

Document Pack

**Democratic Services Section
Chief Executive's Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**



17th January, 2011

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room (Room G05), City Hall on Friday, 21st January, 2011 at 10.00 am, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

PETER McNANEY

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. **Routine Matters**

- (a) Apologies
- (b) Minutes
- (c) Land at McClure Street (Pages 1 - 14)

2. **Finance**

- (a) Revenue Estimates 2011/12 (To Follow)
- (b) Minutes of Meeting of Budget and Transformation Panel of 13th January (Pages 15 - 16)
- (c) Voluntary Redundancy Exercise (Pages 17 - 20)
- (d) Approval to Seek Tenders - Property Maintenance (Pages 21 - 24)

3. **Modernisation and Improvement**
 - (a) Reform of Planning Service Consultation (To Follow)
4. **Democratic Services and Governance**
 - (a) Local Government Pension Scheme - Councillors' Pensions (Pages 25 - 44)
 - (b) Requests for the Use of the City Hall and the Provision of Hospitality (Pages 45 - 50)
 - (c) Elected Member Representation of the Belfast Strategic Partnership for Health and Wellbeing (Pages 51 - 52)
5. **Human Resources**
 - (a) The Health Employment Partnership Employability Model (Pages 53 - 58)
6. **Asset Management**
 - (a) Update on Peace III Priority 2.1 Capital Bids for Shared Space (Pages 59 - 64)
 - (b) North Foreshore Update (Pages 65 - 68)
 - (c) Connswater Community Greenway Update (Pages 69 - 76)
 - (d) Former Civic Amenity Sites at Primrose Street and Seapark Drive (Pages 77 - 84)
 - (e) Disposal of Land at M2-Duncrue Place (Pages 85 - 90)
 - (f) Use of City Hall Grounds - Taste Northern Ireland Food Event (Pages 91 - 94)
7. **Good Relations and Equality**
 - (a) Minutes of Meeting of Good Relations Partnership of 10th January (Pages 95 - 104)

To: The Chairman and Members of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Land at McClure Street
Date:	21 January 2011
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects. Ext 6217
Contact Officer:	Cathy Reynolds, Estates Manager. Ext 3493

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Strategic Policy & Resources Committee, at their meeting on 10 December 2010 granted approval to land at McClure Street being marketed, free of restrictions as to future use and on the basis that any disposal was time bound. However at full Council on 5 January 2011 the matter was referred back to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee.
1.2	A copy of the previous Strategic Policy & Resources Committee report is enclosed at Appendix 1, which outlines the relevant background, a summary of all the previous Committee decisions, key decisions and details of potential options.
1.3	It should be emphasised that the key issue affecting the future use of this land is its planning designation. Furthermore the key issue to be considered in deciding how the Council deals with any disposal of the land relates to the Council's legislative requirement to obtain best price as set out in the Local Government Act (NI) 1972.
1.4	The previous report highlighted that in order to comply with the LGA (NI) 1972 best price obligation there should be no restriction given as to the future use for social housing. If the use was restricted to any one particular use this would not allow for any other potential uses and could therefore restrict value and hence potentially not accord with the best price statutory requirement.
1.5	It is important to note that there have been various audit reports in respect of land disposal issues at other Councils. These have highlighted the legislative requirement to obtain best price, best rent or otherwise best terms in the disposal of land, where the consent of the DOE is not sought. In order to demonstrate that best price is being established the view is that the land should normally be subject to marketing, subject to certain exceptions. Open competition is normally seen as the most effective way to demonstrate that best price is being

	established.
1.6	In the current case with McClure Street, the recommended option for the Council to take in order to comply with its legislative requirements and to demonstrate that best price is being obtained is to advertise the land for sale on the open market free of restrictions as to future use. Otherwise the consent of the DOE will be required. Any interested parties are free to make a bid accordingly. To do otherwise could leave the Council open to challenge.
1.7	The previous Committee reports sets out the planning issues which essentially indicate that any proposed development would have to bring substantial community benefit to outweigh the loss of open space.

2	Key Issues
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative requirement under the Local Government Act (NI) 1972 to obtain best price, best rent or otherwise best terms in the disposal of land, where the consent of the DOE is not sought. • Restrictions on the future use of the land when marketing could restrict the value and potentially not comply with the best price legislative requirements. • In order to demonstrate that best price is being obtained and to not leave the Council open to challenge, the land should be openly marketed and any interested parties can bid accordingly. • Planning restrictions would indicate that any proposed development would have to bring substantial community benefit to outweigh the loss of open space.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	As set out in the previous report.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	None at this time.

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are recommended to approve that the land at McClure Street is marketed, free of restrictions as to future use and on the basis that any disposal is time bound. A report will be brought back to advise on the marketing price and to advise of any DSD requirements in release of the restrictive covenant.

6	Decision Tracking
Director of Property & Projects to bring a report back to Committee within 2 months to advise re marketing.	

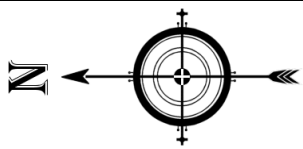
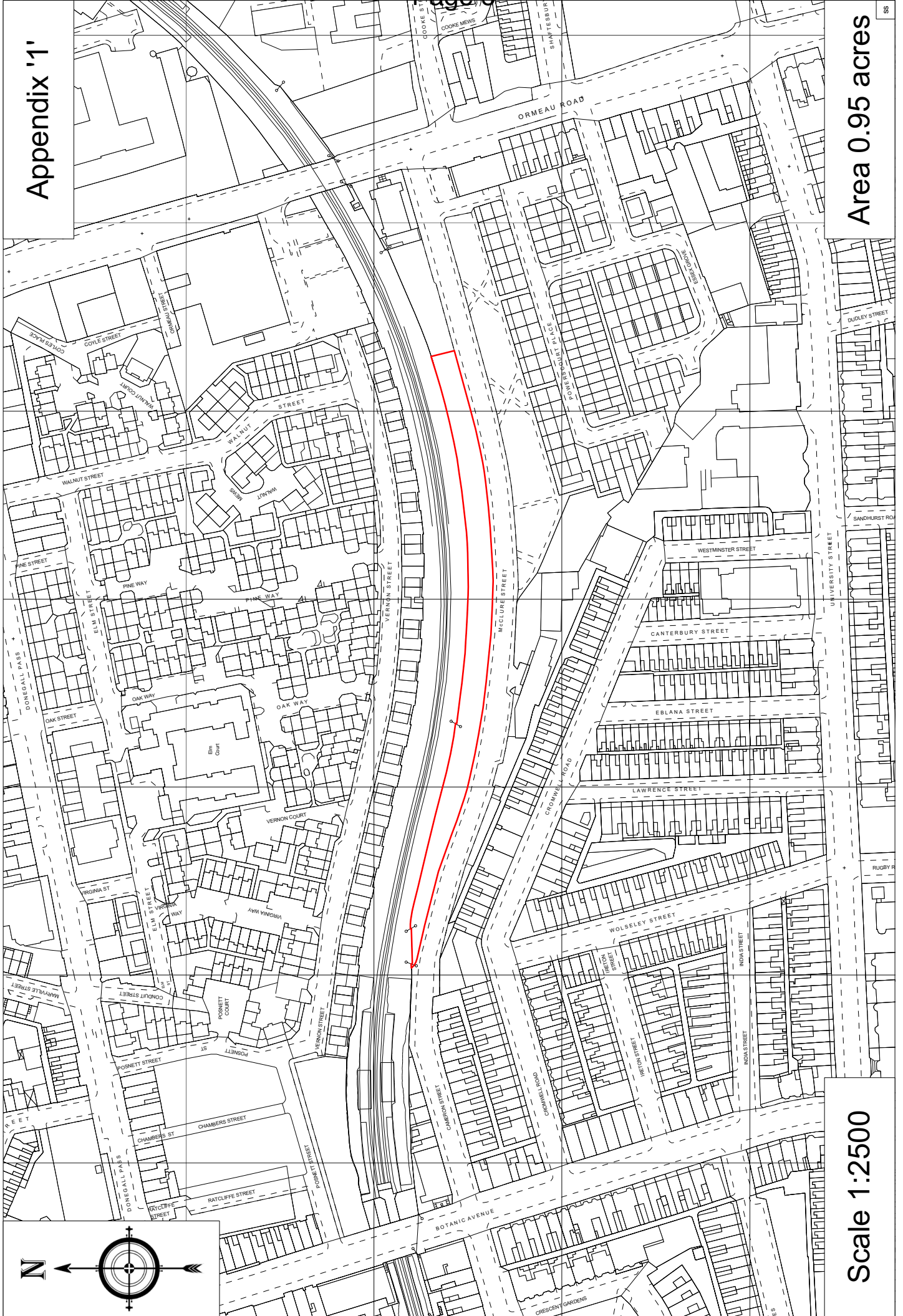
7	Key to Abbreviations
dBMAP: Draft Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan	

8	Documents Attached
Appendix 1: Copy Strategic Policy & Resources Committee Report: 10 December 2010	

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Appendix '1'

Area 0.95 acres



Scale 1:2500

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Land at McClure Street
Date:	10 December 2010
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects - Ext 6217
Contact Officer:	Cathy Reynolds, Estates Manager - Ext 3493

Relevant Background Information	
1.1	The Council owns a long linear strip of land at McClure Street off Ormeau Road, as shown on the attached plan (Appendix 1). This land (together with other lands located opposite) was transferred to the Council by the Department of the Environment in 1987 for the purposes of open space & landscaping.
1.2	The land which adjoins the railway, extends to approximately 0.95 acres and is currently used as open space/landscaping.
1.3	Members will be aware that a number of reports were previously taken to Committee over the past few years regarding the potential disposal of this land. There is a long history of decisions in relation to this land and in order to understand the background; a summary of the main decisions is attached at Appendix 2.
1.4	The owner of an adjoining office block fronting onto Ormeau Road has also recently enquired about the possibility of acquiring a portion of the subject lands to extend his existing car park which fronts onto McClure Street.

