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**Democratic Services Section
Legal and Civic Services Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**

20th August, 2020

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

In addition to those matters previously notified to you, the following item will also be considered at the meeting to be held at 9.30 am on Friday, 21st August, 2020.

Yours faithfully,

SUZANNE WYLIE

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

5. Physical Programme and Asset Management

- (b) Provision of temporary office accommodation-Community Rescue Service
(Pages 1 - 2)

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Subject:	Provision of temporary office accommodation: Community Rescue Service
Date:	21 August 2020
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
	To inform Members of an offer to provide temporary office accommodation for the Community Rescue Service .
2.0	Recommendations
	The Committee is asked to agree that temporary accommodation be provided to the Community Rescue Service as set out in the report.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The Community Rescue Service is a charitable search and rescue organisation operated by volunteers from communities across Northern Ireland. They operate from an office in

	Apollo Road but have been notified by their landlord that their premises have to be vacated as it is ear marked for new development by a commercial partner.
3.2	The council has been able to identify suitable premises which the Community Recue Service could use on a temporary basis. This would be under a license arrangement for up to 3 months initially but with discretion on the part of the Council to extend on a month to month basis.
3.3	Officers from Estates Unit, Facilities Management and Legal Services have been working on the identification of premises in Dunbar Link, which is currently the Council's Disaster Recovery Suite. The Emergency Planning Team would obviously take priority if this suite is required by the council. The suite is located on the second floor and offers two large offices, kitchen and toilet facilities. In addition, the Cleansing dinette on the 1st floor will be used one night per week as a training facility for the 54 volunteers. A closed garage has been identified at the Charlotte Street Cleansing depot for secure parking of 5 motor bicycles, search & rescue equipment and 1 landrover vehicle, plus a small office will be available for the community rescue team within the depot. Their 3 additional landrover vehicles will use 3 spaces in the neighbouring BCC car park on Ormeau Avenue (on Apsley Street) on a temporary basis, however priority will be given to BCC staff if they are required in the future.
3.4	Legal Services will draw up a licence which will need consent from Department for Communities as it represents a technical disposal at a nil rent if the Council is minded to approve this arrangement.
3.5	This will allow the Community Rescue Service to continue to provide a service while they source permanent office accommodation.
r3.5	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> None other than internal officer time preparing license and premises.
3.6	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> Any equality, good relations and rural needs identified will be addressed.
4.0	Appendices
4.1	N/A