



Belfast District Council

Report to:	Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Notice of Motion: Co-operative Development Hub
Date:	Friday, 20th February, 2015
Reporting Officer:	Mr. Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Officer, 6314

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The Committee will recall that the Shadow Council, at its meeting on 9th February, considered the following motion, which had been moved by Councillor McVeigh and seconded by Councillor Beattie:</p> <p>“Belfast District Council recognises the significant potential to grow the co-operative sector across Belfast and will consider establishing a ‘Co-operative Development Hub’ that would encourage and support the development of new co-operative enterprises and would support cross community participation in them. It recognises that this would provide practical support, such as co-operative business planning and development, mentoring and coaching for start-up co-operative enterprises, training, information events and seminars, financial management and advice and democratic governance.</p> <p>It is accepted that this initiative should be led by the Council and will involve establishing and securing of finance for the Hub, initially for a fixed period of three-years, which would enable the employment of two co-operative development officers; the total cost is likely to be in the region of £300,000. Accordingly, the Council will explore with the Department of Enterprise, Trade, and Investment, as well as Europe, the potential for joint funding for this initiative.”</p> <p>In accordance with Standing Order 16.1 of the Local Government (Standing Orders) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014, the Presiding Councillor confirmed that the matter would be referred without discussion to the Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.</p>

2	Key Issues

3	Resource Implications
	The total cost is likely to be in the region of £300,000 and to explore with the Department of Enterprise, Trade, and Investment, as well as Europe, the potential for joint funding for this initiative.
4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
	To be determined.
5	Call In
	This decision is subject to call-in.
6	Recommendations
	The Committee is requested to consider the notice of motion and take such action thereon which may be determined.