2	Key Issues
2.1	<p data-bbox="328 264 544 297"><u>Planning Issues:</u></p> <p data-bbox="328 331 1394 432">In dBMAP the site is zoned as 'open space' although this is 'for information only'. The Council objected to this zoning on the basis that it should be identified as land available for housing.</p> <p data-bbox="328 465 1394 801">Planning advice has recently been sought from Planning Consultants who have advised that the preliminary view of the BMAP team is that an application for housing should not raise matters of prejudice or prematurity and that the key planning policy document would be PPS 8 'Open Space, Sport & Outdoor Recreation'. In light of the preliminary view of the BMAP team and the fact that PPS 8 is the key planning policy document the consultants are of the view that there is no particular advantage (in planning terms) in awaiting the outcome of the BMAP process. Discussions have also recently been held with Planning Service in relation to any potential for obtaining planning approval in view of the 'open space' designation.</p> <p data-bbox="328 835 1394 969">PPS 8 incorporates the presumption against the loss of existing open space but it also provides for an exception where <i>'it is clearly shown that redevelopment will bring substantial community benefits that decisively outweigh the loss of open space'</i>.</p> <p data-bbox="328 1003 1394 1507">Advice given by the planning consultants indicates that it may be possible to consider this exception test in light of the fact the site was previously used for housing; that it's public value as open space is limited because of its nature (linear site) and context (located between a railway embankment and a road); that there is an area of better quality open space nearby i.e. the open space to the south of McClure Street. However any proposed development would have to bring substantial community benefit to outweigh the loss of open space and the view of the consultants is that the provision of, for e.g. social housing, would deliver such benefits. On the basis of both the consultant's advice and following discussions with Planning Service it is considered that the test of substantial community benefit is highly unlikely to be met by the provision of private housing. If a planning application is submitted for social housing or other type of development of a community nature it would have to be considered on the basis of this exceptions test in terms of the substantial community benefits it might bring.</p> <p data-bbox="328 1541 1394 1742">However, as well as the planning policy issues there are other hurdles that would have to be overcome in terms of the physical and technical constraints of developing on this long linear site. As part of any planning application an acoustic report (in light of the proximity of the site to the railway line) and an engineering report (due to proximity of the railway embankment and railway line) are also likely to be required.</p> <p data-bbox="328 1776 1394 1910">In addition, PPS 7 Addendum, issued in August 2010, provides additional planning policy to protect areas of established residential character and will consider issues such as existing density in the area in terms of any new planning applications.</p>

2.3	<p><u>Restrictions on Sale:</u></p> <p>Previous advice from VLA (now LPS) indicated that the inclusion of an exclusively social housing restriction would reduce the sale price of the land in the open market. This was at the peak of the market at a time when there was a strong demand from private housing developers and a resultant recognisable difference in values between private and social housing. In the current market there is, however, very limited demand from private housing developers and social housing is often the only demand in the open market for residential sites. This, together with a significant reduction in values overall for all house types, has resulted in a situation in the current market where there may in fact be little, if any, difference between the value of the land for social or general housing. However this will not be known until the land is marketed (if a decision is made to offer for sale on the open market).</p> <p>From an audit perspective, and given that the Council does not have a housing function, then in order to comply with the Local Government Act (NI) 1972 best price obligation, it is recommended that the land is marketed without any restriction as to social housing. By imposing a user restriction (particularly where the use is a function not carried out by the Council) which might suppress the open market value this could potentially result in the sale price not complying with disposal at best price as required in the LGA (NI) 1972. In such instances approval would be required from the DOE. In addition, if the Council are too prescriptive this will limit the potential end uses which might be desirable from the Council's perspective. If the use is not restricted to merely social housing this would also allow for any other potential uses that might fall into the 'substantial community benefit' test. Social housing providers/housing associations would however be free to bid accordingly.</p> <p>However, whilst the marketing particulars may not specifically provide for such a restriction, they could refer to the current planning policies and planning advice which would determine the end use. Any bids subsequently received will therefore reflect the planning position and likewise so too will the value.</p>
2.4	<p><u>Title Restrictions:</u></p> <p>The subject land was acquired by the Council from DOE and is subject to a covenant that restricts use of the lands to landscaping and open space. At the time of the previous marketing exercise DSD (as successor to DOE) had agreed to a relaxation of this user covenant subject to certain conditions, including payment to them of 50% of the sale price. DSD have recently been contacted again to ascertain if a similar arrangement would apply in the event that the Council decides to remarket the land.</p>
2.5	<p><u>Value:</u></p> <p>Members will be aware that there has been a marked downturn in the property market. Whilst previous marketing resulted (at the peak of the property market) in a high offer for the land based on a high density development, this was subject to obtaining planning, which, in light of current planning policy and the technical and physical constraints, now seems highly unlikely.</p> <p>Given the current planning restrictions and the technical and physical constraints in developing this site (and this is assuming that planning might in fact be</p>

	<p>obtainable) as well as the marked downturn in the property market, it must be emphasised that the current open market value of the site will be significantly lower than the offers received back in 2006. These offers were based on high density apartment schemes and were subject to planning. In addition, if there is a similar arrangement as agreed previously with DSD in relation to the relaxation of the use covenant then the Council would only receive 50% of the proceeds.</p> <p>2.6 <u>Council requirements:</u></p> <p>The Client Services Committee, at their meeting back in 17 August 2004, declared the land surplus to Council requirements (and agreed to place on the open market) although the land was obviously not subsequently sold and continues to be used as informal open space.</p> <p>2.7 <u>Options:</u></p> <p>In light of the above comments, the following options can be considered:</p> <p><u>Option 1: Retain the land in Council ownership:</u> Certain benefits will be derived from continued use as informal open space. However, there is an area of better quality open space directly opposite and its value as open space is diminished somewhat in that it is located between a railway line and a road and is also subject to fly tipping.</p> <p><u>Option 2: Offer for sale on the open market with use restricted to social housing:</u> As outlined above, restricting the use to a non Council function, and to a use that may potentially suppress the open market value may potentially cause problems in terms of demonstrating that the best price (or best terms) has been obtained in accordance with the requirements of the LGA (NI) 1972. It also limits other potential end users that may in fact be desirable from the Council's perspective and which could potentially satisfy the 'substantial community benefit' exception test in terms of PPS 8. Given this planning policy issue, however, it is possible that the potential end use may well be social housing but this is essentially a matter for the market to determine in line with the planning restrictions.</p> <p><u>Option 3: Council apply for planning approval for a housing scheme:</u> Planning Service and the planning consultants have indicated that a full planning application as opposed to an outline planning application is likely to be required Whilst this might bring more certainty in terms of any future marketing of the site it nonetheless restricts the use and design to a particular scheme only. It may limit the market which again may have an impact on value. In addition any future end user is unlikely to use the same housing layout/design as per any application made by the Council. Individual Housing Associations, for e.g. have very specific requirements in terms of layout and design etc and would therefore still have to make a new planning application in due course to meet their own specific requirements.</p> <p><u>Option 4: Advertise for sale on the open market, free of restrictions as to future use:</u> This option would accord with the Council's requirements to obtain best price (or best terms) and may allow the Council to consider other potential end uses that might be desirable from a community or social perspective (subject to planning). The sales marketing particulars could highlight the planning policy restrictions, particularly in terms of PPS 8, and the exceptions test in terms of</p>
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	<p>'substantial community benefits to decisively outweigh the loss of open space' Any interested parties would need to have regard to this and in light of the current economic climate and depressed property market it is considered highly unlikely that developers will be as willing to simply take a chance in getting planning permission for a development that does not accord with the current planning policies. It is however also recommended that the Council makes any sale that is subject to planning time bound i.e. give the purchaser a specified time to obtain planning and complete the sale.</p> <p>Option 4 above is recommended.</p>
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3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Financial:</u></p> <p>Unknown at this stage until the land is marketed and planning approval obtained. DSD may seek 50% of sale proceeds for relaxation of the user covenant.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>Staff Resource, primarily within Estates Management Unit to progress.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Asset & Other Implications</u></p> <p>Whilst the land is currently used as open space there are problems of dumping and anti social behaviour at this location. There is an area of better quality open space directly opposite. Development of these lands at a suitable density appropriate for the locality and with good quality design should result in an improved asset for the benefit of the local area.</p>

	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	None at this time.

	Recommendations
	<p>Members are asked to indicate, in principle, if they wish to progress on the basis of Option 4, i.e. that the lands are to be re-marketed, free of restrictions as to future use and on the basis that any disposal would be time bound. If Members wish to progress on this basis, then a report will be brought back to advise on the marketing price and to advise of the requirements of DSD in releasing the covenant</p>

	Decision Tracking
<p>Director of Property & Projects to bring a report back to Committee within 2 months to advise re marketing.</p>	

	Key to Abbreviations
<p>VLA: Valuation & Lands Agency LPA: Land & Property Services LGA: Local Government Act dBMAP: Draft Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan</p>	

	Documents Attached
<p>Appendix 1 : Location Map Appendix 2 : Summary of previous Committee decisions</p>	

APPENDIX 2:

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE DECISIONS RE: LAND AT MCCLURE STREET:

