

Development Committee

Wednesday, 12th November, 2008

MEETING OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor M. Browne (Chairman);
the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor D. Browne); and
Councillors Attwood, Campbell, Convery, Crozier,
Cunningham, D. Dodds, Humphrey, B. Kelly, Kyle,
Lavery, C. Maskey, P. Maskey, McCarthy, McCausland,
Mhic Giolla Mhín and Rodgers.

In attendance: Ms. M. T. McGivern, Director of Development;
Ms. S. McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives;
Ms. C. Taggart, Community Services Manager;
Mr. T. Husbands, Managing Director of the
Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Halls; and
Mr. N. Malcolm, Committee Administrator.

Apology

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

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 7th, 15th and 27th October were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd November, subject to the omission of that portion of the minute of 15th October under the heading "George Best Belfast City Airport Forum" which, at the request of Councillor Rodgers, had been taken back to the Committee for further consideration.

Belfast City Centre Management Company

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

"Relevant Background Information

At a meeting of the Development Committee on 16th January 2008, Members decided to core fund Belfast City Centre Management Company £190,000 per year for two years commencing April 2008, subject to a satisfactory performance report after the first six months.

A copy of the BCCM Performance Report for the first two quarters of 2008/2009 is available on Modern.gov.

Key Issues

The work of BCCM covers three areas:

- Delivering direct City centre services:
- BCCM will deliver its own services, which add value to the City centre, e.g. City Centre Representatives, City Beat Policing, Radio Link, City Safe Crimewatch scheme.
- Facilitating and assisting in the delivery of its funders' City centre initiatives:
- BCCM will work 'on the street' (when requested and as directed) to assist with initiatives such as the Evening Economy, Independent Retail Training, retail benchmarking and gap analysis, Belfast in Bloom, Waste Management and Streets Ahead.
- Direct liaison with City centre Businesses:
- BCCM will provide strong communication links between the private sector businesses in the City centre and central and local government.

The report which Members received in January 2008 detailed that, in order to fully implement the business and programme activity of the 2008/2009 Operational Plan, BCCM needed additional human and financial resources. Specifically BCCM needed 3 additional City Centre Representatives for business liaison, 2 administrative assistants to support Board, Area Focus Group and Activity Group meetings and a suitably qualified accounts clerk. It was also envisaged that the duties and responsibilities of the Office Manager would be increased to include a Project Management role. These additional resources were needed for two reasons:

1. Existing operational staff were being utilised for administrative duties when they were sorely needed on operational business liaison duties.
2. With the opening of Victoria Square on 6th March 2008 the retail floor plate of the City centre increased by over 30%, representing some 200 new retail businesses.

As reported to the Committee in January 2008, BCCM's funding for the City Centre Representatives through the Community Safety Partnership was cut from £20,000 to £12,000.

The appointment of Administration Assistants, the Accounts Clerk and the extension to the Office Manager's job description have now been made.

A Finance and Audit Committee made up of representatives from the three BCCM shareholders, and including the Development Department's Business Support Manager, now meets bi-monthly to inspect BCCM's finances and financial systems and reports to the BCCM Board, which includes the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Development Committee.

The Performance Report available on Modern.gov shows that BCCM is delivering on all Key Performance Indicators within its Operational Plan.

With regard to funding:

- In the first six months of this financial year BCCM has leveraged income of £151,500 from Belfast Chamber of Trade & Commerce for Membership, Radio Link, Retail Crimewatch and private sector core funding. This compares to £96,000 for the whole of the previous year.
- BCCM, working with BCTC, has levied Chamber Members an additional £130,000 for an extended City Centre Promotional Campaign to be delivered between October and December this year. These funds are being allocated as follows:
 - £50,000 to BVCB for marketing Belfast
 - £60,000 investment in new festive lighting
 - £20,000 investment in street animation & entertainment

Resource Implications

The Belfast City Centre Management Company is seeking confirmation of £190,000.00 per annum core funding for two years commencing April 2008

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

1. Note the details of the BCCM Performance Report for the first two quarters of 2008/2009.
2. Approve annual funding for BCCM of £190,000 per year for two years commencing April 2008.

Key to Abbreviations

BCCM – Belfast City Centre Management
BCTC – Belfast Chamber of Trade & Commerce”

The Committee was advised that representatives of the Belfast City Centre Management Company were in attendance and Mr. Billy McGivern and Ms. Geraldine Duggan were admitted to the meeting and welcomed by the Chairman.

Mr. McGivern thanked the Committee for providing Belfast City Centre Management with an opportunity to address the Committee. He informed the Committee that the Company had met its targets and had been successful in obtaining considerably more income from traders in the City centre than had been the case previously. He advised the Members of a number of the schemes which had been developed by Belfast City Centre Management, including the Retail Crimewatch Scheme which had resulted in a 51% reduction in average stock loss due to shoplifting and the Belfast Against Night-Time Disorder Scheme which was aimed at dealing with troublemakers in licensed premises and which was being piloted in the Odyssey complex.

The representatives of the Company responded to a number of questions which were put to them by the Members.

The members of the deputation requested that the Committee agree to contribute an amount of £190,000 per annum to the Belfast City Centre Management Company during the two-year period commencing April 2008.

The deputation then withdrew from the meeting.

Following discussion in the matter, the Committee noted the information which had been provided by the representatives of Belfast City Centre Management and agreed to provide financial assistance of £190,000 per annum to the Company for the two-year period commencing April 2008.

Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Centre - Extension of Funding

The Community Development Manager reminded the Committee that the Council supported organisations which provided generalist advice through five area-based consortiums, on the understanding that all of the groups within the consortiums were affiliated to Advice Northern Ireland or Citizens Advice.

She reminded the Committee further that, in February 2006, an application for advice funding from the Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Centre had been rejected on the following grounds:

- (i) that the organisation was not a generalist provider since it provided specialist advice; and
- (ii) it was not affiliated to Advice Northern Ireland or Citizens Advice.

The Centre had submitted an appeal which had been rejected. However, the former Community and Recreation Committee, which had responsibility for Community Services at that time had agreed, at its meeting on 17th October, 2006, due to extenuating circumstances, notably the withdrawal of Central Government funding, to provide the Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Centre with funding of £14,600 during the 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 financial years and to offer support in-kind to the Centre in order to assist it to overcome its administrative difficulties. This support had been provided to enable the organisation to address concerns which had been raised by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety so that they might be able to re-apply for such funding from the Department.

