



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	10 Year Review of the Regional Development Strategy
Date:	18 February, 2011
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (Ext. 6314)
Contact Officer:	Gareth Quinn, Senior Democratic Services Officer (Ext. 6316)

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members will be aware that the ‘Shaping our Future Regional Development Strategy 2025 – 10 Year Review Consultation Document’ had been launched by the Minister for Regional Development on 6th January, 2011. A public consultation process has been initiated and the Department for Regional Development has requested that comments be submitted by 31st March. A Special meeting of the Development Committee has been scheduled for 24 th March to give consideration to a draft response on behalf of the Council.
1.2	The purpose of the Regional Development Strategy is to provide an overarching spatial framework to influence the future distribution of activities throughout the Region to 2035. The document examines the factors which are having an impact on the region, sets out aims and provides guidance on how these aims can be achieved.
1.3	It is intended that the review would result in a revised Strategy which would replace the one which had been published in 2001, and which was subsequently amended in 2008 after a 5 Year Review.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) in conjunction with the Department for Regional Development is holding a consultation event, specifically for Councillors and officers, to examine the revised Regional Development Strategy.
2.3	Attendance at this consultation event will provide an opportunity for Councillors to have their views heard and will also allow Members to be aware of further issues affecting other Councils from across Northern Ireland.
2.2	The event will be held at the ‘Old Court House’, Antrim on Tuesday, 1 March, 2011 from 10.30am – 1.00pm.

3	Resource Implications
----------	------------------------------

3.1	There is no cost to attend this event.
-----	--

4	Equality Implications
----------	------------------------------

4.1	N/A
-----	-----

5	Recommendations
----------	------------------------

5.1	<p>It is recommended that the Committee agrees to authorise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the attendance at the consultation event of any Member who so wishes along with the relevant officers who are involved in drafting the Council's response to the consultation; and ▪ the payment of the appropriate travelling allowances in connection therewith.
-----	--

6	Decision Tracking
----------	--------------------------

<p>Officers responsible: Gareth Quinn, Senior Democratic Services Officer March 2011</p>	
--	--

7	Key to Abbreviations
----------	-----------------------------

NILGA –Northern Ireland Local Government Association	
--	--

8	Documents Attached
----------	---------------------------

N/A	
-----	--