- Parks & Amenities Sub Committee 11/2/2003: Agreed to not grant approval dispose of land to BIH Housing Association.
- Client Services Committee 18/2/2003: Agreed to adhere to decision of 11/2/2003 not to sell.
- Council 1/4/2003: Agreed to take back to Sub Committee
- Parks & Amenities Sub Committee 8/4/2003: Agreed that discussions take place with BIH Housing Association for purpose of development of social housing, subject to a legal opinion from the Director of Legal Services.
- Parks & Amenities Sub Committee 10/8/2004: Agreed to dispose of the site for £450,000 (as valued by VLA) to BIH subject to BIH obtaining planning approval to develop for social housing.
- Client Services Committee 17/8/2004: Agreed to amend decision of Parks & Amenities Sub Committee of 10/8/2004 to provide that the lands be declared surplus to Council requirements & placed on the open market and seek expressions of interest for development of the site for social housing purposes.
- Parks & Recreation Sub Committee 9/8/2005: After placing on open market the two best offers received were for student accommodation and for a mixed housing scheme. The Committee were advised that both bids appeared to be outside of the terms on which the land has been marketed. It was agreed that expressions of interest be sought through public advertisement for the development of the site for both social & private housing.
- Community & Recreation Committee 16/8/2005: Agreed that expressions of interest to be sought via public advertisement was to be subject to a minimum of 20% being advertised for social housing purposes.
- Council 1 Sep 2005: An amendment to provide that the proposed development is used for social housing purposes only, was voted on and lost.
- Parks & Cemeteries Sub Committee, 9 May 2006: Agreed to accept the highest offer following marketing of £3,401,000 by Hagan Homes.
- Community & Recreation Committee, 16 May 2006: Agreed to refer that matter back to the Parks & Cemeteries sub Committee to enable Hagan Homes, together with the company which had submitted the second highest bid, Big Picture Ltd to attend a future Committee meeting to present their proposals. Both developers were proposing high density apartment schemes, but these were subject to planning.
- Parks & Cemeteries Services Sub Committee 13 June 2006: Further consideration of the decision of 9 May '06 approving sale to Hagan Homes. Agreed to defer consideration to enable a further legal opinion to be obtained from the Director Legal Services.
- Special Meeting of Community & Recreation (Parks & Cemeteries Services) Sub Committee 7 Aug 2006: Consideration of legal advice & relevant background information. This included advice that if the price obtained for land is artificially depressed by a restriction the Council imposes on the future use of the land, then the Council must refer the proposed disposal to DOE for approval in accordance with the LGA (NI) 1972. VLA had also indicated that they would estimate that the current 20% Social Housing criteria could have some small impact upon value.

- Agreed to accept the highest offer received from Hagan Homes of £3,401,000 (which was subject to obtaining planning permission)
- Community & Recreation Committee 21 August 2006: Agreed to refer matter back to Parks & Cemeteries Services Sub Committee.
- Parks & Cemeteries Services sub Committee – 8 September 2006: Further consideration of 7 August 2006 decision. The published marketing criteria had identified a minimum threshold of 20% for social housing. Legal opinion provided from Senior Counsel, Mr Stephen Shaw Q.C, who advised that he failed to see how the Council, in the process they were involved in at that time, could move away from the highest conforming bid placed. After a proposal to rescind the decision of 9 May 2006 was voted on and lost, the Sub Committee agreed to affirm its decision of 9 May '06 to accept the highest offer received from Hagan Homes at £3,40,000
- Community & Recreation Committee 19 September 2006: Agreed to rescind the decision of the Parks & Cemeteries Sub Committee of 9 May 2006 and requested that officers prepare a report on the future disposal of the land with provision of social housing as the preferred option and that views of the local communities within the area be sought.
- Council 2 October 2006: agreed that the minute of 19 September 2006 be taken back to Committee for further consideration.
- Community & Recreation Committee 17 October 2006. Agreed to affirm its decision of 19 September 2006.
- Strategic Policy & Resources Committee 13 June 2008: Report on potential disposal of a number of Council assets including the subject land at McClure Street.

Budget and Transformation Panel**Thursday 13 January 2011****Present:**

Cllr T Attwood	SDLP
Cllr M Jones	ALL
Cllr J McVeigh	SF
Cllr R Newton	DUP

P McNaney	Chief Executive
J Thompson	Director of Finance and Resources
G Millar	Director of Property and Projects
J McGrillen	Director of Development
R Cregan	Head of Finance and Performance
E Deeny	Head of Corporate Communications

1. District Rate 2011/12 - Key Messages

The Head of Corporate Communications outlined the proposed key messages for the announcement of the district rate. It was agreed that the messages to be discussed at the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 21 January should be centred on:

- District rate set below inflation meaning real terms cuts
- VFM and investment in the city
- Support for people and communities.

It was further agreed that the communications plan should cover:

- The striking of the rate
- The announcement of all district council rates
- The issuing of the rates bills for 2011/12.

2. Capital Programme

The Director of Property and Projects outlined for Members the current process for prioritising capital schemes. He explained that with the setting of the rate Members now need to turn their attention to the process for agreeing a capital programme for next year and beyond. All Members agreed that they needed to dedicate time to this issue and it was agreed that the Budget and Transformation Panel would meet three times over the next four weeks or so and that the Director of Property and Projects would prepare briefings for party group leaders to use with their groups, in order to reach agreement on the capital programme.

3. Area Budgets

The Director of Development informed Members that three of the four area meetings with Elected Members to discuss the allocation of the £100,000 in 2010/11 have been held. It was agreed that the proposals emanating from

these meetings should be reported to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 4 February 2011. It was also agreed that a further report should be brought to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in relation to the £1,000,000 area budget for 2011/12, and in particular, the guiding principles, evaluation criteria, geographical boundaries and financial split for use of the resources.



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Voluntary Redundancy (VR) Exercise
Date:	21 January 2011
Reporting Officer:	Julie Thompson, Director of Finances & Resources
Contact Officer:	Jill Minne, Head of Human Resources

Relevant Background Information

As part of their planning and budgeting process for 2011/12 departments indicated there may be areas of their workforce which could be downsized as a result of structural improvements, downturn in workload and/or ongoing revenue losses.

Consequently, the SP&R Committee gave approval on 22 October 2010 to secure a proportion of the 2010/11 under spend to fund potential voluntary redundancies (VR) this financial year.

It was agreed that specific proposals in relation to potential voluntary redundancies in targeted areas such as Finance & Resources, Parks & Leisure Services and Facilities Management would be developed with a view to bringing these back to standing committees / Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

It was also agreed that that any such proposals would meet the previously agreed principles and criteria in relation to releasing members of staff on a VR basis, namely: the decision to release anyone on VR is dependent on the needs of the council and we retain the right to decide whether or not to accept an employee's application for VR in accordance with the following BCC principles:

- Prioritisation of VR requests will be based on available finance and the level of savings which may be delivered
- The VR will avoid the need for compulsory redundancy
- The need to ensure that essential skills and expertise are maintained
- All other relevant options have been considered.
- Any changes to structures will be conducted and implemented in accordance with HR policies and procedures and the Council's Trade Unions will be fully consulted and agreement sought in relation to all releases

Key Issues

Departments have now identified those posts which can be deleted through voluntary redundancy with no detrimental impact on the management of the service. The proposed voluntary redundancies are as follows:

Finance and Resources – Two Secretarial Assistant posts, following reorganisation of existing posts within the department.

Facilities Management – Two posts (one Working Trades Foreman and one Painter) as a result of an ongoing downturn in work which is likely to continue for the foreseeable future

Parks and Leisure Services – Six posts of Team Leader in Parks as a result of restructuring previously agreed by committee in October 2010. Three posts in Leisure (one Leisure Centre Manager and two Assistant Leisure Centre Managers) as a result of ongoing restructuring (agreed at Parks and Leisure Committee in January 2011).

Each of the 13 applications for VR meet the agreed best practice individual payback period (3.25 years) with the overall Council payback period being 2.11 years. Any changes to structures as a result of the voluntary redundancies will be implemented in accordance with BCC HR policies and procedures and consultation with Trade Unions.

Appendix One sets out details of costs and savings, but in summary the one off cost to the Council of releasing the aforementioned staff is £707,192. It is estimated that this initial cost will lead to net staff savings of £335,944 each and every year after making the structural changes needed to facilitate their release.

Members will recall that the October 2010 Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed to set aside some £1.2m to fund the one off costs of voluntary redundancy in 2010/11, with the expectation that some £600k of ongoing savings would be achieved from 2011/12 onwards.

However, given the lower than expected take up of voluntary redundancy, the one off costs in 2010/11 are actually some £500k lower than anticipated. This £500k will therefore be available for consideration, along with the remaining 2010/11 forecast financial position as part of the “Financial Report – Quarter 3 2010/11” in February 2011. In turn, the actual savings from VR are some £264k lower than originally anticipated. However this gap has been addressed by departments as part of the rates setting exercise for 2011/12, so that the planned total efficiency savings of £2.9m will still be achieved and these have been factored into the Departmental committee cash limits.

Resource Implications

Financial: The one off cost to the Council of the proposed VRs is £707,192 resulting in savings of £335,944 each year.

Human Resources: Any changes to structures as a result of the voluntary redundancies will be implemented in accordance with BCC HR policies and procedures and consultation with Trade Unions.

Recommendations

Members are asked to agree to the voluntary redundancy release of the 7 members of staff (the 6 Team leaders in Parks have already been agreed) with the financial implications set out above.

Decision Tracking

Responsible officer – Director of Finance & Resources

Key to Abbreviations

VR – Voluntary Redundancy

Documents Attached

Appendix one – details of proposed VRs.

