



Belfast City Council

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| Report to: | Development Committee |
| Subject: | HMS Caroline |
| Date: | 13 April 2011 |
| Reporting Officer: | John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470 |
| Contact Officer: | Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459 |

| Relevant Background Information | |
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| 1.1 | HMS Caroline has been in Belfast since 1924 and is of very considerable historical importance. She fought in the only major naval battle of World War I and whilst in Belfast played a key part in World War II's Battle of the Atlantic. Her centenary and that of the start of World War I are coming up in 2014. |
| 1.2 | HMS Caroline was decommissioned on 31 March 211. The ship is to be gifted to the National Museums of the Royal Navy who on accepting must take on the maintenance of the ship and develop a sustainable plan for the ship's future in Belfast or elsewhere. |
| 1.3 | Members were updated on HMS Caroline at the February Committee and agreed that officers should seek to secure the ship in Belfast until the end of 2012 subject to this being deemed affordable by Council. This would allow time to review the longer term options of keeping the ship in Belfast, informed by a consultancy exercise being undertaken by Strategic Investment Board. This would include reviewing any financial commitment which may be required from the Council. |
| 1.4 | The Strategic Investment Board has appointed Deloitte to undertake an assessment of priority projects linked to Titanic/Maritime Heritage on Queens Island. This work is well underway. It is due to be completed early summer and HMS Caroline is specified within the brief. |

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| 2 | Key Issues |
| 2.1 | The Director of Development has met with representatives of the National Museum and Royal Navy to discuss the way forward. The Director explained that Belfast City Council could not commit financially to the project at this time and would await the outcome of the Deloitte report. The Director also pointed out that Belfast City Council was one of many stakeholders and HMS Caroline required a champion within government if it were to remain in Belfast. |
| 2.2 | It was agreed at the meeting to extend the decision making timeframe of whether to keep HMS Caroline in Belfast or not until the end of September 2011. In the meantime, the National Museum of the Royal Navy would pursue other options and funding sources. |
| 2.3 | The representatives from the National Museums and Royal Navy requested that the docking fees to the Belfast Harbour Commission be waived until end of September 2011. |

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| 3 | Equality and Good Relations Considerations |
| 3.1 | There are no Equality and Good Relations Considerations attached to this report. |

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| 4 | Recommendations |
| 4.1 | Members note the contents of this report and agree: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) to write to Belfast Harbour Commission requesting that the docking fees be waived until September 2011; and (2) to write to NITB, DETI, DCAL and DSD to outline the new timescale and request that they contribute to the decision to be reached by the end of September 2011. |

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| 5 | Decision Tracking |
| Recommendation made to Committee on keeping HMS Caroline in Belfast. | |
| Timeframe: August 2011 | Reporting Officer: Kerrie Sweeney |