



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Corporate Plan 2012 onwards – Member Workshops and links to the business setting process
Date:	19 August 2011
Reporting Officer:	Peter McNaney, Chief Executive
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1.0 Relevant Background Information

1.1 The purpose of this report is to brief the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the proposed next steps in the business planning cycle and to explain how this will link in with the budget setting process.

1.2 The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed at it's meeting in June that Party Group briefings on the development of the Corporate Plan would be offered during June and July. These initial briefing sessions would then be followed during August and September by a series of Member Workshops addressing each of the main themes in the plan (i.e. Leadership, Environment, Economy and People & Communities).

1.3 The purpose of the workshops is to agree what Members want to have achieved by the end of this Council term (2011-2015) and to consider how these can be delivered in the context of available resources, among the issues Members will consider in the next 3 months will be:

- Ambition - What the Council will deliver across the city in terms of both projects and programmes;
- Advocacy – where and how to influence on behalf of the city;
- Affordability – what is achievable and realistic and
- Delivery – understanding what it takes to get things from concept to delivery and making sure things happen;

Governance – ensuring effective decision making and clarifying the roles of Members and officers in achieving the priorities.

2.0 Key Issues

2.1 **Appendix 1** sets out the key stages in the corporate planning and budget setting process in the months ahead. The appendix shows that over the August – October period, a series of workshops and briefings will be held which will allow Members to consider all aspects of the Council's ambitions and its role in the city and capacity to deliver.

2.2 The first workshop, held on 17 August, in the Ulster Hall, is focussed on leadership and place-shaping, with a particular emphasis on the process required to start prioritising the physical projects Members want to make happen across the city. Further workshops will be scheduled in September, focussing on the remaining key themes (Environment, Economy and People & Communities). Party briefings will be available as Members

require and further north, south, east, west working sessions will also be convened. Discussions will culminate in agreements on priorities, affordability and delivery in late Autumn.

3.0 Resource Implications

Any resource implications associated with the workshops are covered from within existing departmental budgets.

4.0 Equality Implications

Equality implications will be considered at each stage of the corporate planning process.

5.0 Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note the next steps in developing the corporate plan and that all Members be invited to further workshops.

6.0 Documents attached

Appendix 1 – Outline Corporate Plan timeline