

Document Pack
Committee and Members' Services Section
3rd Floor, Adelaide Exchange
24-26 Adelaide Street
Belfast BT2 8GD



6th August, 2009

MEETING OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Dear Councillor

The above-named Committee will meet in the Council Chamber, 3rd Floor, Adelaide Exchange on Wednesday, 12th August, 2009 at 4.30 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully

PETER McNANEY

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. Routine Matters
 - (a) Apologies
 - (b) Minutes
2. Post of Director of Development

Oral report
3. Planning and Transport Unit - Update (Pages 1 - 18)
4. Renewing the Routes - Update (Pages 19 - 34)
5. Department of the Environment Consultation on Planning Reform (Pages 35 - 54)
6. North Foreshore Landfill Gas Electricity Generation (Pages 55 - 56)
7. Re-imaging Communities Implementation - Update (Pages 57 - 74)
8. Christmas Lights Switch-on 2009 (Pages 75 - 76)
9. Lagan Canal Restoration Trust (Pages 77 - 82)

10. Retail Sector Support Plan 2009/2010 (Pages 83 - 96)
11. Markets Unit - Update (Pages 97 - 100)
12. Ulster Hall Capital Works Programme (Pages 101 - 104)
13. Mosconi Cup 2010 (Pages 105 - 116)
14. Support for Sport Event Funding (Pages 117 - 122)
15. European Unit - Update (Pages 123 - 124)
16. Grosvenor Recreation Centre: Synthetic Pitch - Facilities Management Agreement
(Pages 125 - 140)
17. Suffolk Community Centre - Outdoor Play Area (Pages 141 - 142)
18. Lions Club International Conference (Pages 143 - 144)
19. Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau - Change of Membership (Pages 145 -
146)
20. Review Consultation Process for Development Department (Pages 147 - 152)

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Regional Development Strategy/Regional Transportation Strategy Reviews, Sprucefield Public Inquiry, the Belfast Masterplan Review, Transport Policy Update
Date:	12 August 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives ext. 3459

Relevant Background Information**Update on the Regional Development Strategy / Regional Transportation Strategy Review**

The review of the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) was announced by the Minister for Regional Development in June 2008. Following the Department of Regional Development (DRD) stakeholder workshops in December, the Council submitted an initial written response which was approved by the Development Committee in February 2009.

The Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS) for Northern Ireland 2002-2012 was published in July 2002 outlining the strategic transportation investment priorities; potential funding sources and affordability of planned initiatives over the 10 year plan period. The Regional Transportation Strategy supports the RDS by defining the transportation vision for the Province and included a commitment to carry out a review.

Sprucefield Public Inquiry

In August 2008, Sprucefield Centre Ltd submitted a revised application for a significant retail development (including John Lewis Partnership) at Sprucefield. The proposed scheme will comprise: a John Lewis Department Store of 22,300 m² (covering four floors); 19 individual retail units with a total area of 22,500 m² (no more than four of the units to be less than 250 m² and the majority more than 500 m²); and 7 food units totalling 1,580 m².

Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce attended the Special Development Committee meeting in February 2009 to express their concerns in relation to the current

Sprucefield Centre application for further retail development. The Committee agreed to maintain the previously adopted position and submit an objection to the proposed development including a recommendation that the proposed development be subject to a public inquiry.

The Council submitted an objection to the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) reiterating the previously articulated position that the application would be considered contrary to both the current (RDS) and the proposed planning policies (BMAP) by virtue of the adverse implications for the existing retail centres and the future regeneration of Belfast and other adjoining centres.

The Department of Environment has requested the Planning Appeals Commission to conduct an Article 31 public inquiry for the purpose of considering the implication arising from the Sprucefield Centre Ltd application. The inquiry date has been set for Monday, 30th November 2009 at Park House, Great Victoria Street.

The Belfast Masterplan Review

The Council commissioned a masterplan for Belfast in 2003 to provide a framework for the development of Belfast for the period to 2020. The Belfast Masterplan was published in April 2004 and provided a strategic development framework for Belfast based on consideration of the economic, social and environmental issues in the City.

The adopted Belfast Masterplan provides the Council with a strategic vision for the future regeneration and growth of the City. The Masterplan also provided the basis for Council engagement in the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan; the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan; strategic development sites such as Titanic Quarter and the various regeneration strategies published by the Department for Social Development. The analysis also supported Council regeneration initiatives such as 'Renewing the Routes'.

Transport Policy Review

The Council's revised Transport Policy was considered by the Development Committee in May 2009 and it was agreed that following ratification of the draft policy it would be formalised into a public document. During the consideration of the policy findings at the June 2009 Council meeting further clarification was sought on the specific issue of the proposed EWAY proposal for the Comber Greenway and the implications for the proposed Transport Policy.

Key Issues

Regional Development Strategy / Regional Transportation Strategy

The public consultation on the review of the Regional Development Strategy was expected to commence in Spring 2009, this has now been postponed. The Department for Regional Development recently announced that the public consultation will take place in Autumn 2009 and include a series of public workshops across the region. In the interim DRD have invited children and young people to submit a piece of artwork to represent their views on what NI will look like by 2035. The Regional Transportation Strategy also included a commitment to carry out a review and the Minister for Regional Development announced in April 2009 that this review will be carried out in Autumn 2009.

Sprucefield Public inquiry

In advance of the Public Inquiry, the Council is required to submit a statement of case

to the PAC by Friday 18th September 2009. The evidence is to be structured under the following topic headings:

- Economic benefits, severability and alternatives
- Impact on existing retail centres
- Impact on travel patterns, the road network and road safety
- Design, landscaping and visual impact
- Impact on the natural and built environment
- Impact on broadcasting and telecommunications
- Any other issues

The PAC will exchange the statements of case in the following week and the Council will have an opportunity to make comment on the other parties' cases. This rebuttal statement must be submitted to the PAC by Friday, 23rd October 2009.

The inquiry will commence at 10am on Monday, 30th November 2009 and the Council has responded to the PAC confirming that they will submit a statement of case and participate in the public inquiry. The approach to preparation and participation in the public inquiry will be to utilise internal resources supported by Dr Tony Quinn, the retail planning expert previously commissioned by the Council to provide specialist evidence. The legal representation will also be provided through the use of internal Council resources.

Belfast Masterplan

In the period since the formulation of the Masterplan in 2003/04 there has been considerable change to the economic, social and environmental context for the development of Belfast and the wider region. In addition, the proposed Review of Public Administration and the transfer of responsibilities including local land use planning and regeneration functions have altered the administrative context.

The five years since adoption have also seen the development of a number of new strategies including the City Centre Masterplans and the Strategic Regeneration Frameworks which the Department for Social Development commissioned for each of the five Partnership Board areas. This changing context and the emerging strategies for areas of the City have highlighted the need for the Council to have a coherent and up to date vision for the future development of Belfast.

The review of the current Belfast Masterplan offers the opportunity to revisit the strategic vision for the City. This review and updated strategic position would facilitate continued Council engagement with strategies such as the proposed Strategic Regeneration Frameworks and assist in influencing regeneration/development initiatives planned for the city.

The current departmental budgets include provision for the procurement of the Masterplan review. To initiate the project it is suggested that Committee approve an allocation of £70,000 towards the review and associated stakeholder consultation.

Transport Policy Review

The text of the agreed Transport Policy has been condensed to form the basis for a formal policy document and a copy is attached for information in Appendix 1.

Following the June 2009 Council, a meeting was convened to provide clarification in respect of the implications of the proposed policy in relation to the issues raised. Committee may wish to note that whilst the Transport Policy does not specifically

3. Formal Transport Policy document to be published.
Timeline October 2009 Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 Transport Policy

BLANK PAGE

APPENDIX 1

Transport Policy

Foreword

Introduction

1.1 Belfast City Council's corporate plan expresses a number of key messages which underlines Council's aspirations and vision for the city:

- Better together – working with others to create a shared vision and delivering together;
- Today's action, tomorrows legacy – city investment that improves quality of life now and in the future
- Value for money – minimising the rates burden, freeing up resources for more delivery on the ground
- Better services – continuing to enhance the level of service offered to the citizen

There are 6 strategic themes which guide the key objectives and priorities of the Council:

- City Leadership – strong, fair, together
- Better opportunities for success across the city
- Better care for Belfast's environment – a clean, green city now and for the future
- Better support for people and communities
- Better services – listening and delivering
- Better value for money – a can do, accountable, efficient Council

1.2 It is widely recognised that a safe, efficient and effective transport system is needed to support and strengthen the economy, tackle social deprivation, and can improve the quality of people's lives in many ways. The consequences of excessive car use and dependency are well known, in terms of congestion, community severance and deteriorating air quality. Therefore an improved transport system for Belfast based on sustainable options is a high priority for the Council and underpins a number of the Strategic themes in particular "Better care for Belfast's environment – a clean, green city now and for the future".

1.3 This report outlines Belfast City Council second Transport Policy to support the Council's civic leadership role and provide the Council with a coherent view in relation to sustainable transport options for the city. Currently Belfast City Council does not have any statutory responsibility for transport planning and provision. The review of public administration has proposed the transfer of a number of planning functions but limited responsibility for transport. However the Council will adopt a strong and public city leadership role in the promotion of sustainable development for the City of Belfast to ensure a consistent and integrated approach to land use and transportation planning

Background

1.4 The Council published its first Transport Policy for Belfast in 2001 following wide ranging consultation and an extensive research exercise. The policy was established at the time to provide Belfast City Council with an inclusive and consistent policy to be promoted and to allow it to take a proactive role to help ensure that the city continued to grow and prosper in a sustainable manner.

1.5 In 2008 a review was carried out of the 2001 Transport Policy and its Environmental Policy Package with the main purpose of providing the Council with an up to date transport vision for the city. The scope of the policy was also extended to take account of the Council's revised Corporate Objectives and include a detailed review of Belfast City Council's internal transport activities with the objective of formulating a range of more sustainable transport options for employees and fleet vehicles.

Role of the Transport Policy

- 1.6 The overall role of the revised Transport Policy seeks to provide the Council with an inclusive and consistent transport policy to be promoted both internally and externally to the Council. It will allow the Council to take a proactive role to help ensure that the city continues to grow and prosper in a sustainable manner and that any regional and local transportation policies are developed in line with the Council's wider objectives on sustainable economic development; environmental responsibility; tourism; leisure; good relations; and education and health.
- 1.7 The transport policy is the key communication document for the Council – setting out its transportation vision and strategic objectives for the city. It outlines the Council's position on key transportation issues to external delivery agencies and as such will be used as part of a consultation and lobbying tool to influence the development of external policy and proposals, including the review of the Regional Development Strategy and the Regional Transportation Strategy.
- 1.8 The transport policy is also the Council's main instrument for transportation policy for internal activities and capital programmes. The need to ensure that 'sustainable transport' is considered as part of other wider programmes such as sustainable development, social inclusion, tourism, parks & leisure, older people, children and young people, environment and arterial routes and that appropriate resources are allocated for the implementation of the transport policy where appropriate.

The Key Messages of the revised Transport Policy?

- 1.9 The key message of the revised Transport Policy is:

To support and promote the development of a modern, safe, accessible and integrated transportation system to enhance the connectivity for Belfast and its wider regions, which benefits the environment, supports sustainable development; and enhances the quality of life of all those who live, work, visit and do business in the City.

- 1.10 The transportation vision will be supported by a number of underlying strategic objectives, which are based on the Council's Corporate Objectives, including:
- City Leadership
 - Better opportunities for success across the city
 - Better care for Belfast's environment
 - Better support for people and communities
 - Better services – listening and delivering
 - Belfast City Centre.

Strategic Objectives & Policies

City Leadership

Strategic Objective:

To provide a strong civic leadership role for the promotion of a modern, safe, accessible and integrated transportation system for the City of Belfast and its wider regions.

Key Objectives / Priorities:

- 1.11 The key objectives / priorities for the 'City Leadership' have been split into external policies (those outside the control of the council) and internal policies (those within current council activities).

The key **external policy objectives** include:

- To adopt a strong and public city leadership role in the **promotion of sustainable transport initiatives** for the City of Belfast.
- To use the Council's influence as Civic Leader to engage and influence key delivery agencies for the **development of a wider transport policy framework for Belfast, including the city centre area as well as the wider regions, which is aligned with the Council's wider objectives on sustainable development; environmental responsibility; tourism; leisure; good relations; education and health.**
- To seek to influence the **development of transportation policies and proposals which improve connectivity and encourage a shift away from the private car to more sustainable forms of travel**, such as walking, cycling and public transport.
- To seek to ensure a **higher level of emphasis of capital expenditure on sustainable transportation schemes**, ensuring that the priority is allocated to sustainable modes of travel such as walking, cycling and public transport schemes.
- To seek to **develop effective working relationships with appropriate delivery agencies** for the delivery of local transportation schemes to support local people and communities and which integrate with a community planning approach.

The key **internal policy objectives** include:

- In line with the proposed transfer of local planning functions to the Council, the Council will **adopt a strong and public city leadership role in the promotion of sustainable development for the City of Belfast** and will ensure a consistent and integrated approach to land use and transportation planning.
- To ensure that the Council has **sufficient resources and skills to enable them to fully address the capacity building requirements associated with the transfer of local planning functions**, in line with the requirements outlined above.

Better opportunities across the city - Regeneration, Growth and Prosperity

Definition:

To support the sustainable economic development of Belfast to ensure the future prosperity of Belfast City and its wider regions, and to facilitate the continued development of its economic and physical regeneration through achievement of sustainable transportation, economic, tourism, leisure, good relations, environmental, educational and health objectives for the City.

Key Objectives / Priorities:

- 1.12 The key objectives / priorities for the 'Better opportunities across the city' have been split into external policies (those outside the control of the council) and internal policies (those within current council activities). Please note that specific policies and proposals for Belfast City Centre are included within the additional City Centre strategic objective (see later).

The key **external policy objectives** include:

Belfast City Council will support and lobby key delivery agencies for:

- The introduction of a **sustainable parking strategy in Belfast City Centre, at key commercial/retail District Centres and along arterial routes / nodes** to help manage travel demand and help reduce the level of commuter-related parking
- The introduction of **sustainable transport corridor plans** that take account of the need to prioritise access to sustainable modes of travel, in advance of the provision of new highway capacity.
- The **sustainable development of Belfast's airports** – to ensure continued connectivity to Belfast City Centre and a high level of accessibility by sustainable modes of travel,
- The implementation of a **new public transport interchange at Belfast City Airport**;
- The **sustainable development of Belfast's ports** – to ensure continued connectivity to Belfast City Centre and the strategic road network; and to ensure a high level of accessibility by sustainable modes of travel
- The introduction of a **sustainable freight management strategy** for Belfast
- implementation of a **high quality and high profile Rapid Transit system for Belfast and its wider regions**:
 - To ensure that such a rapid transit system will have the **following attributes**:
 - High frequency and reliable services;
 - High level of protection from general traffic congestion;
 - High quality passenger facilities;
 - Integration with existing public transport services; and
 - Supports sustainable development and the principles of sustainable transport corridors.
 - To support and lobby key delivery agencies for the development of a **rapid transit network which connects south, east, west and north Belfast and its wider regions with the City Centre and each other**
- To support and lobby key delivery agencies for the **introduction of bus, rail and rapid-transit based park & ride proposals, in appropriate locations throughout Belfast and its wider regions**.

The key **internal policy objectives** include:

- In line with the proposed transfer of local planning functions to the Council, the Council will ensure that **all new developments comply with the relevant regional and local planning**

guidance in relation to sustainable development. In particular, to take account of the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and disabled users are fully considered as part of the design and assessment process;

Better Care for Belfast's environment

Definition:

To secure the long term viability of Belfast City and its environment by seeking to ensure that all transportation arising from wider proposals take into account, and mitigate against, their adverse impact on the environment and the quality of life of local neighbourhoods.

Key Objectives / Priorities:

- 1.13 The key objectives / priorities for the 'Better care for Belfast's environment' are mainly concerned with internal policies (those within council activities). With regard to external policies, there is significant overlap with 'people and place' and 'value for money customer focused services' (see next sections).

The key **internal policy objectives** include:

- To support, where appropriate, innovative initiatives to reduce car / vehicle ownership;
- To continue to **implement green transport initiatives** to minimise the adverse environmental impact of the Council's vehicle fleet – and to roll out successful initiatives to other companies. This could include initiatives to reduce levels of carbon, implement a fleet replacement programme, investigate options into the use of emerging technology solutions;
- In line with the transfer of functions to the Council (as part of the Review of Public Administration), to identify and implement, where appropriate, **a programme of environmental and streetscape improvement schemes** as a means of improving connectivity, mobility and the quality of life between neighbourhoods within Belfast.

Better Support for people and communities

Definition:

To support local people and communities by ensuring a community plan approach that integrates transportation to enhance connectivity for local neighbourhoods by making them safer, healthier and more inclusive.

Key Objectives / Priorities:

- 1.14 The key objectives / priorities for the 'People and Place' are mainly concerned with external policies (those outside the control of the council). With regard to internal policies, there is significant overlap with 'value for money customer focused services' (see next section).

The key **external policy objectives** include:

Belfast City Council will support and lobby key delivery agencies for:

- The implementation of **local road safety, traffic calming and safer routes to schools schemes** which provide improvements for vulnerable road users such as schoolchildren, pedestrians, cyclists and disabled users.
- The introduction of **new public transport initiatives that include community transport initiatives**.
- The **effective integration of taxis into the public transport network**.
- The **introduction of residents-only parking schemes** in areas where it receives local support to help reduce the negative impacts of commuter-related parking on local neighbourhoods.
- The **review and improvement of the traffic network in areas where current traffic operations result in severance of local neighbourhoods** e.g. Middlepath Street / Bridge End gyratory; Yorkgate area; and Shaftesbury Square.
- The provision of adequate carriage facilities for bicycles on public transport vehicles (buses and trains) at all times of the day;
- The implementation of high quality public realm projects for Belfast, ensuring that the needs of pedestrians and cyclists are fully met within planned streetscape improvements.

Better value for money

Definition:

To seek to ensure that Belfast City Council services and facilities are accessible by sustainable modes of travel, such as walking, cycling and public transport.

Key Objectives / Priorities:

- 1.15 The key objectives / priorities for the 'value for money customer focused services' have been split into external policies (those outside the control of the council) and internal policies (those within current council activities).

The key **external policy objectives** include:

Belfast City Council will support and lobby key delivery agencies for:

- The implementation of an integrated **Quality Walking Network for Belfast and Quality Cycle Network for Belfast**, including the establishment of safe and continuous walking corridors into the City Centre area, District Centres and between Council facilities.
- Improvements to and integrated **direction (and destination) signage in Belfast to support the Cycle and Walking Network**.
- The implementation of **improved public transport services** into the City Centre and wider areas, between District Centres and between Council facilities including the continued implementation of **Quality Bus Corridors**, the introduction of **new bus services** including routes serving new developments, orbital services, cross-city services; and night-time services, and the introduction of an integrated ticketing system that allows travel between different modes i.e. bus, rail and rapid transit.
- The **introduction (and review) of parking controls that support the delivery of key Council services**

The key **internal policy objectives** include:

- To continue to develop a programme of **improved and integrated direction (and destination) signage in Belfast to support the Quality Walking Network**, particularly for visitors and tourists to the City.
- To identify and implement, where appropriate, **a programme of high quality and safe walking routes through Council owned sites** including open spaces, parks, leisure and community facilities,
- To identify and implement, where appropriate, **a programme of high quality cycle routes through Council owned sites** including open spaces, parks, leisure and community facilities, which connect into the wider Cycle Network and Greenways programme for Belfast.
- To identify and implement, where appropriate, the **provision of public transport information at Council owned sites**.

Better Services

Definition:

To promote the positive effects of sustainable travel and to lead by example by implementing sustainable travel initiatives within its own organisation.

Key Objectives / Priorities:

- 1.16 The key objectives / priorities for 'better services' have been split into external policies (those outside the control of the council) and internal policies (those within current council activities).

The key **external policy objectives** include:

- To continue to **support the Northern Ireland Travelwise Campaign** to promote sustainable travel and a shift away from the private car.
- To **continue to promote, in association with Translink, the positive benefits of travel by public transport in Belfast** – and to ensure that all Council events promote and facilitate travel by public transport.

The key **internal policy objectives** include:

- To continue to promote the **annual “Belfast Week of Walking” and “Belfast Week of Cycling”** and other initiatives in association with key stakeholders.
- The Council will implement a **Corporate Travel Plan Strategy** which will bring together policies and proposals for a Workplace Travel Plan for staff travel activities as well as an Operational Travel Plan for fleet activities. These initiatives are likely to include the following policies and proposals:
 - Development of **specific objectives and targets** to promote a modal shift towards more sustainable travel;
 - Establishment of a new staff role of **Staff Travel Plan Co-ordinator**, who will be responsible for the development, implementation, marketing and monitoring of the staff travel plan;
 - Identification of **specific policies and proposals** which many include:
 - *Walking initiatives* – promotional & information events; provision of on-site facilities; maps of walking routes etc.
 - *Cycling initiatives* – promotional & information events; provision of on-site facilities, including cycle parking; cycle maps; training & support; cycle purchase schemes; pool bike schemes; establishment of Bike-User Group etc.
 - *Public Transport* – promotional & information events; travel information; personalised journey planners; ticket discount deals etc.
 - *Car Sharing* – re-launch of car sharing scheme; dedicated car sharing spaces; promotional & information events, etc.
 - *Car Parking* – reduction in no. of staff car parking spaces; parking permit or charging schemes; etc.
 - *Business Travel* – review of Staff Travel Policy, Corporate membership of Car Clubs, promotion of existing shuttle bus, removal of car-based employee perks for new staff, etc.
 - *Travel Plan Promotion* – marketing & communication plan; adequate resources allocated; promotional and information events; monitoring & publishing of annual results; etc.
 - *Green vehicle initiatives* – use of alternative fuels, fleet replacement programme to ensure compliance with Euro standards; fleet management to reduce usage and fuel consumption; emissions testing etc.

Belfast City Centre

Definition:

To support the sustainable economic development of Belfast City Centre, as a key connected and accessible Regional Asset – to seek to provide an urban environment that supports a more dynamic and competitive centre and to improve its presentation and environmental quality as befits a first class European city.

Key Objectives / Priorities:

- 1.17 The key objectives / priorities for 'Belfast City Centre' have been split into external policies (those outside the control of the council) and internal policies (those within current council activities).

The key **external policy objectives** include:

Belfast City Council will support and lobby key delivery agencies for:

- To **develop a cohesive and integrated traffic management and public realm strategy for the city centre** which improves the urban environment and road safety for pedestrians and cyclists; increases connectivity and accessibility to public transport services; and improves the quality of life for all those who live in, work in and visit the City Centre.
- In line with the aspirations outlined above, the Council will support and lobby key delivery agencies for the **reallocation of existing roadspace in Belfast City Centre for use for environmental improvement schemes as well as use by pedestrians, cyclists, buses and rapid transit** – including the provision of cross-city public transport routes to minimise the need for bus layover at Donegall Square and City Hall.
- The development of traffic management and highway proposals which adequately mitigate against any potential adverse environmental or community severance impacts, in line with the principles of sustainable development.
- The provision of a **'step change' in the level of public transport provision in the City Centre** including the introduction of a **high quality rapid transit scheme**, and **enhancements to existing Metro bus services and rail services** serving Belfast City Centre, which improve public transport journey time reliability and connectivity across the central area.
- Implementation of planned **improvements to the main bus and rail stations in Belfast City Centre** to enhance integration, accessibility and connectivity,
- The implementation of a **new public transport interchange at Gamble Street;**
- The introduction of a **sustainable parking strategy** in Belfast City Centre
- An increased level of **cycle parking facilities in Belfast City Centre**, which are secure and weather protected.

The key **internal policy objectives** include:

- To investigate options for the introduction of a **bicycle rental service in Belfast City Centre** to facilitate short-term use of bicycles, particularly for tourists and visitors.

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Renewing the Routes Updates, Variations and Review
Date:	12 August 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley Mc Cay, Head of Economic Initiatives ext. 3459

Background Information

This report provides general updates on progress for the Renewing the Routes programme and seeks endorsement of proposed actions including: amendments to identified projects; the reallocation of resources; proposals in relation to two art pieces.