APPENDIX 1

Department	Service	Posts to be deleted	No. of posts to be deleted	Redundancy Costs	Annual Gross Savings	Potential restructuring costs	Net Annual Savings	Payback period (years)
Finance and Resources	HR and Directorate	Secretarial Assistant – Scale 6	2	£ 86,540	£ 58,750	0	£ 58,750	1.47
Parks & Leisure	Leisure Services	Leisure Centre Manager – PO3 Assistant Leisure Centre Manager – SO2	1 2	£242,891	£140,485	£32,594	£107,891	2.25
Parks & Leisure (already agreed)	Parks and Cemeteries	Team Leader – Scale 5	6	£248,098	£159,952	£62,000	£ 97,952	2.53
Property & Projects	Facilities Management	Working Trade Foreman – SO2 Painter – Scale 5	1 1	£129,663	£ 71,351	0	£ 71,351	1.82
BCC TOTAL			13	£707,192	£430,538	£94,594	£335,944	2.11

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BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Approval to seek Tenders (Property Maintenance)
Date:	21 st January 2011
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects
Contact Officer:	G. Wright, Head of Facilities Management (Ext. 5206/6232)

Relevant background information

- 1.1 Members will be aware that, under the revised Scheme of Delegation, approval must be sought from the relevant Committee prior to inviting tenders for the supply of goods or services.
- 1.2 Members will also be aware that, in the course of providing maintenance services at all Council properties, the Property Maintenance unit makes regular use of a number of external contractors, both in order to provide specialist services and also to supplement the existing in-house workforce during times of peak demand. There are two such existing contracts which will expire in June 2011 in respect of :
 - Drain clearing and camera surveys; *and*
 - General building works.
- 1.3 There are also 2 new packages of work which have been identified as being required to tender as follows:
 - Repair, maintenance and minor works for air-conditioning; *and*
 - Repair, maintenance and minor works for Building Energy Management Systems (BEMS).
- 1.4 The air-conditioning contract is necessary in order to rationalise a number of local arrangements in order to obtain economies of scale and also to enhance our ability to comply with new legislation in this area. The BEMS contract is needed in order to obtain up-to-date competitive prices and formalise arrangements for this type of work in the light of its increasing scale.
- 1.5 Details of all of the tender exercises proposed are set in Appendix A, including estimated annual costs and cost-control mechanism(s). Overall, these activities will generate estimated costs in the region of **£720,000** for the council over the full 3-year period.
- 1.6 Detailed specifications are to be prepared in order to permit the tenders to be let, and subject to Committee approval advertisements will be placed in the local press inviting either applications for inclusion on Select Lists or submission of Tenders for each discipline, as appropriate.

Key Issues

- 2.1 The proposed duration of each of the resultant contracts is one year, with an option exercisable by the council to extend for up to two further years dependant on performance. This is felt to provide the optional balance between regularly testing the market to obtain the keenest prices and minimising the administration associated with the procurement process.
- 2.2 Submissions will be evaluated in accordance with agreed evaluation criteria and in liaison with the Procurement Section where appropriate.

Resources Implications

3.1 Financial

Regularly testing the market via competitive tendering ensures that we obtain the best possible value for money and standards of service from our external suppliers, which in turn assists us in driving down costs and minimising the rate burden.

3.2 Human Resources

There are no direct HR implications in respect of this report.

3.3 Asset & other implications

Having a range of experienced and cost-efficient contractors available is an important factor in delivering effective property maintenance to the Council.

Recommendations & Decisions

- 4.1 The Committee is recommended to approve the invitation of submissions for inclusion on Select Lists and/or the submission of tenders in respect of the activities specified above.

Key to Abbreviations

None.

Documents attached

Appendix A: Schedule of tenders.

Schedule of Tenders

Contract	Estimated value per year	Period of Contract	Anticipated advert date	Cost-control mechanism
General Building Works	£ 50,000	1 year + 2 optional	Feb 2011	Schedule of Rates (PSA)
Drain Clearing & camera surveys	£ 75,000	1 year + 2 optional	Feb 2011	Schedule of Rates (bespoke)
Repair, Maintenance & minor works for Air Conditioning	£ 75,000	1 year + 2 optional	Feb 2011	Schedule of Rates (bespoke)
Repair, Maintenance & Minor works of Building Energy Management System	£ 40,000	1 year + 2 optional	Feb 2011	Schedule of Rates (bespoke)

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Local Government Pension Scheme – Councillors’ Pensions
Date:	21 st January, 2011
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (ext 6314)

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Local Government Division of the Department of the Environment has issued a consultation paper on the introduction of pension rights for elected Members of local Councils. The deadline for the submission of comments is 28 th January.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The consultation paper proposes to introduce legislation - the Local Government Pension Scheme (Councillors) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 – which will come into effect from the date of the Local Government Elections in May.
2.2	The effect of the Regulations will be to automatically enrol every Councillor elected in May into the Local Government Pension Scheme. A Member may opt out of the scheme by notifying the Council in writing. The scheme will be based upon a contribution being made by both the individual Member and the Council, similar to that in place for Local Government officers.
2.3	The main difference between the scheme for Councillors and that for officers is that the Councillors’ pensions will be calculated on the basis of career average earnings rather than final salary. This is seen to be advantageous as the payments which are taken into account in calculating the pension payment are those made under the Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999, namely basic allowance and the special responsibility allowance, and an individual Member may hold positions on the Council which attract higher payments at various times during their career. Therefore, the career average rather than a final salary calculation would more often than not

	<p>provide a higher pension payment. It should be noted that the Regulations do not make any provision for payments made to Members by outside bodies, such as the District Policing Partnership, or payments for acting as Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor or High Sheriff to be taken into account. The pension will be calculated on the basis of 1/60 of the pay received by the Member for each year of service. Each year's pension will then be up-rated with inflation and then aggregated. This figure will then be divided by the number of years' service to provide the "average" pay which will then be used to calculate the pension based upon the number of years' service. An example is included at Appendix 1.</p>
2.4	<p>The pension is payable for life and is normally paid when a Member reaches the age of 65. The proposals also include provisions for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pension to be increased each year in line with the Consumer Price Index; • Members to opt to take a tax-free lump sum on retirement by converting up to 25% of the capital value of the pension at a conversion rate of £1 pension for £12 lump sum; • The opportunity for the Member to increase his or her membership by paying additional voluntary contributions; • The right for a Member, after 3 months' membership, to retire voluntarily at age 60 and receive a pension, albeit at a reduced rate; • The possibility of a Member retiring from age 55 and receiving benefits immediately if the Council gives its assent; • Ill health retirement rights following 1 years membership of the scheme; • Death in service benefits by way of a lump sum payment equivalent to 3 times the career average pay; • Widows', widowers', civil partners' or cohabiting partners' and childrens' pensions.
2.5	<p>The amount of contribution to the pension fund to be made by a Member is based on an increasing 7-tier scale with contributions based upon how much the Member receives in a year. For most Members, the contribution rate will be 5.5% of their allowance, although those Members receiving special responsibility allowances may pay a slightly higher rate.</p>
2.6	<p>The proposals also allow for different periods of Council membership to be aggregated when considering the total years which a Member has served for the purposes of the calculation of the pension. For example, a Member serving two terms from 2011 and then leaving the Council in 2019 and returning to serve a further two terms later would be able to claim 16 years membership of the Pension scheme, so long as he or she has kept making the appropriate contributions.</p>
2.7	<p>It should be noted that these proposals are separate from those which were being considered as part of the Review of Public Administration, where the possibility of the introduction of severance payments for outgoing Members was being discussed. The latest information available is that the Minister does not intend to act on this outside of agreement being reached on the overall reorganisation programme for Local Government.</p>
2.8	<p>A copy of the consultation document is attached at Appendix 2.</p>

3	Resource Implications
3.1	It is estimated that if 100% of Members decided to stay within the pension scheme, then the Council's contribution for a full financial year would be approximately £130k. Provision for this expenditure has not yet been included in the 2011/12 budgets but can be added if the legislation is passed and is applicable for 2011/12.

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	The pension scheme will be open to all Members of Council and, accordingly, there are not considered to be any equality or good relations implications.

5	Recommendations
5.1	It is recommended that the Committee welcome the introduction of the Local Government Pension Scheme for Councillors.

6	Decision Tracking
<p>Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager</p> <p>25th January, 2011</p>	

7	Documents Attached
<p>Appendix 1 – Example of Pension calculation</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Consultation Paper on the Local Government Pension Scheme – Councillors' Pensions</p>	

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Appendix 1

Example of Member's Pension

The following is an example and does not reflect the actual position of any particular Member. The figures are based upon the current rates of allowance payable in the Council and do not take account of inflation and are therefore to be used for illustrative purposes only:

- A person, aged 41, is elected in 2011 as a Member of the largest Party on the Council and spends the first four years without holding a position which attracts any special responsibility allowance. Total salary for the four years is £38,952.
- In the next four-year term the Councillor holds two Deputy Chairmanships and one Chairmanship. Total salary for this period is £48,689.
- The Councillor does not stand for election in 2019.
- The Councillor returns to the Council in 2023 and is appointed as Party Group Leader for the full term. Total salary for this period is £58,868.
- In 2027 the Councillor is once again returned and holds a Chairmanship for one year of the term. Total salary for this period is £44,077.
- In 2031 the Councillor is again elected to serve but for this term does not receive any special responsibility allowance. Total salary for this period is £38,952.
- The Councillor reaches the age of 65 in 2035 and decides to retire. In total the Councillor will have served for five full terms or 20 years.
- His pension is calculated as his total pay divided by 20 to give the average pay and this is then multiplied by 20/60 to give the pension. In this example this gives an annual pension of £3,825.63.

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Local Government Policy Division

Addressees listed below

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44-58 May Street
BELFAST
BT1 4NN

Telephone: (028) 9025 6093
Facsimile: (028) 9025 6080
Email: marie.cochrane@doeni.gov.uk

Your reference:
Our reference: DO1-09-6548
3 December 2010

Dear Consultee

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME – COUNCILLORS’ PENSIONS

I enclose for consultation, a copy of the draft Local Government Pension Scheme (Councillors) (Amendment) Regulations, which the Department of the Environment proposes to make under the powers conferred by Article 9 of the Superannuation (Northern Ireland) Order 1972. Comments should be received by **28 January 2011**.

The draft Regulations amend both the Local Government Pension Scheme (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations (NI) 2009 and the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations (NI) 2009 to provide pension provision for councillors.

Background

The Minister of the Environment, Edwin Poots, has decided that councillors shall be provided with pension provision from the date of the next local government elections. He has also agreed that the pension provision for councillors should be on the basis of the recommendations of the Councillors’ Remuneration Working Group (CRWG). The CRWG included in its membership representatives from the National Association of Councillors, the Northern Ireland Local Government Association, trade unions, business and voluntary sectors together with an independent member.

The CRWG made the following recommendations on pensions for councillors-

- pension provision should be open to all councillors;
- councillors should be able to join the LGPS;
- the normal retirement age for councillors should be same as for other LGPS members (age 65);
- calculations should be based on career average to reflect the possibility that councillors may hold positions of responsibility with higher remuneration at various times in their council career; and
- pension provision should be available from the next local government elections.

