



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Review of Community Development and Infrastructure Services
Date:	6 th March, 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development (ext 3470)
Contact Officer:	Barry Flynn, Democratic Services Officer (ext 6314)

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Committee, at its meeting on 13 th December, considered a report in respect of a proposed review of community development infrastructure and support services in Belfast. This review was in advance of the changes which might be implemented as a result of the Review of Public Administration.
1.2	The review was to be overseen by the Council, in conjunction with the Department for Social Development's Belfast Regeneration Office and Voluntary Services Unit. Accordingly, a Steering Group, consisting of officers from each of the organisations, was established to oversee the review.
1.3	<p>At the meeting on 13th December, a number of Members expressed concern that the Steering Group had no political representation within its membership which would enable political scrutiny to be undertaken on any proposals arising. Therefore, the Committee agreed to the following:</p> <p>Moved by Alderman Stoker, Seconded by Councillor Maskey and</p> <p>Resolved - That the Committee agrees to note the contents of the report and agrees further that the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman, or their nominees, be nominated to serve as the Council's representatives on the Steering Group established to review community development and infrastructure services in Belfast.</p>

2	Key Issues
2.1	Subsequently, the Director wrote to Deputy Secretary to the Department for Social Development, Ms. Jenny Pyper, advising her of the Committee's decision. A response, copy herewith, was received by the Development Department on 7 th February.
2.2	The Deputy Secretary has indicated that, having briefed the Minister, Mr. Alex Attwood M.L.A., in respect of the Committee's view, he has requested that the decision be reviewed with a view to establishing a Members' Political Reference Group to consider the Review of Community Development and Infrastructure Services. This body would be independent of the Steering Group already established to consider the review.

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	None

5	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is requested to consider the correspondence and to take such action thereon as may be determined.

6	Officer to Contact for Further Information
Barry Flynn, Democratic Services Officer, ext 6314	