The report also provides clarification of the issues raised at the previous Committee; outlines a partnership request from the Belfast Regeneration Office and seeks approval for a review of the current renewing the routes activity with a view to securing the capacity of the Council to carry out targeted local regeneration activity following the completion of the current Renewing the Routes programme that ends in March 2010.

Key IssuesUpdate on progress made with the Renewing the Routes programme

Through the 'Renewing the Routes' programme, the Council continues to develop and lead targeted local regeneration. The Renewing the Routes is a focussed approach to enhancing the vitality of these roads through the implementation of integrated regeneration plans in the Shankill, Falls, Crumlin and Springfield Road areas.

The challenging programme for each of the areas, remains on target in terms of project completions and spend profiles. Work across the four broad areas has seen over 190 properties benefit from the commercial improvement programme and with the increasing popularity/participation rates within the programme it is anticipated that a further 160 properties will be completed by March 2010. This emphasis has made this element of the programme the focus of the transformation within the target regeneration

areas.

Complementary key initiatives include the Glenbank and Ardoyne public realm projects within the Crumlin area; environmental improvements and public pieces within the upper Springfield area; completion of environmental works to the St Peters area of Falls and the completion of works to Woodvale Presbyterian Church and Shankill Rest Garden in the Shankill. More detailed updates are provided for information within Appendix 1.

Programme Variations

Members are asked to approve the proposed variations resulting from the continued review of activity and refinement of the final project implementation for the Renewing the Routes programme.

Shankill Road

Committee previously approved the procurement of public art for a site within the Shankill part funded by a £10,000 contribution from the Integrated Development Fund (IDF). Following further consultation and discussions with the funding parties it is considered that the commissioned art piece of a "Millie" could be more appropriately located on the Crumlin Road. Discussions with the Housing Executive have identified the potential for the temporary location of the "Millie" at the site on junction of Clifton Park Avenue and Crumlin Road. This temporary installation would be an interim stage prior to the objective of securing a permanent location as part of proposed redevelopments fronting onto the Crumlin Road.

This relocation would necessitate a change in the funding arrangement as the agreed Shankill Road IDF allocation could not be applied to a project on the Crumlin Road. It is therefore proposed that the previously agreed contribution to the art piece is met from within existing Departmental budgets.

The variations proposed are in respect of four previously identified projects at the Peters Hill gateway site amounting to £50,000. The original proposal and allocations were intended to support public realm enhancements including environmental projects in partnership with other agencies. In the absence of the anticipated parallel activity in the area, it is proposed that the fund be utilised to supplement the ongoing commercial improvement scheme. Approval is therefore requested for the reallocation of the resources identified for the Peters Hill gateway project to supplement commercial improvements programme including the properties within the immediate Peters Hill area.

Springfield Road

The landscaping project for the area adjacent to the Springfield/Whiterock Road junction is at final design stage and taking account of the physical restrictions of the site includes a provision for a further piece of public art. A portion of the funding from this project will be used to create the new art piece within the open space area adjacent to the pylon. This element of the project would be delivered in partnership with the council's new Public Arts and Community Co-Ordination Officer.

A two stage process is proposed to secure the development of the terms of reference for prospective artists and oversee the consideration and approval of the submissions from the appointed artist. In accordance with the public art procurement guidelines this will require a Steering Group to be established to oversee the process. The proposed steering group will comprise the Chair and Deputy Chair or nominees, Belfast City Council's Renewing the Routes and Public Arts Officers, DRD Roads Service, NIHE,

three nominations from Neighbourhood Renewal and the Upper Springfield Arts Manager. The panel will assess the submissions against established brief based on the ongoing local engagement, appoint the artist to carry out further consultation (prior to the finalisation of the art piece concept) and assess the final submission based on this consultation and the original brief. The budget allocation for the piece, to include consultation by the appointed artist, will be £30,000 from the overall funding allocation identified for the environmental improvement scheme in the original action plan.

St Peters area – Falls Road

Following the further investigation of the proposal Members may wish to note that the proposed scheme will include commercial improvements (subject to agreement) to the two adjacent units. The proposal will also include differentiated footway resurfacing along the route that connects Falls Road to St Peters Cathedral. The potential for an additional tourism sign for the area will also be considered as part of the overall project for this part of the Falls Road.

Specific Project Proposal Information

Members will note that at the June Committee meeting that the Committee agreed to defer consideration of the Republican Sinn Fein property on the Falls Road to enable further legal advice to be obtained.

The specific project proposal previously brought before the Committee related to a phase of the proposed commercial improvement works that would include the Republican Sinn Féin offices on Falls Road. The offices are located within a block of premises for which a package of cosmetic enhancements works were proposed as part of the ongoing comprehensive approach to the frontage refurbishments in this target area on the Falls Road.

The legal advice sought from the Director of Legal Services has taken account of the clarification provided by Republican Sinn Féin in respect of their interest in the property. Committee may wish to note that the formal documentation provided by the organisation indicates that the property is in the ownership of a private individual with the organisation occupying the property by virtue of an agreement rather than a formal lease.

Following consideration Legal Services have advised that there is no legal impediment to doing these works as long as no money is expended on signage or other matters that could be construed as for political publicity. The fact that the group doesn't actually own the premises themselves does not affect this advice. If the Council did not carry out the works at the premises, there is a possibility that the group could attempt to challenge the Council's decision by way of Judicial Review. There is a possibility in this case that such a review may be successful.

In light of the advice provided by Legal Services it is suggested that the refurbishment works should be carried out at the property but restricted to the façade improvements and exclude any work to the building signage, as the signage would be considered to relate to political publicity.

Belfast Regeneration Office Request for Partnership Activity

The Belfast Regeneration Office on behalf of the Minister has approached the Council in relation to the potential for a partnership to develop a commercial frontages improvement scheme for the Newtownards Road. The request followed a presentation and representation by the Newtownards Road 2012 group in relation to the potential for

the wider redevelopment of inner East Belfast.

The Department with Committee approval has previously provided technical support to the Belfast Regeneration Office where there were common objectives, programme overlap and the capacity to accommodate additional activity. These previous partnerships have included the development of environmental projects, public realm works and coordinated action in relation to derelict sites on arterial routes.

As members are aware the current Renewing the Routes local regeneration activity /resources are focussed on the delivery of the Integrated Development Fund in the West Belfast and Greater Shankill areas. The Newtownards area was previously included within the Brighter Belfast funded Arterial Routes initiative with additional support secured from the Belfast Local Strategy Partnership.

Committee may also wish to note that during the development of the Arterial Routes initiative, the potential for a commercial refurbishment scheme was considered for the Newtownards Road. However, the prioritisation of regeneration activity, carried out in consultation with the Partnership Board and other statutory agencies, resulted in a focus on environmental enhancement projects and a partnership project for the development of Dr Pitt Park.

Whilst the Belfast Regeneration Office has suggested a possible partnership it has been confirmed that there are currently no resources available to support such a scheme and the Minister has suggested that such schemes are often Council led. It should also be noted that the Council does not currently have a resource allocation for such activity in East Belfast.

It is suggested that the Committee agree to the Department exploring the potential for a formal partnership with the Belfast Regeneration Office, based on the work carried out under the Renewing the Routes initiative, that would seek to clarify potential funding and management responsibilities.

Review and future of Renewing the Routes programme

The proposal for the review of the current Renewing the Routes activity has been brought before Committee for consideration of the approach to securing the capacity of the Council to carry out targeted local regeneration activity following the completion of the current Renewing the Routes programme in March 2010.

The Renewing the Routes Team which is responsible for a range of local regeneration functions forms part of the Planning & Transport Unit. The Team currently comprises two Renewing the Routes Officers and four Assistants who are responsible to the Planning & Transport Policy Manager.

The local regeneration resources were originally put in place to develop a pilot for focussed local regeneration to target activity across some of the most deprived parts of the City. The capital and revenue resources, at that time, were established on a fixed term basis reflecting the innovative nature of the work and the pilot activity proposed under the Brighter Belfast programme (see additional information Appendix 2).

The work of the Team has, with Committee approval, continued to evolve in response to challenges identified and funding secured on the basis of the original detail scoping and prioritisation. In response to the pilot objectives the type of activity carried out has been varied encompassing direct implementation, plan development, consultation and partnership development as outlined in main body of this report and the specific

appendix noted above.

The initial pilot activity and the focussed work delivered through the Integrated Development Fund (IDF), in Shankill and West Belfast, has highlighted the both the benefits and successes of this local regeneration activity in focussed improvements across different parts of the city. The targeted improvements have helped transform local environments and contributed to the development of positive relationships and capacity building with local communities. This value and impact was recognised in the recent success Local Government Chronicle Awards recognition and the ongoing survey feedback from participants and residents.

The projected completion of the IDF works highlights the necessity to consider the ongoing activity and the potential for securing the capacity or resources for the Council to deliver future local regeneration projects. The current programme of IDF expenditure across the West Belfast and Greater Shankill Taskforce area scheduled to be completed by the end of March 2010.

It is proposed that the review of the Renewing the Routes considers the future capacity for the Council both in terms of the revenue funding for staff resources and the dedicated capital resources available for local regeneration projects. This overall objective for a comprehensive approach will require separate parallel processes which it is proposed are coordinated and brought back to a future Committee.

The Committee is therefore requested to consider the approval of review process that considers both the staff resources and implementation project funding required to effectively mainstream the capacity to deliver an ongoing programme of local regeneration activity for the Council.

Resource Implications

There are no additional financial implications arising from the proposed reallocation of IDF resources between the different projects.

Recommendations

Members are requested to:

1. Note the updates set out within the report;
2. Approve the reallocations of the previously agreed budgets of £50,000 in respect of the Peters Hill gateway site to supplement the commercial improvement budget for the Shankill Road;
3. Approve the re-location of the proposed "Millie" art piece and replacement of the agreed funding by £10,000 from within Departmental budgets;
4. Approve the proposals for the art piece on the Springfield Road and the establishment of a steering group, including the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of this Committee or the nominees, to oversee to consultation and procurement;
5. Approve the environmental scheme in the St Peters area of the Falls Road;
6. Agree that the refurbishment works to the Republican Sinn Féin premises, Falls Road be restricted to façade improvements only since work to the building signage would be considered as relating to political publicity;

7. Consider the request from the Belfast Regeneration Office for the Newtownards Road and approve exploratory work to clarify the basis for potential future partnership; and
8. Approve a review process that considers both the staff resources and implementation project funding required to effectively mainstream the capacity to deliver an ongoing programme of local regeneration activity for the Council.

Decision Tracking

Following Committee approval:

Recommendations 2-6

Detailed proposals will be developed for the scheme variations to facilitate final implementation.

Timeframe: March 2010 Reporting Officer: Shirley Mc Cay.

Recommendation 7

Discussions will be held with the Belfast Regeneration Office to establish the potential basis for future partnership activity.

Timeframe: October 2010 Reporting Officer: Shirley Mc Cay.

Recommendation 8

The recommendations in respect of the proposed review of existing renewing the routes activity to be brought back to Committee for consideration.

Timeframe: October 2010 Reporting Officer: Shirley Mc Cay.

Key to Abbreviations

IDF	Integrated Development Fund
BRO	Belfast Regeneration Office

Documents Attached

Appendix 1	Renewing the Routes Update
Appendix 2	Background to Review of the Renewing the Routes Team

APPENDIX ONE

Renewing the Routes Update

Shankill Road

The main emphasis for the regeneration of Shankill Road remains the commercial frontage improvements. Over 50 premises have participated in the scheme, with a similar number projected to benefit by the completion of works in March 2010. The heritage and conservation projects have included feature railings and granite entrance details at the West

Belfast Orange Hall; floodlighting to Woodvale Methodist Church, Railings and signage at West Kirk Presbyterian Church, the restoration at the Shankill Rest Garden's wall and stonework cleaning at Shankill Library. Environmental works including landscaping at Woodvale Presbyterian Church and lighting to the perimeter wall of Shankill Rest Garden are also due to be completed by March 2010.

Upper Springfield Road

The completed projects include the junction upgrade and the major environmental project to improve the road frontage and green space area at Springhill Park. The Springfield partnership project established a Garden of Reflection for those affected by suicide including new railings, paths, landscaping, planting and several artworks from the community. A new community inspired mosaic has been installed at the Springfield Road entrance to Sliabh Dubh estate. The contractors are currently on site for the next phase of commercial improvements to shops at the Springfield Rd/Whiterock Rd junction. The final phase of the environmental works including landscaping adjacent to the main commercial area on the arterial route is at final design stages and will include upgrades to surfacing and new planting.

Crumlin Road

Three phases of the commercial improvement programme covering 41 units at Lower Crumlin, Glenbank and Ardoyne are complete with a further 10 unit scheme proposed for the Lower Crumlin/Carlisle Circus area in early Autumn. Refurbishment works at the Belfast Orange Hall, and a landscaping scheme at Agnes Street junction are due to be completed by end of August 2009. Draft proposals have been developed for a public realm upgrade at Ardoyne roundabout and a landscaping scheme at the Glenbank Drive/Crumlin Road junction. These proposals will form the basis for final consultations with the local community representatives. The designs for two figurative stone sculptures and an additional stone pillar sculpture, at separate entrances to the Tudor housing development on Lower Crumlin, have been agreed as part of the Heritage art project. The 'Pharus' public art piece by Artist Ian McColl, was recently installed at Carlisle Circus.

Falls Road

The lower Falls Road commercial improvement programme (two phases) have been completed with 61 properties participating. The programme will reach its 100th commercial improvement property with the projected completion of an additional 40 properties taking part in the third phase. The ongoing consultations with traders in Andersonstown for a two part commercial improvement programme, has enabled the initiation of work in August with the aim of securing completion by Christmas. The programme has also received a very positive response to the proposed final phase of commercial improvements in the St James' area where 30 properties are being targeted. Refurbishment works to the listed railings at the St Comgall's site were completed in conjunction with an additional landscaping project carried out under Greencare. The lighting scheme successfully illuminated two of the Falls Road most

treasured buildings of architectural merit including Falls Road Carnegie Library and St Mary's University College along with the popular tourist site, the International Wall. The first part of a two stage project was completed at Milltown Cemetery where the railings were refurbished; the main entrance gate was refurbished and two pedestrian gates were reinstated. The second stage to address the refurbishment of the stone masonry is currently being assessed by the specialist consultants. the repointing and reinstatement of ornate sandstone finials will be at Falls Park entrance at Willowbank Youth Club has been completed by the end of the summer and two traditional plaques have been ordered for the entrance pillars. Seven tourism signs have been installed at key locations of local and historical importance on the Falls Road. The environmental project at Willowbank Youth Club has been completed with a welcoming high quality resin bound entrance road to the club, completed with bespoke entrance gates and signage and enhanced railings

APPENDIX TWO

Background to Review of the Renewing the Routes Team

Introduction

The Renewing the Routes Team forms part of the Planning & Transport Unit within the Development Department. The current structure comprises two Renewing the Routes Officers and four Assistants who are responsible to the Planning & Transport Policy Manager.

The available staff resources have been expanded from the original posts, put in place in 2004 for the Arterial Routes pilot, to meet the increased workloads arising from responsibility for the delivery of additional activity funded by external agencies. The local regeneration work carried out by the Team is currently focussed on the delivery of projects in the Greater Shankill and West Belfast areas of the city, as part of a £4.1M programme funded by the Integrated Development Fund.

The council led local regeneration activity, delivered through the Arterial Routes / Renewing the Routes initiatives, has been an ongoing implementation programme since 2004 and encompassed target areas across the city. The current project implementation phase followed on from developmental work, between 2001 and 2004, to establish a framework as the basis for the identification of target areas across the city and the subsequent development of local action plans.

Background

The genesis of the arterial routes programme can, however, be traced back to discussions between Belfast City Council and Making Belfast Work in the late 1990s. These discussions centred around the dereliction and blight on the city's arterial routes and the need for a concerted effort at their regeneration.

A number of attempts were made to get a programme of work up and running. A report commissioned by Making Belfast Work in 1997 identified possible ways forward in this regard. It noted that, despite recent regeneration in the city centre area, the areas closest to the central core displayed the greatest concentration of deprivation and were in the greatest need of a concerted programme of regeneration.

The pilot Arterial Routes programme evolved from partnership work with other statutory agencies originally initiated to target European structural funds. However, despite the absence of significant EU resources the value of the partnership activity was recognised and work continued to explore the potential for the local regeneration activity focussed on the arterial routes of the city. This work, led by the Council, resulted in the development of the innovative approach to the identification of potential areas for the focus of local regeneration activity. The process that evolved from the partnership sought to harness information from a variety of sources using a combination of Geographic Information Systems, surveys and consultations to develop a framework for prioritisation.

The framework incorporated empirical information from the surveys and GIS with deprivation indicator data and combined this with areas assessments that took account of the principles and aims to: facilitate economic competitiveness; tackle social exclusion; promote physical and environmental development and promote

creativity. The development of the framework reflected the partnership ethos of the project in terms of the shared responsibility for the provision of the information that formed the basis of the analysis. The methodology brought together empirical and survey information from the project partners with geographic data to facilitate comparison both within the different routes and across the city.

Target Areas

The partnership recognised the necessity for focussed regeneration and agreed to adopt a phased approach to development plans and the delivery of local regeneration activity in the areas of greatest identifiable need. The framework for the consideration of the inputs from the statutory and community partners offered the potential to incorporate raw survey data with the consideration of economic and social indicators utilising the evolving geographic information systems.

The application of the methodology identified eleven potential areas as priorities for coordinated local regeneration activity (York Rd, Antrim Rd, Falls Rd, Donegall Rd, Newtownards Rd, Shankill Rd, Lower Crumlin Rd, Lower Ormeau Rd, Albertbridge Rd, Upper Springfield Rd, and Upper Shankill Rd). Consequently the five “top” scores from the analysis were identified for action under phase one (an additional area in north Belfast was subsequently added in recognition of the fact that it already had a preliminary regeneration plan in place) with the next five prioritised for action under phase two of the programme.

Phase One

- York Road from North Queen Street to Whitla Street
- Antrim Road from Carlisle Circus to Duncairn Avenue
- Donegall Road from Roden Street to the Broadway roundabout
- Newtownards Road from the junction with the Bridge End flyover towards East Belfast Enterprise Park
- Falls Road from Dunville Park to Divis Street
- Shankill Road from Townsend Street to Agnes Street.

Phase Two

- Lower Crumlin Road from Carlisle Circus towards Hillview Road
- Lower Ormeau Road from Donegall Pass towards Stranmillis Embankment
- Albertbridge Road from Cluan Place to corner of Newtownards Road
- Upper Springfield Road from Moyard Park to Monagh Road
- Upper Shankill Road from Snugville Street to Woodvale Park.

This process and the underlying information was initially used by externally appointed consultants to develop five local action plans which were intended to form the first phase of the council led pilot programme.

During the Committee consideration of the plans developed by the consultants the approach to their development was modified to bring responsibility within the council. This review in the approach recognised the longer term potential for the council to develop and retain the capacity for the identification and delivery of local regeneration activity. This longer term council commitment was supplemented by the allocation of £1.1m for the phased development of pilot regeneration projects across the eleven priority areas.

The coordination and integration of activity in the different areas was secured through the development of agreed action plans for each of the identified target areas. The plan development process comprised of three main stages: structured consultation process carried out to identify statutory plans and community aspirations for area; the identification of key sites with consideration existing or proposed activity; and the agreement on short, medium and long-term priorities.

The plan development process was further refined in response to requirements imposed as part of the final approval process for the Integrated Development Fund proposals. In late 2005 the Council received confirmation of initial Ministerial approval of the Integrated Development Plan application submitted in 2004.

The approval was made conditional on the Council developing action plans for the identified target areas set within the broader Taskforce boundary. The work to be undertaken through the Integrated Development Fund focused on: the existing areas (Lower Falls, Upper Springfield, Lower Shankill, Upper Shankill, Crumlin Road including the area adjacent to Broadway roundabout) and the extension areas into the adjacent parts of these arterial routes (Falls Road as far as beginning of Stewartstown Road, Springfield Road as far as Springfield Park, Crumlin Road as Braehill Road and 0.5km along Woodvale Road).

Following clarification of the IDF action plan requirements in early 2006 the Council, in September 2006, submitted pilot Action Plans developed for the Upper Springfield and Shankill for final BRO approval. The two initial Action Plans were approved in April 2007 with the final plans for Crumlin Road and Falls Road approved late in the same year.

Activity

The original Council funding for the eleven target areas was allocated with the intention of developing local pilot projects and as a stimulus to encourage further focussed activity by the statutory partners through coordinated interventions. This early focus on broader objectives and partnership proved fundamental to the continued development and success of the initiative.

This partnership approach and the emphasis on coordination with other regeneration activity provided a robust basis for successful funding applications to the Belfast Local Strategy Partnership (Newtownards Rd/ Falls Rd), Urban II (Antrim Rd / York Rd) and most recently the Integrated Development Fund (West Belfast and Greater Shankill Taskforce area).

As outlined above the coordination and integration of activity in the different areas was secured through the development of agreed action plans for each of the identified target areas. The plan development process comprised of three main stages: structured consultation process carried out to identify statutory plans and community aspirations for area; the identification of key sites with consideration existing or proposed activity; and the agreement on short, medium and long-term priorities.

The plans were used as a basis for leveraging additional investment, encouraging mainstreaming and promoting linkages to wider regeneration in the areas. They also reflected an approach at reaching an agreed action plan for an identified area, arrived at through consensus with all relevant parties. This differed from the project-

driven approach to regeneration and individual projects which prevailed in many of the identified target areas.

Following Committee consideration of the first phase draft plans, prepared by external consultants, it was resolved that the phase one implementation activity and phase two plan development work would be undertaken by Council staff. This changed approach was facilitated by a resource (comprising two fixed-term officer posts) being established within the Planning and Transport Unit in spring 2004. The activity and the linked plan development process continued to evolve in response to funding requirements and the experience gained through project implementation and review.

Consequently the initial resources have increased, on the basis of additional BLSP and Urban II funding, and reached current levels in 2007, with the approval of additional support from the Integrated Development Fund.

The work in the target areas and across the partnership has focused on building relationships, plan development, securing resources and project delivery. Activity carried under the different programmes was based on partnership and the objective of coordinating the packages of smaller scale local regeneration activity with the existing or proposed regeneration schemes for the wider areas.

The Arterial Routes activity focused on pilot project delivery in phase one areas alongside the development of action plans for the phase two target areas. Additional funding was also targeted, to complement the Council allocations, and by late 2004 the available resources had been supplemented by almost £700,000 from BLSP and Urban II. Regular coordination meetings continued with the local partners to progress individual and collective initiatives and the underlying processes were established to facilitate the project implementation and delivery for the first phase plan objectives.

In autumn 2004, activity began on scoping work for the phase two Arterial Routes plans. Agreements were reached with the Area Partnership Boards and other appropriate local conduits to carry out local consultation work with a view to drawing together the plans for these areas. The plans were progressed according to local resources and capacity balancing this developmental work with the initiation of implementation activity for the phase one plans.

The first of the phase two plans were endorsed by Committee in June 2005 and with the exception of the Upper Shankill (2006) all the plans were adopted by the end of the year. The approach to the broad regeneration activity within the pilot and subsequent programmes has continued to evolve through the experience gained during each of the different phases of the plan development, implementation.

By late 2006, the point at which work commenced on the identification of potential IDF activity, the majority of the pilot Arterial Routes projects had been completed. This first phase of implementation secured over £1.3M of capital expenditure across 61 projects bringing benefit to over 150 properties or sites across the eleven target areas.

As identified above the initial Council funding levered in direct capital funding from Urban II (£440,000) and the BLSP (£280,000) that further enhanced the resources for the Newtownards Road, Falls Road, Antrim Road and York Road areas. The plans also formed the basis for work to influence other statutory agencies and funding streams through formal and informal partnerships.

A summary of the completed schemes at the end of 2006 is detailed below.