The Community Development Manager reported that in the intervening period Community Services Officers had met with the Centre staff to offer support and guidance. However, the group had made little progress in addressing its administrative and financial difficulties and, in spite of the funding which had been provided by the Council, the Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Centre was considered to be insolvent, since the group's audited accounts for the period 2006/2007 noted that "the company incurred a net loss of £30,619 with the company's current liabilities exceeding its total assets of £58,662". In addition, due to the inability to pay for an auditor, the accounts for the 2007/2008 year had not been prepared.

She advised the Committee that the Centre had requested the Council to provide financial assistance of £14,600 in the current financial year. However, due to the Development Department's Grant Review, Community Services Advice Funding Grants were not currently open for application. Furthermore, the reasons why the Centre's application had been rejected previously still applied, in that it offered specialist advice and was not affiliated to Advice Northern Ireland or Citizens Advice. Accordingly, she recommended that the request from the Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Centre be rejected.

Following a lengthy discussion in the matter, during which the Committee indicated that it was supportive of the important work which the Centre undertook, it was

Moved by Councillor Convery,
Seconded by Councillor B. Kelly,

That the Committee agrees to defer consideration of the matter to enable legal and other advice to be obtained with a view to the matter being considered further at a special meeting of the Committee.

Amendment

Moved by Councillor Crozier,
Seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor D. Browne),

That the Committee agrees to provide the necessary resources to enable the Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Centre's accounts to be audited so that the actual financial state of the organisation could be ascertained before any decision was taken regarding its request for funding.

On a vote by show of hands six Members voted for the amendment and eleven against and it was accordingly declared lost.

Accordingly, the original proposal standing in the name of Councillor Convery was thereupon put to the meeting when eleven Members voted in favour and two against and it was accordingly declared carried.

George Best Belfast City Airport Forum

Appointment of Council Representatives

The Committee Administrator reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 15th October, it had agreed that it be represented on the George Best Belfast City Airport Forum by the Chairman (or his nominee), together with an appropriate Officer. However, that decision had been taken back at the Council meeting on 3rd November at the request of Councillor Rodgers.

He explained that it had been thought that the appointment of Members to the Forum was a matter for the Health and Environmental Services and Development Committees. However, at the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2005, following the Local Elections, Members had been appointed using the d'Hondt system of proportionality to a number of outside bodies, including the Belfast City Airport Forum. These positions were to be held until the date of the Local Government Elections in June 2009. At that time, Councillor Newton had been appointed to the Forum.

He stated that the Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 19th August, 2005, had authorised the Head of Committee and Members Services to continue the application of the d'Hondt process to determine the filling of appointments to outside bodies during the current Council term. Accordingly, in June 2006 when the Council had been awarded an additional seat on the National Association of Councillors Northern Ireland Region it had been filled by Sinn Fein, which was the Party Grouping entitled to the next vacancy under the d'Hondt system. Therefore, although the George Best Belfast City Airport Forum had indicated that it wished Councillors from the Health and Environmental Services and the Development Committees to sit on the body, the d'Hondt process would have to be followed. Accordingly, Councillor Newton would remain as one of the Council's representative on that body and the additional seat would be allocated under d'Hondt to the Social Democratic and Labour Party Grouping. In light of this, it would be necessary for the Committee to rescind its decision of 15th October appointing the Chairman (or his nominee) to the Forum, although the decision regarding the Officer appointment would not require to be changed.

The Committee noted the information provided and agreed to rescind its decision appointing the Chairman (or his nominee) to the George Best Belfast City Airport Forum.

Community Group Representation

The Director of Development reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 15th October, it had requested information regarding the names of the representatives of the community groups which were represented currently on the Airport Forum and the process by which they had been appointed to the Forum.

She informed the Committee that, under the original Airport Forum constitution, the undernoted representatives from community groups within the Council area had been appointed:

Fiona McKinley – Park Road and District Residents' Association
Muriel Ellis – Sydenham Environmental Group
Lewis Lee – Inverary Environmental and Residents' Group

According to the Forum's proposed revised constitution, community groups from East Belfast would be entitled to a maximum of three representatives and those from South Belfast one representative. The groups would decide on who would represent them on the Forum and those persons would feed back to and represent the collective concerns of the groups. She assured the Committee that the management of the Airport would not be involved in the process of nominating the individual community representatives.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided by the Director.

Appointment of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Forum

Arising from discussion on the previous matters, a Member expressed concern that the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Airport Forum would be appointed by the management of the Airport, rather than through a public appointments process. He informed the Members that, when similar concerns had been raised at the meeting of the Health and Environmental Services Committee on 5th November, the Environmental Health Manager had undertaken to make the Airport Forum aware of that Committee's views that the appointments of the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman should be made using a public appointments process with expressions of interest being sought by way of public advertisement. He requested that the Development Committee support this position.

The Committee agreed to support the position adopted by the Health and Environmental Services Committee in relation to the appointment of the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Airport Forum.

Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development's Economic Review of Belfast Update

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of an update report regarding the Economic Review of Belfast which had been undertaken recently by the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development to enable further information to be obtained.

Annual Events Programme for 2009/2010

The Head of Economic Initiatives reminded the Committee that during the previous fifteen years the Council had developed an annual programme of events. Each year these had attracted over 250,000 people to Belfast and had generated in the region of £6 million additional economic activity for the City. She informed the Members that the proposed programme of events for the 2009/2010 financial year would be as follows:

Event	£
St Patrick's Day	120,000
Titanic	152,500
Lord Mayors Parade	15,500
Maritime	250,000
Opera in the Gardens	88,600
Proms in Park	80,500
Garden Gourmet	75,000
Halloween	150,200
Christmas	170,000
New Years Eve	250,000
Major Sports Events and Bidding	110,000
Marathon	30,000
Fencing	45,000
Indoor Athletics	20,000
Horse Show	20,000
Nomadic	100,000
Economic Surveys	35,000
Support for Sport - Events Funding	87,500
Sail Training	42,250
	1,842,050

After discussion, the Committee approved the annual events programme for 2009/2010 and its associated funding.

