

Extract from minutes of –

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

20th APRIL, 2009

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**“Core Cities**

The Committee was informed that the Lord Mayor had received recently an invitation for Belfast to become an associate member of the Core Cities Group. This organisation had been established in 2000 to assist Liverpool, Leeds, Sheffield, Newcastle, Birmingham, Manchester, Bristol and Gateshead to work together on common issues and to lobby Central Government to re-direct funding for economic regeneration away from London and the South-East of England. As a result, a number of joint initiatives had been undertaken on issues relating to transport, regeneration and employability. The Head of Economic Initiatives indicated that Cardiff, Edinburgh and Glasgow had also been invited to join this prestigious Group and that associate, rather than ‘full’ membership, had been offered to the four cities since Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland had their own Regional Assemblies.

She pointed out that joining the Core Cities Group would enable the Council to share information with and obtain information from the other cities which were members of the organisation which would be beneficial to Belfast. She pointed out further that the Council had not been requested to make any financial contribution and that ‘full’ membership could only be offered to English cities.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed that the Lord Mayor decline the invitation for Belfast to become an associate member of the Core Cities Group.”

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