Donegall Road

- Residential property enhancements
- Youth gardening project, including the installation of new street furniture
- Murals removal and replacement with community murals
- Tree planting scheme
- Construction and installation of decorative sculpture wall

Newtownards Road

- Art panels at Strand Walk security barrier
- Titanic mural at Dee Street
- External upgrade of Masonic Hall
- St Patrick's external improvement works
- Lighting at Church of the Nazarene
- Elim Church planting and external lighting
- St Matthew's landscaping and external improvements
- Westbourne Presbyterian boundary improvements.
- Pitt Park refurbishment
- Portview Art Piece installation

Lower Shankill Road

- Art panels on Westlink bridge
- External lighting scheme at St Michael's
- Art panels at Shankill Leisure Centre
- Lighting improvements at Shankill Mission and external refurbishment
- Commercial/ shop front improvements.

York Road

- Jesus Saves Church external refurbishments.
- Alexandra Church landscaping works.
- St Paul's boundary improvement and landscaping.
- York Street mural removal /art installation
- Limestone Road boundary enhancements
- Phase 1 commercial/ shop frontage enhancement scheme

Antrim Road

- St Malachy's gate repairs and repainting, floodlighting at road frontage.
- Clifton Street cemetery – floodlighting
- Residential properties boundary enhancements and external painting
- Commercial property boundary enhancements
- Former Duncairn Church floodlighting
- Commercial property /shop frontage refurbishments

Falls Road

- Phase one commercial/ shop frontage enhancement scheme
- New boundary definition at the Twin Spires complex
- Careers 'n' Kids boundary improvements

This pilot funding was allocated with the intention of developing local pilot projects and as a stimulus to encourage further targeted activity by the statutory partners and coordinated interventions. This early focus on broader objectives and partnership was fundamental to the continued development and success of the initiative both in terms of securing additional resources and the delivery of coordinated activity.

Urban II subsequently approved additional resources (£140,000) which were supplemented by partnership activity carried out with other external agencies including Groundwork, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Roads Service. The agreed action plans also formed the basis for work to influence other statutory agencies and funding streams through formal and informal partnerships.

The scale of potential activity changed with the enhanced resources available under the Integrated Development Fund. This approval and extension of the target areas increased the intensity of the work both in the preparation of agreed plans and the delivery of resulting initiatives. The activity focused on: the existing areas (Lower Falls, Upper Springfield, Lower Shankill, Upper Shankill, Crumlin Road including the

area adjacent to Broadway roundabout) and extension areas (Falls Road as far as beginning of Stewartstown Road, Springfield Road as far as Springfield Park, Crumlin Road as Braehill Road and 0.5km along Woodvale Road) exceeded that possible under the pilot Arterial Routes initiatives.

The resources expended under the Renewing the Routes initiative had by March 2009 reached £1.8M across the four identified routes. This level of spend/ activity over a period of eighteen months almost matched the full extent of the local regeneration works carried out under the preceding Brighter Belfast and associated externally funded initiatives. The results of this work has been the subject of regular updates to the Development Committee

Through the 'Renewing the Routes' programme, the Council continues to develop and lead targeted local regeneration. The focussed approach to enhancing the vitality of these roads through the implementation of integrated regeneration plans in the Shankill, Falls, Crumlin and Springfield Road has transformed the important local centres for the surrounding communities.

This work has been supplemented by the development and delivery of a Shankill Junctions improvement scheme on behalf of the Belfast Regeneration Office. The project covering three of the primary junctions secured a further £300,000 of funding to supplement the already programmed IDF expenditure in the area.

The challenging programmes for each of the routes are targeted to be completed within the funding deadlines. The programme across the four broad areas has seen over 190 properties benefit from the commercial improvement works and with the increasing popularity/participation rates it is anticipated that a further 160 properties will be completed by March 2010. This emphasis has made this element of the programme the heart of the successful transformation within the target regeneration areas. This focus has, however, been complemented by the three supporting strands that have targeted improvements to architectural/ heritage assets; improvements to the public realm and general environmental enhancements.

A summary of the proposed and completed schemes is outlined below.

Crumlin Road

- Commercial Improvements Lower Crumlin
- Commercial Improvements Glenbank Shops
- Commercial Improvements Ardoyne
- Commercial Improvements Carlisle Circus
- Carlisle Circus Public Realm
- Belfast Orange Hall
- Agnes Street Landscaping
- St Malachy's Entrance Gates
- Ardoyne Roundabout Public Realm
- Glenbank Drive Public Realm
- Heritage Art Projects
- Tourism Signage
- Lighting Projects
- Packaged Environmental Improvements
- Crumlin Road Tourism Signage

Falls Road

Commercial Improvements Lower Falls
An Ceiliruadh Art Piece
West Circular Roundabout
St Comgall's Environmental Improvements
International Wall Lighting
Carnegie Library Lighting
St Mary's University College Lighting
Packaged Environmental Improvements and graffiti removal
Commercial Improvements Andersonstown
St Peter's Environmental Improvements
Broadway Environmental Improvements
Milltown Cemetery Boundary Improvements
Falls Park Entrance
City Cemetery Boundary Improvements
Willowbank Youth Club
Commercial Improvements Mid Falls
Falls Road Tourism Signage

Shankill Road

Woodvale Commercial Improvements
Commercial Improvements Upper Shankill
Commercial Improvements Mid Shankill
Commercial Improvements Lower Shankill
Architectual /Heritage Building Improvements
Shankill Library Improvements
West Kirk Church
Shankill Rest Garden Boundary
West Belfast Orange Hall
Woodvale Road Presbyterian Church
Woodvale Methodist Church
Shankill Road Tourism Signage
Packaged Environmental Improvements

Upper Springfield Road

Springfield Road Junction Public Realm
Whiterock Road Public Realm
Top of the Rock Complex Public Realm
Whiterock Commercial Improvements
Top of the Rock Complex Commercial Improvements
Springhill Commercial Improvements
New Barnsley Pylon
JP Corry Boundary Treatment

Whiterock Orange Hall
Springhill Park Landscaping and Art
Springfield Road Environmental Improvements



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Department of the Environment Consultation on Planning Reform
Date:	12 August 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives ext. 3459

Relevant Background Information

In July 2009, the Department of the Environment published the consultation paper – “Reform of the Planning System in Northern Ireland”. The paper sets out the measures the Department proposes to take to reform the planning system in Northern Ireland in the medium to longer term.

A copy of the consultation paper is available on the Department’s website:-

www.planningni.gov.uk/index/news/news_consultation/consultation_paper_final_200709.pdf

The consultation paper essentially sets out proposals to make the changes required to implement the decisions taken under the Review of Public Administration which will result in the majority of planning functions returning to local government.

In September the Department of the Environment intends to hold stakeholder events in each of the “new” Council areas including Belfast. It is proposed that the Council is represented at the local event by both Members and officers.

The purpose of the report is to inform the Committee of the consultation document, the key issues for consideration and the proposed approach for the Council response which must be received by the DoE no later than 2 October 2009.

Key Issues

On initial review of the consultation document, the main strategic issues for the

committee to consider at this stage are as follows:

- There is the potential for the NI planning system to become more fragmented with the regional planning function remaining with two central governments departments (DRD and DOE) while local planning is transferred to the new councils.
- The Department is proposing a new local development plan system along with a number of other reforms which will be determined by the new council's. This will have significant resource and capacity implications for the new councils which is not addressed in the document.
- The Department proposes a high level of scrutiny of local council planning functions through a number of measures including:
 - the statement of community involvement must be agreed by central government;
 - local councils programme for the review of the local development plan must be agreed through a Programme Management Scheme by central government;
 - it is proposed that regionally significant developments will be determined by the Department and its minister; and
 - the proposed thresholds set for regionally significant applications indicates a high level of call in by the Department.
- The proposal for a tier system to determine planning applications means that planning applications will be determined by either central government or local councils which potentially could cause confusion.

A more detailed initial review of the main proposals and associated issues, which follows the format of the consultation document, is attached in Appendix 1. The Executive Summary from the Reform Document is also attached for information in Appendix 2.

Proposed Actions

The reforms proposed in the consultation paper are intended to underpin the transfer of planning functions to Local Authorities and to set the framework under which the planning role will be undertaken by the eleven new Councils. Members are aware that the role of the Transition Committee is to ensure continuity of service delivery across the new Council area from 2011 and to integrate transferred services and new functions into the new Council's operations. Accordingly, it is proposed that the Council's Strategic Policy and Resources (Transition) Committee is the most appropriate vehicle to determine the Council's response to this consultation.

Since the "Reform of the Planning System in Northern Ireland" paper covers a wide range of areas, comments are being sought currently from all Council Departments to inform the response. In addition, any comments which Party Groups or individual Members may wish to make will be welcomed and will inform the preparation of the draft response which will be submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources (Transition) Committee.

Responsibility for the areas addressed in the consultation paper fall principally within the remits of the Development and Town Planning Committees. Therefore this report seeks to outline the issues for the Development Committee and make Members aware of the proposal that the Members of both Town Planning Committee and Development Committee will be invited to the meeting of the Transition Committee at which a response is to be determined.

Resource Implications

None.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee agrees to:

- | |
|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Note the proposed arrangements for the formulation of a corporate response to the “Reform of the Planning System in Northern Ireland” consultation paper; and2. Note that any Party Group or Member may provide initial input to the formulation of the draft response by contacting Kevin Heaney, RPA Co-ordinator3. Note the intention to invite the members of the Development Committee and Town Planning Committee to the meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources (Transition) Committee at which the draft response to the consultation will be considered. |
|--|

Documents Attached

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Appendix 1 | Summary of the main issues from the Department of the Environment’s consultation paper - “Reform of the Planning System in Northern Ireland”. |
| Appendix 2 | Executive Summary - “Reform of the Planning System in Northern Ireland” |

BLANK PAGE

APPENDIX 1

Summary of the main issues from the Department of the Environment's consultation paper - "Reform of the Planning System in Northern Ireland".

Planning Policy

The Department is proposing that Planning Policy Statements (PPS's) should move from providing operational guidance and advice to providing strategic direction and regional policy advice, which would then be interpreted locally in development plans. The aim is to produce shorter, more focused documents, in a shorter timescale.

Issues

- The responsibility of preparing PPS's will remain with the Department. There may be potential for conflict between local and central government where a district council wishes to depart from regional policy advice
- The proposed changes will require a complete overhaul of each of the current PPS's, this may be a lengthy process which will impact on the local councils local development plan process

Development Plan

Under RPA it is proposed that responsibility for local planning will transfer to local councils. The Department proposes to introduce a new local development plan system to speed up the process. The new Local Development plans are to consist of two separate but related documents: A plan strategy and Site Specific Policies and Proposals.

Council's will be required by proposed new legislation to create a Statement of Community Involvement and also prepare Programme Management Scheme which will set out the programme for production of the key documents in the process. It is proposed that the Department will have power to secure delivery of local development plans where a district authority is not making process. A faster more effective independent examination process is proposed and will remain the responsibility of Planning Appeals Commission. Representations to the Development Plan will follow a standard template and must demonstrate why the plan is not robust and suggest a solution.

Issues

- the Council will need to develop the capacity to create local development plans but there is no discussion on resources needed to carry out this function
- The examination process is to change which will have implications for legal services
- If there is a time lag from the production of revised PPS, it may impact on the local development plan process
- Council's capacity to develop Statement of Community Involvement and the need for it to be agreed by central government

Development Management (Control)

Development management is the new name proposed for development control and its responsibility will be shared between the Department and local councils. The main

differences are summarised in Table 1. A three tier hierarchy for applications is proposed for applications: regional significant development, major development, local development. (Diagram 1) It is proposed that regionally significant developments will be determined by the Department and its minister and major developments will be determined by the new councils and will include major developments with important economic, social or environmental implications for an area of an individual district council. The definition of what constitutes a major development is outlined in Table 2

Other proposed changes include:

- The retention of regionally significant planning application with central government and the proposed threshold level for call ins
- To front load the planning application system with early engagement and pre application discussions
- Extend the permitted development rights
- Schemes of delegated decision making
- An extended list of consultee's with new statutory obligation for a timeframe for reply

Issues

- The council will have to decide on its own scheme of delegated decision making
- A extended list of statutory consultees may result in lengthening in the process

Development Management in Conservation Areas, ATCs/AVC's

A House of Lords Judgement (Shimizu (UK) Ltd v Westminster City Council 1997) established that, in conservations areas, the demolition of part of an unlisted building, which might previously have been considered to require conservation area consent, no longer needs such consent, i.e. partial demolition of buildings in conservation areas is not subject to conservation control. The Department aims to amend the legislation to clarify that conservation area consent/planning permission is required to partially demolish any part of an unlisted building in a conservation area/ATC/AVC

Issues

- This proposal has an impact on the operational side of the planning system and should provide clarity to local authorities

Duration of Permissions and consents

The Department view that the current timescales for development (usually 5 years) can lead to developers 'land-banking' which can result in development uncertainty in an area. The five year duration also has potential to lead to delays in policies taking effect on the ground as it will only apply to new development proposals

The Department proposes to

- Reduce the normal default duration of planning permission, listed building and conservation area consents from five years to three;
- For outline permission removal of the condition requiring development to start no later than five years from approval. Requirement to submit Reserved Matters within three years to be retained.

Issues

- As identified in the reform document this could potentially lead to an increase in ‘technical starts’ whereby enough development has commenced to meet the commencement date condition but then development is stopped. The installation of foundations of the development is a common way to meet the time condition at low expense.

Non material changes

It is the Department view that the current, non statutory, system of planning officers allowing non-material changes, or minor amendments, to existing approvals on a case-by-case basis may be open to a successful challenge by a third party.

The Department proposes specific legislative provisions to enable non-material changes to planning permissions to be made. These provisions could:

- Allow planning authority to change any planning permission where it is satisfied the change is not material;
- Enable planning authority to impose new conditions and remove or alter existing conditions;
- Make the power available only after application by a person with interest in the land;

This will result in the current process whereby developers can request a minor amendment to an existing proposal replaced by a system that allows changes by the authority with legislative backing.

Issues

- This will give local councils the power to impose new conditions and remove or alter existing conditions
- These new powers may reduce the number of new planning applications being submitted to the new local councils

Correction of Errors in Decision Notices

The Department proposes changes in legislation to allow the planning authority to correct errors in planning decision documents without the consent of the applicant/landowner. Article 20(3) of Planning Reform Order 2006 defines correctable error as an error contained in any part of the decision document which is not part of any reasons given for the decision.

Issues

Clarification will be required as to what consists the decision document, is it the decision certificate itself or does it include the Case Officers Report?

Appeals

The Department proposes the following:

- Reduce the time limit for lodging planning appeals to two months (including appeals into certificate of lawful use or development)
- Provide PAC with the statutory powers to decide the appeal method
- Provide in statute that appeal parties may not raise matters that were not in front of the planning authority when the decision was made.

- To extend the power to determine a parallel planning application if the same development is subject of a 'deemed application' to the PAC
- Introduce a power to allow the PAC to award costs where a party has been put to unnecessary expense and where the PAC has established that the other party has acted unreasonably
- Seek views on providing new councils the ability to determine certain minor appeals by a local member review body (LMRB)

Issues

- Some of the proposals may result in an increased work load for the PAC eg the new 2 month time limit. However other proposals are aimed at reducing PAC work load eg restriction on new material, and power to decide the appeal method.
- Award of costs may increase the financial burden on local councils
- Post RPA the major impact of these proposals will be the Local Member Review Body proposal whereby elected councillors on the LMRB would have the power to uphold, reverse or vary any decision which is subject to their review. This, in addition to a reduced PAC case load, would give councils increased powers which would impact on council resources as the LMRB would need professional planning guidance.

Third Party Appeals

The Department has decided to re-examine the issue in light of previous and continued interest in third party rights of appeal, however the Department is not proposing to make provision for third party appeals in this reform.

The Case for Third Party Appeals:

- Equity/natural justice;
- Enhanced third party participation in planning system
- More accessible/relevant than Judicial Review;
- Enhanced decision making;
- An incentive to good practice in relation to greater consultation by applicants;
- Swifter decisions in the knowledge of the availability of third party appeals;
- Increased public confidence

Implications of third party appeals:

- Net cost to the public purse;
- There would be a time lag on all decisions in order to allow third parties to appeal;
- Additional staff resources required by local authorities and PAC;
- Greater uncertainty as to the outcome of planning process;
- Potential adverse impact upon investment and the economy.

Issues

- Third party appeals may lead to the development management process being more accountable. However it would result in the need to increase resources and lengthen the development management process.
- Is the Statement of Community Involvement adequate?

Enforcement and criminalisation

Increased Fees for Retrospective Applications

The Department is considering charging a greater or multiple of the normal fee for retrospective planning applications.

Issue

- This could be a contentious issue as some breaches of planning control are genuine.

Criminalisation of Development without Planning Permission

The Department is giving consideration to making it an immediate criminal offence to commence any development without planning permission.

Issue

- This may result in the need for Local council's to increase their legal services capacity

Developer Contributions

The Department identifies two options for securing increased levels of developer contributions:

- The extended use of existing Article 40 powers; or
- Development of a CIL-type (Community Infrastructure Levy) levy on a regional or sub-regional basis

The extension of the use of Article 40 powers could provide an increased level of funding for infrastructure provision within existing legislative powers. PPS1 would likely need to be reviewed. In the case of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in England and Wales, under CIL, local planning authorities will be empowered to introduce a statutory planning charge on development and to use the resulting money to support infrastructure provision.

Issues

- Contributions could be used to enhance or develop Councils amenities such as open space, recycling centres, parks, community and play facilities
- The time required to develop and effective system;
- Determining a suitable plan or framework to determine infrastructure requirements and costings;
- The development of a mechanism to calculate and assign financial liabilities on developers;
- Flexibility to cope with different market trends or economic conditions at regional or local level;
- Legislative provision to underpin the system; and
- Agreement as to which department(s) should lead this work

Table 1

Comparison of development control with development management Development Control	Development Management
<p>Purpose is focus on processing applications to control development and minimise harm with limited enhancement to quality of the final development</p>	<p>Purpose is to manage development with a focus on pre-application discussion to maximise achievement of desired outcomes for government, district councils and their communities</p>
<p>Asks at submission of formal application stage if the proposal is contrary to plans and policy and therefore likely to be refused</p>	<p>Asks at pre-application stage what are the key policy issues that need to be addressed if the proposal is to be acceptable in principle and how it can help to deliver regional policy and better quality places for district councils and their communities</p>
<p>Seeks views of communities after submission of application</p>	<p>Seeks views of communities at pre-application stage for significant developments, in addition to application stage</p>
<p>Other agencies are consultees in the process</p>	<p>Seeks to work in partnership to secure agreed development, particularly with key consultees and relevant stakeholders</p>
<p>Handles all applications with predominantly 'one size fits all' process</p>	<p>Develops proportionate processes for all applications appropriate to the scale and impact of individual developments</p>

Diagram 1

The following diagram shows the new procedures and processes for applications within the hierarchy (post-RPA).

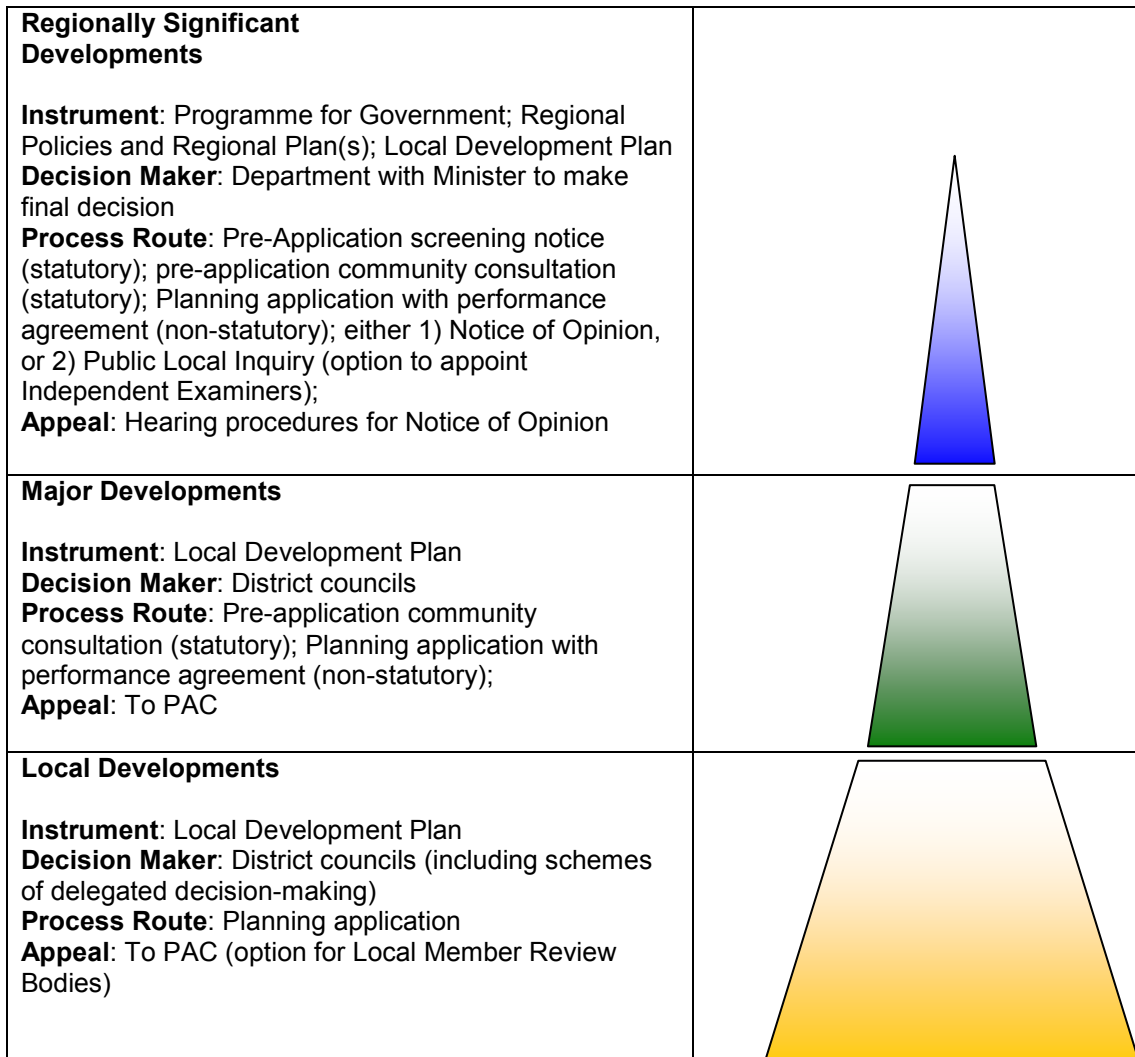


Table 2

Major development is one that falls within the minimum and maximum thresholds of the following classes of development

Major Developments Description of Development	Threshold or criteria
1. Housing	Urban areas: a) brownfield development that comprises or exceeds 50 residential units or where the site area is or exceeds 0.5 hectares, but is not greater than 500 units or 4 hectares; or b) greenfield development that comprises or exceeds 100 residential units or where the site area is or exceeds 2 hectares, but is not greater than 500 units or 4 hectares. Within villages and other small rural settlements: a) any development which comprises or exceeds 20 residential units, but is not greater than 100 units.
2. Retailing	a) food - where gross floor space of the development comprises or exceeds 1,000 square metres, but is not greater than 3000 square metres; or b) non food – where the gross floor space comprises 3000 square metres, but is not greater than 10,000 square metres; or c) the site area is or exceeds 1 hectare, but is not greater than 2 hectares.
3. Business, Industry (Light and General), Storage and Distribution	a) where the gross floor space of the development comprises or exceeds 5,000 square metres, but is not greater than 15,000 sq metres; or b) the site area is or exceeds 1 hectare, but is not greater than 2 hectares.
4. Energy Generation	Development that generates energy from renewable resources where the capacity is 5 megawatts, but does not exceed 20 megawatts.
5. Waste Management Facilities	a) construction or use of land or buildings for the purpose of waste management, deposit, recovery and/or disposal of household,

APPENDIX 2

Reform of the Planning System in Northern Ireland: Your Chance to Influence Change Consultation Paper

Executive Summary

1. In November 2007, the then Minister of the Environment, Arlene Foster, announced that she intended to take forward a programme of planning reform, with the key aim of developing proposals that would enable the planning system to play its part in delivering the Executive's Programme for Government (PfG) priorities and, in particular, by contributing to growing a dynamic, innovative and sustainable economy, while promoting inclusion and equality of opportunity. Professor Greg Lloyd, an expert on planning, was appointed to provide the Minister with an independent opinion on the direction that planning reform would need to take to best achieve its aim and to work with officials to develop proposals for the key measures necessary to deliver an improved planning system.

