



## Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	'My Neighbourhood' Debates Programme – Award of Tender
Date:	10 December 2008
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern Director of Development ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Siobhan Watson SNAP Manager ext 3579

### Relevant Background Information

Members will recall that in September 2008 the Committee agreed, as a key component of the SNAP programme, to the delivery of a neighbourhood engagement programme to run between May and October 2009. The budget to undertake the engagement, and to explore key mechanisms to do this, is within the Development Department's business plan which approved by Committee in April 2008. A tender was developed to deliver such a programme (described as the 'My Neighbourhood' debates).

The programme is expected to assist with the creation of priority lists for council service delivery to help inform the council's business planning by identifying key local issues and priorities in individual neighbourhoods across Belfast. In particular, the results from the programme will help to inform our approach to area-based service delivery which is emerging from the Local Area Working (LAW) model.

The 'My Neighbourhood' debates programme is our first attempt at trying to develop these priority lists for service delivery and is likely to take the form of a suite of public consultation mechanisms including the use of focus groups, postal surveys, the local media and the council's household City Matters magazine, our website and other new media. However, the main engagement mechanism will be individual 'town hall' style facilitated debates in our twenty 'City Place' areas.

### **Key Issues**

Following public advertisement of the tender, nine companies made bids for the project. These were:

Blue Print Development Consultancy  
Colin Buchanan & Partners Ltd  
Community Places and the Event-ful Consultancy  
Deloitte  
Drew Mackie Associates  
Mediation Northern Ireland  
Realeyes and NMA  
Stratagem NI Ltd  
Williamson Consulting

Following demonstration and evaluation (based on previously established criteria) by the SNAP, it was agreed that Blueprint Development Consultancy's bid was the most economically advantageous to the Council and that the contract should be awarded to them (subject to form of contract being drawn up by the Director of Legal Services).

### **Resource Implications**

#### Financial

The bid from Blueprint Development Consultancy was £84,900. The company will assist the council in developing a neighbourhood engagement methodology and managing a project plan to deliver the programme. They will also carry out all event management, facilitation, communications, data management and evaluation related to the programme.

This sum has been allocated within the existing Development Department budget for 2008/09.

### **Recommendations**

That the Committee agrees to award the tender to Blueprint Development Consultancy, Unit 2, Ormeau Business Park, 8 Cromac Avenue , Belfast, BT72JA.