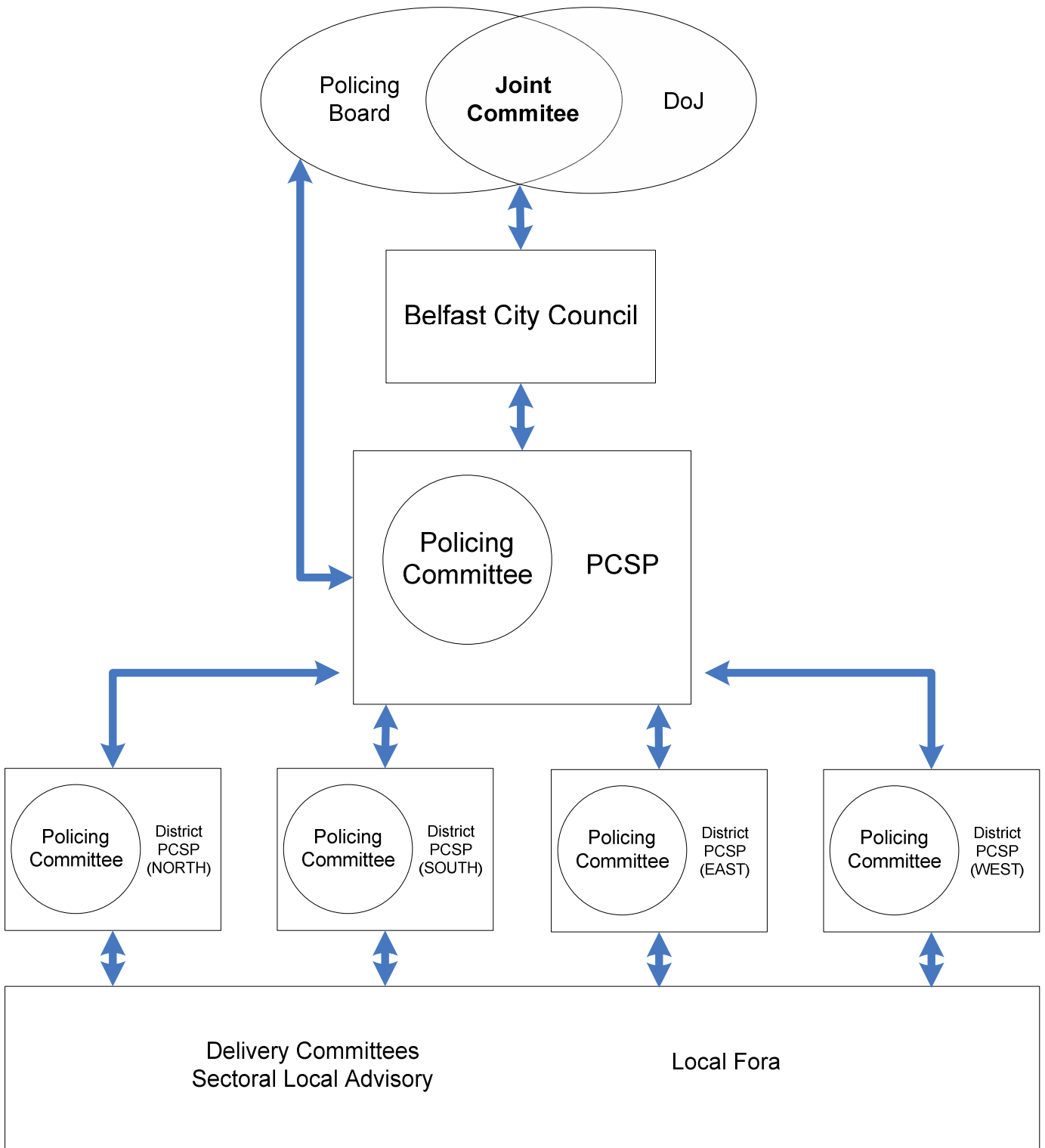
Dual Membership

Paragraph 20 indicates that the Members of the DPCSPs need not be Members of the Principal Belfast PCSP, but it is felt that in principle it would be beneficial for both Political and Independent Members to sit on both to ensure continuity. Although it is beyond the scope of this Code to recommend this, careful consideration must be given to this dual membership given the time commitment that this would require. This level of commitment will not only be time consuming but may also be a financial burden given that no allowances will be payable. Therefore clarity will be needed on what 'out of pocket' expenses could be payable.

Information Packs

As previously mentioned, in the case of Belfast, it will be possible for candidates to be appointed to more than one DPCSP, or to a DPCSP and the main PCSP. Paragraph 49 of the Code makes reference to the requirement for the application form for Belfast applicants to provide an opportunity for candidates to indicate which of these they are interested in and may ask them to express a preference. If this is the case then it would be important for the information pack to clearly indicate the differing role and purpose of a PCSP Member and a DPCSP Member and also the time commitment involved.

Page 195
**Proposed Policing and Community Safety Partnerships
 &
 District Policing and Community Safety Partnerships
 (Belfast Model)**



*It is anticipated that pre-existing relevant groups/for a working on a community level will have informal linkages with PCSPs' engagement activity and through the involvement of other organisations, including PSNI. Information and concerns will be fed back as appropriate.

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	"Ageing Globally – Ageing Locally" conference
Date:	23 rd September 2011
Reporting Officer:	Suzanne Wylie , Director of Health and Environmental Services ext 3260
Contact Officer:	Elma Greer, Environmental Health/Belfast Health Development Unit, ext 3386

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p><i>The World stands on the threshold of a stunning demographic transformation. It is called global ageing and it promises to reshape virtually every dimension of the economy and society over the next few years</i> Centre for Strategic and International Studies, <i>Global Ageing Preparedness Index</i> (2010).</p> <p>1.1 By 2041, the number of people aged 75 and over in both Northern and Southern Ireland is projected to reach almost 1 million, with 30% of the population aged over sixty. This shift will deeply impact on the personal, social and economic spheres of every society in the 21st Century. In addition, based on current trends, after the age of 65 the Northern Ireland population is expected to spend around half of their remaining years in poor health.¹</p> <p>1.2 Older people are among the population group most likely to live on a low income, with single pensioners at greater risk of low income than pensioner couples. 65% of households with one or more people over pension age in the Belfast Trust area have an income of less than £300 per week and 88% of lone pensioners are in this financial position².</p> <p>1.3 Recent research through the Northern Ireland Housing Executive³ found that owner occupation of houses for older people in Belfast is 55%. Health related fragility is a major reason for older people needing to move home and older households are more likely to occupy unfit homes.</p> <p>1.4 As a City we need to be prepared for an increasingly ageing society and plan for how this will affect us economically, socially and culturally e.g. as the number of retired people increases, the number of tax payers decreases and the costs of pensions, benefits and health care will also rise significantly.</p>

¹ 2010 Annual Report of Registrar General, NISRA

² Divided by Health: A City Health Profile, Belfast Healthy Cities: 2008

³ Future Need and Demand for Appropriate Models of Accommodation and Associated Services for Older People, NIHE: 2011

2	Key Issues
2.1	A major international conference, "Ageing Globally – Ageing Locally", is taking place in Dublin on 2 & 3 November 2011, hosted by the Centre for Ageing Research and Development in Ireland (CARDI).
2.2	Featuring a host of international experts as well as leading researchers and professionals from the ageing sector in Ireland, this event will explore a number of issues including how different countries address challenges and opportunities of population ageing, why global ageing matters to Ireland and how policy makers, business and service providers can best plan for changing demographics.
2.3	This event will promote the value and role of ageing-related research specifically for policy and practice. Learning from this conference will support the development of integrated approaches through the Belfast Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership and its links to the Belfast Strategic Partnership/Belfast Health Development Unit. One of the confirmed speakers is Sir Michael Marmot , Chair of the Commission on Social Determinants (World Health Organisation).
2.4	Each country must find its own answer to challenges brought by ageing populations. However, we can learn from each other and this conference will focus on exchanging ideas, successful strategies and practices.

