



## Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Donegall Pass Community Centre
Date:	10 June 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Catherine Taggart, Community Development Manager ext. 3525

### Relevant Background Information

The Community & Leisure Sub-Committee at its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1998 agreed that the Council would part fund the construction of a community centre in Donegall Pass, together with some associated running costs. The total cost being £244,500, 75% of which was grant aided by Making Belfast Work.

At a further meeting of the Sub-Committee in August 2000, it was agreed that provision be made within the revenue estimates to enable the centre to operate as a full time directly managed facility for a period of two years with a view to building local capacity to adopt the local community management model at the end of an agreed period. This arrangement was further extended at the meeting of the Sub-Committee of 7<sup>th</sup> January 2003 and again in 2007 on the basis that both the local community and BCC felt the capacity had not been adequately developed to support local independent management arrangements.

### Key Issues

The community centre represents a significant financial investment by the Council in an area of social need.

The forum has employed a Regeneration Officer and a development company has been formed to develop a master plan for the area. The community centre is considered to be a vital part of the plan to enable the strengthening of community infrastructure and facilities.

Within this context, Council officers have met with the Donegal Pass Community Forum to ascertain the position with regard to the future management arrangements of the community centre. The Forum has indicated their intention to undertake a full economic business plan in order to allow them to submit a proposal to Council and have requested financial support to facilitate this process.

#### **Resource Implications**

Estimates for 2009/10 include sufficient funds to cover required resources.

#### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Council provide to Donegal Pass Community Forum financial support to a maximum of £2,500 to facilitate a business plan process. A formal proposal will then be submitted to the Council in December 2009.

It is further recommended that the current directly managed arrangement is extended for one year. This arrangement will be reviewed on consideration of the proposal from Donegal Pass Community Forum.

#### **Decision Tracking**

Further report outlining recommendations with respect to future management arrangements of Donegal Pass Community Centre to be presented to January 2010 Development Committee by Catherine Taggart, Community Development Manager.

Time line: January 2010

Reporting Officer: Catherine Taggart