The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) is a statutory public service pension scheme, as defined by the Pensions Schemes Act (NI) 1993. The LGPS is funded by contributions made by both employees and employers who have been designated as employing authorities or admitted to the LGPS.

The draft Regulations currently make all councillors, who are elected at the next local government elections, members of the LGPS. Should a councillor wish to opt out of membership of the LGPS, the councillor may notify the council in writing.

The CRWG's recommendation that calculations should be based on career average is designed to address the unpredictability with which councillors' income may go up or down depending on the position they hold within the council.

Calculations carried out on a career average basis match each year's benefit accrual to earnings in each year. The earnings figure for each years' membership of the LGPS will be up-rated in line with prices. For example,

- a councillor member who contributes to the LGPS from May 2011 until May 2041 may retire with 30 years' membership of the LGPS, provided the councillor has reached the normal retirement age of 65;

- the LGPS provides a pension calculated as 1/60th of pay for each year of service;
- to calculate pension each year's pensionable pay will be up-rated with inflation and then aggregated;
- it will then be divided by 30 (years' service) to provide the "average" pay, which is then multiplied by 30/60 to arrive at the pension payable.

This type of pension scheme is known as the career average revalued earnings scheme or CARE scheme. This type of scheme is more suited to a person whose income remains fairly constant or where the level of income fluctuates throughout their career.

Proposed benefit structure for councillors pensions in Northern Ireland

The proposed benefit structure for councillors will be largely similar to that for all LGPS members in Northern Ireland. From the next local government elections, it is proposed that all councillors will automatically become members of the LGPS. The other benefits include-

- a pension for life that increases with the cost of living, based on career average pay. As with other public sector pensions, this will be Consumer Price Index (CPI) from April 2011;
- the option to take a tax-free lump sum on retirement (age 65) by converting up to 25% of the capital value of pension at a conversion rate of £1 pension for £12 lump sum;
- a pension based on career average pay calculated as 1/60th career average pay multiplied by the number of years of membership;
- an ability to increase membership by paying additional voluntary contributions or if under the age of 64 additional contributions can be made to buy up to £5,000 of extra LGPS pension in blocks of £250;
- after 3 months membership, a member may retire voluntarily from age 60, however, benefits taken before age 65 will be paid at a reduced rate;
- it is also possible to retire from age 55 and receive benefits immediately but only if the member's council gives consent;
- ill-health retirement from any age, following a minimum of 1 year's membership of LGPS;

- death in service lump sum of 3 times career average pay;
- widow's, widower's, civil partner's or cohabiting partner's pension;
- children's pensions; and
- member's contribution rate will be based on a 7-tier contribution system, with contributions based on how much remuneration as a councillor falls into each tier. The contribution range is increased annually as if it were a pension. Based on the following contribution rate, a councillor would be likely to pay either 5.5% or 5.8% of basic allowance and, if applicable, special responsibility allowance.

Band	Range	Contribution rates
1	£0 - £12,600	5.5%
2	£12,601 - £14,700	5.8%
3	£14,701 - £18,900	5.9%
4	£18,901 - £31,500	6.5%
5	£31,501 - £42,000	6.8%
6	£42,001 - £78,700	7.2%
7	More than £78,700	7.5%

Equality

Under the terms of section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Department carried out screening for equality impact and is satisfied that the draft Regulations will not lead to discriminatory or negative differential impact.

This letter, the draft Regulations and the equality screening are available to view at http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/local_government/local_government_consultations.htm.

Copies of the documents in different formats are available and may be requested using the above contact details.

Freedom of Information

The Department will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may

be disclosed on request. The Department can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. Before you submit your response, please read the attached Annex on the confidentiality of consultations which will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

I should be grateful to receive your email address, which will be used solely for future consultations - please entitle the email *e-consultation* followed by your organisation's name.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Cochrane', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Marie Cochrane

Encl.

Addressees

All the Members of the Northern Ireland Legislative Assembly

All Northern Ireland political parties, MPs and Members of the House of Lords

The Clerk and Chief Executive of each District Council

The Chief Executive of each Education and Library Board

The Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Other Employing Authorities contributing to the Local Government Pension Scheme

The Northern Ireland Local Government Association

The Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee

The Northern Ireland Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions

The Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance

Various Representative Bodies and Interest Groups

Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Confidentiality of Consultations

The Freedom of Information Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, the Department in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Department cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity, should be made public or be treated as confidential.

This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

- the Department should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Department's functions and it would not otherwise be provided;
- the Department should not agree to hold information received from third parties "in confidence" which is not confidential in nature; and
- acceptance by the Department of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner's Office (or see web site at: <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>).

2011 No.**LOCAL GOVERNMENT****Draft Local Government Pension Scheme (Councillors) (Amendment)
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011**

Made - - - - - ***

Coming into operation - - - - - ***

The Department of the Environment makes these Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 9 of the Superannuation (Northern Ireland) Order 1972(1) and now vested in it(2).

In accordance with Article 9 of that Order, the Department has consulted with the Northern Ireland Local Government Association, the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee and such representatives of other persons likely to be affected by the Regulations as appeared to it to be appropriate.

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Local Government Pension Scheme (Councillors) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 and shall come into operation on the fourth day after the date of the election (see section 11(2) of the Electoral Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1962).

Amendment of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009

2.—(1) The Local Government Pension Scheme (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009(3) shall be amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3).

(2) After regulation 2 (active members), insert—

“Eligibility of councillors

2A. These Regulations apply to councillor members in respect of their councillor membership with the modifications set out in the Schedule.”.

(3) The Schedule within Schedule 1 shall be inserted in the appropriate place at the end of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009.

Amendment of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009

3.—(1) The Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009(4) shall be amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3).

(1) S.I. 1972/1073 (N.I. 10); Art. 9 was amended by Art. 34 S.I. 2005/1968 (N.I. 18).

(2) S.R. & O (N.I.) 1973 No. 504 Article 7(1); S.I. 1976/424 (N.I. 6).

(3) S.R. 2009 No. 32 to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations.

(4) S.R. 2009 No. 33.

(2) After regulation 3 (general eligibility for membership), insert—

“Eligibility of councillors

3A. These Regulations apply to councillor members in respect of their councillor membership with the modifications set out in Schedule 4.”.

(3) Schedule 4 within Schedule 2 shall be inserted after Schedule 3 in Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009.

Amendment of the Local Government (Discretionary Payments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2001

4.—(1) The Local Government (Discretionary Payments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2001⁽⁵⁾ shall be amended in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) For regulation 32(1) (interpretation of Part V), substitute—

“32.—(1) In this Part relevant employment is employment with an LGPS employer, otherwise than—

- (a) retained or volunteer membership with a fire and rescue authority as defined in Article 3 of the Fire and Rescue Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006;
- (b) as an employee pensionable under a superannuation scheme provided in regulations for the time being in force under Article 11 of the 1972 Order;
- (c) as an employee of Citybus Limited or Ulsterbus Limited; or
- (d) as a councillor member of the Local Government Pension Scheme under regulation 2A of the Benefits Regulations and regulation 3A of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009.”.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of the Environment on ***



Wesley Shannon
A senior officer of the Department of the Environment

(5) S.R. 2001 No. 279 as amended by S.R. 2009 No. 34.

SCHEDULE 1

Regulation 2

“SCHEDULE

Regulation 2A

COUNCILLOR MEMBERS

PART 1

CONTRIBUTIONS

Pay

1. For regulation 4 (meaning of “pensionable pay”) substitute—

“4.—(1) A councillor member’s pensionable pay in any year is the total of all basic allowance and special responsibility allowance paid to the councillor by a district council under the Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999(6).

(2) “Basic allowance” and “special responsibility allowance” have the same meaning as in regulations 3 and 5 respectively of the Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999.

(3) All references to “pay” in these Regulations and in the Administration Regulations in respect of a councillor member and the councillor membership shall be construed in accordance with paragraph (1).

(4) “Career average pay” in these Regulations shall mean an amount equal to the total of the councillor member’s pay for each year or part year of his active membership divided by the number of those years or part years.

(5) All references to “final pay” in these Regulations and in the Administration Regulations shall, in respect of a councillor member and councillor membership, be taken to mean “career average pay”.

(6) When calculating a councillor member’s career average pay, the pay for any year other than the final year shall be increased in proportion to the increase in the Consumer Price Index from the last day of that year up to the last day of the month in which the his active membership ends.

(7) “Year” means the 12 months ending with 31st March.

(8) “Final year” means the year during which, or at the end of which, the councillor member’s active membership ends.

(9) “Consumer Price Index” means the index of retail prices for the United Kingdom published by the Office of National Statistics.

(10) No sum may be taken into account in calculating pensionable pay unless income tax liability has been determined on it.”.

PART 2

BENEFITS

Preliminary

2. For regulation 7(5) (calculation of length of periods of membership) substitute—

(6) S.R. 1999 No. 449 as amended by S.R. 2007 No. 168.

“(5) The amount of any annual pension payable to a councillor as a result of his membership is calculated by multiplying his total councillor membership by his career average pay and divided by 60.”.

3. Delete regulations 8 (final pay: general), 10 (final pay: reductions) and 11 (final pay: fluctuating emoluments).

Retirement Benefits

4. Delete regulation 19 (early leavers: inefficiency and redundancy).

5. For regulation 20(1) (early leavers: ill-health) substitute—

“20.—(1) Where a councillor member, who has a total membership of at least one year, ceases to be a member of his district council on grounds that —

- (a) his ill-health or infirmity of mind or body renders him permanently incapable of discharging efficiently the duties of that office; and
- (b) he has a reduced likelihood of being capable of undertaking gainful employment (whether in local government or otherwise) before his normal retirement,

the Committee may, at the request of the employing authority, determine that his retirement pension comes into payment before his normal retirement age in accordance with this regulation in the circumstances set out in paragraph (2), or (3), as the case may be.”.

