

**Belfast City Council**

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategic Policy and Resources (Transition) Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	RPA: Visit by the Environment Minister, Edwin Poots
<b>Date:</b>	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> October, 2009
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Peter McNaney, Chief Executive
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Kevin Heaney (ext. 6202)

<b>1.0</b>	<b><u>Relevant Background Information</u></b>
1.1	Members will be aware that on 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2009, Mr Edwin Poots, MLA become the new Minister for the Environment and was given responsibility for taking forward the Review of Public Administration (RPA) Local Government reform programme.
<b>2.0</b>	<b><u>Key Issues</u></b>
2.1	In taking up his new post as the Environment Minister, Edwin Poots, has stated that he is fully aware that the local government reform programme is now moving into the critical implementation phase and has acknowledged the central role of Transition Committees in driving the process forward. He has given a commitment to engage with all 11 Transition Committees and has written to the Chief Executive, dated 29 <sup>th</sup> September 2009, offering to meet with the Council's Transition Committee, at its meeting on 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2009 at 12.30pm, to discuss the RPA programme (a copy of correspondence received is attached at Appendix 1).
2.1	The Environment Minister would intend to provide an update on the overall RPA programme and provide an opportunity for members of the Transition Committee and to provide a forum for questions to be raised by members.
2.2	Given the importance of this Ministerial meeting, it is recommended that the Committee meeting on 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2009 be a single agenda item meeting around the RPA, with a pre-meeting of the Committee scheduled for 11.30am to discuss relevant RPA related issues.

**4.0 Resource Implications**

There are no Human Resource or financial implications contained within this report

**5.0 Recommendations**

Members are asked to:

- a) Consider and agree the request from the Environment Minister, Edwin Poots to meet with the Council's Transition Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2009;
- b) Agree that the Committee meeting would be a single agenda item meeting
- c) Agree that a pre-meeting of the Committee would be held at 11.30am on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

**Documents Attached**

<b>Appendix 1</b>	Invitation received from the Environment Minister, Edwin Poots requesting a meeting with the Belfast Transition Committee
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