3	Resource Implications
	<u>Financial</u>
3.1	The costs for attending the 2 day conference in Dublin including travel and accommodation are 450 Euro per delegate.

4	Recommendations
4.1	The Committee is asked to agree that the chair of the All Party Reference Group (or her nominee) and an officer from the Health and Environmental Services Department attend the conference in November 2011.

Documents Attached
Appendix 1: Conference brochure

1ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AGE-FRIENDLY CITIES

BUILDING THE WHO GLOBAL NETWORK

28TH - 30TH SEPTEMBER 2011 - DUBLIN, IRELAND

DRAFT CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the conference are to:

i) Strengthen the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities by:

- securing the attendance of a broad range of senior managers from municipal authorities across the world, including those not yet involved with the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities
- creating meaningful opportunities for participants to meet and forge working relationships with people from other age-friendly cities initiatives
- agreeing the principles, priorities and modus operandi of the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities

ii) Advance thinking and approaches on how to make cities more age-friendly by:

- providing useful presentations, case-studies, guidelines and other materials from leading-edge thinkers and leaders of successful initiatives
- considering models of how to address commonly shared challenges on the specific elements of the WHO Age-friendly approach (e.g. transport) and on implementing Age-friendly Cities programmes (e.g. formal recognition, accreditation, benchmarking)
- securing mayoral 'sign up' to a Dublin Declaration setting out the Principles of Age-friendly Cities

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

The conference programme is built around three main themes: *Social and Cultural Connectivity, Built Environment* and *Building Momentum for the WHO Global Age-friendly Cities initiative*. It consists of plenary and concurrent workshop sessions. Each plenary session addresses one of the main themes. Each set of workshops focuses on various aspects of each of the three themes. This is to facilitate delegates who may wish to 'track' in a concentrated way one of the main themes of the conference through their participation in the concurrent workshops.

DRAFT PROGRAMME - WEDNESDAY, 28TH SEPTEMBER 2011



<i>TIME</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>DETAILS</i>
0930 - 1030	REGISTRATION URBAN VILLAGE EXHIBITION OPENS	PRESENTATIONS BY VARIOUS CITIES OF THEIR AGE-FRIENDLY INITIATIVES IN AN INFORMAL 'MARKETPLACE' ENVIRONMENT TEA/COFFEE
1030 - 1100	OPENING SESSION	OFFICIAL OPENING WELCOME ADDRESS - DR JOHN BEARD
1100 - 1230	OPENING KEYNOTE SPEECHES 'Leadership and the challenge of developing age-friendly cities' "Transforming a City: the experience of Medellin, Colombia"	Ambassador James A Joseph , Professor of the Practice of Public Policy, Duke University, North Carolina and former US Ambassador to S. Africa Federico Gutierrez , former President of the Council, Medellin
1230 - 1400	ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS OPENING CEREMONY: GLOBAL VILLAGE EXHIBITION LUNCH	PRESENTATIONS BY VARIOUS CITIES CONTINUE
1400 - 1530	PLENARY SESSION 1: SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CONNECTIVITY 'Strengthening social and cultural connectivity within communities' 'Place and identity: fostering engagement and a sense of belonging'	Chris Phillipson , Professor of Applied Social Studies and Social Gerontology at the University of Keele, UK. Sheila Peace , Professor of Social Gerontology within the Faculty of Health and Social Care, The Open University, UK.
1530 - 1600	ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS BREAK	TEA/COFFEE

1600 - 1730

4 CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSIONS

SPEAKERS

CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSION 1: BUILDING THE LEADERSHIP ROLE OF OLDER PEOPLE

- Involving older people in decision making
- Valuing older people
- Developing inclusive communities
- New social roles for older people in the 21st century

Possible speaker from project in Chennai, India (tbc)

Maureen Gaffney Adjunct Professor of Psychology and Society, University College Dublin

CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSION 2: STRENGTHENING FACE TO FACE SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

- Solutions to loneliness and isolation
- Meeting information and communication needs

Tom Scharf, Professor of Social Gerontology and Director of the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology, NUI Galway

Second speaker (tbc)

CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSION 3: ACCESS, MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT

- Transport as a solution to marginalisation
- The business community as a change agent
- Learning from successful and innovative initiatives

Kathy Freund, President and Executive Director at ITN America

Second speaker from ARUP (tbc)

CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSION 4: RURAL AND REMOTE COMMUNITIES

- Challenges and benefits
- Innovative developments and solutions

First speaker (tbc)

Second speaker (tbc)

1930 - 2030

WELCOME RECEPTION



<i>TIME</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>DETAILS</i>
09.00-10.15	PLENARY SESSION 2: BUILT ENVIRONMENT	
	‘Shaping our cities creatively: promoting an age-friendly agenda’	Charles Landry , author and internationally recognised thinker and consultant on transforming cities and an international authority on creativity and the future of cities.
	‘What makes cities work for all of us as we age?’	Michael Mehaffy , noted researcher, author and consultant on cities, currently based at Arizona State University in Tempe, where he teaches at the Global Institute of Sustainability.
	ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS	
10.15 - 11.15	BREAK	TEA/COFFEE
	URBAN VILLAGE EXHIBITION	PRESENTATIONS BY VARIOUS CITIES CONTINUE
11.15 - 12.45	4 CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSIONS	SPEAKERS
	CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSION 1: PUBLIC SPACES	First speaker (tbc)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reclaiming public spaces Safety and security 	Takiko Okamoto , Professor at Meiji Gakuin University, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, Department of Social Work
CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSION 2: IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES	First speaker (tbc)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing an age-friendly Balanced Scorecard; other monitoring and evaluation tools Developing a Recognition Scheme Developing indicators 	Second Speaker, (tbc)	
CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSION 3: STRENGTHENING INTERGENERATIONAL LINKS	Alan Hatton-Yeo , Chief Executive, the Beth Johnson Foundation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding the connectors between generations Sharing places and spaces 	Second Speaker, (tbc)	

CONCURRENT WORKSHOP
SESSION 3: AGE-FRIENDLY
HOUSING AND THE BUILT
ENVIRONMENT

First speaker (tbc)

Second speaker (tbc)

- Creating age-friendly housing and neighbourhoods
- Designing for older people in the developing world

CONCURRENT WORKSHOP
SESSION 4: BUILDING
AGE-FRIENDLY INITIATIVES IN
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

First speaker (tbc)

Second speaker (tbc)

