



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Vacant Properties – Response from the Minister
<b>Date:</b>	22nd January, 2010
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Mr. L. Steele, Head of Committee and Members' Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Mr. L. Steele, Head of Committee and Members' Services (extension 6325)

### Relevant Background Information

The Committee is reminded that, at its meeting on 9th October, it had, in authorising the use of the Building Control Service to verify the status of new vacant properties and investigate returned rates bills, agreed that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of Finance and Personnel expressing concern that the Council had to pay for an exercise which should be undertaken by Land and Property Services.

### Key Issues

Correspondence has been received from the Office of Sammy Wilson, M.L.A., Minister for Finance and Personnel, (a copy of which is attached) indicating that whilst he has noted the Council's concerns it is not possible, given the current budget pressures, for funding to be provided for this exercise.

### Resource Implications

There are no human resource implications associated with this report.

The financial implications, approximately £40,000, associated with this exercise have already been approved by the Committee.

### Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note the Minister's response.

### Documents Attached

Appendix 1 – Copy of Response from the Minister

### Decision Tracking

Not applicable.

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