



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Draft Extended Community Support Plan 2010/11
Date:	10 February 2010
Reporting Officer:	Tim Husbands, Acting Director of Development, ext 1400
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Relevant Background Information

Through its Community Support Programme the Department for Social Development (DSD) part funds all of Northern Ireland's local authorities. The aim of the Programme is:

"...to strengthen local communities, increase community participation and promote social inclusion through the stimulation and support of community groups, community activity and local advice services."

To be eligible for funding, a local authority must prepare a Community Support Plan (CSP) which details how it will deliver services in support of this aim. For the period 2008 to 2010 DSD made £2,792,157 available to support Belfast City Council's current Community Support Plan.

The Council's current CSP does not run in sequence with other Northern Ireland local authorities, that is, other local authority CSP's run from 2009 to 2011, while Belfast's runs from 2008 to 2010.

Following discussions with DSD, the Council has agreed to extend its current programme until 2011. This one year extension will allow the Council to

- i. bring the CSP into sequence with other local government plans and
- ii. prepare for the transfer of community development functions under RPA .

This Plan is to be presented to DSD in February 2010.

Key Issues

The Community Services Section has now prepared a draft one-year extension to the existing Plan. The extended Plan takes account of a number of changes within the

Council and, in particular, the Community Services Unit. It has also been influenced by external changes in the City since the 2008/2010 Plan was prepared.

As Members will be aware, the Council carried out a significant research and consultation programme while preparing the 2008/2010 Plan. As this extension is not a substantive revision of that Plan it would not be appropriate to carry out a new consultation process. The Council will however provide details of the proposed extension to its stakeholders and make the contents of the extended Plan available on our website.

The priorities for the 2010-11 are outlined in Section 10 of the attached Plan. However, the focus for the period will be primarily to:

- Implement the Community Services structural review
- Improve citizen access to Council services
- Improve grass roots participation
- In preparation for the transfer of functions under RPA, work in partnership to develop a Community Development Strategy for Belfast
- Business Improvement

A copy of the draft 2010/11 Community Support Plan is attached as Appendix 1.

Resource Implications

Financial

The 2010/11 budget estimate for the Community Support Plan is £8,141,273 of which the Council's contribution will be £6,606,067 and DSD's anticipated contribution £1,535,206.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee approve submission of the extended Community Support Plan 2010-2011 to DSD.

Decision Tracking

Further to agreement by Committee, submission of the Community Support Plan 2010-11 to DSD and, subject to Council ratification, dissemination of the Plan to key stakeholders.

Time-frame: February 2010

Reporting Officer: Catherine Taggart

Key Abbreviations

CSP - Community Support Plan

DSD - Department for Social Development

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 - Extended Community Support Plan 2010-11