- The challenges particular to developing countries

19.30 - 22.30

DUBLIN DECLARATION SIGNING
CEREMONY

GALA NETWORKING RECEPTION

DRAFT PROGRAMME - FRIDAY, 30TH SEPTEMBER 2011



TIME	DESCRIPTION	DETAILS
08.30 - 09.30	GLOBAL VILLAGE EXHIBITION	PRESENTATIONS BY VARIOUS CITIES CONTINUE
09.30 - 10.15	PLENARY SESSION 4: BRINGING THE LEARNING BACK HOME	
	‘Building an International community of practice: learning from others’	Speaker (tbc)
	‘Developing agreed key indicators and exploring how to enable benchmarking across cities.’	Speaker (tbc)
	ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS	
10.15 - 10.45	BREAK	TEA/COFFEE
10.45 - 12.00	CONCURRENT SESSIONS	
	Delegates will meet initially in country/regional groups to discuss future developments in their own countries and the future of the Network.	
	They will also have the option to then ‘mix’ with other country/regional groups or topic based groups to explore the potential for further international collaboration.	
12.00 - 12.30	PANEL DISCUSSION AND CONFERENCE CLOSE	Panel members (tbc) Closing Speaker (tbc)
12.30 - 13.30	LUNCH	
14.00 - 19.30	VISIT TO AGE-FRIENDLY COUNTY INITIATIVE	DELEGATES WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT AN AGE-FRIENDLY COUNTY SITE, IN EITHER COUNTY LOUTH OR COUNTY KILKENNY.

GREYSTOCK FESTIVAL, KILKENNY
FRIDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER – SUNDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2011
 DELEGATES WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXTEND THEIR STAY
 AND PARTICIPATE IN THE 1ST GLOBAL FESTIVAL CELEBRATING
 AGEING.

CONFERENCE SPONSORS



Fáilte Ireland
National Tourism Development Authority

 *meetinireland.com*



SOUTHERN & EASTERN
Regional Assembly
Promoting Our Region



IRELAND WALES
2007 – 2013



Ireland's EU Structural Funds
Programmes 2007 - 2013

Co-funded by the Irish Government
and the European Union



**EUROPEAN REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT FUND**



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Northern Ireland Housing Executive – Consultation on the establishment of a Belfast City Centre waiting list
Date:	23 September 2011
Reporting Officer:	Peter McNaney, Chief Executive
Contact Officer:	Peter McNaney, Chief Executive

1.0	<u>Relevant Background Information</u>
1.1	<p>To bring to the attention of the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee details of a consultation document issued by Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) “The establishment of a Belfast city centre waiting list”. The closing date for responses is Friday 7th November 2011. This report summarises the consultation document for Members and outlines some key issues which Members may wish to consider.</p> <p>Members should note that the council Housing Forum received a presentation from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive in June 2011 on a “Proposed new city centre waiting list”.</p> <p>Members are advised that Maurice Johnston, Belfast Area Manager, NIHE, has offered briefings to the political parties should they find this helpful.</p>
1.2	<p><i>Summary of the Consultation Document</i></p> <p><u>Introduction</u></p> <p>Documentation issued by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive recommends the establishment of a new Common Landlord Area (CLA), which would be used to manage a waiting list of applicants seeking housing in the Belfast city centre area. The document states that the four main objectives of a city centre waiting list would be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To take advantage of development opportunities for social housing to address housing need 2. To contribute to Planning Services and DSD policies and strategies aimed at regenerating the city centre 3. To support the wider Good Relations agenda 4. To ensure that city centre living is an option for everyone in the wider Belfast area <p>The document outlines that the establishment of a city centre waiting list would allow the option of city centre living to be accessible to everyone on the waiting list for Belfast and the wider urban area.</p> <p><u>Current Situation</u></p> <p>The Housing Executive administers and maintains a Common Waiting List which is the ‘gateway’ into all social housing in Northern Ireland. Applicants applying for housing or requesting a transfer normally select two locations, known as Common Landlord Areas (CLAs), where they wish to be housed.</p> <p>The area which includes Belfast city centre is currently covered by eight district CLAs which were created in 2001 and are based on inner city single identity communities. These eight CLAs are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cromac/Markets, South Belfast ▪ Sandy Row, South Belfast

- Donegall Pass, South Belfast
- Carlisle New Lodge, North Belfast
- Carrick Hill, North Belfast
- Brown Square, Shankill
- Hamill/John Street, West Belfast
- Bridge End, East Belfast.

Housing Market Context

The document advises that recent research by the Housing Executive has identified potential for 11,500 apartments to be located in the city centre of which 3,900 are completed (3,000 private and 900 social), and 1,048 are under construction with a further 6,400 apartments with planning approval or planning applications pending. The document highlights that this has now created new opportunities for social housing.

A number of potential social schemes have been identified by the Housing Executive which will be delivered as either stand alone social housing schemes or as part of a larger comprehensive development site. The document highlights the following examples:

Stand Alone schemes identified

- 93 Great Victoria Street (57 apartments)
- The annex adjoining the Obel building (49 apartments)

Potential development sites identified

- Titanic Quarter
- Former Sirocco Works.

Options and their consideration

Three options were assessed in terms of meeting the objectives (outlined above):

Option 1 – Do Nothing

Does not address objectives 2, 3 or 4 and only partly addresses objective 1. For example in relation to the potential acquisition of accommodation for social housing in the Obel complex, with the current boundary arrangements allocations would be made solely to applicants on the Carlisle/New Lodge waiting list. Similarly, 93 Great Victoria Street (57 apartments) is currently located within Sandy Row (CLA).

Option 2 – Belfast City Centre including existing single identity communities

The boundary of the new Common Landlord Area (CLA) in this option mirrors the boundary of Belfast city centre as defined by Planning Service in the Belfast Metropolitan Plan (BMAP). The document states that this option only partially meets the objectives. It would assist in contributing to regeneration strategies and promoting shared space. However, it stresses that this option may be unacceptable to a large number of applicants who would wish to be housed in a particular single identity estate.

Option 3 – Belfast City Centre excluding single identity communities

This option is similar to option 2 but excludes the established single identity social housing estates outlined above.

The document considers that this option best meets all the objectives in terms of making the best use of development opportunities, assisting regeneration strategies and promoting shared space and widening the opportunity of living in the city centre. Applicants requesting rehousing in the city centre CLA would be considered for all new social housing and future relets for

schemes completed after 2011. The Housing Executive believes that this option would give applicants a definitive choice and clearly demarcates the city centre from the single identity CLAs surrounding the city centre.

The document recommends that a Belfast city centre waiting list is created on the basis outlined in Option 3.

2.0 **Key Issues**

2.1 **Points to consider**

The recommendation in the consultation to promote shared housing in the city centre is in line with current council policy objectives in creating a vibrant, inclusive and accessible city centre. As the elected body for Belfast, we provide leadership and strategic direction to shape, develop and manage the city. The promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations have been key objectives of the Council over the past few years, working in partnership to improve the overall city centre experience and its attractiveness.