¹ The Programme for Government sets out the Executive's strategic priorities and key plans for 2008-11 and can be found at <http://www.pfgbudgetni.gov.uk/> 7

2. This consultation paper sets out the measures the Department of the Environment (the Department) proposes to take to reform the planning system in Northern Ireland and to make the changes required to implement the decisions taken under the Review of Public Administration (RPA), which will see the majority of planning functions returning to local government. Together, these proposals represent the most fundamental change to the planning system in Northern Ireland in over 30 years.
3. The paper also sets out certain related issues on which the Department is seeking views, including criminalisation of development without planning permission, developer contributions and enhancing the capacity of the planning system.

Stakeholder Engagement

4. In order to fully inform the proposals the Department has been involved in a number of different engagement activities, including a major conference in November 2007, attended by approximately 200 delegates and addressed by the Environment Minister. A questionnaire developed for the conference was posted on the Planning Service website for 10 weeks, with over 240 responses submitted and considered. Officials have also been engaged in research and have been in liaison with their counterparts in planning throughout the UK and Ireland. In addition, a series of meetings, involving Professor Lloyd, have been held with internal and external stakeholders, including other government departments, the Planning Appeals Commission, representative bodies such as Community Places, Northern Ireland Environmental Link, the Construction Employers Federation, the Institute of Directors, the Confederation of British Industry, the Northern Ireland Local Government Association and others.
5. The planning system is fundamentally about ensuring the effective and efficient use of land in the public interest, contributing to achieving sustainable development in cities, towns and rural areas. Land use and development involves a complex interaction and analysis of economic, environmental and socio-economic issues and, with the return of devolved government in Northern Ireland, the Executive has made it clear that the top priority for the next three years is sustainable economic growth.

6. Reform is therefore needed to ensure that we have a modern, efficient and effective planning system, and is critical to supporting the Executive in delivering on its key priorities. The planning system needs to provide confidence to investors, developers and the public alike. It needs to be more responsive to the many and varied challenges we are facing today, including promotion of economic growth, enabling sustainable development, securing environmental protection, addressing climate change and demands for more social and affordable housing and, of course, ensuring effective use of resources and improved service provision.

Aims and Objectives for Reform

7. The reform programme aims to bring about improvements in the planning system to ensure that it:
- supports the future economic and social development needs of Northern Ireland and manages development in a sustainable way, particularly with regard to large, complex or strategic developments;
 - is delivered at the right level with the appropriate managed processes for regionally significant, major, local and minor applications;
 - has streamlined processes that are effective, efficient and improve the predictability and quality of service delivery; and
 - allows full and open consultation and actively engages communities.
8. The reforms are set in the context of the overall objective of improving the Northern Ireland economy, while promoting social inclusion, sustainable communities and personal health and well-being, as well as promoting viable and vital towns and city centres and helping to create shared spaces that are accessible to all and where people can live, work and socialise. We must also balance this with protecting the environment and heritage and contributing to sustainable development.

Scope of the Reforms

9. This reform of the planning system is intended to be comprehensive: it encompasses the development plan process, development control, enforcement and planning policy, together with other support-type functions. It also covers a significant time period, from the short-term through to 2011 and beyond. It is focused on the planning system, not just the Planning Service, and on the roles and responsibilities of all of the participants, including planners, developers, agents, consultees, representative bodies, elected representatives, communities and individuals. In addition, the major structural reform of the planning system required to deliver the RPA will see decision-making on planning applications and local development planning become the responsibility of the new district councils. This will make planning much more locally accountable, giving local politicians the opportunity to shape the areas within which they are elected. It will also improve the decision-making processes by bringing an enhanced understanding of the needs and aspirations of local communities.
10. In advance of these proposals, the Planning Service has been taking forward a series of projects, pilots and trials aimed at having an immediate impact on speeding up the planning process (e.g. new pre-application discussion arrangements with applicants, and a joint pilot scheme with Derry City Council to streamline non-contentious applications² which, by the end of March 2009, had been rolled-out to all district councils). In the medium to longer term, the reform proposals that will be brought

forward will require more significant changes, in many cases underpinned by new or amended legislation.

² Non-contentious applications are defined as minor applications with no objections.

11. Chapter 1 provides background to the reform programme: the purpose of the planning system; why we need to reform it; the impact the RPA will have; and the Department's vision for a reformed planning system. The remainder of the consultation paper covers the areas set out below.

Planning Policy

12. The Department is considering the need for a reform of its arrangements for planning policy, particularly in relation to the future role and status of planning policy statements (PPSs) in light of the proposed transfer of key planning functions to the new district councils in 2011. The Department is proposing that PPSs should move from providing operational guidance and advice to providing strategic direction and regional policy advice, which would then be interpreted locally in development plans, and that the content and process associated with PPS production should reflect the desire to produce shorter, more focused documents, in a shorter timescale.

Development Plan

13. Fundamental to reform is the provision of an effective, up-to-date development plan system. The Department proposes to introduce a new local development plan system which will operate within the two-tier planning system envisaged under the RPA, whereby planning functions will be administered by both district councils and the Department. The proposals are intended to:

- speed up the plan preparation process;
- ensure more effective participation from the community and other key stakeholders early in plan preparation; and
- ensure a more flexible approach that is responsive to change and capable of faster review.

The new local development plan system will provide more clarity and predictability for developers, the public and other stakeholders. It will also assist the new 11 district councils to target action to tackle social need and promote social inclusion.

Development Management

14. Enhancing the ability of the system to deal speedily with key planning applications that have real economic and social benefit is central to delivering the vision of a planning system that is fit for purpose and which will underpin a modern and prosperous Northern Ireland. The Department proposes to adopt a concept of development management for handling planning applications, with a greater emphasis on facilitating and shaping development and away from mainly controlling it.

15. As part of this new development management approach, the Department is proposing the creation of a 3-tier hierarchy of development (consisting of regionally significant, major and local) so that greater resources can be directed at those applications with economic and social significance, through more proportionate decision-making mechanisms, tailored according to the scale and complexity of the proposed development. In conjunction with this, the Department proposes to introduce new processing arrangements for types of applications within the 3-tier hierarchy. These will improve the predictability of timescales and ensure effective engagement with the community and other stakeholders. Proposals are also included in relation to permitted development, the role of consultees, the partial demolition of unlisted

buildings in conservation areas/areas of townscape or village character, and miscellaneous changes to planning permissions.

Permitted Development (including householder and small scale renewable energy generation)

16. Permitted development rights currently allow certain, often minor, non-contentious types of development to proceed without the need for a planning application as planning permission is deemed to be granted. The introduction of development management will include a rationalisation of how planning permission is given for such minor developments. The Department proposes to achieve this by simplifying and streamlining processes for applications for minor development, and by extending the range of minor developments for which planning permission is given without a planning application: for example, by extending permitted development rights within the curtilage of a dwelling house, and providing specific permitted development rights for small scale renewable energy generation.

Role of Consultees

17. The Department is re-examining the arrangements by which planning authorities (whether district councils or the Department) will consult other bodies on applications for planning permission, approval and consent and the process by which consultee bodies will be required to respond to such consultations.

Enhanced Development Management in Conservation Areas, Areas of Townscape or Village Character

18. Protecting those areas that have been identified as architecturally or historically important is a key role of the planning system. As part of this role, a number of conservation areas and areas of townscape or village character have been designated, or are proposed, across Northern Ireland. To ensure these areas are fully protected the Department is proposing to strengthen control over the partial demolition of unlisted buildings in conservation areas, areas of townscape or village character and to place greater emphasis on the enhancement of conservation areas.

Miscellaneous Changes to Planning Permissions

19. The Department is seeking views in relation to changing the duration of planning permission and some consents; enabling non-material changes to planning permissions (i.e. minor changes that do not significantly change a scheme that was originally granted planning permission) to be made; and allowing the planning authority to correct errors in planning decision documents without the consent of the applicant/landowner.

Appeals and Third Party Appeals

20. The Department is examining measures for improving the appeal system: for example, reducing the time limit for lodging an appeal from six months to two, giving the Planning Appeals Commission the legislative powers to determine the most appropriate appeal method, and establishing local member review bodies (comprised of councillors) to hear certain appeals. The Department is also inviting views on the issue of third party planning appeals.

Enforcement and Criminalisation

21. The Department is reviewing enforcement provisions to ensure they are sufficiently robust and considering whether any new proposals, similar to those recently introduced in Scotland, should be developed for Northern Ireland. The arguments for and against introducing a criminal offence for commencing development without planning permission are also considered.

Developer Contributions

22. The Department is seeking views on the contribution that the development industry might make to the provision of infrastructure (such as roads, water and sewerage) necessary for Northern Ireland's economic and social improvement.

Enabling Reform

23. In order to properly reform the planning system there are a number of related areas which will need to be addressed: for example, culture change, capacity, funding, engaging communities, audit and inspection arrangements.

Culture

24. The reform proposals represent the most substantial changes to the planning system in over 30 years. For the full impact of these changes to be realised, and a new planning system created, it is clear that a change in culture for all those involved in the system is required. The development of a shared understanding amongst stakeholders on the role and nature of the planning system is extremely important, both in terms of what planning is expected to deliver and what it is not. A key element of such an approach is an enhanced appreciation and acceptance of both the rights and responsibilities of all stakeholders.

Capacity

25. Another key area will be building capacity, both within the existing Planning Service and working with stakeholder bodies, councils, consultees, developers, agents and the public to deliver reform, including the new roles and responsibilities emerging from RPA implementation. It is particularly important that all planning staff continue to develop and enhance the necessary skills and competences required to take forward planning reform.

Funding

26. The implementation of the RPA, in conjunction with the reform programme, will inevitably have implications for the funding of the planning system, and for the fee structure. We need to assess how these proposed reforms will impact on funding and what revisions may be required as a result. Consultants will be engaged to research and provide recommendations in relation to the future funding of the planning system in light of both the reform initiatives and the decisions made as a result of the RPA.

Engaging Communities

27. Ensuring that openness, transparency and the opportunity for effective engagement continues in the future planning system is at the core of the reforms being proposed and is critical to ensuring integrity and confidence in the planning system.

Audit/Inspection

28. The role of audit, inspection, performance management and monitoring of the planning system will be critical in ensuring that planning functions are carried out, and are seen to be carried out, in a clear, fair and consistent manner and that best practice is applied across the new district councils. The Department is proposing that central government should have a statutory audit/inspection function and that it should collate, analyse and possibly publish Northern Ireland-wide planning information on performance, application numbers, local development plan preparation etc.

Outcomes of Reform

29. The anticipated outcomes from the proposed reform programme are:
- a more responsive planning system delivered at a local level, with enhanced local political accountability;
 - a streamlined development plan system, with a more meaningful level of community involvement;
 - a more effective development management system, with a greater focus given to economically and socially important developments;
 - a system more capable of discharging the statutory obligations to have due regard for the need to promote equality of opportunity;
 - improved efficiency of processing and greater certainty about timescales;
 - a change in the culture of the planning system: seeking to ‘front load’ the development plan consultation process, make plans more strategic in nature, and to facilitate and manage
 - development, rather than mainly controlling undesirable forms of development;
 - stronger collaborative working across a range of stakeholders; and
 - a better match of resources and processes to priorities and improved value for money for all users of the planning system through more proportionate decision-making mechanisms.
30. These proposals lay the foundation for an improved planning system which the Department believes will encourage the investment Northern Ireland needs for economic growth, creating jobs and opportunities for all, while promoting fairness, inclusion, equality of opportunity, and protecting the best of our natural and built environment. They aim to improve confidence and trust in the system and move it from a system that is seen as reactive and bureaucratic to one that is more positive and dynamic.
31. Some of the proposals are at a more advanced stage of development than others. Some require legislative change and others require changes to policies, procedures and processes. The Department intends to work closely with all who have an interest in the planning system and welcomes your views and comments on the proposed measures. This consultation paper provides anyone who wishes an opportunity to comment on the proposals, as well as on certain related issues where the Department is seeking views. The consultation process plays an important part in informing and framing the new planning system.
32. There are a number of consultation questions throughout the document and, for ease of response, these are summarised in a separate consultation response document. We would appreciate you taking the time to provide us with your comments. The consultation exercise runs until 2nd October 2009.

Assessments

33. Government bodies are required to screen the impact of new policies and legislation against a wide range of criteria, including equality and human rights. There are also requirements introduced either by the Executive or as a result of UK government or international obligations for environmental, rural, regulatory and health impact assessments. The results of the Department’s initial screening exercises are highlighted below.
- Equality Impact Assessment*
34. A draft Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) at a strategic level has been prepared as part of the Department’s Section 75 statutory duties in response to the Programme for Government (PfG) proposals. It is intended that the draft EQIA at a strategic level

will help establish a foundation for subsequent Section 75 activities that will continue to ensure that due regard for the need to promote equality of opportunity and regard for the desirability of good relations are mainstreamed within each stage of development and implementation of the reform programme up to and beyond 2011. The draft EQIA at a strategic level is being published at the same time as, and in conjunction with, this consultation paper and we would welcome your views on the draft assessment. A copy of the draft EQIA at a strategic level is available on our website at <http://www.planningni.gov.uk>.

Rural Proofing

35. Rural proofing is a process which ensures that government policies are examined carefully and objectively to determine whether or not they have a different impact in rural areas. The Department has considered the guidance on rural proofing provided by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and has completed the checklist developed by the Rural Development Council.

Regulatory Impact Assessment

36. Government procedures require that a Regulatory Impact Assessment must be prepared for all proposals (legislative and non-legislative) which are likely to have a direct or indirect impact (whether benefit or cost) on businesses, charities, social economy enterprises and the voluntary sector. This includes proposals which reduce costs on business and others, as well as those that increase them.

New Targeting Social Need

37. New Targeting Social Need (New TSN) requires all government departments and relevant agencies to tackle social need and social exclusion by targeting efforts and available resources on people, groups and areas in greatest objective social need. The proposed reforms of the planning system have been examined to determine the extent to which New TSN applies. The proposals are intended to make the planning system more effective and efficient and thus ensure that it is fit for purpose in terms of playing its role on delivering on the Executive's Programme for Government commitments.
38. The proposals relating to planning policy, reflecting the desire to produce shorter, more focused planning policy statements, will help make them more accessible to all and will enable government policies to be applied more quickly on the ground through the development plan and development management systems.
39. It is proposed that district councils will be required to prepare a statement of community involvement which will set out procedures for involving local communities in the preparation and revision of local development plan documents and for consulting on planning applications.
40. In relation to development plans, the proposals for a more streamlined development plan system aim to ensure a more meaningful and effective approach to enabling interested parties and the local community to engage early in the plan process. These proposals, combined with the fact that responsibility for development plans will be transferred to local government under RPA, will enable district councils to target action to tackle social need and promote social inclusion.
41. Similarly, the development management proposals are designed to allow for more proportionate decision-making mechanisms and should therefore enable district councils to focus resources on those development proposals which are of the greatest economic and social benefit in their areas. The proposals also allow for increased community engagement at an earlier stage in the process and, as such, facilitate and

encourage the inclusion and consideration of the views of communities with the greatest social need who might otherwise be excluded.

Other Assessments

42. The policy areas have also been screened in terms of their potential impacts on crime, community safety, health, human rights, state aid and environmental issues. At present, it would appear that the proposals will apply uniformly to all groups with no adverse impact in these areas.

43. The Department welcomes views on whether the conclusions contained in the above assessments are correct.

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Launch of NFS Landfill Gas Electricity Generation Project
Date:	12 August 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives ext. 3459

Relevant Background Information

The North Foreshore was the former Dargan Road Waste Landfill site for Belfast, which has been closed to dumping since March 2007.

The decomposition of waste at the North Foreshore produces landfill gas, which is composed of 50% methane and 50% carbon-dioxide. Under current UK Legislation and EU Directives the Council is not permitted to release this potent greenhouse gas into the atmosphere. As the site is closed, the land is being capped to contain the gas and a network of gas wells and inter-connecting pipework is being installed to collect the gas, which was fed to a central flare. This process is closely monitored by the Council's Health & Environmental Services Department and overseen by the Northern Ireland Environmental Agency.

Landfill gas is a valuable sustainable, renewable energy resource and following a comprehensive scoping study it was determined that the generation of 'green' electricity for sale to the national grid would be the most cost effective means of using the Landfill Gas. At the Development Committee meeting in April 2005, the Members considered options on how best to progress this project, and approved a recommendation to appoint an experienced operator as a joint venture partner to install, operate and manage the Landfill Gas Electric generation facility. Management of the gas field will be retained by the Council to ensure the highest safety standards: and the Committee has previously approved the installation of a cable to connect the facility to the national electricity grid.

The Development Committee approved the appointment of a joint venture partner, Renewable Power Systems, on 16 January 2008, to install, operate and manage the Landfill Gas Electric generation facility.

Key Issues

The construction and installation work of the Landfill Gas Electric generation facility is complete. This will enable the generation of electricity to be sold on to the national grid to NIE.

After the successful media coverage at the launch of the project in December 2008, there has been a lot of positive interest in the Landfill Gas Electric generation facility. This project is the biggest Landfill Gas Electric generation facility in Northern Ireland that will export 4 mega watt hours of renewable green electricity to power 5,000 homes.

The Council has been working in partnership with its joint venture partner, Renewable Power Systems, NIE and DETI to deliver the Landfill Gas Electric generation facility. DETI is responsible for encouraging renewable energy production and has been involved with the project through its assistance with the renewable obligation certificates, which provides a financial incentive for renewable energy producers.

It is proposed that the Lord Mayor, Ms Naomi Long would invite the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Ms Arlene Foster to a switch on ceremony in September. It will provide the opportunity for the Council to show case its contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the use of Landfill Gas to generate green electricity, which will help to deliver the Governments renewable energy targets.

The Members of the Development Committee will also be invited to attend the switch on ceremony of the Landfill Gas Electric generation facility in September.

Resource Implications

Existing resource.

Recommendations

1. Members are asked to note the contents of the report

Decision Tracking

That the Members of the Committee are invited to attend the switch on ceremony
Timeline: September 2009 Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay

Key to Abbreviations

NIE Northern Ireland Electricity
DETI Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Re-Imaging Communities Update and Exhibition
Date:	12 August 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives ext. 3459

Relevant Background Information

This report provides an update on the ongoing implementation phase of the “Re-Imaging Communities” initiative funded by the Arts Council Northern Ireland (ACNI) and outlines a proposal for an exhibition and event to bring together the participating groups and capture the work carried out during the Re-Imaging process.

The initial project identification activity that formed the basis of the approval was carried out by consultants appointed by the Good Relations Unit to identify both the potential for a range of projects and the basic brief for the final form of the art pieces with associated budget costs.

Following the Arts Council approval of this first phase the Development Department, through the Planning & Transport Unit, was tasked with the implementation of twelve potential projects across the city.

From the identified twelve projects, eleven projects are progressing towards final implementation. The proposed project for the replacement of murals in Inner East was unable to proceed as it was not been possible to secure local agreement for the works developed from the first phase of the overall re-imaging initiative.

The work on the remaining projects is ongoing and it is anticipated that all eleven will be completed by September 2009.

Key Issues

Project Updates

The “Re-Imaging Communities” initiative supports both Council and ACNI corporate objectives in encouraging positive community relations through physical works to address visible signs of sectarianism and racism. The objectives of the programme are to contribute to the creation of welcoming local environments for all residents and visitors through direct works and a facilitated engagement process involving local communities and artists.

The individual projects have artists appointed to work with the community on the development and delivery of high quality artwork which will either replace existing sectarian murals or target the re-imaging of local environments to enhance the public realm for the communities to enjoy and celebrate their culture in a more inclusive manner. The selection of the artist and the final artwork was carried out through local panels with the participation of the local groups, facilitators and Council officers.

Members may wish to note that as part of this process the scope of one of the projects has changed. The An Droichead proposal instead of developing a mosaic at the railway bridge on Ormeau Road will now install a sculptural piece on top of the bridge parapet. The change of direction arose from the detailed consultations and the recognition of the prominence of the location. The modification, which required ACNI approval for the re-allocation of resources between budget headings, can be accommodated within the overall programme and will enable completion of all the projects to schedule. The overall programme budget did not change as no additional funding was required.

All the project details have now been finalised and five of the eleven projects have been successfully completed. A summary of the current status of each project is outlined below (with additional information in Appendix I):

An Droichead: A sculptural piece to be situated on the railway bridge adjacent to the Klondyke building on the Lower Ormeau Road. This project has been developed with the communities living in the Lower Ormeau area. The sculpture will be made of steel with a glass inlay and seeks to reflect the cultural diversity of the area.

Following completion of the additional structural survey required by Roads Service an engineer and contractor have been appointed. The structure will be installed in mid August and the piece will be formally unveiled on Thursday 27th August 2009.

Ballysillan/ Benview: A sculptural piece is being developed with Ballysillan Primary School and local community groups to reflect and celebrate their culture through an iconic artwork. The final pyramid sculpture piece will be located on a site opposite the primary school.

Permission from the landowner had to be sought prior to construction of the artwork. The project will now be completed by the end of August and launched at the start of September 2009.

Conway Wall: Following local workshops with community groups adjacent to Conway Mill and the local Travelling Community the mural for the wall opposite the Mill buildings has been completed. The finished art piece incorporates images from the communities set alongside ‘The Sky’ poem by Tom Kerr. It was completed at the end of May and launched by the Lord Mayor and Tom Kerr on Wednesday 10th June 2009.

Donegall Pass: A mural was developed, through consultations with the local community, to replace the existing imagery on the gable wall of Oak Street where it meets Donegall Pass.

The new mural depicts a poppy field, with the Ulster Tower at Thiepval as its centerpiece commemorating the lives of all those servicemen who died in the First World War. The mural was completed in June and launched with a local event on Wednesday 8th July 2009.

Glenbryn: The mural between Alliance Road and Alliance Parade has been replaced with a new mural with imagery that positively celebrates local community culture.

The mural incorporates a local sports theme and reflects the backdrop of the hills. Work was completed in July and the launch is scheduled to take place at 11.00 am on Wednesday 12th August 2009.

Inverary: A sculptural piece will be situated in a public space within the housing estate to enhance the immediate environment and seek to deflect anti-social behaviour and dumping. The proposed metal sculpture has been developed by the community to celebrate their local culture and history. The scale of the proposed piece required planning permission which was granted at the end of June 2009.

The local community has applied for separate funding from Groundwork NI for landscaping the area to enhance the setting for the art piece. It is anticipated that a decision on the application will be announced in August. The community aspiration is for the art piece, which has already been produced by the artist, to be installed at the same time as the landscaping work. Subject to the approval of Groundwork it is hoped to be completed by the end of September 2009 although works may run into October 2009.

LORAG: The final art piece will be incorporated onto a wall at the bottom of Balfour Avenue which was built as part of a joint initiative between the Council and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive as part of the local pilot alley-gating scheme.

The art piece has been fabricated off site and will be installed in mid August 2009. The launch is scheduled to take place at 11.00 a.m. on Wednesday 26th August 2009.

Lower Shankill: Ten murals have been replaced by new imagery developed by four artists working with the communities in different artist techniques including traditional mural painting, digital media and aerosol murals.

The new murals and images reflect the positive community theme of the 'New Shankill'. The project was completed in early June and received positive local and national media coverage, when launched on Tuesday 16th June 2009.

Muck Hills: The four art panels will be erected on a fence on the Lower Shankill Road. The artwork has been developed in conjunction with different groups using the Hammer Activity Centre and portrays imagery and stories from "under the mountains".

It is anticipated that work will be completed by the end of August 2009 with a launch proposed for early September 2009.