Review of the Development Strategy for Northern Ireland

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“Relevant Background Information

The August Development Committee considered a report on a range of planning and transportation issues that included information in respect of the Regional Development Strategy review and proposed areas or issues of focus for the Council.

The Minister for Regional Development in his original announcement stated that this would be a '*fundamental review of the regional development strategy*' and that the new strategy would be different '*it will be relevant to key stakeholders and flexible enough to deal with changing circumstances, yet robust enough for decision-making; it will set priorities and list a selected number of key infrastructure projects that are essential for economic growth; it will take account of, and be relevant to, structures and functions that emerge from the review of public administration; and it will take account of the many changes that are happening around us*'.

The RDS is likely to become an increasingly important statutory document both for the continued development of Belfast within the wider region and in setting the strategic context for exercising local planning functions. Council engagement in the review process will be critical to ensure the document reflects the aspirations for the City and provides an appropriate context for the future development of local planning policy following the Review of Public Administration.

As previously identified a range of consultation and engagement mechanisms were being developed by the Department for Regional Development including investigation of the potential for public consultation sessions.

Key Issues

The RDS is proposed to become an increasingly important statutory document within the planning system in Northern Ireland. Council engagement in the review process will be critical to ensure that the importance and role of the City to the development of Northern Ireland continues to be recognised and that the potential remains for the development of local planning policies to support the sustainable development of the City. These two key aspects, associated local issues and trends were identified in the previous report as forming the basis for engagement in the process (Appendix 1).

These issues and trends will need to be addressed as part of a detailed response to the 10 year review of the Regional Development Strategy and should form the basis for the development of a robust position in response to the ongoing consultations. There will be both informal and formal opportunities to respond to the proposals, in the period leading up to the publication of the proposed consultation draft early next year, through the ongoing participation in the established working groups and any proposed consultation events.

A local consultation workshop to inform the 10 year review has been organised for 4th December 2008 at the Northern Ireland Science Park. The consultation workshop will form part of a series of eleven events across the Province and will be facilitated by Charles Landry. These events are intended to provide the opportunity to influence the direction and emphasis within the Regional Development Strategy.

In the context of the potentially heightened role for the Regional Development Strategy post RPA and the integration with the Programme for Government / NI Investment Strategy it is critical that the Council participates in the workshops and highlights the importance of the continued sustainable development of the City as the driver of the region.

This Council participation and engagement will be critical to ensure there is balance to the pressure for the uncontrolled decentralisation of economic activity, which is emerging as an unsophisticated response to the aspiration for 'balanced' economic growth for the region. The representation at the workshop should include both Officers and Members from the Council to ensure that a common agenda for the continued growth and development of the City is presented at the workshop.

Resource Implications

Financial

There will be associated costs, ie travel and attendance, for those Members and Officers attending the consultation workshop at NISP.

Recommendations

- Committee endorses the information set out in Appendix 1 as the basis for the Council engagement in the ongoing Regional Development Strategy review process;
- Committee are asked to note the proposed consultation workshop and approve any travel and associated costs for any Members of the Committee and appropriate Officers wishing to attend this event.

Documents Attached

Appendix 1: Basis for Council Engagement in the RDS Review.

APPENDIX 1

City and Region

The Assembly debate at the time of the announcement and subsequent discussions as part of the initial consultation have highlighted the tensions around the perceived issues of regional disparity and the fundamental nature of the review highlights the necessity for the effective engagement to ensure the continued RDS recognition of Belfast as the "*economic engine for the Region as well as being the regional centre for administration, specialised high order services and cultural amenities*".

This issue and the interdependence of regional cities with their hinterland was specifically addressed in the work commissioned from the OECD, which in turn formed an important part of the recent State of the City Conference. Professor Peter Tyler, Director of Studies in Land Economy at St Catherine's College in the University of Cambridge, presented key findings for Belfast from the OECD which concluded that:

- the success of Northern Ireland and quality of life for all citizens over the next 25 years will crucially depend upon the success of Belfast. (This echoes the message of previous State of the City Conferences which showed Belfast to be NI's regional driver like other cities in other GB regions) Belfast is a major hub for both business and employment and any failure to fully exploit its potential will negatively impact on surrounding areas.
- the City should not be perceived to be in competition with other parts of Northern Ireland but rather as a gateway for trade, employment, services and visitors and as a magnet for private sector investment.
- the recent Programme for Government twin objectives of securing enhanced economic growth, whilst at the same time promoting social inclusion and equality across the region and its individual parts were consistent with the City's own objectives.

The OECD evidence-based report would usefully inform the review of the Regional Development Strategy that seeks to set directions for the location of jobs, houses, businesses, public services and facilities across the whole region. This evidence-based approach will become increasingly important as the Regional Development Strategy continues to evolve and becomes more closely linked to public infrastructure investment with the flexibility to accommodate economic growth.

Regional Development Strategy and Local Planning / Strategy

The Minister stated that the RDS will be a means to an end rather than an end in itself. This statement reflected what would be a more involved role for the plan and Department "*that must concern implementation, and the actions and priorities necessary to deliver the vision*". From the announcement it was clear that the Minister considered that the revised strategy would have clearer linkages to other planning mechanisms which "*must set out how connections could be made to deliver a more sustainable future development*".

This suggests a greater role for the strategy in informing how places are shaped and developed at a local level. The approach to the review provides the opportunity to develop a new form of working between the strategic and local planning levels, which could reflect the potential structures that may evolve as part of the Review of Public Administration.

The statement recognises the need to take account of structures emerging as part of the Review of Public Administration and whilst regional planning and policy statements will remain a Central Government function, it accepts that relationships with local planning and development management must be structured in an efficient and effective way.

The benefits of this new more integrated approach is recognised in the findings of the five year review and is highlighted in the consideration of the relationship between the RDS and the Investment Strategy. Whilst the potential benefits of the better integration are clear the details in relation to the future statutory relationships between the Regional Development Strategy and local planning/plans will need careful consideration to ensure the retention of a degree of autonomy.

The five year review highlighted that the RDS did not have the influence that was anticipated due to a combination of factors, including insufficient detail and clarity on matters such as housing need, rural development and the growth of cities and towns. There will be a direct relationship between the level of prescriptive detail in the RDS and the degree of local autonomy that may be available to local planning authorities in relation to local policy and the scale of potential development.

