



## Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Neighbourhood Renewal Funding – Voluntary Advice Posts
Date:	20 April 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern Director of Development ext. 3470
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### Relevant Background Information

Belfast Regeneration Office (BRO) is reviewing all funding committed under Neighbourhood Renewal and they have found that they were funding posts of voluntary advice providers.

The Voluntary Community Unit in DSD, who are responsible for the administration of Community Support funding to District Councils, are therefore proposing that this funding would sit better within the Advice and Information strand of their CSP financial support to councils across Northern Ireland.

In Belfast, there are currently 5 posts funded in the west of the City, with the possibility of a further 2 posts in North Belfast. BRO indicate that no applications to fund advice posts were received in either the East or South. (See appendix 1)

Similar reviews in the North West Development office have resulted in funding being moved to CSP in both Derry City and Limavady Borough councils.

VCU would be willing to make the necessary arrangements to transfer funding from NR funding stream to CSP if the proposal is agreed.

### Key Issues

Advice Services are under pressure given the increase in demand for their services. To lose these posts would severely impact upon the level and quality of advice services provided.

Funding for the advice posts would be received from VCU and ring fenced within our CSP programme and related budget. The posts would only be funded for as long as funding for these posts was received by BCC in the CSP contract.

<b>Resource Implications</b>
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There are no financial implications for BCC however officer time will be required to administer and monitor these posts.
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<b>Recommendations</b>
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Advice services are under an increased demand for services therefore it is recommended that members agree to the proposals from the Voluntary and Community Unit
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<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
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NR – Neighbourhood Renewal VCU- Voluntary Community Unit CSP – Community Support Plan BRO – Belfast Regeneration Office
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<b>Documents Attached</b>
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Appendix 1: BRO Advice Posts
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