



Belfast City Council

Report to: Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Subject: Capital Programme 3: Construction of Titanic Memorial Garden.

Date: 15 April 2011

Reporting Officer: Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects

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1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	A proposal to construct a Titanic Memorial Garden, with some associated re-landscaping, at the East Entrance of the City Hall was submitted in June 2010 for inclusion in the capital programme; however, the proposal has not been prioritised for commitment by the Strategic Policy & Resources (SP&R) Committee due to restricted financial resources.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The Titanic Memorial and the immediately surrounding area has been somewhat neglected for a number of years with only essential maintenance taking place. With the removal of the Wheel and the opening of the East Entrance, the memorial area has taken on a much higher profile and the east access point is expected to attract even greater focus, given the significant level of interest in the Titanic which will increase as the centenary of its sailing and sinking draws closer.
2.2	This proposal is one of a number of emerging, uncommitted capital programme proposals and is being brought forward for consideration due to the obvious time-bound nature of any delivery programme.
2.3	Should the SP&R Committee agree that the proposal should proceed, any award of contracts would be made to the firms submitting the most economically advantageous tenders on the basis of a cost/quality evaluation in accordance with BCC procurement guidelines.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	The estimated cost of the proposed works is £120,000-£150,000 for which no

	specific provision has been made in the capital programme financing.
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4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	None.

5	Recommendations
5.1	It is recommended that the Committee consider, from a corporate capital finance perspective, the construction of the Titanic Memorial Garden with a full commitment to invest including invitation of tenders, award of contracts to the firms submitting the most economically advantageous tenders submitted and application to the relevant Government Department for sanction to raise a loan of up to £150,000 (if necessary) to cover the Council's anticipated project expenditure.

6	Decision Tracking
6.1	Regular reports will be presented to the Committee on the progress of this, and other, capital projects.

7	Key to Abbreviations
7.1	SP&R - Strategic Policy & Resources

8	Documents Attached
	None