



Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Establishing a Members and Officer working group to support the design of the Belfast Community Investment Programme (BCIP)
Date:	16 October 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development ext 3470
Contact Officers:	Catherine Taggart, Community Services ext 3525

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	As Members are aware the ' <i>Building Better Communities - Belfast Community Investment Programme</i> ' (BCIP) will bring together all of Community Service's existing grant schemes and combine them with Belfast Regeneration Office's Neighbourhood Renewal funding for community development and the Voluntary and Community Unit's Community Investment Fund to create a single fund in excess of £5 million which will be directly managed by the council.
1.2	The fund, which is expected to run from April 2014, will provide a single approach to public sector support for Belfast's community development infrastructure and ensure that it is capable of having a positive and measurable impact in communities.
1.3	Committee considered a progress report against the agreed project plan at the September meeting and agreed to a workshop for all Members on the outcomes of the programme. A date is to be agreed.

2	Key Issues
2.1	During the project progress discussion, members asked that further consideration be given to the best mechanism to ensure on-going Member engagement in the project. There was a general consensus that there would be value in establishing a joint Member Officers working group which would meet at

2.2	<p>a number of key points during the life of the BCIP project. This would ensure on-going political input into the development of the new programme.</p> <p>It is suggested that each Party would nominate a representative to sit on the group. BCC officers would be drawn from BCIP's Inter Agency Delivery Group. Development Department officers would provide secretariat support and a terms of reference will be drawn up to support the working of group..</p>
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3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p>The project will continue to call upon officer support from across the Council with a particular emphasis on support from Development Department and its Community Services section. It should be noted that both BRO and VCU are committing substantial staff resources to the delivery of the project.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	<p>The project plan for the BCIP includes a commitment to EIAQ screening and the completion of a public consultation on the proposals. Following this work the Equality and Good Relations implications are expected to be identified</p>

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To agree to the formation of a councillor/officer group. 2. To propose party nominations to serve on the group.

6	Decision Tracking
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Officer Responsible: John McGrillen - Catherine Taggart to implement actions in line with the BCIP project plan

7	Key to Abbreviations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BRO - Belfast Regeneration Office - BCIP – Belfast Community Investment Programme - DSD - Department for Social Development - VCU - Voluntary and Community Unit

8	Documents Attached
	<p>There are no documents attached to this report.</p>