



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Shared Future
Date:	19th December, 2014
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager, ext. 6314

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members will recall that the Shadow Council, at its meeting on 8th December, referred the undernoted motion, which had been moved by Councillor McAllister and seconded by Councillor McDonough-Brown, to the Committee for consideration:
1.2	“Belfast District Council stresses its commitment to the creation of a shared future; notes that with the new powers of community planning there is an enhanced opportunity to deliver this, in particular through the future Belfast Agenda Plan; agrees that all major Council decisions should be ‘shared future’ proofed in order to assess their impact on sharing by people from different sections of the community and to ensure that there is no unnecessary duplication of services.”
2	Key Issues
2.1	The ‘Shared Future’ initiative was introduced by central government in 2005 as a Policy and Strategic Framework to promote Good Relations in Northern Ireland. The fundamental aim of ‘Shared Future’ is to see the introduction of measures which would underpin how central and local government, political representatives and civic society can work to establish fair and equitable services in Northern Ireland. Its key element is to ensure that differences are resolved through effective dialogue where all people, regardless of background, are treated impartially.
2.2	Should the Committee agree to support the motion, the Council would need to determine the potential implications of agreeing to ‘shared future’ proof its decisions, both in terms of staffing and financial resources and a report on these implications would require to be submitted to the Committee for consideration. The Committee might wish to consider the motion also within the context of the current mechanisms that the Council uses to ensure that its decisions are fair and equitable.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	To be determined.

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	To be determined.

5	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is requested to consider the motion and take such action thereon as may be determined.

6	Decision Tracking
Democratic Services Section will follow up on any decision taken.	