



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Former Grove Leisure Centre Site
Date:	9 December 2011
Reporting Officers:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects Ext 6217
Contact Officers:	Cathy Reynolds, Estates Manager, Property & Projects Ext 3493

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	A report was brought to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee on 21 October 2011 regarding the demolition of the former Grove Leisure Centre. A copy of the minutes is enclosed at Appendix 1 & Location map at Appendix 2.
1.2	Members had agreed to progress with the demolition of the building; to undertake an updated report on a needs analysis for business accommodation & incubation space in Belfast in order to inform future use options for the site; to take forward discussions with BELB regarding any scope for joint consideration of disposal/development options for both the Council site & the adjacent former schools site and subsequently take a report back to Committee with proposals for future use options for the site.
1.3	At the request of Alderman Browne the decision was, however, taken back for further consideration by the Council on 1 st November.
1.4	At the request of elected Members from the area the Director of Property & Projects has subsequently met with various elected Members from the area and the DSD Minister, Nelson McCausland. There were concerns that demolition of the building may lead to problems of anti social behaviour or illegal dumping at the site particularly if there was no agreed future use.
1.5	It is now being proposed that a workshop be convened in the New Year to explore development opportunities at both this site and also at other sites in this area and to agree a way forward. The suggested participants at the workshop are to include BCC, BELB, DSD, NIHE, DRD, and other interested parties.

2	Key Issues
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is proposed that a workshop is convened in the New Year to consider the potential for a joined up approach to development opportunities for both the BCC site at Old Grove as well as other potential development sites in close proximity. Suggested attendees of the workshop to include BCC, BELB, DSD, NIHE, DRD, PLACE & other interested parties as appropriate. The Director of Property & Projects has arranged a scoping

	meeting with BRO officials
2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The politicians only want the demolition option considered following the outcome of the workshop, which will be reported back to Committee for further instruction.
2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officers would recommend that we continue to have the needs analysis for business accommodation & incubation space in Belfast updated, in order to inform future use options.

3	Resource Implications
	As set out in the attached Strategic Policy & Resources Committee minutes of 21 October 2011.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
	None at this time.

5	Recommendations
	<p>Committee is asked to approve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The holding of a workshop in early New Year to consider the future development opportunities and options for the former Grove Leisure Centre site as well as other potential development sites in this area. Proposed attendees at the workshop to include BCC, BELB, DSD, DRD, NIHE, PLACE and other interested parties. (ii) Demolition of the former Grove Leisure Centre building to be further considered following the outcome of the workshop. (iii) In order to inform future use options for the area an updated report to be undertaken on the needs analysis for business accommodation and incubation space in Belfast, with a focus on this particular area.

6	Decision Tracking
	The Director of Property & Projects to progress the above within 3 months.

7	Key to Abbreviations
	<p>BELB: Belfast Education & Library Board DSD: Department Social Development NIHE: Northern Ireland Housing Executive DRD: Department Regional Development BRO: Belfast Regeneration Office</p>

8	Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1: Copy minute Strategic Policy & Resources Committee 21 October 2011 Appendix 2: Location Map</p>