



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Notice of Motion – City Centre Planning Policy
Date:	19th March, 2013
Reporting Officer:	Mr. Barry Flynn, Democratic Services Officer, ext. 6312
Contact Officer:	As above.

1.0	Relevant Background Information
1.1	<p>At the Council meeting on 4th March, the undernoted Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor McCarthy and seconded by Councillor Mallon:</p> <p><i>“This Council notes with interest the Department for Social Development’s publication of the ‘High Street Taskforce Report’ which highlights the adverse impact on city and town centres by what is perceived as an ‘imbalanced spatial planning policy’ which high street retailers have stated entices shoppers away from the city and town centres to out-of-centre shopping centres;</i></p> <p><i>It recognises that the Regional Development Strategy (2035), adopted by the NI Executive in 2012, states under SFG3 that Belfast City Centre should be enhanced and that the role of Belfast City Centre as the primary retail location in Northern Ireland should be supported and strengthened;</i></p> <p><i>It notes the advice of the DoE Minister to the planned Public Inquiry into the planning application for a department store, nineteen other retail units and a number of restaurants at Sprucefield outside Lisburn, which would restrict future retail developments there to outlets selling only bulky goods; and endorses the integrated policy approach from DoE, DSD and DRD which will strengthen and protect the position of Belfast City Centre and town centres across the North.”</i></p> <p>In accordance with Standing Order 11(e), the Lord Mayor indicated that the matter would be referred to the Development Committee without debate.</p>

2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to consider the Notion of Motion and take such action thereon as may be determined.