Death grants

6. In regulation 23 (death grants: active members)—

(a) for paragraph (3) substitute—

“(3) The death grant of a councillor member is his career average pay multiplied by 3.”; and

(b) delete paragraph (4).

7. For regulation 32(3) (death grants: deferred members) substitute—

“(3) The death grant for a councillor deferred member is 5 times the pension that would have been payable if he had retired at the date of death.”.

8. For regulation 35(3) (death grants: pensioner members) substitute—

“(3) The death grant for a councillor pensioner member is 10 times his pension less the amount of any pension paid to him.”.

PART 3

OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

Increases of membership and pensions

9. Delete regulations 12 (power of employing authority to increase total membership of members) and 13 (power of employing authority to award additional pension).”.

SCHEDULE 2

Regulation 3

“SCHEDULE 4

Regulation 3A

COUNCILLOR MEMBERS

Membership

1. Regulation 12(1) (re-employed and rejoining deferred members) shall only apply to a councillor member in respect of any councillor membership where both the former membership and the membership as an active member referred to in that paragraph are councillor membership.

2. Delete regulation 13 (concurrent employments).

Additional voluntary contributions and shared cost AVC schemes

3. Delete regulation 21(3) (additional voluntary contributions and shared cost additional voluntary contributions).

4. In regulations 21 to 23 delete “and SCAVCs” and “or SCAVCs” where it occurs.

Members’ contributions

5. Delete regulation 20(2) (discontinuance of ARCs).

6. In regulation 22(1)(a)(ii) (use of accumulated value of AVCs and SCAVCs) delete “19 (early leavers: inefficiency and redundancy)”.

Transfers

7. In regulation 41 (rights to return of contributions) delete paragraphs (4) and (5).

8. Delete regulations 77 to 81 (bulk transfers (transfers of undertaking), etc., calculation of amount of transfer payment under regulation 77, inward transfers of pension rights, right to count a credited period and community scheme transferees).”.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations amend the Regulations which constitute the Local Government Pension Scheme to allow councillors in Northern Ireland to become members of the Scheme from the next local government elections.

Regulation 2 amends the Local Government Pension Scheme (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (the Benefits Regulations) by inserting a new regulation which applies the Benefits Regulations to councillor membership of the Scheme subject to the modifications contained in Schedule 1.

Schedule 1 modifies the application of some regulations for councillors and removes the application of other regulations within the Benefits Regulations. Within Schedule 1-

Paragraph 1 substitutes regulation 4 which defines pensionable pay for councillor membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). It means that a councillor's membership will be based on their income from basic allowance and special responsibility allowance on a career average basis. When calculating a councillor's career average pay every year's pay except the final year's pay is increased in proportion to the increase in the consumer price index. Every year's pensionable pay is then added together and divided by the total number of year's membership to arrive at the councillor's career average pay for pension calculation purposes.

Paragraph 2 substitutes regulation 7(5) which specifies the calculation of a councillor's pension. The accrual rate of pension of one sixtieth per year of membership of the LGPS is the same as for the rest of the Scheme. The calculation is therefore the total number of years of councillor membership of the LGPS multiplied by the councillor's career average pay divided by 60.

Paragraphs 3 and 4 delete regulations 8 (final pay: general), 10 (final pay: reductions), 11 (final pay: fluctuating emoluments) and 19 (early leavers: business efficiency and redundancy). This means that for the purposes of councillor membership of the LGPS these regulations do not apply.

Paragraph 5 substitutes regulation 20(1) to enable a councillor member of the LGPS to have the same access to ill-health pension provision as other members of the LGPS.

Paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 modify regulations 23, 32 and 35 to enable death grants to be paid upon the death of a councillor member to the councillor member's personal representatives.

Paragraph 9 removes an employing authority's ability to increase total membership of a councillor member or to award additional pension to a councillor member.

Regulation 3 amends the LGPS (Administration) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (the Administration Regulations) by inserting a new regulation which applies the Administration Regulations to councillor membership of the LGPS subject to the modifications contained in the Schedule.

Schedule 2 modifies the application of some regulations for councillors and removes the application of other regulations. Within Schedule 2-

Paragraph 1 changes regulation 12(1) so that a councillor member may only aggregate two periods of membership if those two periods are periods during which he or she was a councillor member of the LGPS.

Paragraph 2 deletes regulation 13 (concurrent employments) which means that for the purposes of councillor membership of the LGPS these regulations do not apply.

Paragraph 3 deletes regulation 21(3) (Additional voluntary contributions and shared cost additional voluntary contributions), which defines an additional voluntary contribution arrangement to which an employing authority contributes is a shared cost additional voluntary contributions arrangement. This means that for the purposes of councillor membership of the LGPS this provision does not apply.

Paragraph 4 removes any further reference to a shared cost additional voluntary contribution or SCAVC from the Regulations which apply to councillor membership of the LGPS.

Paragraph 5 deletes regulation 20(2) (discontinuance of ARCs) which means that a councillor will not be treated as having paid his ARCs up to the end of the ARC payment period where a councillor ceases to be a member of a district council on grounds of his or her ill-health or the councillor's death.

Paragraph 6 removes the words "19 (early leavers: inefficiency and redundancy)" from regulation 22(1)(a)(ii) (use of accumulated value of AVCs and SCAVCs) because regulation 19 does not apply to councillors.

Paragraph 7 deleted paragraphs (4) and (5) of regulation 41 (rights to return of contributions) because these paragraphs deal with the rights to return of contributions where an active member continues in another employment held concurrently with the employment in which he ceased to be an active member may elect for an amount equal to the repayment to be treated as contributions to the LGPS as respects that concurrent employment. These paragraphs do not apply to a councillor.

Paragraph 8 deletes regulations 77 to 81 as these regulations relate to the transfer of pension rights.

Regulation 4 amends the Local Government (Discretionary Payments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2001 to exclude councillors from eligibility for additional discretionary payments.

A regulatory impact assessment has not been produced for these Regulations as it has no impact on the cost of businesses, charities or voluntary bodies and does not have a significant financial impact on any public bodies.



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Requests for the use of the City Hall and the provision of Hospitality
Date:	Friday, 21 January, 2011
Reporting Officer:	Mr. Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (Ext. 6314)
Contact Officer:	Mr. Gareth Quinn, Senior Democratic Services Officer (Ext. 6316)

1.	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members will recall that the Committee, at its meeting on 26th September, 2003, agreed to the criteria which would be used to assess requests from external organisations for the use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality. Subsequently the Committee at its meeting on 7th August, 2009, further amended the criteria so as to incorporate the new Key Themes as identified in the Council's Corporate Plan.
2.	Key Issues
2.1	The revised criteria has been applied to each of requests contained within the appendix and recommendations have been made to the Committee on this basis.
3.	Resource Implications
3.1	Provision has been made in the revenue estimates for hospitality.
4.	Equality Implications
4.1	N/A
5.	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is asked to approve the recommendations as set out in the Appendix.

5.	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is asked to approve the recommendations as set out in the Appendix.

6.	Decision Tracking
Officer responsible – Gareth Quinn 2nd February, 2011	

7.	Key to Abbreviations
Not applicable.	

8.	Documents Attached
Appendix 1 – Schedule of Applications	

Organisation/ Body	Event/Date - Number of Delegates/ Guests	Request	Comments	Recommendation
Northern Ireland Young Solicitors' Association	European Young Bar Association Spring Conference Reception 11th March, 2011 Approximately 200 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception	Delegates will be staying in accommodation in Belfast and the conference will take place within the city. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City leadership, strong, fair and together'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of red/white wine and soft drinks. Approximate cost £500
Association for Project Management	Branch Forum Reception 8th April, 2011 Approximately 100 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception	Delegates will be staying in accommodation in Belfast and the conference will take place within the city. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City leadership, strong, fair and together'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of red/white wine and soft drinks. Approximate cost £500
University of Ulster	International Conference on Engineering Education 2011 Reception 22nd August, 2011 Approximately 400 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception	Delegates will be staying in accommodation in Belfast and the conference will take place within the city. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City leadership, strong, fair and together' and 'Better opportunities for success across the city'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of red/white wine and soft drinks. Approximate cost £500
Tuberous Sclerosis Association	International Research Conference Reception 21st September, 2011 Approximately 150 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception	Delegates will be staying in accommodation in Belfast and the conference will take place within the city. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City leadership, strong, fair and together' and 'Better support for people and communities'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of red/white wine and soft drinks. Approximate cost £500
British and Irish Ombudsman Association	Annual Meeting of the British and Irish Ombudsman Association Dinner 17th May, 2012 Approximately 130 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-dinner drinks reception	Delegates will be staying in accommodation in Belfast and the annual meeting will take place within the city. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City leadership, strong, fair and together', 'Better support for people and communities', 'Better services - listening and delivering' and 'Better opportunities for success across the city'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of red/white wine and soft drinks. Approximate cost £500
Integrated Services for	Celebrate Learning Awards	The use of the City Hall and	This event aims to recognise the achievements	The use of the City Hall and the

Children and Young People	<p>Ceremony</p> <p>15th March, 2011</p> <p>Approximately 50 attending</p>	<p>the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits.</p>	<p>of the young people and women who have undertaken training and development activities in order to help and improve the quality of their lives and of others from within the local community.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City leadership, strong, fair and together', 'Better opportunities for success across the city' and 'Better support for people and communities'.</p>	<p>provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits.</p> <p>Approximate cost £125</p>
Belfast Community Sports Development Network	<p>Annual Sports Awards</p> <p>31st March, 2011</p> <p>Approximately 150 attending</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-dinner drinks reception.</p>	<p>This event will recognise those individuals who have contributed to the provision of sport in Belfast. Furthermore, this event will contribute to the achievement of the Belfast Sport and Physical Activity Strategy.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City leadership, strong, fair and together' and 'Better support for people and communities'.</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of red/white wine and soft drinks</p> <p>Approximate cost £500</p>
Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)	<p>Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Awards Ceremony</p> <p>12th May, 2011</p> <p>Approximately 250 attending</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception.</p>	<p>This event will raise awareness of the RICS' commitment to provide help to close the skills gap which exists within the construction industry and will recognise the achievements of property construction professionals in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City leadership, strong, fair and together' and 'Better opportunities for success across the city'.</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of red/white wine and soft drinks</p> <p>Approximate cost £500</p>
Police Service of Northern Ireland	<p>Policing with the Community Awards 2011</p> <p>18th May, 2011</p> <p>Approximately 350 attending</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception</p>	<p>This event aims to recognise and reward the outstanding work which has taken place between the Police Service of Northern Ireland and communities and partners to help make Northern Ireland safe, confident and peaceful.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City leadership, strong, fair and together' and 'Better support for people and communities'.</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of red/white wine and soft drinks.</p> <p>Approximate cost £500</p>

