



Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Endorsement of the East Belfast Community Development Framework
Date:	10 October 2011
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officers:	Catherine Taggart, Community Development Manager, ext 3525

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	East Belfast Community Development Agency (EBCDA) has approached the Council seeking its endorsement of their new community development framework for East Belfast.
1.2	EBCDA is an umbrella organisation supporting community development with a membership of community groups drawn from the East Belfast area. It represents a broad range of interests and needs within communities and encompasses a variety of groups.
1.3	EBCDA describe its new framework as ‘...a joined up vision for the future of East Belfast achieved through refocusing the skills, awareness, knowledge and experience of community development workers, the voluntary sector and the statutory sector to empower local people to speak and act on their own behalf and provide a framework that enables local groups to participate more widely in society.’
1.4	<p>The framework aims to benefit individuals, community groups, the organised community and voluntary sector, and local agencies through the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strong, diverse and prosperous communities - Inclusive community; communities of Identity play an active part in service delivery and governance - Improved quality of life in communities - Citizens and communities are engaged in creating a healthy and sustainable East Belfast - Community development support is delivered to the highest standards

2	Key Issues
2.1	The EBCDA framework is timely as Belfast City Council is currently holding a public consultation on its own draft community development strategy.
2.2	The underlying premise of the Council's strategy is that by supporting and engaging directly with communities it becomes much easier for the Council and its partners to design and deliver effective and appropriate services that make the best use of the city's assets.
2.3	As Members will be aware, the council strategy proposes a Community Development (CD) model for the city that includes a broad definition of community development and the strands of work that contribute to it. It also considers the likely outcomes of CD work. Over time we would wish to get support from our external partners (including community organisations such as EBCDA) for this model and eventually agree on how (either individually or jointly) we could contribute to shared outcomes.
2.4	The Council has a productive relationship with EBCDA in delivering community development activity in east Belfast. They receive grant aid under our Capacity Building grant programme and, for example, we work together on Neighbourhood Renewal in inner east; local capacity building in Sydenham, Bloomfield and Lower Castlereagh; and in offering capacity building support for Connswater Community & Leisure.
2.5	The new framework is likely to enhance this relationship further. It aligns well with the Council's own stance on community development. Its assets-based approach; its focus on outcomes and performance measurement; and its emphasis on joint working; fit well with the Council model and provides opportunities for better delivery of Council services in east Belfast.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	There are no resource implications.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no Equality and Good Relations considerations attached to this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to endorse the EBCDA community development framework.

6	Decision Tracking
Timeline: 16 November 2011 Reporting Officer: Catherine Taggart	

7	Key to Abbreviations
CD - Community Development EBCDA- East Belfast Community Development Agency	

8	Documents Attached
Appendix 1- EBCDA framework.	