



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Place Shaping Projects
Date:	22 May 2009
Reporting Officer:	Peter McNaney, Chief Executive, Ext: 6001
Contact Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Improvement, Ext: 6217

RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At the end of March/early April Members took part in a series of briefings on potential projects located across Belfast on a North, South, East, West basis.

These briefing sessions provided some initial input from Members into what might be particularly important or a priority for specific quadrants of the City. The session also touched on potential limitations in terms of affordability, broad consensus, willing partners available sites etc.

KEY ISSUES

From the initial sessions it was clear that different opportunities exist in different parts of the City but that all areas had options in terms of addressing need, demand and impacting positively on people's lives. Furthermore it was also clear that although some projects may be physically located in one particular area they could have a much bigger Citywide impact.

Other cross cutting issues included a clear need for a robust process to underpin the prioritisation of projects that will gain and maintain political consensus through to delivery and beyond.

Members also agreed the Council should be both a catalyst and a convenor to ensure Belfast

and its constituent parts had sufficient leverage to engender substantial investment and enable projects to happen.

Greater consideration was also called for in regard to new and innovative approaches to funding and financing capital schemes and to make greater use of multi purpose facilities.

Above all there was a clear argument from all parts of the City on the need to get a clear focus on what is deliverable and reduce the risk of over-promising by involvement in a range of projects and initiatives that are unlikely to be achieved.

NEXT STEPS

It is proposed to reconvene the briefing sessions in June to provide Members with detailed feedback and possible prioritisations included with the above would be a first cut prioritisation of uncommitted projects which are in the capital programme. It will also be possible at these sessions to compare suggestions from the Strategic Regeneration Frameworks which have been produced by DSD/APB's.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee is asked to agree to a reconvening of the NSEW briefing sessions in June.

DECISION TRACKING

Subject to agreement the sessions will take place over lunch times in June.