<p>Young Enterprise Northern Ireland</p>	<p>Young Enterprise Northern Ireland Innovation Awards</p> <p>19th May, 2011</p> <p>Approximately 400 attending</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-event drinks reception.</p>	<p>This event aims to recognise the achievements of students who have successfully completed one of two programmes organised by Young Enterprise. The Programmes, which actively include students with learning and physical disabilities, seek to develop business skills as well as the personal development of those who take part.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City leadership – strong, fair, together', 'Better opportunities for success across the city' and 'Better support for people and communities'</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of soft drinks.</p> <p>Approximate cost £500</p>
<p>City of Belfast School of Music</p>	<p>Annual Students' Recital and Presentation of Awards</p> <p>10th June, 2011</p> <p>Approximately 200 attending</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits.</p>	<p>This event will recognise the outstanding achievements of individuals within the school who have demonstrated excellence in their chosen field.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City leadership, strong, fair and together'.</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits.</p> <p>Approximate cost £500</p>
<p>Cinemagic International Film and Television Festival</p>	<p>Awards and Celebration Ceremony</p> <p>2nd December, 2011</p> <p>Approximately 500 attending</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception</p>	<p>This event seeks to acknowledge those young people who have demonstrated the most promising and creative talent in the field of film and television.</p> <p>The event aims to provide an opportunity to interact with young people and their communities and to provide an international platform so as to engage in dialogue and to learn and share ideas.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City leadership – strong, fair, together', 'Better opportunities for success across the city' and 'Better support for people and communities'.</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of red/white wine and soft drinks.</p> <p>Approximate cost £500</p>
<p>The Law Society of Northern Ireland</p>	<p>The Law Society of Northern Ireland Council Dinner</p> <p>23rd September, 2011</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-dinner drinks reception</p>	<p>This event seeks to provide an opportunity for representatives from the judiciary, business, voluntary and community sectors to come together to highlight best practice and to develop relations with</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of red/white wine and soft drinks.</p>

	Approximately 300 attending		key stakeholders This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City leadership, strong , fair and together'.	Approximate cost £500
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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.
Subject:	Elected Member Representation on the Belfast Strategic Partnership for Health and Wellbeing
Date:	21 January 2011
Reporting Officer:	Suzanne Wylie, Director of Health and Environmental Services, ext 3260
Contact Officer:	Suzanne Wylie, Director of Health and Environmental Services, ext 3260

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Committee agreed to set up new joint working arrangements with the Public Health Agency (PHA) and the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSCT) at its meeting of 23 January 2009. The purpose in doing this was to create a mechanism to better tackle the health inequalities that exist across the city, which is one of the priorities that the Council has set out within its Corporate Plan.
1.2	Part of these joint working arrangements involved the establishment of a new unit, the Belfast Health Development Unit (BH DU), which was launched by the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety in March 2010. The BH DU incorporates staff from the Council, the PHA and the BHSCT. The Unit has developed a joined-up action plan across the three agencies to address the priority health problems facing the people of Belfast.
1.3	The next step in delivering joined up planning and action is to set up a new Strategic Partnership for Health and Wellbeing to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support a citywide collaborative approach across sectors to better address the inequalities and health and wellbeing challenges faced within Belfast ▪ Set the strategic direction for health and wellbeing improvement in Belfast, through the development of agreed priorities for the city and the alignment of corporate plans and resources of the key service providers
1.4	Members will also be aware that the Council was successful in being awarded a contract by the BIG Lottery to deliver a community planning pilot. A Cross Party Reference Group on Community Planning has been meeting for the last two months, chaired by Councillor Hartley and with two members from each political party in BCC. The group agreed that the pilot should focus on health as a theme and that it would specifically test how to enable the voluntary and community sector to influence the plans and resources of key statutory agencies.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The Health and Wellbeing Partnership
2.1.1	<p>The new Belfast Strategic Partnership for Health and Wellbeing is to be made up from the following sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Statutory sector, such as the Council, PHA, BHSCT, NIHE, PSNI, Education, etc. ▪ Private sector; ▪ Community and voluntary sector, including representation from the five Belfast Area Partnership Boards and community nominees put forward at a recent community sector workshop; ▪ Local Elected Members.
2.1.2	<p>This partnership will set the health and wellbeing priorities for the City in the form of a citywide plan and will be supported by the BHDU. The first meeting is to be held on 8 February at 11am in the Group Space, Ulster Hall. It will meet approximately four times a year.</p>
2.1.3	<p>It is suggested that each political party represented on Belfast City Council nominates a Member to sit on this partnership. Further, it is suggested that to maintain coherence across activities, the Members nominated should also sit on the Cross Party Reference Group on Community Planning. The staff in the BHDU will provide support for the members of the Partnership.</p>

3	Resource Implications
3.1	None specific to Partnership Membership

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	None at present

5	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is asked to agree to nominate one representative from each Party to sit on the Belfast Strategic Partnership for Health and Wellbeing.

	Decision Tracking
The Director of Health and Environmental Services will update the Committee on developments as the Partnership develops.	

	Key to Abbreviations
<p>BHDU – Belfast Health Development Unit NIHE - Northern Ireland Housing Executive PHA - Public Health Agency BHSCT – Belfast Health and Social Care Trust PSNI - Police Service of Northern Ireland</p>	

	Documents Attached
None	



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	The Health Employment Partnership Employability Model
Date:	21 January 2011
Reporting Officer:	Jill Minne Head of Human Resources
Contact Officer:	Catherine Christy, Principal HR Advisor, ext 3226

Purpose of report:
The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an overview of the West Belfast and Greater Shankill Health Employment Partnership and examine the possibility of developing a similar employment partnership scheme for the council.

Relevant background information:
<p>At its meeting on 1 December 2010 the council acknowledged the work of the West Belfast and Greater Shankill Health Employment Partnership. It noted the provision of pre-employment training and support to 300 long term unemployed and that 143 of these long term unemployed people secured employment in Belfast HSC Trust. It was agreed that this matter be referred to the Strategic Policy and Resources to examine the possibility of developing a similar employment partnership scheme for the council.</p> <p>The Health Employment Partnership.</p> <p>The Health Employment Partnership (HEP) was developed as an output of the work of the West Belfast and Greater Shankill Task Forces and is a unique partnership involving Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, UNISON and the community. HEP is a regeneration initiative that has sought to target the most disadvantaged areas in West Belfast and Greater Shankill, its aim being to demonstrate that the health and social services sector can make a substantial contribution towards regeneration by addressing worklessness and poor job progression. The project is focussed upon two core areas of work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pre-employment support - targeted at the unemployed and economically inactive, by providing training relevant to jobs in the health sector as well as general job search support and personal skill development. ▪ Job progression - targeted at staff already in entry level positions in the health sector, providing training and development to assist with career progression. <p>An independent evaluation of the West Belfast and Greater Shankill Health Employment Partnership concluded that the Partnership's employment programme has</p>

been very impressive and value-for-money, with a job conversion rate of 47% and a cost per job outcome that compares very favourably with other DEL employability initiatives and a boost to the local economy of around £1 million each year. Through the programme, 143 people got jobs with the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. In addition, over 300 staff in the Trust received training to help them develop their careers, and 36 entry-grade staff have already obtained promotion.

The initial feasibility study was funded by DEL and the project was then funded by the Department of Health and Social Services and Public Safety, under the Renewing Communities Programme. While £1million was initially allocated to the HEP, the total project cost was £670 000 spent over the three years of the project which ran between 2007 and 2009.

Funding has now ceased for the HEP and future funding opportunities are currently being explored with DHSSPS, DEL and DSD.

Existing employability initiatives in Belfast City Council

Young Persons Employment Initiative

The council has recently worked in partnership with DEL and North City Training - Bryson Charitable Group's Training and Employment Unit on a pilot of the Young Person Employment Initiative (YPEI). The programme provided young people (aged 18-24), who had been unemployed for more than one year, temporary waged work experience over a 26 week period. The council facilitated 36 placement opportunities, five of which were graduate opportunities. The young people worked on a range of projects which are of value to the ratepayers of Belfast. They carried out a range of work in recycling and cleansing services and worked in various locations across the city such as Musgrave Park, Belfast Castle and Connswater Community Greenway.

The aim of the programme was to potentially provide a pathway into the labour market by offering paid work experience, employability training and personal development. To date, 16 (44%) of the young people have moved into employment.

An application has been made by North City Training, Bryson Charitable Group's Training and Employment Unit for European Social Fund (ESF) assistance to further develop the YPEI pilot. If successful, the council has committed to facilitating further placements for long term unemployed young people.

Public Employment Partnership (PEP)

For the past two years the council has engaged with the Citywide Employability Consortium (CEC) to develop a pre-employment training programme for the long term unemployed¹. North Belfast Partnership Board (NBPB) which works in partnership with the CEC project manages the programme. Other public sector partners working on the programme are the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

The aim of the programme is to assist the long term unemployed gain the necessary skills and experience to support them in gaining employment. As part of the programme the council facilitates site visits, work experience placements and mock interview sessions. To date the council has facilitated 19 placements across various disciplines e.g. refuse collection, street sweeping, gardening, cleaning, community services and

administration. Of the 19 placement participants, 7 (36.8%) have gained employment. Eleven site visits and 3 mock interview sessions have also taken place.

