



## Belfast City Council

Report to: Development Committee  
Subject: Royal Exchange Update  
Date: 16 September 2009  
Reporting Officer: Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development ext. 3470  
Contact Officer: Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives ext. 3459

### Relevant Background Information

Members will recall that at the Development Committee on 27 October 2008 Committee agreed that it was opposed to the Department for Social Development's (DSD) Retail Sequencing Policy and requested that DSD adopt a position whereby if William Ewart Properties Limited failed to submit its planning application for the Royal Exchange scheme within nine months, Westfield Shoppingtowns Limited be permitted to commence its scheme at Castlecourt.

### Key Issues

Nine months have passed and to date no planning application has been made by William Ewart Properties Limited. The DSD have been contacted requesting an update on their development agreement with William Ewart Properties Limited.

### Resource Implications

The Royal Exchange Scheme is a £360 million development. The Westfield Castlecourt extension is a £200 million development.

**Recommendations**

Due to William Ewart Properties Limited failing to submit a planning application for the Royal Exchange scheme it is recommended that Council formally seeks an update from Ewarts and Westfield on their proposals.

**Decision Tracking**

Further to confirmation from Committee, a request be submitted to Westfield and Ewarts for Committee to receive update presentations

Time line: December 2009

Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay

**Key Abbreviations**

DSD – Department for Social Development  
Westfield – Westfield Shoppingtowns Limited