Trends and Local Issues

In relation to the specific past development and existing trends a number of issues could be identified through the monitoring of the RDS:

- A decline in the population in the Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area but growth in population of small settlements and open countryside in rural NI.
- A predicted growth in overall population in NI and increase in the number of households which will continue to drive the need for additional houses.
- Despite the economic growth, working age inactivity is higher than any region in the UK, innovation levels and entrepreneurial activity are comparatively low and infrastructure needs further upgrading.

- The trend of increasing number of vehicles in the region continues and the public transport use altered little between 2001 and 2004.
- In 2005, road transport accounted for 31% of the regions CO2 emissions, compared to 19.1% of the UK's CO2 emissions.

The approach adopted for the RDS and the level of detail in relation to policies and targets to address these trends and past development could have implications for the development of the city. The Council in engaging with the review process needs to be cognisant of the potential RDS implications for Council aspirations in relation to:

- The maintenance and development of the role of Belfast as the regional centre;
- The integration of the City into wider development strategies that address the regional balance of Northern Ireland;
- The location of key infrastructure projects required for the Belfast Metropolitan area and their prioritisation including waste management;
- The context for the proposed transfer of local planning functions through RPA;
- The potential for population-led regeneration and continued growth;
- The continued growth of Belfast as a sustainable, vibrant, modern and compact City;
- The ability and measures to address the need for social and affordable housing;
- The promotion of public transport and the reduction in the use of the private car;
- The improvement and management of air quality; and
- The ability to respond to issues of climate change and sustainability

These issues and trends will need to be addressed as part of a detailed response to the 10 year review of the Regional Development Strategy. There will be both informal and formal opportunities to respond to the proposals, in the period leading up to the publication

of the proposed consultation draft early next year, through the ongoing participation in the working groups and any proposed consultation events.”

The Committee adopted the foregoing recommendations.

Community Festivals Fund

Councillors Crozier, Humphrey, B. Kelly, P. Maskey, McCarthy and McCausland declared an interest in this matter in that organisations with which they were involved had been awarded grant-assistance under this scheme and they left the room whilst the matter was under discussion.

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“Relevant Background Information

The Development Committee considered reports in January, April and August regarding the proposed transfer of Community Festivals Funding from the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) to Local Authorities. DCAL awarded a grant of £77,300 to Belfast City Council. At the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in May, it was agreed to commit £120,000 to a Community Festivals Fund, with a request to DCAL that they consider increasing further their contribution to match that from the Council, whilst accepting the original award from DCAL to manage and distribute the Community Festivals Fund in the Belfast area. The total Fund value therefore for Belfast is £197,300 within which an operating budget of 10% (£19,730) has been set aside, leaving an amount available for distribution of £177,570.

At the Development Committee in August, Members agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Development to award grants under the Community Festival Fund. Members also agreed to engage an external consultant as lead assessor, to manage the fund evaluation and assessment process. Through a tender process, Julianne McCormick Associates were appointed as Lead Assessors. It was further agreed that minimum and maximum levels of financial offers from the Fund were £2,500 and £10,000 respectively.

Due to the tight timescale for distribution of the funds, DCAL gave permission for Belfast to make a single call instead of the originally proposed quarterly tranches. A single call was therefore made for festivals that were due to take place from 1 October 2008 to 31 March 2009. The scheme was opened from 2 to 19 September 2008. Council launched a campaign to advertise and promote the scheme through public adverts placed in the three main newspapers. In addition, posters were distributed to community centres as well as information posted on relevant websites and e-bulletins. The external

evaluator and Arts Development Officer attended 7 information sessions that took place throughout the City, attended by approximately 50 representatives from various community and arts organisations. The Culture and Arts Unit fielded approximately 100 telephone calls and e-mails from organisations requiring further support and advice.

Key Issues

Twenty-four applications were received with twenty-one organisations awarded a grant. The remaining three organisations were considered ineligible against the established criteria. The total cost of funding the recommended festivals is £162,774 (approx 82%). £14,796 remains unspent and is held back as contingency for the appeals process. Nineteen of the twenty-one applications have been recommended to be awarded the full grant requested. The two remaining organisations, Upper Andersonstown Festival and Walkway Community Centre budgets contained unjustifiable costs, which were deducted from amount requested.

It is notable that all successful applicants met the criteria to a high degree. Indeed, the new scheme has created a high degree of interest, as new festivals represent approx 50% of total applications. Audience and participant figures are estimated to be in the region of 70,000, which is a very positive contribution to audience development, cultural tourism and to the wider economy. In addition, these positive benefits have been achieved for a spend of £2.32 per head, offering extremely good value for money.

On 30 September the DCAL Minister Gregory Campbell responded to Belfast City Council's request to match fund that of Council's contribution for the Community Festivals Fund. The Minister has since requested that the Council justify the increased need for funding. The Director has made a written response outlining the rationale and that Belfast City Council presents a justifiable case with a clear need and demand for increased allocation. The Director has also requested that the Minister consider a decision before the scheme opens again in January 2009.

In order for the Community Festivals Fund 2009/2010 to be administered appropriately, it will be necessary for the scheme to be opened in January 2009. Under the conditions laid out by DCAL's in the original letter of offer, Council is required to deliver the Community Festival Fund in four quarterly tranches (an exception was made in 2008/2009 due to timescale for delivery) in the forthcoming year.

It is estimated that a minimum of 86 applications for the Community Festival Fund will be received in the 2009/2010 financial year for Belfast. This is based on an assessment of the previous levels of festivals' activity, recent experience of the current Community Festivals Fund and the increased interest in community festivals development. Through research, it has been established that more community festival activity takes place during spring/summer months, with less need or demand in the autumn/winter months. Therefore Members are asked to consider whether allocated spend of the Fund be determined on a percentage of need basis.

Resource Implications

Financial

The total value for the Community Festival Fund 2008/2009 is £197,300. From this an operating budget of 10% £19,730 has been set aside for the administration of the scheme. The total cost of funding the recommended festivals is £162,774. £14,796 remains unspent and is held back as contingency for the appeals process.

The total value of the Belfast Community Festival Fund 2009/2010 has yet to be confirmed; Council has requested that DCAL notify Council prior to the opening of the new scheme and to match fund that of Council which is estimated at £120,000. If successful the total Fund would be £240,000. From this, an operating budget of 10%, £24,000, will be set aside for the administration of the scheme, leaving £216,000 to be awarded.

