



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Economic Downturn Task Group
Date:	10 June, 2009
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Relevant Background Information

In the wake of the current economic crisis the Committee has received ongoing reports on the impact on the City. The Committee agreed to set up an all-Party joint officer Task Group to further address the issue and keep up momentum. The Group met for the first time on 12 May, 2009.

Key Issues

The meeting was a lively and very constructive discussion on the response to the economic downturn. The Group reviewed the actions agreed by Committee and an update of these is attached at Appendix 1.

The Group contributed further ideas in relation to the current situation these included:

- Ensuring that the work the Council is doing on the issue gets as wide coverage as possible;
- The need to have the joint Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and Development Committee meeting on the issue;
- To look particularly at the role of taxi drivers and tour bus operators in relation to the tourism effort in the City;
- To ensure the Belfast City Council/Departmental Group agreed with the Minister in the Department of Regional Development is now set up to address more rapidly key issues on arterial routes;

- For the Committee to consider the OECD report, which has been prepared and which was deferred earlier in the year.

Committee are asked to approve the inclusion of these issues in the action list so they can be achieved and monitored.

The Group intends to meet monthly.

Resource Implications

The Group operates as a think-tank and has no specific budget.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the report and update and to approve inclusion of stated actions in the overall action plan.

Key Abbreviations

OECD – Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 – Development Committee/Department Response to the Economic Downturn