Should Members wish to submit a corporate response they may wish to consider the points below:

- The Council has revised its Good Relations Plan for the next three years. The plan highlights that the Council believes that equality and good relations are central to economic regeneration; in order to attract talent, sustain inward investment, generate tourism and tackle poverty. One of the key principles of the plan is that the Council will work with other partners across the city to support initiatives that will consolidate existing shared spaces and create new shared spaces within the city.
- The Council has a very positive working relationship with the NIHE on a range of areas, including the promotion of good relations. We currently support the Housing Executive's Local Area Networks Programme, which seeks to link neighbouring communities across interface areas. This is supported through the council's Peace III funding programme. This proposal for city centre work would be a fruitful extension of this partnership.
- Members have highlighted the importance of a shared, welcoming and accessible city centre to economic growth and the success of the city. By encouraging and enabling people to live in the city centre, this will have implications for infrastructure and broader regeneration for residents to ensure the 'live-ability' in terms of access to appropriate facilities and services, e.g. playgrounds.
- Previously, the Council co-operated with the NIHE on the pilot Town Centre Living Initiative (also known as 'Living over the Shops') on arterial routes. Through this, we sought to animate arterial routes to put life back into the street and re-establish a community presence in the area, particularly after shop opening hours. On this rationale, the proposed approach will deliver similar outcomes such as increased perceptions of safety and increased footfall after dark in the city centre.

A fuller consideration of these issues, and any others highlighted by Members, would be given in the final response to the NIHE.

3.0 **Resource Implications**

N/A

4.0	Equality Implications
<p>EQIA Screening</p> <p>The Northern Ireland Housing Executive equality screened the consultation document with the following findings:</p> <p>The Equality screening concluded that there were some minor impacts identified but that these were addressed in Option 3. On that basis it was decided that an Equality Impact Assessment was not required.</p>	
5.0	Recommendations
<p>The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is asked to consider the consultation document attached at appendix 1 and to consider if it wishes to either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Authorise council officers to compile a full response to the consultation document based on the key issues highlighted in this report <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Refer to the Party Groupings on the Council for individual consideration and comment. 	
6.0 Documents Attached	
Appendix 1	Northern Ireland Housing Executive – Consultation on the establishment of a Belfast City Centre waiting list

Northern Ireland Housing Executive – Consultation on the establishment of a Belfast city centre waiting list, July 2011

Consultation on the establishment of a Belfast city centre waiting list.

July 2011

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to outline the analysis and recommend the establishment of a new Common Landlord Area (CLA), which would be used to manage a waiting list of applicants seeking housing in the Belfast city centre area.
- 1.2 The creation of a city centre waiting list has four main objectives;
- To take advantage of development opportunities for social housing to address housing need.
 - To contribute to Planning Service and DSD policies and strategies aimed at regenerating the city centre.
 - To support the wider Good Relations agenda.
 - To ensure that city centre living is an option for everyone in the wider Belfast area.
- 1.3 The downturn in the housing market has increased the opportunity to develop new social housing within Belfast city centre. However, the absence of a defined city centre waiting list restricts how new social housing can most effectively meet housing need and meet the objectives set out above.
- 1.4 Developing a city centre waiting list is integral to promoting shared housing in the city centre. It will assist in promoting shared living and shared space for all, irrespective of religion or ethnic background. It recognises that the city centre is not the sole preserve of those communities surrounding the city centre. The establishment of a city centre waiting list would allow the option of city centre living to be accessible to everyone on the waiting list for Belfast and the wider urban area.
- 1.5 This proposal introduces a new approach to the creation of a Common Landlord Area (CLA) and a detailed equality screening report is attached. (Appendix 1)

2.0 Current situation

- 2.1 The Housing Executive administers and maintains a Common Waiting List which is the 'gateway' into all social housing in Northern Ireland. Applicants applying for housing or requesting a transfer normally select two locations, known as Common Landlord Areas (CLAs), where they wish to be housed.

2.2 For administrative purposes the area which includes Belfast city centre is currently covered by eight distinct CLAs. These CLAs were created in 2001 reflecting previously long established Estate Allocation Areas and are based on inner city single identity communities. These eight CLAs are;

- Cromac/Markets, South Belfast.
- Sandy Row, South Belfast.
- Donegall Pass, South Belfast.
- Carlisle New Lodge, North Belfast.
- Carrick Hill, North Belfast.
- Brown Square, Shankill.
- Hamill/John Street, West Belfast.
- Bridge End, East Belfast.

These are set out in Map 1.

3.0 Strategic context

Living with diversity and difference in spatial planning terms is a central challenge for urban living around the world. The majority of UK cities have designed strategic policies to enhance inclusion and community cohesion.

3.1 Planning Context

The planning context for Belfast is set out in the Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland 2025; Shaping our Future and the Belfast Metropolitan Plan (BMAP) due to be adopted this year. Their objective is to create a thriving metropolitan hub centred on a revitalised Belfast city. The plans' housing strategies include the following aims;

- To accommodate as much housing as possible within the existing footprint rather than expansion of the suburbs.
- To create balanced local communities by providing housing choice through mixed tenures.
- To support the role of city and town centres, arterial routes and urban villages and encouraging city centre living.

3.2 Housing Market Context

Until recently residential property surrounding the city centre was either located in a number of long established single identity communities or was new luxury private residential developments concentrated in the Lagside locality.

The post millennium property boom was characterised by a rapid expansion of high density apartment developments on brownfield sites within the city centre. Recent research by the Housing Executive has identified potential for 11,500 apartments to be located in the city centre of which 3,900 are completed (3,000 private and 900 social), and 1,048 are under construction with a further 6,400 apartments with planning approval or have planning applications pending. The economic downturn which began in late 2007 slowed the expansion of high density residential development in the city.

This has created opportunities for social housing. A number of potential social schemes have already been identified. These new homes will be delivered either as stand alone social housing schemes, for example 93 Great Victoria Street (57 apartments) and the annex adjoining the Obel building (49 apartments) or as part of a larger comprehensive development site such as Titanic Quarter and the former Sirocco Works site in East Belfast.

3.3 City Centre Regeneration Context

Regeneration in Belfast city centre has been largely focused on comprehensive development of strategic schemes, such as Laganside, the Gasworks, Lanyon Place, the Victoria Centre and Titanic Quarter. DSD's Belfast City Centre Regeneration Strategy, while focusing on promoting and facilitating regeneration that reinforces economic development and improvement to the public realm, also recognises the potential for housing and inner city living as part of mixed used developments for individual 'Quarters', such as Northside and Westside. These envisage mixed tenure housing with the Housing Executive promoting shared future for social housing.

3.4 A Shared City Centre

At a strategic level, the promotion of good relations is a statutory duty under Section 75 (2). The Programme for Government for Northern Ireland prominently recognised the need to develop a shared and better future for all in Northern Ireland. The OFMDFM is currently considering the responses to the draft CSI (Cohesion, Sharing and Integration) Programme whose main focus is to tackle sectarianism, racism and hate and promote cohesion, sharing and integration for all sections of society. The programme aims to "build a strong community where everyone, regardless of race, colour, religious or political opinion, age, gender, disability or sexual orientation can live, work and socialise".

At a local level the Housing Executive and Belfast City Council have existing strategies to promote good relations, contribute to safer, stable neighbourhoods and promote a more inclusive society.

