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| <b>Subject:</b>           | Support for Divis Murals Project                         |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2016                              |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Catherine Taggart, Community Services Manager, Ext: 3525 |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Michelle Hand, Good Relations Officer, Ext: 6453         |

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| <b>Is this report restricted?</b>            | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b> | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            |

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| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>  |
| 1.1        | The Good Relations Partnership recently approved a funding contribution (of £6,000) for a community-led reimaging project for the Lower Falls area. The project has already attracted funding from Building Successful Communities (BSC) and will be facilitated and managed by the Community Cohesion Unit of the NI Housing Executive.  |
| 1.2        | The aim of the Divis murals project is to deliver an intergenerational art project for the Lower Falls area that will form the basis of a historical project in the BSC pilot area. This will also include the positive contribution of local young people in fields such as sport, local history and culture. Locations for the murals have been identified as Durham House (Barrack Street), Jude Street (Divis) and Grosvenor Road – all key pedestrian access points to West Belfast. |
| 1.3        | The project is part of the wider Council-led Divis Intervention Programme and the DSD-led Building Successful Communities initiative.   |

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| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Recommendations</b> |
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| 2.1        | That the Committee consider the request from the NI Housing Executive (acting on behalf of the community-led sub-group) to grant permission to erect a community mural on the wall on Grosvenor Road, which is owned and maintained by Community Services, as part of the boundary of the Grosvenor Recreation Centre.   |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Main report</b>   |
| 3.1        | <p><b><u>Key Issues</u></b></p> <p>The Lower Falls area was one of six pilot areas selected by the Department for Social Development to pilot the Building Successful Communities initiative, a housing led regeneration approach, on the basis that they were first and foremost areas of deprivation and all are within either Neighbourhood Renewal Areas or Areas at Risk. They also had recognised indicators that justified intervention with problems such as stigma, blight, void stock and anti-social behaviour.</p> |
| 3.2        | Anecdotal evidence would suggest that previous mural projects have had a positive effect on young people and also have had a positive environmental impact. Areas within the Divis area that have benefitted from previous mural schemes have shown a decrease in anti-social behaviour in those areas and the murals have remained undamaged.   |
| 3.3        | The Steering Group established to oversee the project comprises representatives from St Mary's Residents' Association, Roden Street Community Development Group, Falls Residents' Association and Greater Falls Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership. The project will be facilitated and managed jointly by Building Successful Communities and the Housing Executive.   |
| 3.4        | It transpires that the proposed location of one of the murals on a wall at Grosvenor Road is in the ownership of Community Services and NIHE require a letter from Belfast City Council granting permission to erect the mural on the wall in order for the project to proceed.  |
| 3.5        | <p><b><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>There is an expectation from NIHE and DSD that Council, as owner of the wall where the proposed mural will be erected, will assume responsibility for the maintenance and insurance for the artwork. The whole life costs of the artwork cannot be predicted in</p>  |

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| <p>3.6</p> <p>3.7</p> <p>3.8</p> | <p>advance: however, the appointed artist can provide a maintenance schedule once the quotation exercise is completed which Community Services will take account of in their revenue estimates planning. Council's Estates Management Unit has introduced a process for inclusion of artworks on the Council's Asset register, which will address the issues of insurance and public liability.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>There are no HR resource implications for Council as the process will be facilitated and managed jointly by Building Successful Communities and the NI Housing Executive.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>If agreeable, the artwork will be added to a list of artworks in line with the guidance issued by Council's Estates Management Unit, regarding the public liability and insurance of a number of artworks delivered through the Good Relations Unit.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>This proposal supports the community-led initiative in the wider Divis areas to re-image and make more welcoming the key pedestrian entry points to West Belfast. The reimagining of murals is contained within the Good Relations Action Plan 2015/16. There are no identified equality or good relations implications.</p> |
| <p><b>4.0</b></p>                | <p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p>   |
|                                  | <p>N/A</p>  |