Human Resources

There are implications for additional staffing resources required to administer the proposed Fund and it is therefore recommended to engage an external consultant to act, as in 2008/9, as lead assessor to manage the Community Festival Fund evaluation and assessment process. The associated costs will be met from the £24,000 which the Council is allowed to use to administer the Fund.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members note the contents of the above report and agree to:

1. Open the Community Festival Fund 2009/2010 in January 2009.
2. Determine the allocation of spend of the fund on a percentage of need basis over quarterly tranches.

3. Engage an external consultant as lead assessor to manage the CFF evaluation and assessment process.

Abbreviations

CFF Community Festival Fund
DCAL Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations contained within the report and noted that the following organisations had received grant-assistance:

Organisation	£
ArtsEkta	10,000
Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival	10,000
Chinese Welfare Association	10,000
Corpus Christi Youth Club	5,809
Feile an Phobail	10,000
Glor na Mona	9,201
Greater Village Regeneration Trust	10,000
Indian Community Centre	8,000
Loughside Football Association	4,947
Lower North Belfast Community Council	10,000
Mandarin Speakers' Association	10,000
Moving on Music	4,000
New Lodge Arts	9,930
Sandy Row Community Forum	5,000
South Belfast Partnership Board	8,633
St. Oliver Plunkett Luncheon Club	2,702
The Beat Initiative	10,000
Ulster-Scots Heritage Council	6,000
Upper Andersonstown Festival Group	6,632
Walkway Community Centre	4,920
White City Community Development Association	7,000

**Transfer of the Management of the Former
Laganside Corporation's Assets**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“Relevant Background Information

Committee will be aware that, in line with the Laganside Corporation Dissolution Order (Northern Ireland) 2006, the Laganside Corporation ceased to exist from 1st April 2007 and responsibility for all of their assets passed to the DSD from this date.

At a Special Meeting of the Development Committee on 16th May 2007 the Director of Development sought direction from the Committee on the approach the Council should adopt in considering taking responsibility for the management of the former Lagan-side Assets.

The Committee agreed that a Memorandum of Understanding should be developed between the Council and DSD in relation to their potential roles and responsibilities, including funding arrangements.

Key Issues

DSD are seeking the approval of BCC to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with them for an initial one year period. During this period discussions will have been completed over complete transfer of the Assets to BCC in line with the Review of Public Administration implementation.

BCC will be responsible for the implementation of five service level agreements with DSD. The five proposed service level agreements are:

1. The River Lagan to include the Lagan Weir also to include the operation of the river itself and looking after navigational issues. The management of the River Lagan and Weir will require the secondment of the River Manager and River Warden to BCC. A close working relationship has been established with the River Manager through the Development Department's work on the Lagan Canal Project.
2. The management and maintenance of Public Realm and Public Art.
There is currently a Service Level Agreement (S.L.A.) in place, between Parks and Cemeteries Service Section, Belfast City Council and DSD for Public Realm sites and Lagan-side designated area. Once BCC is responsible for the management of the sites an S.L.A. would be put in place between Development Department and Parks and Cemeteries Service Section. All aspects of work currently requiring DSD approval would now be approved by Development Department who will step into the shoes of DSD. Repairs and maintenance of the public art projects generally require individual contact with the art designers as repairs and maintenance can be unique to each individual piece. Details of the contractual agreements with artists for each piece can be managed within the Development Department.

3. **The management and maintenance of workspace buildings.**
BCC Development Department has taken part in a survey of the Cathedral Quarter Managed Workspaces as part of a review of the Managed Workspaces undertaken by BDO Stoy Hayward on behalf of DSD. DSD have a management agreement with Whelan Chartered Surveyors who provide a Property Management Service and are the link between DSD and the occupiers of the buildings. The Development Department's Estates resource can again take on the DSD role of responsibility for the budget/policy and strategy for the workspace buildings.
4. **The management of the Lagan Lookout and Visitors Centre.**
The Lagan Lookout and Visitors Centre are currently not open to the public, DSD's regeneration and planning consultants, Drivers Jonas are currently preparing a feasibility report for redevelopment of the Lookout building, increasing the size of the pontoon facility, improvements to the footbridge and the surrounding public realm. The location of the facility provides a welcome addition to the tourism product of the City centre and opens up many opportunities to be used as an educational and significant visitor attraction. The S.L.A. to be developed with DSD will have to factor in the output of the feasibility study.
5. **Managing grants for Community-Based Organisations.**
DSD currently has grants for events and community activities – The future administration of these grants have been factored into the Development Departments Review of Departmental Grants. Areas requiring change have been identified by the Culture and Arts Unit and as the S.L.A is progressed with DSD administration of the grant can be made to fit BCC objectives.

It is proposed that BCC Facilities Management Section will undertake work currently being contracted out by CPD Property Division through their Measured Term Contracts. Contracts are being reviewed by Development Department, Legal Services and Facilities Management Section. Specification and level of service will be agreed between DSD and BCC as the core of the S.L.A. Facilities Management are preparing a detailed list of their requirements for undertaking this work. Faults would be reported to the Development

Department Laganside Team who in conjunction with Facilities Management Section would ensure that a process for dealing with repairs and maintenance is set up within BCC to provide early reporting and completion of repairs to satisfy the S.L.A.

Details of the current staffing resource within the Laganside team at DSD have been provided to BCC. This resource needs to be replicated within the Development Department, subject to the outcome of a BCC B.I.S. Review, the costs of which, based on 2007/08 salaries, are estimated to be £228,346.

Due to the specialist nature of the posts the River Manager and River Warden would be seconded to BCC until the future ownership of the assets are decided on completion of R.P.A.

It is envisaged that BCC will not manage any major infrastructure projects to the River and Weir during the interim period until completion of R.P.A.

Next steps

A draft Memorandum of Understanding has been prepared and agreed for Members consideration as an overarching agreement to take forward the transfer of the management of the Laganside Assets. A substantial amount of engagement and exchange of information has taken place between DSD and BCC. Following BCC approval the Memorandum of Understanding will be submitted to the Minister for Social Development for agreement.

Resource Implications

Financial

DSD are to pay Council a management fee in consideration of Council managing the Public Assets. The Memorandum of Undertaking provides for the Department to reimburse Council for all expenses incurred by Council as a result of managing the Public Assets.

