



**Report to:** Strategic Policy & Resources Committee  
**Subject:** Belfast City Centre Management – Request for Additional Funding  
**Date:** 21 November 2014  
**Reporting Officer:** John McGrillen, Director of Development, Ext 3470  
**Contact Officers:** John McGrillen, Director of Development, Ext 3470

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	<p>At a meeting of the Development Committee on 17 June 2014, members of the Committee considered a request for additional funding from Belfast City Centre Management. The request consisted of two elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i) £45,000 towards the cost of the Business Improvement District within Belfast City Centre over an 18 month period</li><li>ii) £15,000 towards a shortfall of £30k in salary costs for 2014/15 following a salary review by the BCCM Board</li></ul>
1.2	<p>Following consideration of the request, Members agreed to make a contribution of £45,000 towards the cost of progressing the Business Improvement District but did not accede to the request for £15,000 towards salary costs.</p>
1.3	<p>The Council at its meeting of 1 July 2014 acceded to a request from Alderman Rodgers that the decision above be taken back to the Development Committee for reconsideration at its meeting on 16 September 2014.</p>

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	<p>At its meeting on 16 September 2014, the Development Committee received a presentation from the Chairman of BCCM and the City Centre Manager, Mr Andrew Irvine, during which they informed the Committee that staff members had not received a pay increase for several years due to the fact that they were employed on single point pay scales and had no cost of living increases for 5 years. Mr Irvine asked that Members consider bringing the salaries of BCCM into line with similar posts in Belfast City Council, the cost of which would be £27,818 – 50% of which DSD had agreed to meet subject to match funding being provided by Belfast City Council.</p>
2.2	<p>Following discussion, the Committee agreed to rescind its decision of 17 June and to recommend to the Strategic Policy &amp; Resources Committee that it considers contributing £13,909 to Belfast City Centre Management towards additional salary costs from any underspend in the 2014/15 budgets.</p>

<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	<p>If Members favourably consider the request from BCCM, a contribution of £13,909 would be required from any in-year underspend.</p> <p>This report needs to be read in conjunction with the Quarter 2 Finance Report so that Members are aware of the overall financial position before making a decision in this regard.</p>

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
4.1	There are no Equality or Good Relations implications associated with this report.

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	Members are asked to consider the recommendation by the Development Committee to allocate £13,909 of any in-year underspend to BCCM.

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
<p>The Director of Development will implement any decision taken by the Strategic Policy &amp; Resource Committee.</p> <p>Reporting Officer: John McGrillen, Director of Development</p>	

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
BCCM – Belfast City Centre Management	