



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Bank Square
Date:	9 March 2010
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen Director of Development ext 3470 Shirley McCay Head of Economic Initiatives ext 3459
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Relevant Background Information

Members received a presentation from the Forum for Alternative Belfast on 8 February 2010 regarding their proposals for the regeneration of Bank Square, Belfast.

Members were invited to a presentation on 12 February 2010, by RPS, DSD's consultants appointed to produce designs for the redevelopment of Bank Square. DSD's Westside Masterplan identifies the redevelopment of Bank Square as a priority ahead of redevelopment of the North West Quarter.

Key Issues

Members will be aware that key to FAB's proposals for Bank Square was the commitment of Westfield Shoppingtowns Limited (the owners of CastleCourt) to development on their land. RPS's proposals could be a first phase of the regeneration of the square. Committee and Members at the DSD meeting on 12 February 2010 have commented that it would be preferable to secure a solution to Bank Square which complemented the plans of the adjoining landowners and sought at this initial stage to resolve the blight on the area from the CastleCourt service yard.

Members who attended the DSD meeting agreed that a joint meeting between DSD, Westfield, BCC and the Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce should be convened as soon as possible to confirm Westfield's commitments to the regeneration of Bank Square.

DSD's regeneration plan for Bank Square is scheduled to be ready for submission to Planning Service by 31 March 2010.

DSD are willing to enter into a roundtable discussion with Westfield however they have indicated that any meeting convened takes place prior to their next stakeholder meeting on 23rd March 2010 if possible.

Resource Implications

There are no major resource implications regarding this report.

Recommendation

It is recommended that an All-Party deputation from the Development Committee meet with DSD, Westfield and the Chamber of Trade and Commerce to discuss Bank Square regeneration in the context of the proposals prepared by FAB and RPS.

Decision Tracking

Further to agreement, Member Services to arrange the meeting between BCC, DSD, Westfield and the Chamber of Trade and Commerce.

Timeline: March 2010

Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay

Key to Abbreviations

FAB – Forum for Alternative Belfast
DSD – Department for Social Development
Westfield – Westfield Shoppingtowns Limited
BCC-Belfast City Council