Human Resources

Potentially five staff as detailed above to comprise a Laganside Team, subject to BCC BIS review, and the secondment of the River Manager and River Warden.

Assets and Other Implications

Ownership of the Assets would remain with DSD.

BCC would only arrange insurance for their responsibilities to be agreed under the Service Level Agreements. If as expected the Assets transfer to BCC on completion of R.P.A. consideration should now be given to how Central Government will fund major civil engineering obligations post R.P.A. i.e. from Central taxation or Local taxation.

Recommendation

Committee are asked to note the content of this report and to agree to the completion of the Memorandum of Understanding with DSD as the next step in the process of the transfer of the management of the assets to BCC.

Abbreviations

DSD - Department for Social Development
SLA - Service Level Agreement
RPA - Review of Public Administration”

The Committee adopted the recommendation contained within the foregoing report.

Peace III Programme

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“Relevant Background Information

PEACE III - Belfast City Council’s Involvement to Date

Belfast City Council has been very proactive in seeking and securing funding across a range of areas from the PEACE III funding programme. An opportunity to further enhance this position now exists with the opening of the priority 2.2 Institutional Capacity and European and International Networking. While other parts of the organisation including Good Relations have focussed on the 'peace building' aspects of the programme. An opportunity now exists to focus on the more structural aspects of peace and in particular the issues around the economic rebuilding and restructuring. Belfast has over ten years achieved significant economic success. This process has provoked great interest across the world. Belfast provides a positive model which other cities could learn from. The OECD in undertaking its study of Belfast's future, pointed this out and suggested that Belfast should seek to distribute its lessons and story to a much wider audience. The proposed project would seek to make this happen.

Key Issues

The NI Peace Network

The SEUPB is spearheading a Peace Network and programme to transfer and disseminate learning from Belfast in relation to emerging from conflict and undergoing an economic and social transformation.

The Peace Network was announced at the annual Brussels Open Days at a workshop held on 8 October 2008 chaired by the SEUPB and attended by the European Commission and high level speakers from Cyprus and the Basque Country.

The Network will be co-ordinated by the SEUPB as a Secretariat and will have a Steering Group made up of representatives from NI and the border counties, Cyprus and the Basque Country. This Network would allow Belfast to share its practice and also seek further learning.

It will be launched in Belfast early in 2009 with two further events being held in the other two founding member states over the course of the year. Immediate themes of the network will be:

1. Use of structuring funds in conflict areas.
2. Contribution of local people to conflict resolution.
3. Role of youth and children in conflict areas.

Priority 2.2: The Power of Possibility

Based on the comments and encouragement given by the OECD the EU Unit has given much thought to developing a proposal under priority 2.2 of the Peace III Programme and has looked at the economic changes in Belfast over ten years and how this can be of interest to other cities and regions in Europe and throughout the world. Places such as Nicosia and the Balkans could learn from Belfast but equally Belfast could learn from cities which are further down the line of economic re-growth such as Berlin. Key themes which the project would explore include the 8 competitive factors that measure a city's success and how they interact with economic rebuilding and further exploration into:

- How economic growth can be achieved after periods of instability
- What assets are available within urban areas to reverse the economic impact of conflict and division

- How human components need to be adopted and supported in urban areas coming out of instability to assist economic growth e.g. educational and training opportunities
- Examining how public open space can be transformed in the post conflict era
- The population trends impact eg brain drains, depopulation of urban areas and integration of migrant populations upon stability
- Successful measures and tools to attract inward and foreign investment

In briefly exploring these early ideas the Unit has discussed further with the OECD political collaboration and they are keen to work alongside Belfast City Council on such a project of learning and exchange and ultimately document and publish findings under the gold standard OECD banner. They have also offered their own networks with cities in Eastern Europe and the Balkans.

During the course of a proposed 3 year programme, a model of good practice in economic restructuring would be identified and made transferable to other regions across the world who are on the verge of, or, emerging from conflict and division.

The unit has also been approached by potential partners in Nicosia, Berlin, the EU Association of Local Democracies, the European Commission and Eurocities as well as the eight Councils within the East Border Region. The idea has created a great deal of interest in the context of the global extent of conflict and division and the agreed importance of rebuilding economic strength to sustain stability and peace.

The Unit has tested the idea with senior colleagues at the EU Commission, SEUPB and importantly with DFP and ODMDFM, and have received a very positive reaction.

To this end the European Unit is now exploring opportunities for funding to resource a first phase project to develop ideas and substance for exchange in NI and the Border area while working with EU cities and the OECD in the first instance to identify the key learning areas. The Unit aims to secure 100% Peace III 2.2 funding for the project concept and further pursue other EU programme funding to further develop the project - for example through the EU Instrument for Stability or the Seventh Framework Programme.

Members will receive a detailed report on the project once it has been fully developed and costed and are asked at this stage to agree that officers can proceed to develop the project with colleagues in the East Border Region and pursue funding opportunities.

Resource Implications

Should Peace funding be secured to develop and deliver the Project, costs will be covered at 100% by the Peace III Programme.

Recommendation

To note the contents of the report and agree to the development of the Power of Possibility project.

Abbreviations

- SEUPB - Special EU programmes Body
- DFP - Department of Finance and Personnel
- OFMDFM - Officer of the First and Deputy First Minister
- OECD - Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development"

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Tourism Unit Update

Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau

The Committee agreed to receive at its monthly meeting in December a presentation from the Chief Executive of the Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau regarding that organisation's proposed business plan for 2009/2010.

Tender for the Development of an Integrated Strategic Tourism Framework for Belfast

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 10th September, it had agreed that tenders be sought for the development of an Integrated Strategic Tourism Framework for Belfast.

The Head of Economic Initiatives informed the Members that in order to enable the successful company to be appointed without delay it would be necessary for the Committee to delegate authority to the Chairman of the Committee in conjunction with the Director of Development to accept the most advantageous tender received and she recommended accordingly.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Belfast Tourism Development Analysis

The Committee agreed to receive at its monthly meeting in December a presentation from representatives of TTC International regarding the research which it had carried out into the gaps in provision and opportunities for community tourism throughout the City.

