



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Belfast Strategy Group
<b>Date:</b>	16 January 2008
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Marie-Thérèse McGivern Director of Development, ext. 3470
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### Relevant Background Information

At September 2007, Development Committee Members raised concerns about the existence of a Belfast Strategy Group, set up by the Department of Social Development (DSD) to consider issues related to the regeneration of action plans being developed by 15 Neighbourhood Renewal Areas. Membership of the Group had been apparently restricted to Government departments and there was a view that the absence of Belfast City Council on the Group was a major oversight. Members agreed to write to the Minister at DSD to clarify the situation. Since then, a number of letters have been exchanged culminating in an invitation to the Director of Development to sit on the Belfast Strategy Group (see **Appendix 1**).

### Key Issues

Attached to the letter from the Director of the Belfast Regeneration Office is a copy of the draft Terms of Reference for the Group, which have not been finalised. The letter clearly envisages the Group as to “oversee the implementation of Neighbourhood Strategy in Belfast.” Belfast City Council has invested heavily in work with Neighbourhood partnerships across the City, directly through the SNAP team and the representatives who sit on the majority of the Partnerships. In consequence, it is likely to be useful if Belfast City Council has access to the central group on an ongoing basis both as an information forum and a potential development tool.

### Resource Implications

#### Human Resources

Staff time for 3/4 meetings per year.

<b>Recommendations</b>
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That Members consider and agree to the invitation by DSD to participate in the Belfast Strategy Group.
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<b>Documents Attached</b>
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<b>Appendix 1</b> - DSD – Department of Social Development correspondence.
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# Appendix 1