The establishment of a city centre waiting list could draw on a wide and diverse waiting list catchment and promote shared housing which will assist Belfast City Council in its strategy to secure shared city centre living and “to secure and expand the public places of the city, from which no citizen feels excluded and through which all citizens can travel freely and safely”

The provision of shared residential city centre space also aligns with the wishes of the community who have clearly indicated their preference to live in mixed communities (80% of those questioned in the NI Life and Times survey indicate they would prefer to live in mixed neighbourhoods)

4.0 Options and their consideration

- 4.1 A range of options including a ‘do nothing’ option and a number of permutations in terms of the scope and geographical boundary of a new city centre CLA were considered. Three options were assessed in terms of meeting the objectives. (See Maps 2 and 3)
- 4.2 **Option 1, Do Nothing.** The status quo does not address objectives 2, 3 or 4 and only partly addresses objective 1. The inadequacy of the existing arrangements can be highlighted on examination of the potential acquisition of accommodation for social housing in the Obel complex. The Obel development is located at Donegall Quay adjacent to Custom House Square and is clearly a city centre development. However, under the current boundary arrangements allocations would be made solely to applicants on the Carlisle/New Lodge waiting list. Similarly, 93 Great Victoria Street (57 apartments) is currently located within Sandy Row CLA. It is clear that these arrangements are not inclusive, sustainable or practical.
- 4.3 **Option 2, Belfast City Centre including existing single identity communities.** The boundary of the new Common Landlord Area (CLA) in this option mirrors the boundary of Belfast city centre as defined by Planning Service in the Belfast Metropolitan Plan (BMAP). This includes the 8 CLAs and the proposed social housing developments located within the city centre.
- 4.4 The boundary of this option is clearly defined and unambiguous. However, option 2 only partially meets the objectives in establishing a city centre waiting list. It would assist in contributing to regeneration strategies and promoting shared space. This option may be unacceptable to a large number of applicants who would wish to be housed in a particular single identity estate. Potentially, a Catholic household could be offered accommodation in Sandy Row/Donegall Pass or a Protestant household accommodation in the New Lodge. This could act as a barrier to attracting

new applicants to a city centre waiting list and again would be very difficult to manage on a practical level.

4.5 **Option 3, Belfast City Centre excluding single identity communities.** This option is similar to option 2 but excludes the established single identity social housing estates, Cromac/Markets, Carlisle New Lodge, Carrick Hill, Brown Square, Hamill/John Street, Sandy Row and Donegall Pass.

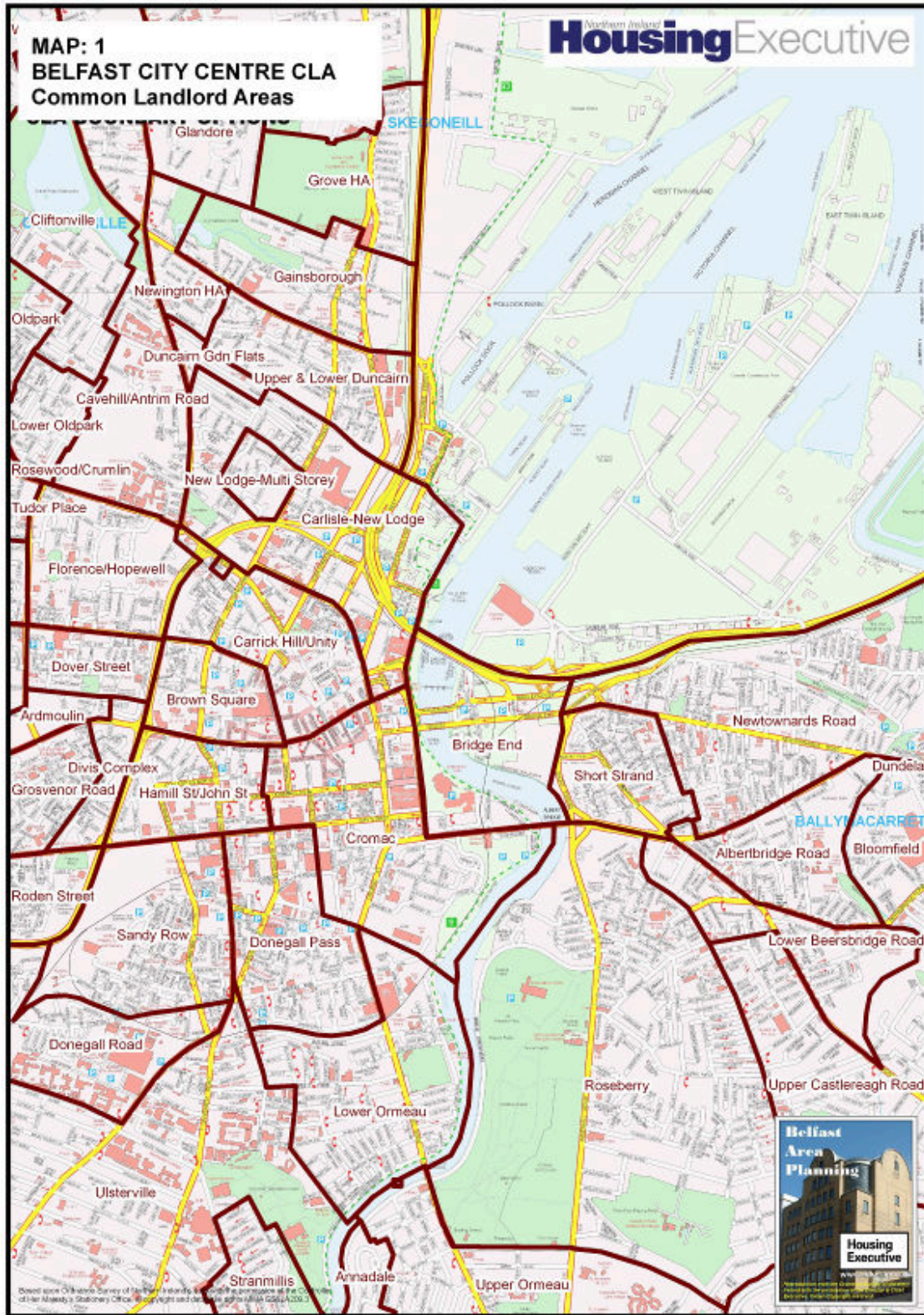
4.6 This option best meets all the objectives in terms of making the best use of development opportunities, assisting regeneration strategies and promoting shared space and widening the opportunity of living in the city centre. Applicants requesting rehousing in the new city centre CLA would be considered for all new social housing and future relets for schemes completed after 2011.

This option would give applicants a definitive choice and clearly demarcates the city centre from the single identity CLAs surrounding the city centre.

