



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Monthly Meetings of the Committee
Date:	17 th June, 2011
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (ext 6314)
Contact Officer:	

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Committee, at its meeting on 22 nd October, 2010, considered a report which informed the Members that the Department of the Environment had, due to the uncertainty as to a way forward for the Review of Public Administration, decided to suspend the funding which had been made available for the Council's Voluntary Transition Committee. Members will recall that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee acted as the Council's Voluntary Transition Committee and set aside one of its two scheduled meetings each month to consider transitional issues.
1.2	The Committee decided to continue to schedule two meetings each month and agreed that one of the monthly meetings would concentrate on such issues as the development of the Corporate Plan, financial planning and efficiency, the capital programme, city investment, performance management and organisational development. The other monthly meeting was to deal with the more routine business which would come before the Committee on a regular basis.

2	Key Issues
2.1	At its meeting on 3 rd June, 2011, the Committee was of the view that for a number of reasons this separation of the business had not been strictly applied as of yet and again expressed the opinion that the two monthly meetings of the

	Committee should deal with different agendas with one meeting being set aside for strategic matters and the other for routine business.
2.2	For logistical reasons, it would be much better if the second meeting each month were to be dedicated to the routine business. This would allow the minutes of the Working Groups which meet early in the month, such as the Budget and Transformation Panel and the Good Relations Partnership, to be presented to the Committee in the same calendar month. It would also allow any matter amended at full Council or referred to the Committee by the Council to be given proper consideration before appearing on the agenda.
2.3	Of course, it is accepted that, from time to time, it will be necessary to raise a routine matter of business at the first monthly meeting and, conversely, to raise a strategic matter at the second meeting. However, if the Committee agrees then officers will make every effort to plan the Committee's business to give effect to this separation of functions.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	None

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	None

5	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is scheduled to meet, generally, at 10.00 a.m. on the first and third Fridays of each month. It is recommended that the first of these meetings each month be dedicated to the more strategic matters which the Committee is responsible for, including the development of the Corporate Plan, financial planning and efficiency, the capital programme, city investment, development and resourcing, performance management and organisational development with the second meeting dealing with routine business.

6	Decision Tracking
Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager	
5 th July, 2011	