



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Request for Funding – Common Purpose Belfast
Date:	19th June 2014
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources, ext 6184
Contact Officer:	Mark McBride, Head of Finance and Performance, ext 3261

1.	Relevant Background Information
1.1	This report presents a request from Common Purpose Belfast for financial assistance of £6,000 in connection with its 2014 Navigator programme for emerging leaders.
1.2	Members should note that the Council provided similar funding in 2013.
1.3	<p>Under Section 37 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, the council has discretion to consider exceptional requests for financial assistance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The council has the statutory authority to make such payments• Assistance is not available from the remit of another Committee <p>The criteria for assessing requests for assistance which would fall within the council's special expenditure budget were approved by the Policy and Resources Committee on the 18 June 2004 and are attached.</p> <p>Common Purpose programmes are designed to draw together local leaders, emerging leaders, and senior managers from all walks of life who could potentially play a role in shaping the future of Belfast. The Council has supported Common Purpose Belfast since its inception in 1996.</p>

2.	Key Issues
2.1	Common Purpose Belfast has made a request to the council for £6,000 funding. The money will be used to offer three part funded places on their Navigator Programme for emerging leaders from non-profit organisations in Belfast. Last year the council's contribution funded participants from Cancer Focus, Opportunity Youth and African and Caribbean Support Organisation N. Ireland
2.2	The application is being made in the context of Section 37 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. The Committee is advised that the application meets the criteria for funding and that the level of funding requested is affordable.

3.	Resource Implications
3.1	<p>Financial</p> <p>A request for a contribution of £6,000, the sum which was provided in 2013, has been received by the Council. The Director of Finance and Resources has confirmed that this level of funding would be affordable to the Council within the Council's current budget.</p> <p>The limit of expenditure which the Council can incur in 2014/15 for "Special Purposes" is £307,089. If the Committee approve this request the total special purposes expenditure committed for 2014/15 will be £285,600, leaving a maximum of £15,489 which could be incurred during the rest of 2014/15, subject to affordability.</p>

4.	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	There are no equality or good relations implications associated with this report.

5.	Recommendation
5.1	<p>It is recommended that the Committee agrees a contribution of £6,000 to Common Purpose Belfast to be used to part-fund three participants on the Common Purpose Navigator Programme from non-profit organisations operating in Belfast and, if agreed, passes the undernoted resolution:</p> <p>"That the expenditure in respect of the aforementioned event be approved under Section 37 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, it being the opinion of the Committee that the expenditure would be in the interest of, and would bring direct benefit to the District, and its inhabitants of the District, with the Committee being satisfied that the direct benefits so accruing would be commensurate with the payment to be made."</p>

6.	Decision Tracking
The Head of Finance and Performance will ensure that the payment is made to Common Purpose Belfast if approved by Committee and Council.	

	Document Attached
Special Funding Criteria	