



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Transfer of Local Arts Funding to the New Councils under RPA
Date:	9 June 2010
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459

Relevant Background Information

The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure wrote to Belfast City Council on 18 January 2010, outlining proposals for the transfer of local arts funding to the new councils under RPA.

On 31 March the Council responded to this letter, stating that while, in principle, it is supportive of the transfer of funding, it was concerned about the level of funding allocated to the Council and did not feel that the Council's unique position in Northern Ireland's culture and arts infrastructure was adequately addressed.

On 20 April the Council also wrote to Minister McCausland, requesting a meeting to discuss these proposals further.

Key Issues

Minister McCausland wrote to the Council on 10 May. He is unable to attend a meeting due to diary commitments, however, it was suggested that Joanna McConway, Head of Arts and Creativity Branch, could meet the Committee on the Minister's behalf.

There has been no change to the original proposals submitted to Council on 18 January. DCAL is still in the process of evaluating responses to the proposal. The majority of these responses have not been supportive and have raised numerous concerns, including in relation to the level of funding to be transferred.

DCAL advises that they are giving the responses careful consideration and will revise the proposals accordingly. The revised framework will then be consulted on again. There may be an option to roll proposals out across the 26 councils, prior to the introduction of RPA.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee accepts the offer of a meeting with Joanna McConway in the interim.
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Decision Tracking

Timeframe: July 2010

Reporting Officer: Kerrie Sweeney

Documents Attached

Appendix 1: Response from Minister McCausland