Short Strand- The existing peace line at Bryson Street formed the basis for the installation of a three dimensional art work. The local community in Short Strand

sought to soften the appearance of the wall and created individual artworks which the artist translated onto tiles to form the work that celebrates Belfast's maritime history and marine life.

The three dimensional tiled work was supplemented by further art pieces funded through Greencare and facilitated by Groundwork. The work was completed in April 2009 and launched on Thursday 7th May 2009.

Village Focus Group: The artist, working with the community, has created sculptural figures to reflect the working class heritage of the Village and celebrate their industrial past. The figures will be set onto the piers of the Tate's Avenue railway bridge with additional sculptures of trains acting as an entrance feature for people coming into the area and linking to the former railway halt. A new welcoming mural has also been designed to replace existing imagery and cover graffiti at the bridge underpass.

Planning permission was granted at the end of July and completion is scheduled for the end of August with a planned launch of mid-September 2009.

Celebration of Completed Projects

Re-imaging Communities Projects have provided positive learning and development experience for the participating communities and has exceeded targets in terms of media coverage, participants and community engagement with positive feedback from within the projects and externally. It would be valuable for this work to be encapsulated and celebrated through a publication to chart the different stages of projects from initial workshops, through to implementation of artworks and unveiling.

An exhibition of completed projects could also enable the public and visitors to the city to view the new artworks / imagery and learn about the positive changes currently taking place in Belfast. The exhibition event and programme documentation could bring together the participants from the local communities with the artists and facilitators to share their experiences and celebrate the achievement of the completed projects. It is hoped that an exhibition / event could take place in late September 2009 to coincide with the completion of the projects.

Whilst resources have been identified from within existing budgets to meet the cost of the proposed publication, funding has not yet been identified for the suggested exhibition / event. Discussions with ACNI are ongoing in respect of the potential for a contribution to such an event and Committee approval is sought for the officers to pursue further funding opportunities to support the event which would cost approximately £2,500.

Resource Implications

Financial

Funding of £2,500 will be sought for the development of an exhibition / event to mark the completion of the current re-imaging initiative and celebrate the work carried out by the participants from across the city.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee agrees:

1. to note the updates in respect of the individual projects, as set out within the body of the report and Appendix 1; and
2. to approve the organisation and delivery of the exhibition/ event to celebrate the completed work, subject to the funding being obtained.

Abbreviations

ACNI Arts Council Northern Ireland

Decision Tracking

Following approval by the Committee the Project Manager will explore funding opportunities to support the organisation of an exhibition / event and report back to the next Committee.

Timeline: September 2009

Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay

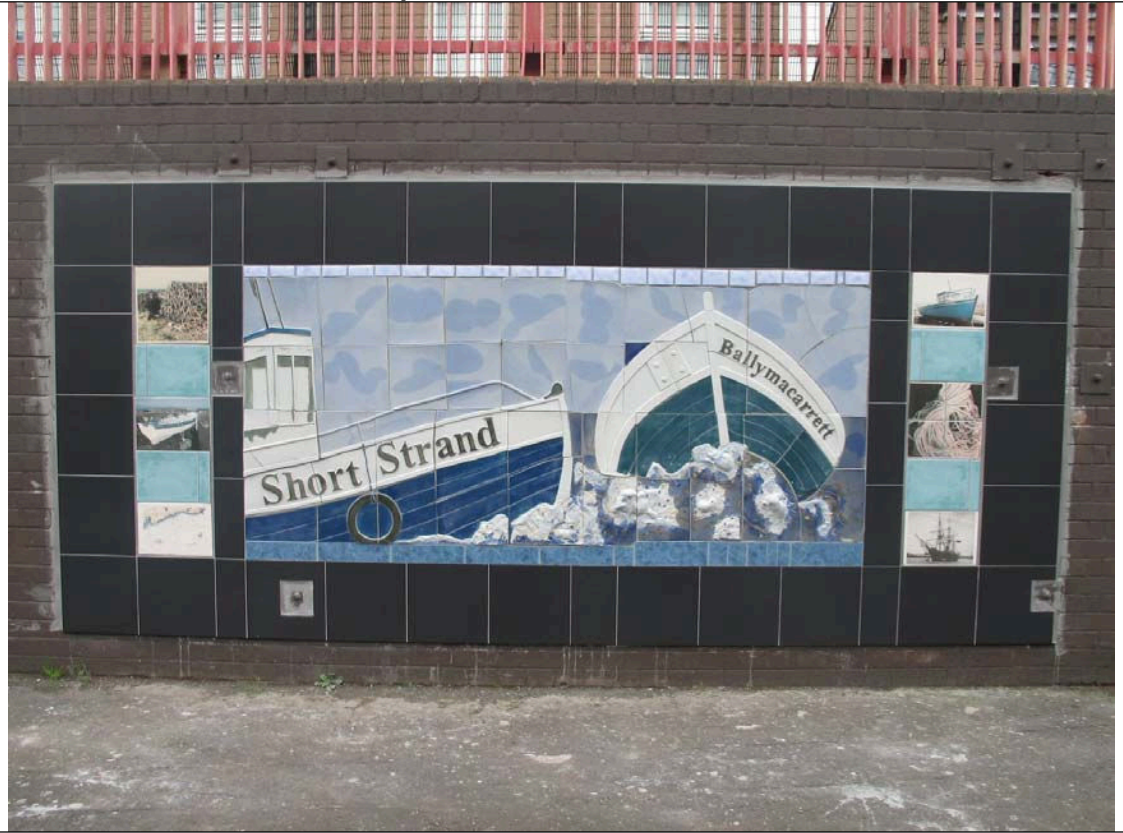
Attachments

Appendix 1 Photographs and imagery documenting progress and completed projects

BLANK PAGE

Appendix I
Re-imagining Communities - Finished projects

Short Strand – Peace wall Bryson Street



Conway Wall



Lower Shankill – Dover Street





Lower Shankill – Peter's Hill



Lower Shankill – North Boundary Street



Lower Shankill – Shankill Parade



Lower Shankill – Denmark Street



Lower Shankill – Hopewell Crescent



Lower Shankill – Hopewell Crescent



Lower Shankill – Hopewell Crescent



Donegall Pass



Glenbryn



Projects in design phase

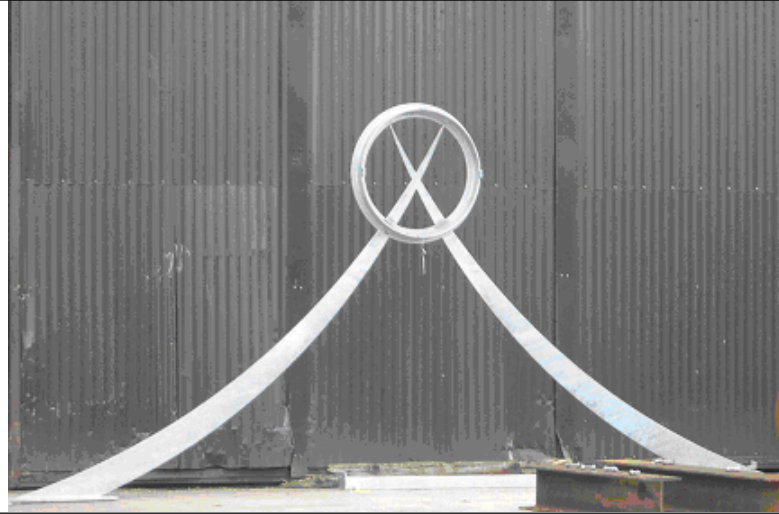
Lower Ormeau Road proposal



Lower Shankill / Muck Hills proposal



An Droichead



Ballysillan proposal



Village / Tate's Avenue Bridge proposal



Inverary proposal



BLANK PAGE

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Christmas Lights Switch-on 2009
Date:	Wednesday 12 August 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Tim Husbands, Head of City Events and Venues, ext 1401

Relevant Background Information

Over the last twenty five years Belfast City Council has developed the annual Christmas Lights Switch-on event. Initially the event involved a number of school choirs and took place in the middle of November, with a small crowd in attendance. The event is now attended by thousands (last year the audience was estimated at 18,000) and involves a range of high profile national and local celebrities.

Key IssuesTiming

Members have been presented with details in regard to the timing of the Christmas Lights Switch-on event over the last two years. In April 2008 Members agreed that the event should be staged no later than 7.30pm, a view that was endorsed by the Events Advisory Panel. Members are reminded that the Events Advisory Panel body incorporates BCCM, PSNI, NIAS, NIFRS, DOE Road Service, BCC Health & Safety, BCC Security, BCC Corporate Communications and BCC Legal Services.

Date

In the last number of years this event has been held on the third Tuesday in November. However, it is recommended that for 2009/10, consideration should be given to moving the date of the event to the fourth Tuesday (24 November in 2009) due to the structural re-landscaping of the City centre's pavements and roadways as part of the 'Streets Ahead' programme undertaken by the DSD. Although there is to be a moratorium on any further physical demolition/building within the area of the City Hall as from 22 November in 2009, it would mean that any attempt to stage a large public event in the area, prior to this date, would in essence have to take place in a very challenging

physical environment, visually and operationally equivalent to a 'building site'.

Site Layout

Over the last decade or more Councillors, BCC staff and guests have been able to access the event via a special 'guest area' adjacent to the stage. In 2009 this will not be possible due to health and safety concerns, with a new guest area being moved to the Robinson & Cleaver side of Donegall Square North.

Councillor Participation & City Hall Reception

Due to the change in the 'guest area' position it is recommended that only the Lord Mayor will go on stage to assist with the actual lights switch-on. In addition it is proposed that, given the current financial environment and ongoing budgetary constraints, the normal post event function in City Hall is not held this year but is replaced with a smaller function for guests prior to the event.

Resource Implications

Financial

In November 2008 Members approved the overall annual 2009/10 BCC Events Programme and its associated budgets. The Christmas Events Programme budget of £170,000 covers the Switch-on event, a major Christmas Carol concert at the Waterfront and the maintenance and installation of festive lighting on and around the City Hall.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the report and approve the changes to the event as stated, in the areas of site layout, Councillor participation and City Hall Reception.

Decision Tracking

Changes to the event to be implemented:
Timeframe: October 2009 Reporting Officer: Tim Husbands

Key to Abbreviations

BCCM	Belfast City Centre Management
PSNI	Police Service of Northern Ireland
NIAS	Northern Ireland Ambulance Service
NIFRS	Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service
DOE	Department of the Environment
DSD	Department of Social Development



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Lagan Canal Restoration Trust
Date:	12 August 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives ext. 3459

Relevant Background Information

At the Tourism and Promotion of Belfast Sub Committee meeting held on 27 November 2006 Members approved in principle a draft business plan for the establishment of the Lagan Canal Restoration Trust. Following the acceptance of this draft business plan it was decided that a partnership organisation should be established representing core funding bodies and relevant stakeholders. This partnership would take the form of a not for profit company limited by guarantee which would apply for charitable status, and its lifespan would be limited to the restoration of the canal.

In February 2008 a Trust Manager was appointed and progress to date has focused on the formal establishment of the Trust with agreement on the structure, membership and roles, and at its meeting of 13 August 2008 the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Development Committee were appointed as the Belfast City Council representatives on the Shadow Board of the Lagan Canal Trust.

The aims of the Trust are to provide;

- Restored and revitalised waterway and 'greenway' linking Belfast, Castlereagh, Lisburn, Craigavon and Lough Neagh
- Sensitive restoration of Industrial, cultural and natural heritage values associated with the Canal and its corridor
- The development of this major recreational and tourism asset for Northern Ireland
- Interpretation, education & enjoyment for all
- Economic regeneration of the communities along its route

The key benefit of Trust membership is Belfast City Council's capacity to influence and shape the future strategic vision of the restored Lagan Canal and corridor, in areas such as tourism and recreation, heritage, education, economy, employment, the

environment, quality of life and regeneration.

Key Issues

Belfast City Council is a key player in the development of the restoration of the Lagan Canal and has made a positive contribution along with its partners, to the development of the Trust through a number of key projects (see appendix 1).

The Trust will be in an advantageous position to bid for funding opportunities that may not otherwise be available to individual partners. There has been a clear indication and commitment from all of the Trust partners to provide the necessary funding and to work in partnership to progress the Lagan Canal Restoration Trust over the next two years. Given the possible impact of RPA in 2011 the current funding package will take the Trust to this key date. This will be reviewed by the partners as RPA approaches.

The Trust contributing bodies have been asked to continue the funding commitment to the Trust for the following two financial years. A formula for the sharing of organisational costs between the 4 local authority partners has been proposed, based on the number of locks in each authority area, plus contributions from DCAL and EHS. Therefore, the financial contribution requested from Belfast City Council is £18,995 in 2009/10 and £14,967 in 2010/11.

		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	Total
Lisburn City Council	40%	36451.2	40096	31144.8	112400
Belfast City Council	18%	14500	18995	14967	50580.6
DCAL	20%	18225.6	20048	15573	56200.6
NIEA	10%	9112.8	10024	7786.2	28100
Craigavon Borough Council	8%	7290.24	8019.2	6228.96	22480
Castlereagh Borough Council	4%	3645.12	4009.6	3114.48	11240
		89224.96	101191.8	78814.4	281001.2

Resource Implications

Financial implications

Financial contribution requested from Belfast City Council is £18,995 in 2009/10; £14,967 in 2010/11. Current financial provision exists within the 2009/2010 budget.

Recommendations

Members are requested to:

1. Note the updates set out within the report;
2. Approve a two-year funding commitment to the Lagan Canal Restoration Trust of £18,995 in 2009/2010 and £14,967 in 2010/2011, subject to the estimates for that year being approved.

Decision Tracking

Implementation of agreed funding for 2009/2010 and 2010/2011
Timeline 2009/2010: September 2009
Timeline 2010/2011: April 2010 Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay

Key to Abbreviations

RPA	Review of Public Administration
DCAL	Department of Culture Arts and Leisure
NIEA	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
DSD	Department of Social Development (Belfast City Centre Regeneration Directorate)
NISRA	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
NITB	Northern Ireland Tourist Board

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 Key Outputs to Date

BLANK PAGE

Lagan Canal Restoration Trust - Key Outputs to date:

Belfast:

- A Topographical and River Survey has been completed for Lock 1 Stranmillis Gateway.
- A Scoping Study was completed for the Lagan Gateway Project from the Lagan Weir to Edenderry (First Phase)
- The Lagan Steering Group was established to exchange advice and information between stakeholders.
- A three dimensional model of the proposed development at Lock 1 Stranmillis Gateway has been completed.
- A virtual (computer generated) model completed. This allows detailed examination of the project through 360 degrees. This interactive 3D environment will allow the user to navigate around in real-time and assess views from any location. It is compatible with use on the Council Website and is being used as a marketing and promotional tool.
- Interpretative signage has been installed beside Lock 1 Stranmillis Gateway and includes interpretation of the Lagan Navigation, the history of the area, the river and canal.
- DSD has installed interpretative signs based on the Council's signage template. They link areas along the Lagan from Belfast Harbour to Stranmillis.
- Funding applications are currently being explored
- A workshop was held in June 2008, in Enniskillen to raise awareness of the potential to establish a single inland waterway with a maritime connection at either end linking the East and West coasts of Ulster to form a new water based tourism product. (East-West Project) This workshop attracted support from Alderman Jeffrey Donaldson MP, MLA and Tánaiste, Mary Coughlan TD. The overall aim was to raise awareness and buy-in from stakeholders especially Central Government and Waterways Ireland.
- A reciprocal meeting was held in December 2008 at Lisburn City Council. Alderman Jeffrey Donaldson MP, MLA and Tánaiste, Mary Coughlan TD. Pledged their support for the East West project.
- New web pages have been constructed highlighting the Lagan Corridor Navigation and the proposed development at Lock 1 Stranmillis Gateway. This web page has been added to Belfast City Council's website www.belfastcity.gov.uk/lagan
- A site meeting was arranged for members of the Development Committee, in June 2008. Representatives from DSD, DCAL, Lagan Valley Regional Park

Board, Lagan Trust Manager and Belfast City Council Officers visited the Lagan Lookout to Locks 1, 2 and 3 via the Tow Path.

- Waterways Ireland arranged a best practice visit for officers and steering group members in June 2008, for the Lagan Steering Group to Ballyconnell Lock in Co Cavan. The purpose of the visit was to view the operation of the lock and gain an understanding and insight into the benefits of canal restoration.
- DSD currently undertaking a major refurbishment of the Lagan Weir worth £2 million. DSD have also commissioned a feasibility report on the redevelopment of the Lagan Lookout, and an economic appraisal on two proposed bridges over the lower Lagan. They have also currently commissioned an economic appraisal on dredging of the tidal stretch of the Lagan from the Lagan Weir to Stranmillis Gateway Lock 1.
- Belfast Activity Centre - based in Barnett's Demesne, have recently completed the building of a boat house at Shaw's Bridge, rebuild of the canoe steps and reinstatement of the slipway. (Cost approximately £270k)
- DCAL through the Lagan Navigation Trust has currently commissioned consultants to examine a Business Case for the re-opening of the Lagan Navigation from Stranmillis to Union Locks, Lisburn

Castlereagh:

- Lock Keepers Cottage – Castlereagh Borough Council
The Lock keeper's cottage (Lock 3) grade B1 listed building has been refurbished and the new visitor centre, café, toilets and Interpreted space is opened. They propose to erect canoe pontoons and moorings at the lock. DCAL are currently restoring the Lock and gates at Lock 3. These are due for completion summer '08.

Lagan Valley Regional Park:

- Lagan Valley Regional Park is working in partnership with Castlereagh Borough Council in the development and refurbishment of the Lock 3 project. This has included towpath improvements, extension and interpretation signage.

Lisburn:

- Lisburn Council operates a Lagan Corridor Programme. They re-opened lock 12 as part of the new Island Civic Centre. They have created a strategic framework – identified nodes for development along the canal which includes improvements in towpaths, interpretive signage, land purchase, and potential links to developments such as the Maze complex. These nodes pass through various eligible areas identified under the NISRA rural classification 2005.

Craigavon:

- Received funding from NITB for the restoration of a Lagan barge "Lighter" for their proposed canal/waterways museum at Oxford Island. They have also developed a canal leaflet for the Craigavon section of the Lagan Canal.

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Retail Sector Support Plan 2009/10
Date:	12 August 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives ext. 3459

Relevant Background Information

The purpose of this paper is to provide Members with an overview of current Council support for the development of Belfast's independent retail sector and to propose an action plan for the further development of this sector during 2009/10.

Members may be aware from previous meetings of the Development Committee that Belfast City Council is currently proactive in supporting a wide range of initiatives to assist in the development and promotion of the independent retail sector across the City. While there are a number of interventions underway at present, up to date research along with specific recent demands from trader groupings have identified additional potential interventions which would support the further development of the sector.

Members are asked to note that a budget of £120,000 was approved at the May 2009 meeting of Development Committee as part of the Departmental Business Plan to support independent retail in the City.

Key Achievements/ Outputs to Date

A thriving independent retail sector is important for the vitality and variety of our City, and Council has been instrumental in developing and delivering a number of initiatives to ensure the sector continues to flourish and that Belfast develops into a vibrant and attractive place for residents, workers and visitors.

Research

In 2008 Council commissioned research to establish area-specific data regarding the size,

sector and geographical locations of independent retail within Belfast. This research also considered the underpinning strengths and weaknesses of the sector and has since allowed Council to identify a range of targeted interventions that will help fill gaps in provision that have been identified by independent retailers and key stakeholders across the City.

Retail Therapy Programme

Council has been proactive in developing the independent retail product in the City and created a bespoke Retail Therapy Programme - a tailored business development initiative which targeted over 60 owners and managers of independent retail outlets throughout Belfast. Each retailer undertook a business needs audit to identify the key issues facing them in their business, and this was followed by the creation of individual improvement plans. The businesses which took part were eligible for small grants from Council to help with the implementation of their improvement plans, therefore providing long term benefits to each participant. The participants on Retail Therapy greatly valued the Programme and provided feedback regarding areas of future support. Requests were made for supplementary one-to-one mentoring and long term consultancy support; additional training and masterclasses; support for trader groupings; cooperative marketing activities for independent retailers and grants for improved signage. These requests for additional support have been considered in the attached Retail Sector Support Plan.

Hospitality and Retail Training for Employment (HARTE)

Council designed and developed a bespoke Hospitality and Retail Training for Employment programme in January 2009. This programme will create 200 jobs for the long term unemployed in Belfast in the hospitality and retail industries over a period of three years. Council formulated HARTE and took a lead role in securing funding from the Northern Ireland European Social Fund programme for the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2011. The value of this project is £495,000. The first year of HARTE has been very successful with 43 students graduating in May 2009 with an average of four accredited qualifications each. 20 delegates have secured employment to date and interviews are ongoing. The second year is well underway and a target of 90 participants is expected to be exceeded by the end of the calendar year.

Retail Masterclasses

Council took the initiative of designing and delivering a series of retail masterclasses for independent shops. To kick-start the programme Geoff Burch, presenter of BBC2's hit show 'All Over The Shop', delivered a Retail Masterclass on behalf of Council at Belfast Waterfront Hall on 22 January, where he gave local retailers advice on making the most of their businesses to weather the current economic climate and provided tips on improving customer service, motivating staff, identifying and maximising marketing opportunities and improving sales. At this event Belfast City Council launched a series of six additional retail masterclass workshops – open to all independent retailers across Belfast and offered free of charge. These classes were delivered during February and March and were attended by approximately 120 independent retailers across the city. Feedback from these sessions has been extremely positive and many whom attended have indicated an eagerness to attend similar Council led events in the future.

Evening Economy Initiative

The development of Council's Evening Economy initiative has allowed participants to reap the benefits of the extra footfall in the city centre. We now publish an Evening Economy e-zine which has replaced the More Time Publication and is distributed twice a month through the Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau (BVCB). This e-zine contains information on events taking place in the evenings and special offers for shops/restaurants. The e-zine is distributed to 1,300 businesses that distribute it to their staff, increasing readership to approximately 50,000. An evaluation of the e-zine will be conducted in early Autumn which

will help shape the development of a fully comprehensive e-communications strategy.

Belfast Shopping Guide

The production of a new 'Belfast Shopping Guide' in partnership with BVCB has also helped to promote speciality, luxury and niche retail brands in a very targeted and effective way.

Belfast Shopping Festival

Council delivered the very first Belfast Shopping Festival throughout the month of April 2009 in four locations in Belfast city – Bloomfield Avenue and Belmont Road; Belfast City Centre; Lisburn Road and Ormeau Road and Falls and Shankill Road. This was a major initiative to support the retail sector, and a platform to promote their business and attract new customers. The festival in each area encompassed a mix of events, competitions, promotions, street entertainment and in-store activities. This multi-award winning Council initiative provided free marketing for companies taking part through press and outdoor advertising campaigns. As part of the Belfast Shopping Festival Smithfield Market played host to an Urban Edge Fashion Show which utilised all products available from Smithfield traders.

New Market Opportunities

Opportunities have also been given to independent traders to showcase and sell their products and services in open space and Council-managed Parks, and in other prime outlets e.g., the Christmas Continental Market, Crescent Open Space and more recently, Victoria Square. Council took the lead in establishing a Sunday craft market in Victoria Square to support small craft producers access a new market opportunity by making them visible in an area of high footfall.

Both Smithfield and St George's Markets are operating at full capacity and opportunities are also being explored for further licensed market sites/street trading pitches in the Cathedral Quarter. Marketing plans for traders have been established at St. George's and Smithfield which have led to new activities including an alternative fashion show at Smithfield and now frequent demonstrations and entertainment at St. George's.

Renewing the Routes

As part of Belfast City Council's ongoing 'Renewing The Routes' programme over 100 small businesses across the city have bright new signage, lighting and frontages. Three phases of shopfront renewals have been completed on the Falls Road, as well as two schemes on the Shankill Road. A further project on the Springfield Road was completed in April, at the same time as one on the lower Crumlin Road, and a similar scheme has just begun at the shops at Ardoyne. By upgrading shop frontages Council is prompting developers to realise the potential of commercial premises that exist throughout the City.

Full Summary

These are just a few examples of the ongoing work that Council has taken a lead role in to make Belfast a healthy economic city for independent and speciality retailers. A full summary of all current Council support for the development of the independent retail sector is contained in Appendix 1.