Broadway Junction Public Art Project

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“Relevant Background Information

The Broadway Junction Art Piece project has been taken forward, since 2005, through a partnership between the Department for Regional Development (Roads Service), Belfast City Centre Regeneration Directorate (Department for Social Development), the Arts Council for Northern Ireland (ACNI) and Belfast City Council (BCC). The Roads Service is responsible for the ongoing structural work relating to the roundabout/junction which is part of the M1/Westlink improvement scheme, and the Arts Council and DSD are providing the majority of funding for the project.

The commission was awarded through an international competition and a two stage selection process. Phase 1 involved an invitation of expressions of interest from potential artists, from which seven were selected and Phase 2 involved the short-listed artists responding with design concepts to a detailed project brief. The BCC Artist-in-Residence consulted with Community groups in the formulation of this brief.

The Development (Arts) Sub-Committee was advised on 5 October 2005 that Ed Carpenter, an American artist, had been selected by the judging panel (which included invited community representatives) to carry out the commission.

The Development Committee of 16 November 2005 agreed Belfast City Council would take on responsibility for the future maintenance of the art piece and at the Development Committee meeting of Wednesday 14 February 2007 it was agreed:

- That the Project Management Unit undertake the project management role up to a cost of £50K spread over the 07/08 and 08/09 financial years.
- To commit to a contribution of £20K to the capital cost of the project during the 08/09 financial year.

The construction of the Art Piece was to be co-ordinated within the programme for the construction of the roundabout over the M1/Westlink tunnel, which was initially due to be completed in Autumn 2009 but was subsequently brought forward to Spring 2009.

In the period since the selection of the Artist, the roles and associated responsibilities and level of financial project commitments from the project partners has been clarified.

Also within this period:

- BCC undertook an Economic Appraisal (funded by DSD) carried out by KPMG in June 2007 approved by DFP in October 2007;
- The financial contribution from DSD was confirmed as £300k;
- Further resources were secured from the ACNI to meet the shortfall in the projected budget of £400,000 (excluding in-kind costs);
- Progression of the project was to include continued community engagement.

The Development Committee of Wednesday 12 December 2007, approved the terms of reference for the Broadway Junction Public Art Board and Steering Panel and agreed that the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman (or their nominees), together with one Councillor from each of the Balmoral and Lower Falls Electoral Areas, be appointed to the Project Board. The Broadway Project Board met on 17 June 2008 where it was confirmed that, due to a significant increase in the costs of construction materials (steel in particular) since the commission was originally awarded in 2005, the total estimated project cost for the Trillian proposal was now at least £625,000. The Project Board regrettably but unanimously agreed to abandon the current Trillian proposal from the selected artist Ed Carpenter and to relaunch the project as a new open competition, with a fixed total budget of £400k.

Key Issues

Project Update

This new competition was advertised on 11 July 2008 and 1 August 2008 in the Belfast Telegraph, Newsletter, Irish News and Visual Arts Ireland. The invitation was also placed on Belfast City Council's and other various relevant websites. In addition, a press release was issued on the 18 July 2008 outlining the cancellation of Trillian and the reopening of the competition. The deadline for expressions of interest was 3pm on Friday 22 August 2008.

A total of 34 expressions of interest were received on the closing date of 22 August 2008. The Broadway Project Board met on the 3 September 2008 and seven artists were short-listed; Mick Thacker (Renn & Thacker Partnership), Stephen Broadbent, Wolfgang Buttress, Martin Donlin, Ed Carpenter, Eilis O'Connell and Malcolm Robertson. The artists were provided with a detailed project brief and asked to respond with design concepts by Friday 10 October 2008.

At the closing time of 3pm on Friday 10 October 2008, Belfast City Council Procurement received five submissions.

The Broadway Project Board met on Tuesday 14 October to discuss interview questions and to confirm the interview panel. The interview panel was as follows:

Councillor Bob Stoker
Councillor Bernie Kelly
Councillor Marie Moore
Ronan Corrigan (DSD)
Tom McCourt (Roads Service)
Tim Husbands (BCC)
Deirdre Robb (BCC)
Iain Davidson (ACNI)

On Friday 24 October 2008 the following five artists were interviewed:

Mick Thacker (Renn & Thacker Partnership)
Stephen Broadbent
Wolfgang Buttress
Martin Donlin
Ed Carpenter

The winner of the competition is a piece called 'Rise' by Wolfgang Buttress which is a 37m high by 30m wide representation of the sun as a beacon of light, with one circle within a circle, but which will appear to hover over a glade of structurally supportive trees/grasses and which will be seen in the day and night from many miles.

It is anticipated that the project will be completed by April 2009.

Resource Implications

Financial Implications

The overall cost of the 'Rise' sculpture will be £400k (excluding in-kind contributions).

This budget comprises the following amounts:

ACNI	£80,000
DSD	£300,000
BCC	£20,000 (excluding in-kind Project Management costs)
Total Budget	£400,000

Recommendation

It is recommended that Members note the information contained within the report and endorse the decision of the Broadway Project Panel regarding the Broadway Junction Public Art Project.

Abbreviations

- DRD - Development for Regional Development (Roads Service)**
- ACNI - Arts Council Northern Ireland**
- BCC - Belfast City Council**
- DSD - Department for Social Development**
- DFP - Department of Finance and Personnel"**

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Research on Poverty in Belfast

The Director reminded the Members that eight of the ten most deprived electoral wards within Northern Ireland were located within Belfast and that 48% of the City's population lived within the most deprived Super Output Areas in Northern Ireland. She pointed out that recent research by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation had indicated that across the United Kingdom child poverty represented 71% of Social Services expenditure.

She stated that, although the Council had no statutory requirement to alleviate poverty, it had civic responsibilities for the City as a whole. Accordingly, in order to obtain information, the Development Department had commissioned Dr. Michael Morrissey, a former professor with the University of Ulster, to undertake research on poverty in Belfast with the aim of:

- (i) assessing the level of poverty in Belfast by comparing it with other cities;
- (ii) identifying ways in which the Council could help eradicate poverty within the City; and
- (iii) recommending anti-poverty initiatives which the Council could promote in the short and medium terms.

She reported that Dr. Morrissey had completed his report and that a summary version, which had been circulated previously to the Members, was available on modern.gov. The full version of the report was available from the Development Department upon request.