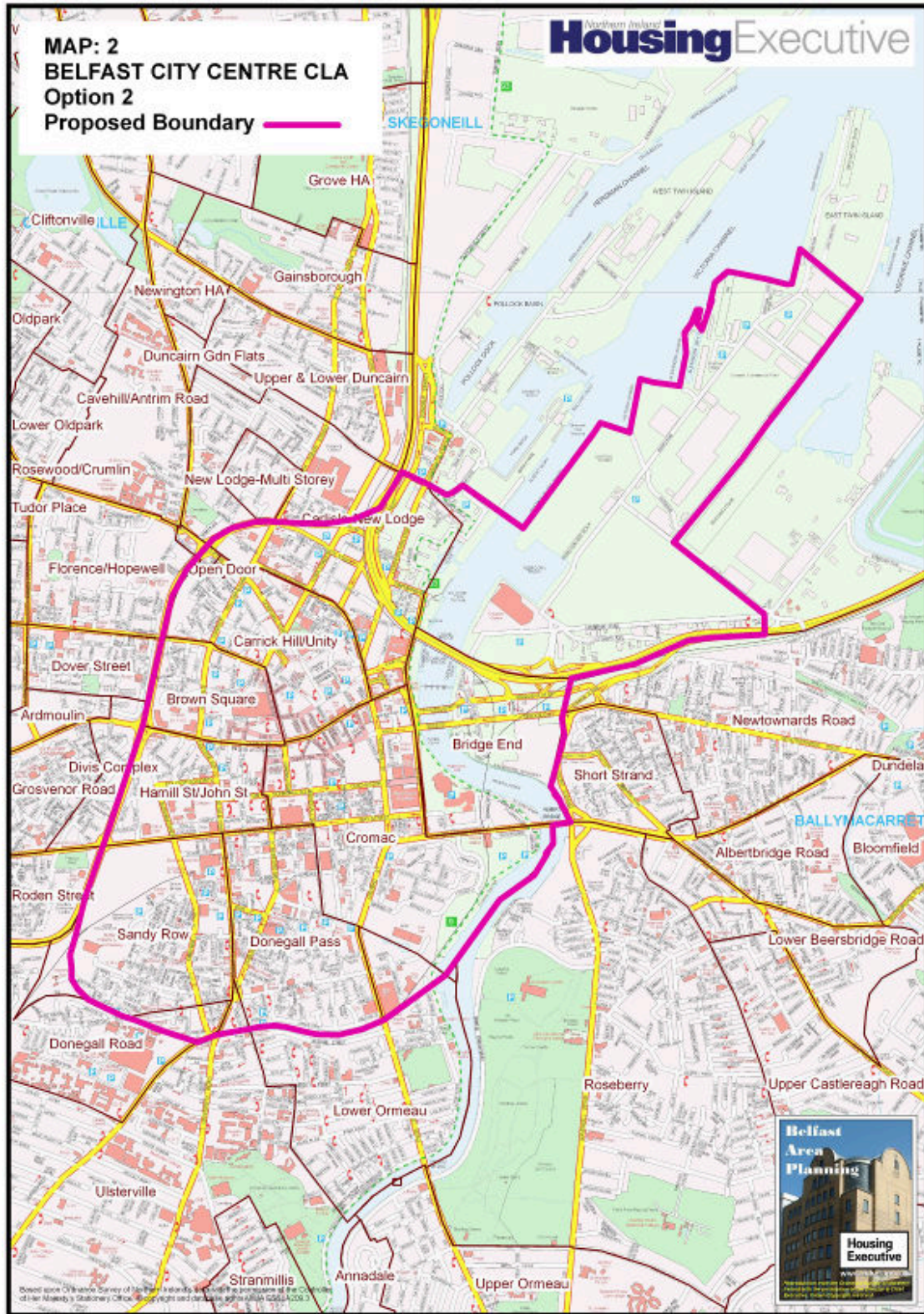
5.0 Recommendation

- 5.1 It is recommended that a Belfast city centre waiting list is created on the basis outlined in Option 3. It is believed that this proposal;
- allows social housing providers to take advantage of development opportunities and favourable market conditions
 - promotes shared living and Good Relations
 - supports existing city centre regeneration strategies
 - widens the opportunity for city centre living to the greater Belfast area
 - pays due regard to the promotion of equality of opportunity.

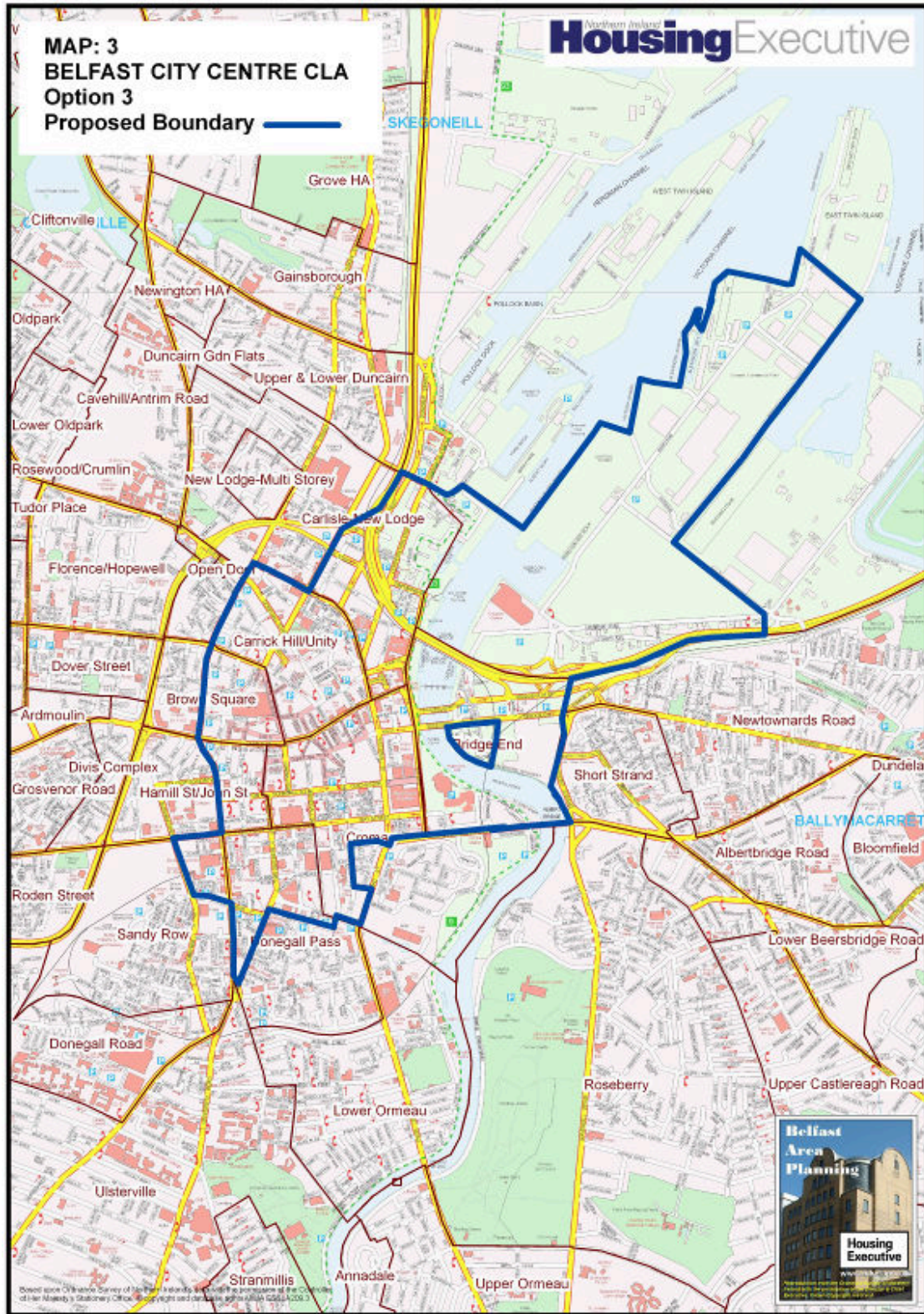
Northern Ireland Housing Executive – Consultation on the establishment of a Belfast city centre waiting list, July 2011



Northern Ireland Housing Executive – Consultation on the establishment of a Belfast city centre waiting list, July 2011



Northern Ireland Housing Executive – Consultation on the establishment of a Belfast city centre waiting list, July 2011



Northern Ireland Housing Executive – Consultation on the establishment of a Belfast city centre waiting list, July 2011

Appendix 1: Housing Executive Equality Screening Template:

This screening template is based on the Equality Commission template which was issued in April 2010.