New Retail Sector Support Plan 2009/10

The current economic recession presents real challenges for our independents and Council is keen to ensure that traders in the City receive the support required to help them through these difficult times. Having considered the key findings from recent research and feedback from participants on Council led initiatives, a draft action plan for 2009/10 has been prepared for Members' consideration and is contained in Appendix 2. This report indicates the significant support mechanisms already in place for the sector within the Development Department and across the wider Council services.

Proposed actions have been identified within the following themes:

1. Capacity building and skills development
2. Marketing, promotion and branding
3. New product development support
4. Physical environment

Activities proposed under each of these themes along with estimated budgetary implications are listed below however more detailed descriptions of the activities included are contained in Appendix 2.

Theme	Activity	Budget
Capacity building and skills development	Retail Therapy Programme	£50,000
	Hospitality and Retail Training for Employment Programme (HARTE)	*
	Retail Survival Surgeries	*
	Local Sourcing Initiative	Investigate possible sources of funding
Marketing, promotion and branding	Collaborative Marketing Campaigns for Trader Groups	£30,000
	Online Retailing Support	£5,000
	Independent Retailer of the Year Award	*
	Conference for NI Retailers	*
	Promotion and Profiling of Champions in the sector	No costs associated with this activity
	Evening Economy Initiative	Investigate possible sources of funding
	Support for Independent Fashion Design	Resource commitment unknown
New product development support	Opportunities for Independent Retailers through Parks and Open Spaces	£25,000 (already approved by Council)
	Thimble Group	*
	Craft on the Concourse	*
	Market Sites/Street Trading	*
Physical environment	Animation of Core Trading Hub	£10,000
	Graffiti Prevention and Removal	*
	Dressing of Vacant Units	*
	Shop Frontage Improvements	*
	Transport and Car Parking Issues	*
	Festive Lighting	Resource commitment unknown
	Total	£120,000

* Resources already committed from other sources or no additional resources required.

The aims of such activities and improvements will only be achieved through co-ordinated activity between Council, local partnerships, public bodies and private interests. Partnership

and collaborative working therefore lie at the heart of our Retail Sector Support Plan.

Progress reports will be presented to Members in due course.

Resource Implications

A budget of £120,000 was approved as part of the Departmental Business Plan at the May 2009 meeting of the Development Committee.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the contents of this report and to approve the proposed Action Plan for 2009/10.

Decision Tracking

No decision tracking applicable as report is for notation only.

Key to Abbreviations

BVCB	Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau
BCCM	Belfast City Centre Management
HARTE	Hospitality and Retailing Training for Employment

Documents Attached

Appendix 1	Current Council support for the development of the Independent Retail Sector in Belfast
Appendix 2	Suggested 2009/10 action plan for the development of the independent retail sector

BLANK PAGE

Appendix 1

Current Council support for the development of the independent retail sector

Belfast City Council currently supports the city's retailers – both directly and indirectly – through a number of channels. These include:

Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retail Therapy programme: business development initiative for 63 independent retailers • A wide range of masterclasses for independent retailers • Fashion masterclasses organised as part of Belfast Fashionweek for local independent designers and traders • Support for traders' groups through Neighbourhood Economic Development Programme (NEDP) • HARTE (Hospitality and Retail Training for Employment) – in conjunction with the Tourism Unit • Other business support programmes e.g. Strategy in Business, Sales Growth are open to all business sectors (including retailers) • Development of an initiative to introduce market stalls into Victoria Square on a regular basis • Introducing local creative companies and individuals to new retailing opportunities and alternative trading outlets e.g., Crescent Open Space and Victoria Square
Tourism Development and Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast Shopping Festival and key events • Urban Edge Fashion Show at Smithfield Market • Development of Evening Economy Campaign • Development of Evening Economy e-zine • Production of new Belfast Shopping Guide • Culinary tourism e.g. Food and Drink month • Whatabout Guide • Promotion of 'luxury' Belfast
Planning and Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shop frontage improvements programme along key arterial routes • Wider environmental improvement measures e.g. enhanced parking/traffic management schemes on key arterial routes • Support for role of local retail in planning policy initiatives
Development Estates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input into DSD draft masterplans for city centre (Northside Urban Village, West Side Regeneration Plan), including retailing issues • Liaison with DSD Re: Retail- led regeneration sequencing policy- Castlecourt extension and Royal Exchange development
Markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smithfield has 28 traders • St George's has 102 traders on Friday; 102 on Saturday • Exploring opportunities for further licensed market sites/ street trading pitches

BLANK PAGE

Appendix 2

Suggested 2009/10 action plan for the development of the independent retail sector

Building on the current activity indicated above, it is suggested that an action plan for the further development of the independent retail sector in Belfast should focus on the following four themes:

- Capacity building and skills development
- Marketing, promotion and branding
- New product development support
- Physical environment

1. Capacity building and skills development

While independent retailers may consider that their customer service skills set them apart from their larger competitors, feedback from research undertaken on behalf of Belfast City Council portrays a different picture.

Consideration will be given to a structured programme of skills development and capacity building for local traders. This will include general skills issues (customer service, financial planning etc.) as well as wider development issues e.g. strategic business planning. Given the potential threat posed to the local retailer by an increase in online trading, there will be additional investment in initiatives to help traders do business online or promote their services online, while retaining their high street presence.

Staff attraction and retention issues will be addressed through the support for initiatives to improve access to employment opportunities in the sector e.g. through the Hospitality and Retailing Training for Employment (HARTE) initiative.

Research highlights that independent retailers should differentiate themselves to the multiple retailers. A local sourcing initiative for local food and drink producers, artists and craftspeople will be considered with the aim of improving the competitiveness of our local independent retail businesses.

Possible activities including indicative Belfast City Council financial contributions may include:

Activity	Description	BCC Financial Contribution
Retail Therapy	Further development of Council's existing business development initiative for 30 independent retailers. Retailers can avail of a small grant element to make an investment in one particular area of their business.	£50,000
HARTE – Hospitality and Retail Training through Employment	Further development of Council's HARTE initiative which targets long term unemployed people by providing training and job opportunities in Belfast's hospitality and retail sectors.	Resources already committed from other sources

Retail Survival Surgeries	Council will organise a series of short, informal presentations and workshops by retail and trade specialists aimed at raising skills levels of existing retailers and improving the health and vitality of our shops. Themes may include marketing, visual merchandising, selling online, customer service and advertising and promotions.	Resources already committed from other sources
Local Sourcing Initiative	Council will investigate the feasibility of hosting a retail focused “Buy Local – Meet the Buyer” event aimed at encouraging local producers of food and drink, artists and/or crafts people to differentiate themselves to the multiple retailers.	Investigate possible sources of funding

2. Marketing, promotion and branding

Traders generally do not have time to commit to the strategic development of their business which can in turn lead to underinvestment in a number of areas, including marketing and promotion. However communication and marketing are key elements in developing an effective sense of place therefore support should be provided to market areas and high streets effectively.

One of the key selling points of independent retail outlets is their unique offering. Consideration will be given to how independent retailers can make potential clients aware of their offering, within a limited budget. This may include internet marketing and the use of websites. Collaborative marketing campaigns will be encouraged for promoting the clusters of independent retail businesses across Belfast with a shop local focus and aimed at improving recognition of the importance of the independent retail sector in the city. Maps or other marketing materials produced will be distributed to tourism related bodies.

It is recognised that many of the traders groups within Greater Belfast are not legally constituted bodies and are therefore unable to avail of funding opportunities as and when they arise. Consideration will therefore be given to encouraging local trader groups to explore the different options available to them in terms of formalising their activity.

Appropriately tailored events can play a vital role in supporting and enhancing identity. Themed markets or other activities can attract customers and loyalty schemes rewarding use of retail, entertainment and cultural facilities also help establish and maintain a distinct local identity. These types of activities will be encouraged by Council.

Excellence within the sector will be encouraged, recognised and awarded. One way in which this will happen is through the encouragement of awards schemes for local retailers. Belfast City Council will organise and deliver the Belfast Business Awards in April 2010 and will encourage applications for the ‘Independent Retailer of the Year’ award. Key note speakers will be invited to speak at annual or bi-annual networking events for the independent retail sector in Belfast. High calibre, key note speakers are what draw the independent retailers to such events, therefore best practice examples from Belfast and beyond will be invited to share their experiences with the sector.

Consideration will also be given to a range of activities to promote the retail offering in Belfast to a national and international audience. This may include existing outlets (e.g. Whatabout, City Matters) as well as one off events to attract additional retailers to the city e.g. MAPIC.

Possible activities including indicative financial Belfast City Council contributions may include:

Activity	Description	BCC Financial Contribution
Collaborative Marketing Campaigns	Council will offer support to allow local trader groups to develop collaborative marketing campaigns to raise the profile of their retail offerings and increase footfall in their respective areas – on the assumption they are legally constituted bodies. Campaigns may include the introduction of customer loyalty schemes or the design and publication of maps which market a local retail district e.g., Bloomfield Avenue. Support may be required to advise trader groups on how they might become legally constituted representative bodies.	£30,000
Online Retailing Support	Council will encourage independents to assess the online selling opportunities for their business to achieve a greater volume of new customers, while retaining on street presence.	£5,000
Independent Retailer of the Year Award	Council will host the Belfast Business Awards in April 2010 and will encourage participation by those traders with whom we are working as a means of recognising the contributions of independent retailers to the local community and Belfast's retail industry. The event will reward the smaller/owner operated type businesses that succeed in this highly competitive market	Resources already committed from other sources (and approved by Council)
Conference for NI Retailers	Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce in association with Council will host the first ever forum for NI retailers on Thursday 17 th September, 2009 in the Stormont Hotel. The theme for the conference is "Responsive Retailing" where a number of high calibre speakers will deliver insight into the critical factors of survival and growth during this extremely challenging economic environment.	Resources already committed from other sources
Promotion and Profiling of Champions in the Independent Retail Sector	Council will develop innovative methods of generating PR for the sector, through the championing of successful participants on Council led initiatives e.g., Retail Therapy, HARTE or Craft on the Concourse. Case studies of participants who have gained a	No costs associated with this activity

	great deal or had positive experience will be channelled regularly to local press and specific publications in each arterial route of Belfast.	
Evening Economy Initiative	Council will further encourage evening economy activity in the city centre to meet the needs of residents and visitors and to regenerate these areas.	Investigate possible sources of funding
Support for Independent Fashion Design	Council will explore the opportunities available for independent fashion designers to have their designs showcased and sold in House of Fraser.	Resource commitment unknown

3. New product development support

One of the key challenges for those who produce goods for sale is the difficulty in getting their goods to market. In addition to fixed trading units, consideration will be given to one-off or regular markets offering unique produce and complementing the offering from mainstream retailers.

High quality street trading is a crucial asset to the competitive success of Belfast and will bring colour, vibrancy and an awareness of the cultural offering in designated suitable locations e.g., the Cathedral Quarter.

Possible activities including indicative Belfast City Council financial contributions may include:

Activity	Description	BCC Financial Contribution
Opportunities for independent retailers through Parks and Open Spaces	Council will use open space and parks within retail districts to host fairs and markets to encourage increased footfall and to market the areas more effectively. Two events to be supported include Botanic Arts Fair and Drumglass Market.	£25,000 (already approved by Council)
Product Development Support for Thimble Group	Working with Thimble, Council will provide business development, sales and marketing and product development support to the fashion, craft and design sector. The project will bring together existing creative businesses working in these fields and new designers from Belfast's colleges and universities with the aim of networking, identifying new market opportunities and providing a sustainable business infrastructure to the sector.	Resources already committed from other sources
Craft Traders Initiative 'Craft on the Concourse'	Council will sponsor an initiative aimed at providing an opportunity for creative businesses to sell and market products to the local market in Belfast. A total of 12 stalls will be on offer every week to independent craft makers over a 4 month period (June 2009 – October 2009 and every Sunday between 1pm – 6pm). The event will take place in Victoria Square. Display stalls and marketing support	Resources already committed from other sources

	will be provided by Victoria Square.	
Market sites / street trading	Council will continue development of St George's and Smithfield markets and the designation of suitable street trading pitches including Cotton Court (Waring Street), Hill Street and Commercial Court.	Resources already committed from other sources

4. Physical Environment

The physical environment is an important aspect of the attractiveness of local shopping and of a community's perception of the shopping area. This includes the quality of shop fronts and signage, excellence in street cleansing and the availability of accessible and secure car parking.

Recent feedback from the Association of Town Centre Management suggests like in many UK cities, graffiti and fly posting is a problem in Belfast City. Graffiti vandalism impacts negatively on the retail offer and can give the impression to retailers, residents and tourists that an area is neglected. Consideration will therefore be given to working with colleagues in Council's Cleansing Department and BCCM to tackle the problem of graffiti in the city centre and beyond.

Vacant units are perhaps one of the most visible impacts of the economic downturn. Shoppers who are unable to ignore increasingly visible vacant units in their local communities are likely to further reinforce falling consumer confidence. Consideration will be given to the refurbishment of shops frontages and the dressing of vacant shop units.

Attracting footfall is essential to retail success therefore parking and transport must be managed together. Insufficient parking provision and poor accessibility greatly undermine the viability of high street shopping. Initiatives to make access to retail easy and customer friendly will be considered.

Good quality lighting, particularly around the Christmas period can enhance perceptions of safety and quality of appearance. Council will liaise with the Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce on increasing footfall and animating the city centre in the period leading up to Christmas. Methods will also be examined to ensure that the arterial routes within the City be made more festive during the 2009 Christmas period.

Possible activities including indicative Belfast City Council financial contributions may include:

Activity	Description	BCC Financial Contribution
Animation of Core Trading Hubs	Council will provide a musical or entertaining ambiance in public places with large volumes of pedestrian traffic and high visibility e.g., tourist spots or outside restaurants, cafes, bars and shopping centres. This initiative may be piloted in Upper Queen Street, Lisburn Road, Belmont Road, Bloomfield Avenue and Andersonstown. Activity may	£10,000

	take the form of simple music performances during the Saturday shopping period.	
Graffiti Prevention and Removal	Council will work with its Cleansing Department and other appropriate bodies on graffiti and fly posting issues in the City centre and beyond.	No additional resources required
Dressing of Vacant Shop Units	Council will work with landlords and BCCM to allow the dressing of vacant units to attract the appropriate retail mix to the area.	No additional resources required
Shop Frontage Improvements	Council will continue the development of shop frontage improvements along key arterial routes.	Resources already committed from other sources
Transport and Car Parking Issues	Council will encourage transport providers to offer initiatives that make access to retail easy and customer friendly.	No additional resources required
Festive Lighting	Council will commence discussions with the Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce to examine methods of ensuring that the arterial routes within the City are made more festive during the 2009 Christmas period.	Resource commitment unknown

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Economic Initiatives – Markets Unit
Date:	12 August 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives ext. 3459

Relevant Background InformationSeptember 2009 St George's Market Food Festival Month

In September 2008 St George's Market was part of the Belfast Food Festival and it proved to be very popular with customers and traders alike. Although as an event the Belfast Food Festival is not operating in Belfast this year, St George's Market will host its own Festival of Food during September. As a Northern Ireland premier food market, a variety of cooking demonstrations and tasting will take place throughout September.

Letting of Units in Smithfield Market

The Development Committee at its meeting on 22 September 1999 granted the authority for the Director of Development, in consultation with the Chairman of the Development Department, to approve the terms of future lettings, subject to those terms being reported retrospectively to the Development Committee.

The Committee is asked to note the following lettings which have been agreed in Smithfield Market.

Key IssuesSt. George's Market Food Festival

St George's Market was an integral part of Belfast Food Festival during September 2008. There was a variety of cookery demonstrations, food tasting, and a celebrity cook off which proved to be very popular with customers and traders alike. We will again this year be running our Festival of Food using local produce, local chefs and involving our own St George's traders.

As Northern Ireland's premier food market, a variety of cooking demonstrations and tastings will take place throughout September.

5 September: Local Chef - Sea Food & Organic Produce Cookery Demonstration

12 September: Local Chef - Cookery Demonstration

19 September: Japanese Tea Party hosted by Suki Tea & Cupcake party

26 September: Cheese & Wine tasting and cheese making demonstrations

The above are all free entrance.

For more information contact details are:

St George's Market 02890 435704 or www.belfastcity.gov.uk/stgeorgesmarket

Letting of Smithfield Market Units

The Committee is asked to note the following lettings which have been agreed.

Unit 1 – Smithfield Market: Nail Bar and Health Products

Tenant: Mariusz Olzowski and Sabina Lukomska
Flat 6 6 Cherryville Street
6 Cromwell Road Belfast
Belfast BT6 8BJ
BT7 1JW

Unit size: 175 Sq. Ft Ground Floor

Terms: £200.00 per month
Tenancy Agreement for 6 months and monthly there after commencing 6 July 2009.

Unit 7 – Smithfield Market: Groceries (Pilipino Products) – Rice, Noodles, Canned Foods, Sauces etc

Tenant: Enrique Benasa
63 Dunlambert Drive
Belfast
BT15 3NF

Unit size: 426 Sq. Ft Ground Floor
220 Sq Ft Mezzanine Floor

Terms: £536.00 per month
Tenancy Agreement for 6 months and monthly there after commencing 1 August 2009.

Resource Implications

Financial

September 2009 St George's Market Food Festival:

Approximately £500 spend on products for the various cookery/tasting demonstrations, setting up and manning of mobile PA system.

This cost is included in the current St George's Market PR budget.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

1. Note the Food events during September.
2. Note the Lettings of Units in Smithfield Market and that lettings now at 100%

Decision Tracking

No decision tracking applicable as report is for notation only.

Key to Abbreviations

PA Personal Address System
PR Public Relations

BLANK PAGE

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Ulster Hall Capital Works Programme
Date:	12 August 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Tim Husbands, Head of City Events and Venues ext. 1400

Relevant Background Information

The second phase of refurbishment of the Ulster Hall began in June 2007 with the Grand Hall reopening on the 6th March 2009 with a month long festival of performances including a Civic Gala performance with the Ulster Orchestra. Since the opening concert and up to the end of June the Grand Hall has hosted over eighty concerts and other events. The café and other areas of the building have also been heavily used. The Ulster Orchestra moved into their new administration offices on the 1st June and have expressed satisfaction with their new accommodation. The key stakeholders in the project have also intimated that they are very pleased with the use by which has been made of the building since it opened, including its education and community access programme.

Building Work

Members will be aware that building works, particularly in refurbishment and conservation projects, always carry the risk of unforeseen, but necessary, works arising during construction. While contingency allowances are made in the programme for such eventualities this can only be notional and the Ulster Hall building works were actually completed later than programmed.

The original expected date for practical completion was set for the end of December 2009 with the intention of having a two month period for finishing and completing other elements of work, in order to enable a scheduled move back into the building, so that the management team could become familiar with the new systems in the building.

However, some unforeseen work became necessary and practical completion of the auditorium and front of house areas did not take place until 6th March 2009 (the actual day for re-opening to the public) and the new five storey administration office block at

the rear of the building was not formally handed over until 23 May 2009. The delay was caused by the following main issues:

- Problems with piled foundations for the new build areas resulted in the cracking of the old walls, and work scheduled had to be stopped while remedial repairs were carried out. Additional structural work was also required at high level to strengthen walls;
- When the old roof was removed, wet rot was discovered in some of the timber trusses and the rotten timber had to be replaced, with additional temporary supports;
- An issue arose around the design of the ventilation and grills for the main auditorium. This work was subcontracted to a specialist supplier, and it took some time for the ductwork and grills to be designed, manufactured and tested to ensure that not only the correct room temperatures were achievable, but also that the noise levels created by air flowing through the grills conformed to strict criteria – necessary for both recording purposes and the enjoyment of the music. This caused delays in the work in the roof space and on the heating and ventilation system.

The overall result of the delays in these works was that the building was handed over later than scheduled and this had a major knock on impact on remaining completion work. The management team worked closely with the main contractor over the last few months of the project, in order to ensure the opening date was achieved. However, the item which suffered most as a result of the project delays and restricted access was the Mulholland Organ, with the result that the dates scheduled for testing and commissioning the organ were lost, and which subsequently have now been planned for a later date.

Key Issues

Issues Arising

A number of issues which have been raised previously by the committee, are as outlined below:

Dampness

Prior to the recent refurbishment works some of the walls of the building were historically extremely damp for the following reasons:

- The previous use of inappropriate cement pointing on the external face which has trapped moisture in the walls leading to deterioration of the brickwork and further damp penetration;
- Defective roof coverings and guttering leading to significant water ingress at high level

As part of the current works, the external walls were repaired; brick replacement was carried out as necessary and the entire walls were re-pointed using an appropriate lime mortar. In addition, the roof was re-configured to provide an accessible working platform for maintenance from the flat parapet gutter and the roof covering was renewed. The rainwater goods have been replaced and the new rainwater drainage system is working well.

Having completed the above repairs, all of the inherent design and maintenance

problems have now been addressed. However, as the walls of the building have been absorbing water for many years, they will require a considerable time to dry out (possibly up to a year in some areas due to their thickness) and in the meantime the dampness will exhibit as patches. The building team has made allowances for periodic minor redecoration, as required, until a final decoration takes place is undertaken when the walls have fully dried out. In addition, a number of notices have now been installed throughout the building, which explain well the context of the situation to members of the public.

Side Aisles/Length of rows

In relation to the issue of a perceived removal of the side aisles at ground floor level of the Main Hall, the previous seating layout in this space did incorporate a very narrow, albeit not approved, access space, at each side of the room. The space, not technically an aisle space, simply existed as the previous seats had traditional legs which could not be placed on top of the existing floor grilles along the edge of the hall. The new seating arrangement consists of a removable, stackable 'Matrix' system comprising groups of 2 or 3 seating banks on detachable legs – providing great flexibility for the wide variety of events held within this space. There does exist the option to remove a bank of 2 seats on each row at each side of the hall, thus providing side aisles. However, this would result in a total loss of 108 seats on the ground floor, thereby reducing the capacity at this level from 786 to 678 – which would in turn cause a significant reduction in potential revenue, a concern which has been voiced by the orchestra and other commercial promoters.

In addition, the row widths and lengths of the new seating arrangement are designed to comply with current legislative standards and best practice guidelines, and have all been approved by Building Control.

The Mulholland Organ

During the almost two year phase of building work, the Mulholland Organ remained in the building, protected by two layers of polythene sheet and a horizontal timber screen to prevent damage. A maintenance contract, separate from the main building contract, was entered into with an independent specialist organ contractor who carried out some repair work, deemed necessary following an earlier inspection of the instrument. The building contract required the main works contractor to employ the specialist organ contractor to protect the organ, and to allow him to be on site when any electrical work was undertaken inside the organ. This procedure appeared to work satisfactorily until near completion of the project, when the organ maintenance contractor discovered water lying in some sections of the organ. It has not been possible to establish the source of the water, but in order to allay fears of any permanent damage to the instrument, a further independent inspection was commissioned. This inspection was carried out by an independent specialist organ adviser from England, recommended by the City Organist, Mr Colm Carey. The adviser concluded that while some minor damage had been incurred it could easily be remedied at minor expense. He did however highlight that it has been over 30 years since the organ has had a major overhaul and so made a further recommendation that such works should be considered for the near future, as it would take time to plan and execute.

The current position is that the remedial work required, as identified by the adviser, to reinstate the organ to its pre-building work condition and concert performance standard, will be scheduled in the months ahead. It is estimated that it will take a minimum of five consecutive days to fine tune the instrument and the Ulster Hall management team are presently trying to create diary space to allow this to take place. The additional cost is expected to be minimal, and will be funded from the existing capital contingency budget

allocated to the project.

Awards

To date the building project has been nominated for the following awards:

1. The Construction News Quality Awards 2009 – achieved a top seven position but did not win overall.
2. CEF Construction Excellence Awards 2009 – to be assessed on 28 July 2009.

