



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Transition Committee
Subject:	Special Meeting: DSD Belfast Streets Ahead Phase 3 proposals
Date:	9 th January, 2015
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects
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1.0	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members are reminded that Council has been invited to respond to the public consultation on DSD Belfast Streets Ahead (BSA) Phase 3 Project. The DSD has developed concept design proposals to deliver a world class public realm within a specific area of Belfast City Centre. See Appendix 1 for concept design proposals.
1.2	At the Transition Committee meeting in December, a draft consultation response was provided to Members seeking feedback. A revised version has been produced based on the comments from Members. See Appendix 2.

2.0	Key Issues
2.1	Given the scale and significance of this project and potential role and impact for the Council both during and post construction, Committee agreed that members would be offered the opportunity to receive a presentation from DSD Officials on the proposals for BSA Phase 3 to further understand the concept design proposals.
2.2	Note that the DSD closing deadline for responses is 9 th January. The revised consultation response (Appendix 2) has been shared with DSD to ensure a response has been provided ahead of this deadline, however we have specifically highlighted that this is a draft response and that a final response will be issued upon full Council ratification in February.

Resource Implications

Under resource implications Members are reminded of the following:

Finance

None at present. However as the scheme is further developed and information is gathered to support a Business Case, it is suggested that DSD officials (from relevant Units) liaise with appropriate Council officers to:

1. Continue with the work around projects of regional significance;
2. Identify specific whole life costs and resource implications, particularly around BCC maintenance and operational activities.

Human Resources

Director of Property and Projects continued membership on DSD BSA Project Board.

Asset and other implications

Section 3 of BSA Phase 3 design proposals are specific to property of Belfast City Council, namely Cathedral Gardens, therefore input to this consultation around Council's aspirations of this site, and wider generation framework for the city centre, is important.

Equality and Good Relations Implications

In terms of Equality and Good Relations implications, Members are reminded that as part of the DSD consultation questionnaire an Equality Impact Assessment is being conducted: a number of key points and comments have been made for DSD consideration.

Recommendations

Upon receipt of the presentation from DSD and project design team regarding BSA Phase 3 concept design proposals, the Committee is asked to agree Council consultation response, which will be raised at February Council meeting.

Decision Tracking

Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects

Abbreviations

DSD – Department of Social Development
BSA – Belfast Streets Ahead
LGR – Local Government Reform

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 – DSD Belfast Streets Ahead Phase 3 proposals
Appendix 2 – Revised draft Consultation response document