The purpose of screening is to identify those policies that are likely to have an impact on equality of opportunity and/or good relations. Screening enables a public authority to identify those policies which are more relevant to the Section 75 statutory duties and on that account be considered for an equality impact assessment. It also helps to identify policies which offer better opportunities for the discharge of the Section 75 statutory duties for people in any of the equality or good relations categories.

This template acts as a record that the Housing Executive has taken equality of opportunity and/or good relations considerations into account.

Northern Ireland Housing Executive – Consultation on the establishment of a Belfast city centre waiting list, July 2011

Part 1. Policy scoping

This Screening Report should be read in conjunction with the Belfast City Centre Waiting List Board paper.

Information about the policy

Name of the policy

The establishment of a Belfast city centre waiting list.

Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?

Revised Policy

What is it trying to achieve? (intended aims/outcomes)

To create a Common Landlord Area (CLA) covering new housing opportunities in Belfast city centre. (Please see attached consultation paper for a more detailed explanation.)

Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?

If so, explain how.

This proposal will expand social and affordable housing opportunities in Belfast city centre, an area where this did not exist (to any significant level) before. Therefore this will benefit all people who would like the opportunity to apply to the waiting list for Belfast city centre. No Section 75 group will benefit significantly more than others.

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

Robin Hawe, Area Planning, Belfast Area

Who owns and who implements the policy?

Director of Corporate Services/Director of Housing and Regeneration

Implementation factors

Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?

NONE

If yes, are they:

Financial

Legislative

Other, please specify _____

Main stakeholders affected

Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy will impact upon?

Staff

Service users

Other public sector organisations

Voluntary/community/trade unions

Other, please specify _____

One of the objectives of this proposal is to ensure that the opportunity to live in a shared, safe city centre is open to as many people as possible from the Housing Executive's waiting list. On this basis the main stakeholders are the citizens of Belfast who have (now or in future) social housing needs.

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

What are they?

Internal:

- Housing Selection Scheme and Allocations
- Homelessness
- Supporting People
- Community Cohesion
- Strategic Guidelines for Social Housing Development Programme

External:

- Belfast City Council Good Relations Policy
- OFMDFM's pending Cohesion, Sharing and Integration Policy
- Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland

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Available evidence

Evidence to help inform the screening process may take many forms. Public authorities should ensure that their screening decision is informed by relevant data.

Section 75 category	Details of evidence/information
Religious belief	Waiting List and Allocations data
Political opinion	BCC Good Relations Strategy General Equality and Good Relations information
Racial group	Various BME reports including specific mapping studies
Age	Not relevant
Marital status	Not relevant
Sexual orientation	Not relevant
Men and women generally	Not relevant
Disability	General information and Liaison with Disability Representative groups
Dependants	General information and Liaison with Representative groups

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Needs, experiences and priorities

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular policy/decision? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories

Section 75 category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Religious belief	<p>The city centre is currently divided into administrative zones, each associated with the 8 bordering social housing Common Landlord areas. These CLAs are single identity areas (4 Protestant and 4 Catholic). Each of these areas perceives a territorial claim on the city centre zones linked with their CLA. If this current system remains then any new social housing allocations will be made to applicants who select the current Single identity areas. This will maintain these areas as single identity within the city centre.</p> <p>Conversely, this equality screening is conducted on the basis that the city centre CLA should be an area independent of other social housing areas, making it a unique choice for people who express a desire for living in the city centre.</p>
Political opinion	
Racial group	<p>The issue of safe, accessible, housing is important for minority ethnic people, migrant workers etc. Maintaining the current status of the 8 CLAs would restrict opportunities for minority ethnic households, many of whom have no specific ties to areas of Belfast but, for whom, living close to places of employment is vital.</p>
Age	No significant issues
Marital status	No significant issues
Sexual orientation	No significant issues
Men and women generally	No significant issues
Disability	<p>Physical accessibility and good design are important features for disabled people. These issues are not directly associated with this policy but it is important to take on board the principle that any new social housing opportunities in the city centre will be</p>

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	open to disabled people.
Dependants	It is important to note also that city centre living will involve high rise high density developments. This will not preclude families from living in these areas but private leisure space will be limited.

Part 2. Screening questions

Introduction

This section will determine whether there is a need to carry out an equality impact assessment.

The Equality Commission's guidance states that

*"If the public authority's conclusion is **none** in respect of all of the Section 75 equality of opportunity and/or good relations categories, then the public authority may decide to screen the policy out."*

*"If the public authority's conclusion is **major** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 equality of opportunity and/or good relations categories, then consideration should be given to subjecting the policy to the equality impact assessment procedure".*

*"If the public authority's conclusion is **minor** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 equality categories and/or good relations categories, then consideration should still be given to proceeding with an equality impact assessment, or to:*

- *measures to mitigate the adverse impact; or*
- *the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations."*

Screening questions

1 What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories? minor/major/none																																																		
Section 75 category	Details of policy impact					Level of impact? minor/major/none																																												
Religious belief	This impact screening considers the three options set out in the attached Board paper.																																																	
Political opinion	<p>The equality duty extends to all Catholics and all Protestants who have housing needs and have the potential to apply to the city centre CLA and not just those who have a link to this new area, by the virtue of the existing single identity CLA they have chosen. Option 1 (do nothing) fails to promote equality of opportunity for both Catholics and Protestants because it restricts housing allocations only to single identity CLAs.</p> <p>In terms of Option 2, of the single identity estates that makeup the 8 city centre CLAs, 4 are predominately Protestant and 4 are predominately Catholic. The religion/community background makeup of the combined waiting lists for these eight CLAs are set out below. (Table 1)</p> <p>Table 1: City Centre Waiting List</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>Catholic</th> <th>Other</th> <th>Protestant</th> <th>Undisclosed</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="6">P1A*'s on WL for Social Housing in 8 CLAs in Inner Belfast</td> <td>Number</td> <td>276</td> <td>67</td> <td>144</td> <td>135</td> <td>622</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mean Av Months</td> <td>35.6</td> <td>16.9</td> <td>23</td> <td>21.7</td> <td>27.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Median Av Months</td> <td>25</td> <td>11</td> <td>13</td> <td>11</td> <td>14.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mean Av Points</td> <td>65.3</td> <td>53.2</td> <td>32.3</td> <td>51.3</td> <td>53.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Median Av Points</td> <td>50</td> <td>30</td> <td>30</td> <td>30</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Religion of Top 100 Ranked by</td> <td>63</td> <td>8</td> <td>4</td> <td>25</td> <td>100</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>								Catholic	Other	Protestant	Undisclosed	Total	P1A*'s on WL for Social Housing in 8 CLAs in Inner Belfast	Number	276	67	144	135	622	Mean Av Months	35.6	16.9	23	21.7	27.7	Median Av Months	25	11	13	11	14.5	Mean Av Points	65.3	53.2	32.3	51.3	53.3	Median Av Points	50	30	30	30	30	Religion of Top 100 Ranked by	63	8	4	25	100
		Catholic	Other	Protestant	Undisclosed	Total																																												
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	Religion of Top 100 Ranked by	63	8	4	25	100																																												

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	Points					
	Religion of Top 40 Ranked by Points	27	4	0	9	40

* Position 1 Applicant

This clearly shows that the waiting list has a significantly higher number of Catholic households (276) when compared to Protestant households (144). The likely profile of offers based on 100 units becoming immediately available showed that 63 would go to Catholic households and only 4 to Protestant households (with 25 undisclosed).