Resource Implications

Financial

Funding: The project is currently within the amount approved in the Capital Programme as follows:

FUNDER	AMOUNT RECEIVED TO DATE	AMOUNT OUTSTANDING	TOTAL EXPECTED
DCAL	£2,000,000.00	NIL	£2,000,000
ACNI	£ 666,747.93	£ 20,621.07	£ 687,369
EHS	£ 192,998.00	£ 44,372.00	£ 237,370
HLF	£ 486,621.53	£508,378.47	£ 995,000
BCC Contribution			£4,655,261
TOTALS	£3,346,367.46	£573,371.54	£8,575,000
		<i>Total project cost</i>	<i>£8,575,000</i>

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the contents of the report.

Key to Abbreviations

DCAL	Department of Culture Arts and Leisure
ACNI	Arts Council of Northern Ireland
HLF	Heritage Lottery Fund
NIEA	Northern Ireland Environment Agency

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Mosconi Cup 2010
Date:	12 August 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Tim Husbands, Head of City Events and Venues ext. 1400

Relevant Background Information

The Mosconi Cup is an annual nine-ball pool tournament contested between two five man teams representing Europe and the USA since 1994. In the past, the tournament has taken place in cities such as London, Rotterdam, Malta and Las Vegas. The tournament is played out over 4 days in a series of matches promoted by Matchroom Sports Ltd in Essex, England and broadcast live by Sky Sports in the UK.

Matchroom Sports is currently seeking bids to host the 17th Mosconi Cup in 2010. The Event Manager of Matchroom Sports met recently with Belfast City Council in April 2009, where it was considered feasible for Belfast to bid to host this event in December 2010.

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members to submit a bid to bring the Mosconi Cup to Belfast in December 2010. In addition, agreement to financially support the event is requested, should the bid be successful.

Matchroom Sports estimate that a host city would need to contribute approximately £100,000 to host the event, with the following key elements being covered, including:

- venue hire
- seating
- players accommodation
- PR and marketing opportunities

Belfast City Council can provide significant in-kind support to the PR and Marketing element of the event and as per the Northern Ireland Trophy, a Council venue, the Ulster Hall, has been earmarked for hosting the event.

Key Issues

Identifiable Benefits

The identifiable benefits for staging the 17th Mosconi Cup is to present Belfast as a city capable of hosting major sports events and as a key tourism destination. If successful the event will indicate that Belfast has the capacity to host a world class event. Other key benefits to Belfast would include:

- World-wide television exposure via Sky UK and DSF Germany
- Additional tourism related activity via organisers and supporters
- Bringing a world class sports event to the newly refurbished Ulster Hall
- Global on set (TV) signage for Belfast City Council, with additional Council branding at press conferences/venue locations/players kit etc
- Positive coverage of Belfast portrayed through a multitude of publications and websites across the world

Resource Implications

The cost of staging international sports events requires significant investment. In this case the estimated expenditure to successfully host the Mosconi Cup is approximately £100,000.

Based on previous experience, it would be the intention to offer the following as part of the city's bid:

- Ulster Hall as the venue, plus auxiliary rooms, and additional technical support services (representing an internal recharge within the department – value £30,000)
- Additional seating at the venue (approximately £10,000)
- Accommodation for the Matchroom team and competing teams of players (approximately £15,000)
- PR and Marketing of the event via existing channels, a portion of which will be at no cost to Belfast - £15,000
- Further support of approximately £30,000 to host the project, should this be required (additional marketing, hospitality, logistical costs)

In summary, if the bid is successful, Belfast City Council could be asked to allocate up to a maximum value of £100,000 to the hosting of the Mosconi Cup 2010; although up to £40,000 of this would be internal recharging within the department. The level of funding required is currently within the City Events Unit budget, a proportion of which would have having been previously allocated to the NI Snooker Trophy, and which will not take place in 2010 due to the unavailability of a suitable venue for the dates required.

Officers will also pursue other funding opportunities, both commercially and within the public sector, in an effort to reduce this allocation.

Recommendations

1. Members are asked to endorse the bid for Belfast to host the 2010 Mosconi Cup
- 2 Approve the level of funding, to a maximum of £100,000, should the initial bid be successful.

Decision Tracking

Following ratification of the recommendation, a bid will be submitted to host the Mosconi Games:

Timeframe: November 2009 Reporting Officer: Tim Husbands

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 – Mosconi Cup XVII Host Venue Prospectus

BLANK PAGE

Mosconi Cup XVII

December 2010

Host Venue Prospectus

2010 Mosconi Cup - Host Venue Prospectus

Introduction

Since Matchroom Sport originated the Mosconi Cup in December 1994, the event has steadily grown in stature year by year to become the biggest, most prestigious team pool event in billiards history.

Pitting two sides representing America and Europe respectively, the Mosconi Cup is pool's high octane version of the Ryder Cup, where no quarter is given or asked.

Played out over four days in a series of singles and doubles matches, the Mosconi Cup is televised live in its entirety by Sky Sports in the UK.

Staged traditionally as the final event of the year in December, the first eight runnings of the Mosconi Cup took place in the UK, home to promoters Matchroom Sport and host broadcasters Sky Sports.

It moved to Las Vegas in December 2003 and in its last running at the MGM Grand, Las Vegas in December 2007, Team Europe, lead by a tournament winning performance from Malta's Tony Drago, won for the first time in five years amid scenes of glory.

In 2002, Team USA regained the trophy in front of sell-out crowds, following defeat in London the previous year – Europe's first victory since 1995.

The following year, Dutch interests ensured the event took place at the coastal town of Egmond, just a short distance from Amsterdam.

In 2005, the Mosconi Cup once again took place at the MGM Grand where the Americans proved worthy winners.

In 2006, the Mosconi Cup moved again, this time to the Dutch city of Rotterdam, where the teams played out a 12-all draw and in 2007 in Las Vegas, Team Europe finally took the honours with a handsome 11-8 win.

Team Europe consolidated their dominance in December of last year with a comprehensive 11-5 victory which left the Americans four years since their last victory.

2010 Mosconi Cup – The Event

Pool in its various forms is now one of the most popular participation sports in the world with millions of players competing on a regular basis. While the global spread is strong, the major areas for professional competition are North America, Europe and the Far East.

The professional game is administered by the World Pool Association, an Olympic-recognised umbrella organisation whose continental federations oversee competitive pool across the globe.

For the individual player, the pinnacle is the annual WPA World Pool Championship but when it comes to team play there is only one event..... the Mosconi Cup.

In short, the Mosconi Cup is the Ryder Cup of the blue baize. Taking place over four days, the tournament pits two five-man teams representing the USA and Europe respectively in a series of singles and doubles matches.

The two teams are selected from tour rankings as well as wild cards to ensure that all of pool's marquee names are centre stage.

Each side is captained and coached, generally by an ex-player and their job is to select the running orders and pairings and keep their respective teams on the boil. Similarly to golf's Ryder Cup, the team captain's job is of critical importance.

The matches start out as 'scotch doubles' whereby the players compete in pairs playing alternate shots, and culminate in the last day singles where it becomes a real test of nerve.

Each match carries one point for the winning side the first team to reach 11 points carries off the famous Mosconi Cup.

2010 Mosconi Cup – The History

Since its inception in 1994, it's fair to say that the Mosconi Cup has belonged to Team America. With 10 wins in 15 starts, the USA has certainly got the measure of the Europeans.

Despite the American successes, most years of the Mosconi Cup have been close run affairs, with the action maintaining right down to the wire.

Europe have enjoyed increased success in the past three years, holding America to a nail-biting tied match in '06, then winning for the first time since 2002 in Las Vegas in '07 and consolidating their position with victory in Malta last year.

In total 32 players have represented America over the 15 years of the event, with 30 players having worn the colours of Team Europe.

Top of the tree is American legend Earl Strickland with 39 victories in 60 matches over 13 Mosconi Cups. In the European camp, Germany's Ralf Souquet, the 1996 World Pool Champion, takes the honours with 36 wins in 59 starts through 13 years of competition.

- 2008 **Europe 11 – 5 USA**, Hilton Hotel, Malta
- 2007 **Europe 11 – 8 USA**, MGM Grand Hotel, Las Vegas, USA
- 2006 **USA 12 – 12 Europe**, Cruise Terminal, Rotterdam, Holland
- 2005 **USA 11 – 6 Europe**, MGM Grand Hotel, Las Vegas, USA
- 2004 **USA 12 – 9 Europe**, Hotel Zuiderduin, Egmond aan Zee, Holland
- 2003 **USA 11 – 9 Europe**, MGM Grand Hotel, Las Vegas, USA
- 2002 **Europe 12 – 9 USA**, York Hall, Bethnal Green, London, England
- 2001 **USA 12 - 1 Europe**, York Hall, Bethnal Green, London, England
- 2002 **USA 12 - 9 Europe**, York Hall, Bethnal Green, London, England
- 1999 **USA 12 - 7 Europe**, York Hall, Bethnal Green, London, England
- 1998 **USA 13 - 9 Europe**, York Hall, Bethnal Green, London, England
- 1997 **USA 13 - 8 Europe**, York Hall, Bethnal Green, London, England
- 1996 **USA 15 - 13 Europe**, Goresbrook Leisure Centre, Dagenham, England
- 1995 **Europe 16 – 15 USA**, Festival Hall, Basildon, Essex, England
- 1994 **USA 16 – 12 Europe**, Rollerbowl, Romford, Essex, England

2010 Mosconi Cup – Television

With the inaugural Mosconi Cup having taken place in December 1994, there has been one constant throughout its illustrious history – year on year live television coverage.

Its European host broadcaster has been Sky Sports who are renowned throughout the world as one of sports television's premier broadcasters. When it comes to the Mosconi Cup, Sky Sports apply the production values of major league sports.

Using a multitude of camera positions, every ball of every rack is live and the resulting programming has made the Mosconi Cup the biggest televised pool event of the year.

In 2007, the Mosconi Cup produced 20 hours of live programming and was subsequently packaged as 19 x one-hour highlight shows by Matchroom Sport. In '08 that figure was 17 hours live and 12 x one-hour highlights.

In 2006, for the first time, DSF, Germany's major cable sports channel, took the event live and have continued to do so.

In the USA Fox Net took a five hour highlights package which runs on consecutive Sundays in January and February.

Over the years, more and more stations around the world have picked up on the Mosconi Cup and for 2008, the event was scheduled to be distributed to the following stations:

Live

BSkyB (UK) – 7.8 million homes

DSF (Germany) – 32 million homes

Highlights

Fox Net (USA) – 81 million homes

CCTV (China) – 302 million homes

NTV (Russia) – 32 million homes

TSN (Canada) – 7.6 million homes

IKO (Slovakia, Czech Republic, Serbia, Romania) – 3 million homes

Fox Australia – 1.8 million homes

Sport 1 (Hungary) – 1.54 million homes

Supersport (South Africa) – 1.4 million homes

Measat (Malaysia) – 1.3 million homes

Sky Network (New Zealand) – 630,000 homes

Measat (Indonesia) – 500,000 homes

ART (Middle East) – 400,000 homes

Star Hub (Singapore) – 371,000 homes

I Cable (Hong Kong) – 682,000 homes

Videoland (Taiwan) – 4.3 million homes

Solar (Philippines) – 2.2 million homes

Melita Cable (Malta) – 105,000 homes

2010 Mosconi Cup – Host Venue Benefits

International Television Exposure

The Mosconi Cup produces approximately 20 hours of live broadcast as well as up to 20 hours of highlights. The host venue will receive numerous verbal and captioned mentions throughout the programming including mentions from the MC prior to every game as well as name checks from the commentators.

In addition, the broadcast will include inserts filmed around the host venue for inclusion in the programming. All in all this adds up to an impressive media evaluation.

On set Signage

The host venue will have the right to display two signage boards in prime positions on the TV set. These are approximately 40cm x 40cm and can be for your own use or any sub-sponsors you may engage.

Players' Images

The host site will have the opportunity to use participating players' images as well as TV footage from previous events for promotional and advertising purposes. It will also have the right to use the Official Event Logo for the same purposes.

Mosconi Cup Players' Reception

Taking place the evening before the event starts is the now traditional Mosconi Cup Players Reception. This is for media, TV, sponsors and VIPs etc. You will have the opportunity to host this occasion and mingle with the players in a unique way and create PR opportunities.

Website

www.mosconicup.com is the events official website and attracts a substantial number of users throughout the four days of the tournament and the weeks leading up to it. The host venue will have prominent exposure on the site including click-throughs to the venue's own website.

Media Profile

Being a high profile international sporting event, the Mosconi Cup is well attended by the international sports media, giving the host site positive coverage in a multitude of publications and websites around the world.

Press Conferences

The host site's logo will be on prominent display at all post and pre-event press conferences.

Promotional Material

To promote the Mosconi Cup a large amount of promotional material is produced for distribution across Europe and throughout America. This includes posters, flyers as well as various event-specific promotions. All will carry the host venue's logo.

2010 Mosconi Cup – Don't Take Our Word For It!

"Any sporting contest between teams from Europe and the USA attracts big interest, and we have been happy to support the Mosconi Cup since its inception in 1994. We show every rack live over the four days, and the standard of play – and the excitement generated – has lived up to all our expectations."

Rory Hopkins, Executive Producer, Sky Sports

"The Mosconi Cup is already part of the rich history of pool. I believe in what it stands for and only players of great integrity and character can succeed in it. To play in the Mosconi Cup you have to be the best and it is a tremendous honour to play for your country and represent the American people."

Earl Strickland, leading all-time Mosconi Cup points scorer and three times WPA World Pool Champion

"Hands down the most exciting event in pool... nothing in professional pool can match the raw intensity and drama that the Mosconi Cup delivers."

Mike Panozzo, Publisher, Billiards Digest

“The Mosconi Cup does for pool what nothing has ever done for snooker. As the Ryder Cup of golf has proved, nothing can duplicate the atmosphere of America v Europe in international team competition and in a quality venue, live on TV, the Mosconi Cup works perfectly.”

Phil Yates, sports correspondent, the Times of London.

“After all the years of playing snooker as an individual with very little team play, the Mosconi Cup was like a breath of fresh air with a level of exhilaration I hadn't experienced before. Never in my wildest dreams did I think you could create so much excitement for players and fans alike. An incredible event!”

Steve Davis, six times World Snooker Champion, 11 Mosconi Cup appearances

"The Mosconi Cup has become pool's premier 'excitement event'. The pressure of playing for their country has been known to rip some players' nerves to shreds and raise others to levels of greatness otherwise unknown. The audiences at the Mosconi Cup are a tremendous factor and they have an impact on the outcome that is never seen at any other billiards event. "

Jerry Forsyth, Editor AZBilliards.com and Sky Sports commentator



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Support for Sport – Event Funding
Date:	12 August 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Tim Husbands, Head of City Events and Venues ext. 1400

Relevant Background Information

The Support for Sport Scheme has funded clubs and organisations for the past six years. The scheme has four main elements, Development Grants, Large Development Grants and Hospitality funding (all of which are allocated by the Sports Development Unit through the Parks and Leisure Committee) and Events Funding which is allocated by the Events Unit through the Development Committee.

The annual Support for Sport Scheme (Events Funding) totals £85,000 and is allocated in annual tranches to events being organised in Belfast.

Key Issues

Support for Sport Scheme

A number of Events Funding applications have now been received. These applications refer to events taking place during the period September 2009 – March 2010. The applications have been assessed by officers using the assessment criteria agreed by the Development Committee in March 2008 (see Appendix 2). A list of the applications together with summary information and officer recommendations for funding is attached as Appendix 1.

Resource Implications

Financial

The total Support for Sport Scheme (Events Funding) for 2009/2010 is £85,000 and is

allocated in annual tranches.

In Jan 2009, the Development Committee agreed funding of £43,350 for events in 2009/2010 (first tranche) and in May 2009, they agreed funding of £19,880 for additional events in 2009/2010 (second tranche). This left a balance of £21,770 available for the year 2009/2010.

The officer recommendations for Events Funding for events in 2009/2010 (third tranche) totals £4699.25, leaving a balance of £15,705.

Recommendations

Members are asked to agree the officer recommendations for Events Funding and approve the payments totalling £4699.25 as detailed.

Decision Tracking

Following ratification that the agreed payments be made:
Time line: October 2009 Reporting Officer: Tim Husbands

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 Table of Events Funding applications with officer recommendations
Appendix 2 Agreed Assessment Criteria

Aug-09

ORGANISER / EVENT	EVENT DATE	SUMMARY	TOTAL COST	AMOUNT REQUESTED	RECOMMENDATION	REASON	09/10 Funding
Belfast 2009 - International Wheelchair Tennis Tournament	18-20 September 2009	The 12th annual tournament held at the indoor tennis arena, involving teams from England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.	£12,375	£4,538	Offer support in terms of underwriting the event to the sum of £3630.00(80% of amount requested)	Score 62.5	£3,630.00
Cross Community Fun Run	20/09/2009	A 5K community fun run with a route designed to cover both the Shankill and Falls area. This initiative is in its first year with its main aim to bring together both sides of the West Belfast community, those of all abilities and race. The Springfield Charitable Association and the Greater Shankill Community Partnership are working together to enable this unique event to take place.	£4,940.00	£1,527.50	Offer support in terms of underwriting the event to the sum of £1069.25(70% of amount requested)	Score 55	£1,069.25

Event
Amount requested

Media Coverage (Weighting 25%)	Score	Description
Live international TV coverage	100	Inc live broadcasting on Sky Sports, Eurosport, international Television channels.
International TV highlights	80	Highlights on the above channels.
Dedicated TV Coverage	70	Half an hour/1 Hour special on local TV
Local TV dedicated show	60	Short Clip on BBC/UTV news. Season Ticket/UTV Life
National Press	50	National Newspaper Coverage
Local Radio	40	BBC Ulster, Cool Fm, Citybeat
Local Press	30	Local News papers and magazines

Value

Joint Marketing (Weighting 20%)	Score	Description
Level 7	100	Title Sponsor (Belfast in title) and BCC recognised + LEVEL 6
Level 6	80	Logos on clothing (volunteers/athletes + event material e.g.Race Nos) + LEVEL 5
Level 5	60	Use of players prior, during and post event + LEVEL 4
Level 4	50	Prominent Branding at Venue beyond other sponsors + LEVEL 3
Level 3	40	Branding at venue equal to other sponsors, free advert + LEVEL 2
Level 2	30	Logos on Letterheads, Programmes, Posters + LEVEL 1
Level 1	20	Basic PR - Photoshoot stating BCC support

Value

Number of Spectators (Weighting 15%)	Score	Description
10,000+	100	This is the total number of Spectators over the duration of the event!
7500+	90	
5,000+	80	
2500+	70	
1,000+	60	

750+	50	
500+	40	
250+	30	
100+	20	

Value

Economic Benefits (Weighting 10%)	Score	Description
£500,000.00	100	This is only calculated on the event spend (suppliers, services, equipment, venue etc) in Belfast
£200,000.00	80	
£100,000.00	60	
£50,000.00	50	
£25,000.00	40	
£10,000.00	30	
£5,000.00	20	

Value

Total Bednights (Weighting 10%)	Score	Description
2,000	100	The Number of Spectators and Participants who are staying in a Belfast Hotels.
1,000	80	
500	60	
250	40	
100	20	

Value

Event Development (20% includes below)	Score	Description
Event History (5%)	Score	Description
1st Year of Event	100	
2nd Year of Event	80	
3rd Year Of Event	60	
4th Year of Event	40	
Event 5 years or over	20	

Event Sustainability (5%)	Score	Description
41%-50% of event budget from private sector	100	
31%-40% of event budget from private sector	80	
21%-30% of event budget from private sector	60	
11%-20% of event budget from private sector	40	
5%-10% of event budget from private sector	20	
Sports Development (10%)	Score	Description
The sport is one which has a club structure	20	Must be within City Of Belfast
Event organised by a Sports National Gov Body	20	As recognised by Sport NI/BCC or club affiliated to a National Governing Body
The NGB/Club has an active development plan	20	Benefits of event for identified within the plan (a copy of the plan should be provided
There is an opportunity for the young people	10	From Belfast to participate in development activities as part of the event
The sport has a clear competition pathway	10	Opportunities to compete at local, provincial, national and international levels
The event will leave a legacy	10	Providing opportunities for the citizens of Belfast to participate in the sport in the future
Inclusive pricing structure	10	To encourage people to attend
Sports Development Score		Out of 100
Development Value		

Overall Score

% of requested amount available

Recommended amount of support

(80-100 = 100%, 70-79 = 90%, 60- 69 = 80%, 50- 59 = 70%, 40-49 = 60%, no grants awarded for events scoring less than 40)

**Belfast City Council**

Report to: Development Committee
Subject: European Unit Update
Date: 12 August 2009
Reporting Officer: Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development ext. 3470
Contact Officer: Laura Leonard, European Manager ext. 3577

Background

Members will be aware that on a regular basis background reports are presented regarding the work of the European unit. Although all project work has been approved within the Development Department plan, Members are asked to consider and approve attendance of the Chair and Deputy Chair or nominees at the Eurocities AGM in Stockholm.

Key IssuesEurocities AGM Stockholm
25-28 November 2009

Members will be aware that Belfast City Council has been a member of Eurocities since the early 1990's and uses the network of Europe's largest local authorities as its key source for policy, funding and partnering information and opportunity.

Each year the Council attends the AGM and participates in the Forum and Executive Bureau elections.

Approval is sought for the attendance of the Chair and Deputy Chair of Development or their nominees, together with the Head of Economic Initiatives and the European Manager (or nominees), at the Eurocities AGM in Stockholm on 25 to 28 November 2009.

Resource Implications

Financial

All related event attendance cost have previously been agreed within the European Unit's activities within the Development Department Plan.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members approve the attendance of the Chair and Deputy Chair of Development or nominees, together with the Head of Economic Initiatives and the European Manager (or nominees), at the Eurocities AGM.

Decision Tracking

Following approval that arrangements be put in place for the attendance of Members and staff at the Eurocities AGM:

Time frame: October 2009 Reporting Officer: Marie-Thérèse McGivern

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Facility Management Agreement Synthetic Pitch Grosvenor Recreation Centre
Date:	12 August 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Catherine Taggart, Community Development Manager ext. 3525

Relevant Background Information

The Client Services Committee (Community & Leisure Services Sub Committee) on 3 August 2004 agreed to a Facility Management Agreement between the Council and Roden Street Community Development Groups (RSCDGs) in respect of a new synthetic pitch at Grosvenor Recreation Centre (GRC), subject to sourcing funding and the completion of the scheme (Appendix 1 site map). The site was previously an old hard porous surface in poor condition with limited local usage.

The Client Services Committee (Community & Leisure Services Sub Committee) on 11 January 2005 agreed to accept funding of £634,614 from the Big Lottery New Opportunities Fund for PE & Sport (BLF) towards a new synthetic pitch at GRC. This funding was targeted at modernising sports facilities for school and community use with specific criteria that identified local schools would be eligible for free use during term time.

However, the development of the synthetic pitch and the implementation the Facility Management Agreement was delayed at the request of the Department of Regional Development which required a temporary licence agreement from the Council for the GRC site during the West Link Improvement Scheme 2005/08. The West Link Scheme has been concluded and work has recently been completed on the new synthetic pitch.

Furthermore a Management Lease Agreement has been drawn up in respect to the management transfer to RSCDGs.

Key Issues

That the Management Lease Agreement (Appendix 2), as agreed by Council in January 2005, is initiated with the completion of the capital project.

Resource Implications

Financial

A management fee of £44,400 per annum is paid to RSCDGs sourced from the income generated by the new synthetic pitch. This fee will be subsidised by the BLF 2009/11 by £30,000.

Asset and Other Implications

Council Facility under local Community Management.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the contents of the report.

Key to Abbreviations

RSCDGs	Roden Street Community Development Groups
BLF	Big Lottery Fund
GRC	Grosvenor Recreation Centre

Documents Attached

Appendix 1	Grosvenor Site Map
Appendix 2	Draft Lease Agreement

APPENDIX 1



St Joseph's
Primary School

FALLS WARD

Grovetree House
(Old Peoples' Home)

Posts

Posts

Posts

+ 3.4

+ 3.0

Playing Field

GENOA STREET

Factory

Grosvenor
Recreation
Centre

Tank

Westlink Enterprise
Centre

TURIN

Garage

WESTLINK

Scale 1:1250

SW

APPENDIX 2

Dated this _____ day of _____ 2009

711-20-4-DT

BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

and

RODEN STREET COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

FACILITY MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

Synthetic Pitch at Grosvenor Recreation Centre

Ciaran Quigley
Director of Legal Services
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS

Revised Draft: 18/06/09

THIS AGREEMENT made the day of 2009 Between:-

- (1) **BELFAST CITY COUNCIL** of City Hall, Belfast, BT1 5GS; and
- (2) **RODEN STREET COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUPS**

.....