The Director indicated that Dr. Morrissey had devised a new method of measuring poverty based on the European Standard of Income measurement and poverty risk analysis which ascertained which types of households were most likely to be in poverty. The report had identified that the main categories of households at the highest risk of poverty were:

- the young and the elderly
- the workless
- lone parents

She stated that, considering the importance of the poverty issue in Belfast, it was proposed that the Council develop an Anti-Poverty Policy. As part of the process, the Department intended to hold on 30th January a half-day workshop to which all Members of the Council, Chief Officers and key external experts would be invited.

After discussion, the Committee noted the information which had been provided, agreed to the holding of a workshop on 30th January and authorised the payment of all expenditure and allowances in connection with the event.

Nomadic Trust

The Committee agreed to a request from the Nomadic Trust to receive at its monthly meeting in January a presentation from its Chairman regarding the progress which had been achieved in connection with the restoration of the SS Nomadic.

Revenue Grant Appeal - Annadale and Haywood Residents' Association

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“Relevant Background Information

The Community & Leisure Services Sub-Committee of 11th May 2004 awarded seventy seven Revenue Grants for the period 2004-07. Due to the timescale for the Department's Grant Aid Review these awards were extended for the period 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively.

In extending the contract period the Committee was aware of the potential risk of limiting equality of treatment and opportunity of those organisations which had not had the chance to apply for this

grant previously. Subsequently the Development Committee of 12th December 2007 agreed a one-off additional allocation to the Revenue Grant budget of £50,000 to allow new applications from either

- newly formed groups with premises, or
- established groups who had acquired premises since the 2003-04 open call.

Subsequent to public advertisement, a total of 10 Revenue Grant applications were received by the closing date. The Development Committee of 11th June 2008 agreed the recommendation of 4 awards and 6 rejections of funding.

Those applications rejected for funding were notified of the decision and their right to appeal.

Key Issues

Revenue Grants are allocated under three categories or grades towards the running costs of community facilities. Precedence is given to neighbourhood groups that can demonstrate a broad based programme of activity.

The appeal process was agreed by the Community and Leisure Sub-Committee at its meeting on 10th January 2006. Organisations who wish to dispute the Committee decision to reject their application for funding are invited to make a reasoned written submission. The appeal submission can only be based on the information provided by the group with their application and in advance of the closing date. No new or additional information will be considered.

There are then three courses of action open to the Committee

1. To accept the Community Development Manager's recommendation
2. To accept the reasoned written response of the group
3. To defer a decision and ask for an oral presentation from both the group and the relevant officer at a future meeting of the Committee.

One appeal was received from Annadale & Haywood Residents' Association. The group provided a supporting written submission outlining their reason for appeal.

In line with our developmental approach, the group were subsequently invited to meet with Council officers where they were afforded the opportunity to discuss the appeal submission in detail.

Upon review of the assessment process, the information provided by the group in the written appeal submission and the subsequent meeting were judged not to provide grounds to alter the original rejection of the application.

The application does not comply with our grant-aid criteria which relates to 'Broad Based Programme' in that the organisation did not demonstrate or provide evidence of work with children and young people during the assessment process. This position is further reinforced by the lack of a Child Protection Policy.

Resource Implications

Financial

Within current agreed budget for Revenue Grants.

Human Resources

There are no additional staff resources required other than those normally deployed in the administration and appeal procedure of this grant category.

Asset and other implications

There is no impact on any physical BCC asset.

Recommendation

Members are requested to approve the CDM recommendation to uphold the original Committee decision to refuse the grant application thereby rejecting the appeal for Revenue Grant from the Annadale & Haywood Residents' Association.

Abbreviations

CDM	Community Development Manager
AHRA	Annadale & Haywood Residents' Association"

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to reject the appeal for Revenue Grant assistance which had been submitted by the Annadale and Haywood Residents' Association.

Markets Unit Update

Entertainments Licence for St. George's Market

The Committee was advised that the current Entertainments Licence for St. George's Market permitted a maximum of 2,000 persons to be in attendance at music and concert events. However, hirers had enquired as to whether the capacity could be increased. Accordingly, an investigation, which had involved staff from both the Building Control Service and the Health and Safety Team, had ascertained that the capacity of the venue could be increased to 3,000.

The Director pointed out that, should the Council's Licensing Committee approve of the variation of the Entertainments Licence to increase the capacity of the venue to 3,000, the increase in the number of tickets which could be sold for events at the Market would have financial benefits for the hirers. It would be advisable, therefore, for the Council to increase by 50% the hire charge which would apply to those events utilising the 3,000 capacity. Accordingly, she recommended that an application for the abovementioned variation of the Entertainments Licence be submitted and, if successful, the undernoted charges apply for events with a capacity of 3,000 persons:

	Monday to Friday		Saturday and Sunday	
	Commercial Rates	Public or Voluntary Rates	Commercial Rates	Public or Voluntary Rates
1 Session (4 hrs)	£1,425	£825	£1,725	£900
2 Consecutive Sessions (8 hrs)	£1,650	£975	£1,950	£1,050
3 Consecutive Sessions (12 hrs)	£1,800	£1,050	£2,175	£1,125
1 full day (24 hrs)	£2,050	£1,200	£2,550	£1,275
Late Session 7 pm – 1 am	£1,725	£975	£2,035	£1,050

Additional Charges

Partition Units £3.00 per unit

Electricity N.I.E. Rates + 5%

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Smithfield Market Letting

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 22nd September, 1999, it had granted authority for the Director, in consultation with the Chairman, to approve the terms of future lettings of Smithfield Market, subject to those terms being reported retrospectively to the Committee. The Director reported that unit 13/14 had been let to

Matthew and Catherine Chambers, 62 Church Street, Antrim, at a cost of £900 per month for the purposes of the retailing of music merchandise, clothing, giftware, make-up and footwear. The traders had previously been operating in unit 7.

She reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 13th August, it had agreed that unit 13/14 could be used for display or showcase purposes by local arts and crafts students and community groups. As this unit had now been let it could no longer be used for this purpose.

Noted.

Pride of Place Awards

The Community Development Manager informed the Committee that at the recent Pride of Place Awards, which highlighted and rewarded the work of community groups, two organisations from Belfast, namely the Lower Ormeau Residents' Action Group and Engage with Age, had won in the Cities category within their own section.

The Committee expressed its satisfaction at this information and requested that its congratulations be conveyed to the groups concerned.

Chairman