



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Strategic Policy & Resources Work Plan
Date:	22 August 2008
Reporting Officer:	Peter McNaney, Chief Executive
Contact Officer:	Peter McNaney, Chief Executive

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present a forward work plan for the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for the period August – December 2008.

Relevant Background Information

The key issues section below summarises the key areas of committee activity over this period. Appendix One provides a detailed work plan for the committee for the period August – December 2008.

Key Issues

The key work areas for the coming months for the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee are outlined below. It should be noted that this represents a heavy workload for the Committee which might necessitate the holding of a special Strategic Policy & Resources Committee meeting each month in addition to the regular meeting in order for the Committee to fully discuss and address major corporate issues e.g. the setting of the 2009/2010 budgets. Authority to hold these additional special meetings (as necessary) is requested subject to date agreement with the Chairman of the Committee.

Key areas of work – August 2008 – December 2008

August 2008

Finance – Update report on the rates and draft Council responses to 2 consultation documents on rates issues will be provided by the Director of Corporate Services. An update report on the Arc 21 Residual Waste Treatment facilities will be provided by the Director of Improvement

Human Resources – Update report on the attendance figures for the 1st quarter of 08/09

Asset Management – Update reports on the future use of the City Hall and addressing the needs of short-term accommodation will be presented by the Director of Improvement

September 2008

RPA - Update report on the RPA process

Corporate Plan – Members will be updated on the outcome of the Equality Screening process of the Corporate Plan. A report on the organisational consequences of the Corporate Plan will also be presented

Financial Planning 09/10– detailed report on the financial planning cycle for 09/10 to be presented which links to corporate and business planning in order to ensure Council priorities are properly resourced will be presented by the Director of Corporate Services

Efficiency Proposals for 09/10 – Members will be requested to agree a draft efficiency programme for the financial year 2009/10

Governance – An update report on the development of the overall Governance Framework of the Council in terms of decision making, audit and the statement of internal control

Accountability Framework – Members have been presented with outline frameworks for each of the key elements of the committee's work. A report on the Accountability Framework which will underpin the delivery of the Corporate plan will be presented to Members

Human Resources - reports on the control of employee numbers and the Appraisal Scheme for the Chief Officers and Heads of Service will be presented. The Appraisal Scheme is linked to the Accountability Framework which will also be presented to Members at this meeting

Rates – *Special Meeting* - on the issue of rates with the Chief Executive of Land and Property Services in attendance

October 2008

Corporate Plan – Report on how the Council will move towards area and thematic working on a more consistent basis and how the programme management and accountability arrangements for the main programmes and projects will be handled

Finance – the Director of Corporate Services will present to Committee reports on the affordability of corporate priorities versus ongoing business as usual and the impact of corporate priorities on the core budgets

Information Management –Strategic information management is central to the Council's Improvement Agenda. The Director of Corporate Services will present a draft Information Management Strategy and proposed work plan for 2009/2011

Governance – Members requested a review of the Council's new governance arrangements including working groups in May. The results of this review will be presented for Members attention. A report containing proposals for how Committee decisions on the new modern.gov system will be tracked will also be presented to Members

City Investment Strategy - Titanic Signature Project – *Special Meeting* - the results of the due-diligence report on the Titanic signature Project will be presented to Members

November/December 2008

Finance – the Director of Corporate Services will update the Committee on the mid year financial position and notify the Committee of the revised budgets and rates income

Recommendations

The Committee is requested to agree:

1. the forward work plan for August– December 2008 outlined above and detailed in Appendix 1
2. the holding (if necessary) of a special Strategic Policy & Resources Committee meeting each month during the period September 08 – December 08 to address major corporate issues. Dates for these specials will be agreed with the Chairman of the Committee.

**STRATEGIC POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE
WORK PLAN AUGUST – DECEMBER 2008**

Appendix One

August 2008	
Area	Report
Strategic planning & Performance Management	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee Work Plan Aug 08 – Dec 08
Finance	Update report on the rates and draft Council responses to 2 consultation documents on rates issues
	Arc 21 Residual Waste Treatment Facilities – Update
Assets	Future use of City Hall Short term accommodation
HR	Ex-Offenders Scheme Attendance - 1 st Quarter 08/09

September 2008	
Area	Report
RPA	Update report
Strategic Planning & Performance Management	Corporate Plan – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update on outcome of equality screening ▪ Organisational consequences of Corporate Plan Accountability Framework
Finance	Financial Planning 2009/10 Efficiency proposals 2009/10
Governance	Update on Decision Making Framework
HR	CO & HoS (Sen Mgrs) Appraisal Scheme Control of employee numbers

October 2008	
Area	Report
Strategic Planning & Performance Management	Corporate Plan – Report on how the Council will move towards area and thematic working on a more consistent basis and the programme management and accountability arrangements for the main programmes and projects in the Corporate Plan
Finance	Core Budgets & Corporate Priorities Affordability = ± BAU/Corporate Schemes
Governance	Overall review of new governance arrangements including working groups Proposals for content of quarterly reports on tracking of committee decisions (through modern.gov)
Information Management	Draft Information Strategy and proposed work plan for 2009/2011
City Investment	Titanic Signature Project – Results of due-diligence report

STRATEGIC POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE
WORK PLAN AUGUST – DECEMBER 2008

Appendix One

November/December 2008	
<i>Area</i>	<i>Report</i>
Finance	Update on mid year financial position and revised budgets and rates income