1. Definitions

In this Agreement, the following expressions have the meaning specified:-

- 1.1 'the Company' means Roden Street Community Development Group
- 1.2 'the Council' means Belfast City Council, party hereto.
- 1.3 'the Maintenance Operations' means those routine maintenance operations to be carried out by the Company as described in the Second Schedule.
- 1.4 'the Facility' means the synthetic pitch.

2. Recitals

- 2.1 The Council is the owner of the Facility.
- 2.2 The Council and the Company have agreed that the Company will undertake responsibility for the management of the Facility in accordance with the provisions hereinafter contained and for the duration hereinafter specified.
- 2.3 The Company acknowledge its responsibility for all obligations arising pursuant to this Agreement.

3. Period of Agreement

- 3.1 This Agreement will have effect for a period of 5 years from the day of 2009 ('the Commencement Date') subject to a Management fee of £44,400.00 per annum payable to the Company in two equal instalments payable on 1st April and 1st October in each year (or the relevant pro rata amount if this Agreement commences prior to or ends after either of those dates) on receipt of an invoice from the Company ('the Management Fee').
- 3.2 The Council shall review with the Company the operation of this Agreement prior to the expiration of the period of 5 years and, subject to the parties being satisfied therewith, and if there is then no subsisting breach of any of the Company's obligations under this present Agreement, this Agreement shall be extended for a further period of 5 years (a memorandum of the terms agreed between the parties in respect of any extension of the terms of the Agreement shall be endorsed on this Agreement).

- 3.3 The Council shall be at liberty to extend this Agreement, up to a maximum of 20 years in total from the Commencement Date, on a five yearly basis in accordance with clause 3.2.

4. Review of Management Fee

- 4.1 Upon the expiry of the first year and each successive year from the commencement of the period of this Agreement the Management Fee shall be adjusted to reflect any increase in the All Items Retail Price Index published by the Department of Economic Development or any successor Department to the figure shown therein for the month of the commencement of the term.

5. Management of the Playing Facilities

- 5.1 The Company shall undertake and be responsible for the general management of the Facility on behalf of the Council in accordance with the following provisions of this Agreement, including the acceptance of bookings, the collection of cash, the organising of events and the provision of security.
- 5.2 The Company shall, in particular, carry out the Maintenance Operations detailed in the Second Schedule hereto.
- 5.3 The Company will be responsible for all electricity, telephone, water and other charges (but excluding rates) incurred by it in connection with the use of the Facility, and shall indemnify the Council against the payment of all such charges.
- 5.4 The Company shall carry out all instructions as directed by the Council.
- 5.5 The Company shall be responsible for all inspection of the Facility so as to ensure safe operation and use.
- 5.6 The Council shall be responsible for the future upgrade replacement of the Facility.

6. Insurance and Indemnity

- 6.1 The Council will be responsible for the general insurance of the Facility and will indemnify the Company in respect of claims, losses, costs or damages which arise solely out of the Company's negligence in the maintenance of the Facility in accordance with this Agreement and as stipulated in the Schedule of Maintenance Operations appended hereto, but not otherwise.
- 6.2 The Council will not be responsible for claims, losses, costs or damages in respect of injury or disease sustained by any employee of the Company.

6.3 The Council will not be responsible for claims, losses, costs or damages in respect of damage or destruction of equipment stored at the Facility.

6.4 The Council will not be responsible for arranging insurance to comply with the Company's statutory duties (if any) under current Employers Liability Compulsory Insurance legislation.

7. Use

7.1 The Company shall use the Facility as a sports and recreation facility as permitted by the Council and for no other use or purpose whatsoever.

7.2 The Company shall not use the Facility as a licensed club for the sale or consumption of intoxicating liquor within the meaning of the Registration of Clubs (Northern Ireland) Order 1987.

7.3 The Company shall not use the Facility or any part thereof for the benefit of any particular religious body or political group.

8. No Building

8.1 The Company shall not erect, build, construct or lay out or permit to be erected, built, constructed or laid out on the Facility any building, erection, construction works, path or paved area except in accordance with plans, elevations and specifications previously submitted to and approved by the Council in writing.

9. Access

10.1 The Company agrees that the Council shall have uninhibited right to:-

- (a) enter and inspect the Facility;
- (b) interview all participating staff and trainees; and
- (c) carry out any works or operations as the Council may require.

10. Compliance

11. The Company agrees that it shall comply with the provisions of all statutes and the requirements of any competent authority relating to the Facility, use thereof and in the exercise of the powers and obligations on the part of the Company contained in this Agreement.

11. Section 75 Northern Ireland Act 1998

11.1 The Council has a duty pursuant to Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 in carrying out its functions to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunities between different classes of persons, including persons of different religious belief and political opinion.

11.2 The Council is also required by virtue of Section 75 to promote good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group. In order to act in accordance with Section 75, the Council requires the Company as its Facility Manager to undertake not to use the Facility or any part thereof for the benefit of any particular religious body or political grouping or to discriminate against any particular racial group.

12. Free Use

12.1 The Council permits the Company to offer free use of the Facility during term time Monday to Friday between 9.30am and 4.00pm to the following schools:-

- (a) St Joseph's Primary School, 1 Slate Street, Belfast, BT12 4LD
- (b) St Peter's Primary School, Ross Road, Belfast, BT12 4JD
- (c) St Clare's Primary School, 323 Cupar Street, Belfast, BT13 2SE

13. Public Use

13.1 Members of the public, sporting clubs, groups and schools (excluding those schools referred to in Clause 12.1) will continue to be entitled to use the Facility subject to the payment of user charges to be fixed from time to time by the Council and the Company shall use its best endeavours to ensure that public use of the Facility is made available as and when required. Members of the public will continue to be permitted access to the property for passive recreational pursuits.

13.2 In the event that the Company should wish to refuse public use of the Facility as referred to at 12.1 above, it shall only refuse such use where it appears to the Company reasonable to do so and shall as soon as possible after such refusal notify the Council in writing and provide the Council with such information as the Council requires to assist it to make an informed decision as to whether the Company acted reasonably in making the refusal and if the Council believes that the Company has not acted reasonably the Council shall be entitled to reverse the Company's decision on such refusal provided always however that should the refusal relate to future use and should there be sufficient time to do so the Company shall notify the Council in writing of its intention to refuse and provide the Council with such information as the Council

requires to assist it to make an informed decision as to whether a refusal should be made and in these circumstances the decision shall be the joint decision of the Council and the Company.

14. Sports Development Programme

14.1 The Company shall ensure that a full and varied sports development programme is carried out at the facilities and in this regard shall prepare and implement a sports development programme, such programme to be approved by the Council, to maximise use of the Facility. The said programme shall be revised on an annual basis between the parties hereto.

15. Timetable

15.1 The Company shall forward the proposed timetable of usage on a monthly basis and at the end of the month in question shall submit the final timetable of usage in respect of the month in question to the Council.

16. Reports

16.1 The Company shall forward any reports as required by the Council in respect of the Facility relating to usage, teams, bookings, variations, maintenance or any other matter the Council may require a report on.

17. Accounts and Records

17.1 The Company shall keep and maintain proper legal and financial controls in place to receive and administer all income received and expenditure incurred in relation to the Facility ("the Accounts") and shall retain all Accounts and other records relating to the Facility in a secure place for the duration of this Agreement and shall procure an audit of the Accounts by a firm of chartered accountants and shall disclose the audited Accounts to the Council.

17.2 The Company shall permit the Council through its authorised officers and agents to have uninhibited right to inspect the Accounts and all financial and other relevant documents relating to income received and expenditure incurred in relation to the Facility and the Company shall disclose such information to the Council upon demand.

17.3 The Company shall operate as a non profit making organisation in respect of the Facility and shall apply all income received in relation to the Facility towards the improvement, enhancement and betterment of the Facility.

18. Funding

18.1 The Council has applied to the Big Lottery Fund ('the BLF') for Grant Aid for the purpose of constructing a floodlight Multi-use Games Area at the Facilities ('the Grant Scheme'). The Company hereby accepts the status of a user group in terms of the BLF Capital Grant Offer and shall ensure that at all times during the period of this Agreement and any extension period as referred to in clauses 3.1 and 3.2 respectively that it complies with the criteria for eligibility for the BLF Capital Grant Offer ('the eligibility criteria') and at all times observes and performs all the covenants and conditions of the BLF Grant Scheme and Capital Grant Offer.

18.2 In the event that the Company shall require funding for development of the Facility from other sources it shall ensure that all funding secured is applied entirely for the purposes of developing and enhancing a well designed multi-use games area at the Facility in accordance with the eligibility criteria and covenants and conditions of the BLF Grant Scheme and Capital Grant Offer and/or any other funders.

18.3 Any monies which are put into or invested by the Company in the Facility shall be at the sole risk of the Company and the Council shall retain legal possession of the Facility at all times and no tenancy is intended to be, nor is hereby created nor shall the Company call upon the Council to grant a tenancy.

18.4 The Company shall provide the Council with all information that the Council considers relevant in relation to any funding received or applied for by the Company and the Council shall through its authorised officers and agents have the right to discuss all aspects of the Company's activities with its representatives or office-bearers.

19. Non Assignment

This Agreement shall not be assignable or transferable without the prior written consent of the Council.

20. No Tenancy

The Council retains legal possession of the Facility and no tenancy is intended to be, nor is hereby created.

21. Notices

Any notice requiring to be served hereunder shall be sufficiently served in the case of the Company if sent to its address hereinbefore appearing and in the case of the Council if addressed to its Chief Executive and sent by Recorded Delivery to the its address hereinbefore appearing.

22. Termination

If the Company shall

- (i) fail to observe and perform any of the obligations, conditions and agreements on its part contained in this Agreement and or in the Schedule of Maintenance Operations appended hereto and if the Company shall fail to remedy any such non-observance or non-performance of any of the obligations, conditions and agreements within one month of receiving notice in writing by the Council, or
- (ii) expose the Council to an unacceptable level of risk in terms of the insurance and indemnity referred to at clause 7 above,

then it shall be lawful for the Council at any time thereafter to re-enter into and upon the Facility or any part thereof in the name of the whole and this Agreement shall determine but without prejudice to the rights and remedies of the Council against the Company in respect of any antecedent claim or breach of condition or agreement. For the avoidance of doubt, what shall be deemed to be an unacceptable level of risk with regard to the insurance and indemnity provided herein by the Council shall be a matter solely for the Council to make a decision upon following consultation and advice received from its Insurer and the Council's Insurance Officer.

23. Law

This Agreement shall be construed and applied in accordance with the laws of Northern Ireland and the parties submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of Northern Ireland.

PROVIDED ALWAYS, AND IT IS HEREBY AGREED AND DECLARED by and between the parties hereto as follows:-

- 1. That the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company and any amendments thereto shall be subject to the prior approval of the Council and that eligibility to enjoy the Facility shall not be restricted on denominational grounds or made conditional on denominational religious observances.
- 2. That no appointment of a new Director or Directors shall be made without the prior written consent of the Council and copies of all Deeds of Appointment of New Directors shall be delivered up to the Council within 21 days of each appointment.

IN WITNESS whereof the Council and the Company have affixed their respective Corporate and Common Seal hereto the day and year first herein **WRITTEN**.

FIRST SCHEDULE

(Description of the Facility)

ALL THAT AND THOSE the premises showed edged in red on the plan thereof attached hereto.

SECOND SCHEDULE

Programme of Maintenance Operations

The Schedule of Maintenance Operations appended hereto.

PRESENT when the Corporate Seal of)
BELFAST CITY COUNCIL was)
affixed hereto:-)

_____)
Lord Mayor)

_____)
Chief Executive)

PRESENT when the Seal of)
RODEN STREET COMMUNITY)
DEVELOPMENT GROUP)
was affixed hereto:-)

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Suffolk Community Centre – Interactive Outdoor Play Area
Date:	12 August 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Catherine Taggart, Community Development Manager ext. 35

Relevant Background Information

Suffolk Community Centre is a directly managed facility. It was officially opened on 27 February 1999 and is the hub of community activity in the Suffolk area. The Suffolk Community Centre Committee has actively contributed to successful partnership approaches to provide a broad based programme of activities at the Centre.

The Centre Committee, in seeking to develop and improve services, has been exploring possibilities to develop a vacant site to the rear of the Community Centre. The site is within the perimeter of the Community Centre and is owned by Belfast City Council.

The Community Centre Committee have now been awarded funding under the ALPHA Programme from Groundwork NI. £48,897.50 will finance all capital costs associated with the development of an interactive outdoor play facility.

The facility will be accessed via the Community Centre and will therefore be subject to supervised use at all times.

Key Issues

There will be no capital cost implications to the Council. All capital costs associated with the project will be met by funding from Groundwork NI. However, on completion the project will be owned by the Council and therefore it will be the responsibility of Community Services to manage and maintain the project.

The proposal has asset implications and will therefore need to be considered by the

Asset Management Group and will require the approval of the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee.

BCC Parks and Amenities are the lead co-ordinator for all Groundwork schemes in Belfast. Parks and Amenities have no objection to the proposal. Technical advice has been sought from Parks and Amenities and as a result the plan was subject to some refinement.

The project will have a positive environmental impact enhancing the visual quality of the site.

Resource Implications

Financial

There are no capital cost implications. Community Services will be responsible for the maintenance of the site which will be undertaken by BCC Parks and Amenities at a cost of £4,000 per annum. This will not include replacement of damaged equipment.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

1. Grant permission for the construction of an interactive play area at Suffolk Community Centre. Permission is subject to all statutory approvals being obtained and Council having an acceptable input e.g. practical completion arrangements, handover /defects list.
2. It is further recommended that Committee commend the proposal to the Asset Management Group and the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Decision Tracking

1. Further to approval and ratification that work commence on the construction of an interactive play area at Suffolk Community Centre

Timeline: January 2010 Reporting Officer: Catherine Taggart

2. Submission of the proposal for construction of an interactive play area at Suffolk Community Centre to the Asset Management Group and the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Timeline: October 2009 Reporting Officer: Catherine Taggart

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Lions Club International Conference 22-24 April 2011
Date:	12 August 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives ext. 3459

Relevant Background Information

Members will be aware that the Tourism Unit brings regular update reports to Committee. The purpose of this report is to advise Members of:

Conference Subvention

Lions Club International Conference 22-24 April at Belfast Waterfront Hall

Key IssuesConference Subvention

Members will be aware that Belfast City Council has a Conference Subvention policy which is utilised to secure and support national and international conferences to Belfast and to build the city's profile as a conference destination.

Lions Club International is considering bringing its international conference to Belfast in April 2011 and has requested financial support to assist in off-setting costs associated with use of Belfast Waterfront Hall for the conference. This is the first time that Lions Club International has considered bringing its conference to Belfast and they also aim to plan for a return international conference every 4 to 5 years. Delegates will come from Europe, North America, England, Scotland, Wales and the ROI.

The proposal has been assessed against the funding criteria and it meets the category for financial support as it is anticipated that the economic impact from this conference will be at least £1.3 million and will create 8,000 bed nights for BVCB members. It will

also assist in enhancing the image of Belfast as an international conference destination and encourage repeat visits from delegates in the future.

Resource Implications

Financial

Conference subvention of £20,000 which will be provided from existing budget.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee agree to subvention of £20,000 allocated to this request since the economic impact is very significant at £1.3 million and it will assist in enhancing the image of Belfast as a major conference destination.

Decision Tracking

Subject to ratification subvention of £20,000 to be paid to the Lions Club International
Timeline: March 2010 Reporting Officer : Shirley McCay

Abbreviations

BVCB Belfast Visitor & Convention Bureau

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Membership of Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau
Date:	12 August 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives ext. 3459

Relevant Background Information

Members will be aware that the Tourism Unit brings regular update reports to Committee. The purpose of this report is to advise Members of:

Membership of Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau

At the Development Committee on 16 January 2008 Members appointed Councillor Paul Maskey to the Board of Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau. Sinn Fein now wish to appoint Councillor Tom Hartley in place of Councillor Paul Maskey.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members approve the appointment of Councillor Tom Hartley to the Board of Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau.

Decision Tracking

No decision tracking applicable as report is for notation only.

Abbreviations

BVCB Belfast Visitor & Convention Bureau

BLANK PAGE

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Review Consultation Process for Development Department
Date:	12 August 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	David Orr, Business Support Manager ext. 3502

Relevant Background Information

On 13 June 2007 the Development Committee considered and gave approval for the change management process for the Development Department, which included support from Business Improvement (BIS) for Departmental restructuring activities. This followed the Council's approval on 1 November 2006 for interim restructuring across the Council ahead of the Review of Public Administration (RPA) and the associated organisational impact of the transfer of functions on the Development Department. Structural Reviews were approved in areas of particular need which included Business Support, Policy and Research, Events, the Waterfront Hall/Ulster Hall merger and Community Services. The aim of restructuring was to rationalise and release further resources into the process.

On 7 October 2008 the Development Committee agreed to adopt the recommendations of the structural reviews as the management side position in order to proceed under the Council's agreed policies and processes to move to implementation.

The following report is an update following consultation for notation by the Committee.

Key IssuesPolicy and Research, Culture and Arts, Events Reviews

Prior to the original Committee these reviews had been agreed in principle with relevant parties and have now been successfully implemented. The Policy & Research Unit structure was re-designed and streamlined by bringing together what had been two separate units.

The City Events Unit was re-positioned within the Waterfront and Ulster Hall structure, with the Manager reporting directly to the Head of City Events and Venues. Locating the unit here allows for the utilisation of the expertise of both sets of staff in organising and co-ordinating events forging close links with the Civic, Sports and Entertainments programmes in the City.

The Culture and Arts Section merged with the Tourism Unit in order to maximise synergies and fully integrate the Tourism, Culture and Arts activities for the City. To support this ethos the roles and responsibilities of the managerial posts were reconfigured.

Markets Review

A trade union and staff representative group had been established to inform and create the proposed working patterns. This group was pivotal in the creation of realistic and effective working patterns. The working patterns are now agreed and signed off

Business Support Review

With effect from 1 May 2009 all consultations with staff and trade unions have been completed and resulted in the adoption of the management side position put forward to Committee in October 2008. The structure as adopted at October Committee was fully agreed with no structural change. There were no additional financial implications following consultation. The implementation of the new structure is now underway in terms of operational implementation and staff implementation through categorisation and agreed council procedures.

Waterfront/Ulster Hall Review

At their meeting of 13 March 2009, the Waterfront Hall Management /Trade Union Forum adopted the revised management side position. This new position allows for a minor change to the structure presented to Committee in October 2008,

This refers to a change in the reporting line for the fixed term post of Education Worker. This post will now report directly to the Arts and Community Co-ordinator rather than the Media, Communications and Customer Relations Manager. There is no financial implication for this change.

Appendix 1 shows the original management side structure adopted at Committee on 7 October 2008 and the proposed revised structure.

Community Services

Currently involved in the consultation process and the outcome will be brought back to Committee for notation on completion.

Resource Implications

Financial
None

Human Resources

Standard Council procedures will apply in relation to the implementation and categorisation process.

Asset and Other Implications

None

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members:

1. Note the contents of the report.
2. Agree the adoption of the revised organisation structure for the Waterfront and Ulster Hall.

Decision Tracking

On adoption of recommendation 2, implement the revised structure for the Waterfront and Ulster Hall.

Timeline: October 2009 Reporting Officer: Marie-Thérèse McGivern

Key to Abbreviations

BIS Business Improvement Section

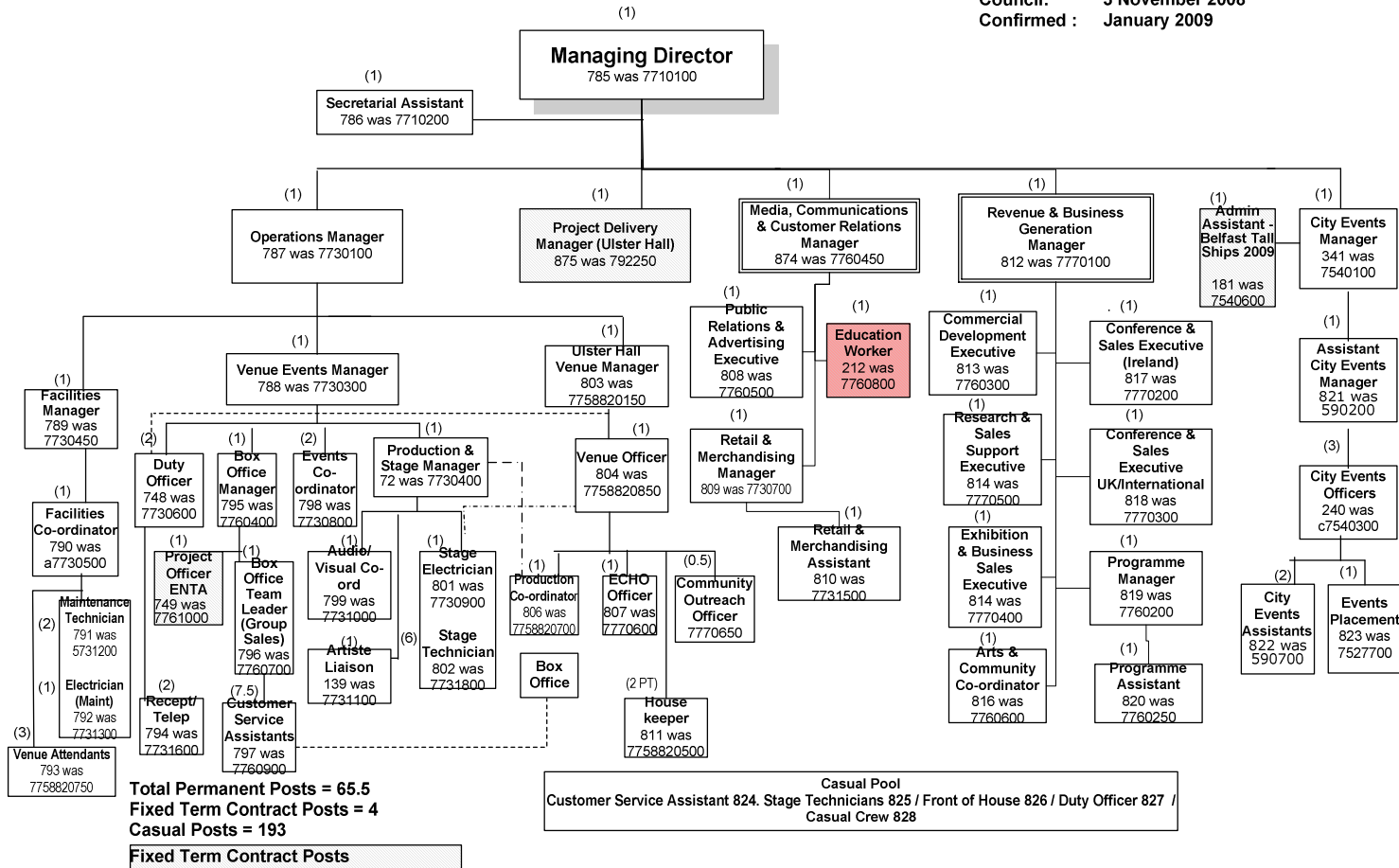
Documents Attached

Appendix 1 Original management side structure and proposed revised structure

BLANK PAGE

Development Department - Belfast Waterfront & Ulster Halls and Events

Status: Management Side Position
 Approval: Special Development 7 Oct 2008
 Council: 3 November 2008
 Confirmed: January 2009



Proposed management side structure

Development Department - Belfast Waterfront & Ulster Halls and Events

Status: Management Side Position
 Project No: 07/030/07/206 (Waterfront)
 07/090/07/200 (Events)
 Committee: Special Development 7 Oct 2008
 Council: 3 November 2008
 Confirmed :