Option 2 implies that the city centre is the preserve of only those areas that immediately abound it and is a barrier to other city dwellers from the choice of city centre living. Also with Option 2, any relets of existing accommodation and newbuild opportunities that arise in the existing housing estates that abound the city centre would be offered almost exclusively to Catholic households which includes traditional Protestant/Unionist areas like Sandy Row and Donegal Pass.

The existing waiting list for the eight CLAs in Option 2 does not have the capacity to sustain the potential additional supply of social housing that could be generated within the city centre area, as identified earlier in this paper.

This option would also fail to promote equality of opportunity for both Catholics and Protestants in the wider city as the unnatural merger of single identity areas with the new city centre dilutes the appeal of a new unassociated area. It also presents a risk that housing allocations could be made to a single identity area where the applicant may not feel secure.

A wider scenario, Option 3, was therefore considered, i.e. that the city centre living should be an optional choice for everyone who has made an application to the Common Waiting List for the wider Belfast Area. This was regarded as more reasonable as the city centre was not an optional choice for any applicant at the time they applied for housing. In this context, and particularly with Option 3, an assumption could be made, that the profile of those who would switch housing choice to the city centre CLA would mirror the general profile of the total Belfast city waiting list. Table 2 sets out the waiting list religion profile for this scenario.

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Table 2: Belfast City Waiting List Analysis							
		Catholic	Other	Protestant	Undis- closed	Total	
P1A's* on WL for Social Housing in 108 CLAs in Belfast Area	Number	4085	922	3478	1593	10,078	
	Mean Av Months	32.2	18.9	32.0	24.8	29.7	
	Median Av Months	21	11	17	11	16	
	Mean Av Points	67.0	51.9	40.5	43.9	52.8	
	Median Av Points	50	30	28	28	32	
	Religion of Top 100 Ranked by Points	53	11	21	15	100	
	Religion of Top 40 Ranked by Points	21	5	10	4	40	
<p>* Position 1 Applicants</p> <p>In this analysis the waiting list contains 4085 Catholic households and 3478 Protestant households. The likely profile of allocations (based on 100 units being immediately available) would be mixed to a level that would support and sustain shared living, i.e. 53 offers to Catholic households, 21 to Protestant and a further 26 to those others or undisclosed. Option 3 which defines a city centre exclusive of existing single identity housing estates also means that any new build will not be viewed as territorially owned by one single identity area or the other.</p> <p>This approach is clearly favoured. Option 3 provides the basis for marketing the city centre as a new and unique option, not tied in any way to existing housing areas. By offering the choice to all Belfast city applicants this also assumes that the city centre is open to and accessible to everybody.</p> <p>This option takes account of the duty to promote equality of opportunity for people of different religious backgrounds from the wider Belfast area. However, at the local CLA level, the single identity areas could argue that</p>							

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	<p>they are losing out on opportunities that they perceive as belonging territorially to them (as set out in Option 1 and to a degree in Option 2). In equality terminology this would represent an adverse impact particularly for Catholics, but only those in the 8 CLAs. This should be mitigated by the fact that so many more people, including Catholics, would benefit from the new city centre choice.</p> <p>CONCLUSION: MINOR IMPACT</p>	
Racial group	The recommended option (3) would ensure that the city centre option would recognise the specific needs of some BME groups, particularly migrant workers. Various research has shown that, quite often there is a reliance on walking or public transport to get to work.	CONCLUSION: NO IMPACT
Age	There are no significant age issues. Children's issue are considered under the DEPENDANTS section	CONCLUSION: NO IMPACT
Marital status	No issues	CONCLUSION: NO IMPACT
Sexual orientation	No issues	CONCLUSION: NO IMPACT
Men and women generally	No issues	CONCLUSION: NO IMPACT
Disability	<p>It is important to note that the size and design of social housing units would be determined by planning, DSD Design Guidelines and financial constraints. These are outside the influence of the Housing Executive or social housing providers involved in developing schemes.</p> <p>With regard to people with disabilities, physical accessibility standards will be designed into dwellings with bespoke design included for specific housing needs, where practicable. However all households, including those with disabled family members will be advised that city centre social housing will favour medium or high density living.</p>	CONCLUSION: NO IMPACT

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Dependants	The issue for families with children is similar. The choice of the city centre CLA will be available to them and any housing design could include three bedroom apartments or duplex dwellings. However, this type of provision restricts private leisure space (gardens). Applicants will be made aware of these considerations and the range of housing options available (outside the city centre) which would include less dense housing and/or housing with gardens.	CONCLUSION: NO IMPACT
2 Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories?		
Section 75 category	If Yes , provide details	If No , provide reasons
Religious belief		Option 3 pays due regard to promoting equality of opportunity with regard to these groups.
Political opinion		
Racial group		Option 3 pays due regard to promoting equality of opportunity between people from different racial groups.
Age		No significant issues
Marital status		No significant issues
Sexual orientation		No significant issues
Men and women generally		No significant issues
Disability		Option 3 pays due regard to promoting equality of opportunity between people with disabilities and those without.
Dependants		Option 3 pays due regard to promoting equality of opportunity between people with dependants and those without.

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3 To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? minor/major/none		
Good relations category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact minor/major/none
Religious belief	Option 3 provides the basis for marketing the city centre as a new and unique option, not tied in any way to existing housing areas. By offering the choice to all Belfast city applicants this also assumes that the city centre is open to and accessible to everybody. This approach aligns with Government's Cohesion agenda and with Belfast City Council's Good Relations Strategy. The effect will be to create the environment for better relations.	CONCLUSION: MINOR IMPACT
Political opinion		
Racial group	Option 3 provides the basis for a shared housing area with no identity ties to more traditional areas of Belfast.	CONCLUSION: MINOR IMPACT

4 Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?		
Good relations category	If Yes , provide details	If No , provide reasons
Religious belief	<p>The key objectives of this proposal include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support the Good Relations agenda, and Belfast City Council and OFMDFM's position on Community Cohesion. To ensure that city centre living is an option for everyone in the wider Belfast area. <p>Option 3 fulfils these objectives and therefore pays regard to promoting good relations.</p>	
Political opinion		
Racial group		

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Part 3. Screening decision

If the decision is not to conduct an equality impact assessment, please provide details of the reasons.

The equality screening concluded that there were some minor impacts but that these were addressed in Option 3.

On that basis the decision is that an Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

If the decision is not to conduct an equality impact assessment the public authority should consider if the policy should be mitigated or an alternative policy be introduced.

Option 3 pays due regard to the promotion of equality of opportunity and pays regard to the promotion of good relations. No further mitigations are necessary.

Part 4: Monitoring

Systems are in place to monitor the impact of this policy. Monitoring reports, based on the equality characteristics of waiting list applicants for the new CLA and allocations to the new CLA will be made available to Directors and the Board on a regular basis.

Part 5 - Approval and authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Tony Steed	Equality Unit Manager	
Approved by: Esther Christie	Assistant Director of Corporate Services	
Gerry Flynn	Assistant Director of Housing and Regeneration	

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