



**Belfast City Council**

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Report to:</b>         | Development Committee                                      |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | Lower Castlereagh Area Proposal                            |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 22 February 2011   |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470          |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Catherine Taggart, Community Development Manager, ext 3525 |

| <b>1</b> | <b>Relevant Background Information</b>   |
|----------|--|
| 1.1      | <p>In 2007 a pilot community development programme was initiated by East Belfast Community Development Agency (EBCDA) and Council within Sydenham, an area of weak community infrastructure outside of the Neighbourhood Renewal catchment. The programme was delivered through the Sydenham Working Group, an amalgam of statutory, community and Church organisations and supported by the Department for Social Development (DSD) Areas at Risk Scheme. It resulted in major community development being undertaken to improve the area, develop services and contributed to towards greater community sustainability and cohesion.</p>   |
| 1.2      | <p>Development Committee December 2008 considered a proposal and agreed funding towards the delivery of this programme in four additional areas of outer east i.e. Ardcar, Bloomfield, Clarawood and Knocknagoney. This process included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Identifying and bringing together key stakeholders</li><li>- Undertaking research with stakeholders and a community audit</li><li>- Prioritising need</li><li>- Production of area action plans</li><li>- Delivery of action plans via the established working group</li></ul> <p>The programme was delivered during the period February 2009 to December 2010 and have brought significant improvement to the 4 areas e.g. increased partnership working, improved coordination of services, targeted activities based on local need, and a growth in the capacity of local community groups</p> |
| 1.3      | <p>Council funding to the programme was £29,800 over the 2 years and allocated from the established community support budget (east).</p>   |

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| <b>2</b> | <b>Key Issues</b>  |
| 2.1      | Following discussion in late 2010 a proposal has been received from EBCDA (copy attached at appendix 1) to extend the programme to the Lower Castlereagh area. Although based within a Neighbourhood Renewal catchment this is an interface area of weak community infrastructure without existing structures within which needs can be collectively identified and addressed. The proposed programme would be as that developed and delivered within the other 5 areas with action plan being operational from June 2011. |

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| <b>3</b> | <b>Resource Implications</b>   |
| 3.1      | Funding requested is £7,450 and is commensurate to that funding previously agreed. Adequate funds exist within the community support budget (east) in this current financial year to meet this cost. |

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| <b>4.</b> | <b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>      |
| 4.1       | There are no equality or good relations considerations |

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| <b>5.</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>                                  |
| 5.1       | The Committee is requested to approve funding of £7,450 |

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| <b>6.</b>  | <b>Decision Tracking</b> |
| Recommended action to be carried out.  |                          |
| Time line: 11 March 2011                      Reporting Officer: Catherine Taggart |                          |

|   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
|   | <b>Key to Abbreviations</b> |
| EBCDA – East Belfast Community Development Agency |                             |
| DSD – Department of Social Development            |                             |

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
|   | <b>Documents Attached</b> |
| Appendix 1 – Proposal for Development Partnership between Belfast City Council and East Belfast Community Development Agency to develop work within the Lower Castlereagh community in East Belfast |                           |