Provision of external funding for other employability projects.

The Development Committee has in recent years provided match funding for a number of employability projects. One of the most successful employability projects, the HARTE (Hospitality and Retail Training for Employment) has to date assisted almost 80 long term unemployed people to secure employment while an additional 30 have gone on to further training and education. An application has been made to develop and expand the HARTE programme under the new round of ESF. The proposed project will engage over 200 long term unemployed with a view to helping them find jobs in the tourism, hospitality and wider service industry. It is also being supported by Lisburn City Council and will run in the Belfast and Lisburn areas. A decision around future funding of the HARTE project is yet to be taken by the Development Committee.

Overall the council has set aside £100,000 to support employability initiatives in the current estimates under the Economic Development budget. However, no budgetary approval for individual projects has yet been granted. A report outlining match funding requests for a range of ESF projects will be discussed by the Development Committee in February 2011. The department may also consider a wider range of employability initiatives in conjunction with DEL and other statutory and community partners although the details of these have not yet been finalised. Any financial commitment would have to be found within the agreed Development budget for 2011/2012.

Key Issues:

The HEP model has proved very successful and clearly there is potential to bring the learning from the project into the council's employability initiatives. Since the inception of the HEP project however, circumstances which could impact on the success of such a project have changed both inside and outside the council. The following issues need to be considered when assessing the feasibility of the council delivering a scheme of similar nature and size:

- The HEP project has received funding over a period of 3 years of nearly £670 000. The future of the HEP will depend on securing funding.
- When the HEP project started the health sector was experiencing difficulty filling certain types of posts. Unemployment was generally low and the hospitals had a number of "hard to fill" vacancies. However, the volume of basic entry recruitment in the council has decreased steadily in recent years, (from 52 basic grade appointees in 2008 to 3 in 2010.) More detail is provided in Appendix 1. There are a number of reasons for this decrease, including the economic climate, the efficiency agenda, increased emphasis on the monitoring and control of employee costs and more stringent vacancy control procedures. Appendix 1 also provides information on the workforce turnover figures for staff in basic entry posts which has also declined in recent years.
- In addition to the current council employment initiatives detailed above we also provide training and development for existing basic entry staff to seek to help with job progression. Appendix 1 provides information on the number of basic entry staff who have availed of the council's essential skills and development programmes since 2005 and outlines the number of people who have been promoted since participating in those programmes.

Notwithstanding the above issues there are clearly elements of the HEP model that could be investigated further and incorporated into the council's employability outreach activity.

Resource Implications:

As outlined above, part of the HEP project's success has been attributable to a substantial budget which would need to be externally sourced.

Recommendations:

The research carried out to date on the HEP employability model would indicate that the council's employability initiatives could benefit from the learning derived from the project, including the success of the equal partnership between employers, trade unions and the community. It is therefore recommended that:

- the council invites the Health Employment Partnership to disseminate the best practice of the HEP model at an event with Belfast City Council, trade unions and other relevant stakeholders.
- the council's Community Outreach team further examines the Health Employment Partnership model and integrates any feasible best practice elements of the programme into our existing and proposed employability initiatives
- HR establishes contact with the Job Assist Centres to discuss how the long term unemployed could be better facilitated in their preparation for applying for jobs within the council
- the council continues to be represented at a senior level on the Employers' Forum, to ensure the council's influence, civic leadership and contribution to employability initiatives along with other leading employers in the city.
- HR will work with the Development Department to explore any future funding opportunities that could assist the council's employability outreach activities.

HR will continue to update the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on a regular basis on progress with the council's employability initiatives.

Decisions required:

Members are asked to agree the recommendations in this report.

Key to Abbreviations

HEP – Health Employment Partnership
PEP – Public Employment Partnership
CEC – Citywide Employability Consortium
NBPB – North Belfast Partnership Board
YPEI – Young Persons employment Initiative
ESF – European Social Fund
HARTE – Hospitality and Retail Training for Employment

Appendix 1

1. Recent basic entry grade recruitment activity

	Number of recruitment campaigns	Number of people recruited into F/T and P/T posts
2008	23	52
2009	13	39
2010	4	3

2. Basic grade turnover for permanent full time and part time posts

2007	2008	2009	2010
51	38	39	26

3. Provision of learning and development for basic entry grade staff

Step up to Learn
(Literacy and numeracy)

Year	Numbers attended
2005	27
2006	35
2007	18
2008	9
2009	8
2010	14
Totals	111

Frontline Development Programme

Year	Numbers attended
2006	33
2007	74
2008	70
2009	52
2010	63
Total	292

4. Basic grade staff promoted after training & development

Year	Numbers promoted after training & development activity	Training & Development Activity
2008	9	Front Line Development Programme
	2	Step up to learn
	2	Front Line Development Programme & Step up to learn
	1	First Line Supervisory Development Programme
2009	3	Front Line Development Programme
2010	3	Front Line Development Programme
		Step up to Learn

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Update on Peace III Priority 2.1 Capital bids for Shared Space
Date:	21 January 2011
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects, Ext: 6217
Contact Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects, Ext: 6217

Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to update Members on the status of council led projects under Peace III Priority 2.1 '*Creating Shared Public Spaces*' call for capital projects and to inform Members of a request from the Falls Community Council for the Council to act as the lead partner on its Peace III application to develop a shared space on the site of the former school at St Comgall's.

Relevant Background Information

- 2.1 Members will recall that the Strategic P&R committee at its meeting in October 2010 was informed that SEUPB had reopened the call for bids under Priority 2.1 '*Creating Shared Public Spaces*' of the Peace III programme with a closing date for applications being 17th January 2011.

As Members are aware, under this priority SEUPB is seeking strategic physical project submissions that can be easily recognised as a Peace III project after the programme completes in 2015. The central issue that projects need to demonstrate is their ability to deliver peace and reconciliation outcomes and to be iconic, transformational projects that would provide a lasting legacy to the PEACE III programme. All monies under this call have to be committed by December 2013 and spent by mid 2015 so the timescales are extremely tight for capital projects.

At the Committee meeting in October a long list of projects were presented for consideration of Members for submission under this priority. It was also agreed that the Council should only submit 1 or 2 very well defined projects under this call in order to maximise its chances of a getting a successful application under this call.

At this meeting the following decisions were therefore agreed in relation to projects -

Project	Recommendation in October 2010
Sports Village at North Foreshore	Further detail to be worked up
Belfast Story at Central Library	Further detail to be explored to assess the suitability and viability of this project as well as ongoing discussions with Libraries NI with an update to be

	taken to Committee
Ulster Sports Museum	Further detail to be explored to assess the suitability and viability of this project as well as ongoing discussions with USMA with an update to be taken to Committee
North Belfast Cultural Corridor	No further action – SEUPB feedback was that this project did not fulfil the aims of Priority 2.1. Elements being progressed under Priority 1.1.
Gasworks Bridge	No further action – SEUPB feedback was that this project did not fulfil the aims of Priority 2.1.
North Foreshore Bridge	No further action – this project has previously been rejected and it is therefore unlikely to be successful.
HMS Caroline	No further action – unlikely that SEUPB will fund two similar projects under this funding programme
Black Mountain Shared Spaces Project	No further action – this project is still in the early stages of development and so will not meet the tight timeframe for the submission of applications.
Interface Areas	No further action – being progressed by the Council in conjunction with the Belfast Interface Trust and the Belfast Interface Project under Priority 1.1.

Members will also be aware that the Council's application for a Community Hub at Girdwood was previously deferred pending further information. An update on the current status of the projects is contained in the section below.

Key Issues – Update

- 3.1 Following the meeting of the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee in October officers have been progressing work on the projects agreed above – Sports Village at North Foreshore, Belfast Story at Central Library and the Ulster Sports Museum to ascertain their suitability and viability under this call. As well as continuing discussions with the relevant stakeholders on these projects the Council also completed Expressions of Interest on the Sports Village and Belfast Story proposals and met with SEUPB officials to discuss these projects. Officers also held meetings with key Members to discuss the Council's proposed projects under this call in order to make use of existing Member experience with SEUPB.

Update on Council-led projects

1. *Sports Village at the North Foreshore* – the development of a cross community facility aimed at promoting good relations via sport, recreational training and education on the North Foreshore site. The Council has led on the development of this bid with the support of Crusaders/ Newington Football Clubs. As Members are aware the original Sports Village bid got through to economic appraisal phase in 2010 but was rejected on grounds of limited peace inputs and gaps in the business plan. These areas were substantially reworked in the new submission.
Status – Application for the development of a Community Sports Facility was submitted on 17th January. Members will be kept up to date with regards to the progress of this application
2. *Belfast Story' at Belfast Central Library* – As Members are aware discussions have been ongoing with Libraries NI re potential future collaboration opportunities and that one opportunity which had been identified was the potential for space in the refurbished Belfast Central Library to host a 'Belfast Story'. As directed by Committee in October, council officers progressed discussions with Libraries NI staff re this proposal. However a number of major issues were identified which severely impacted on the potential for

this project to succeed. Libraries NI have prepared an Outline Business Case for the Central Library project however the project is contingent on Libraries NI receiving the go ahead for the overall refurbishment project from DCAL. Planning permission for the project would also need to be obtained and feedback from Libraries NI was that earliest completion dates for their project would have been August 2015. As Members are aware there are very tight timeframes in place for Priority 2.1 projects with all monies having to be committed by December 2013 and spent by mid 2015. This would not have been possible with the current timeframes being advised by Libraries NI for the Central Library project. Members are also asked to note that initial discussions with SEUPB also indicated that this project was unlikely to succeed under this call as it did not sufficiently fulfil the aims of the priority.

Status– Application not proceeded due to the reasons outlined above. Council officers will continue to progress discussions with officials from Libraries NI re other potential collaboration opportunities.

3. *Ulster Sports Museum* – The Ulster Sports Museum Association have been working for a number of years towards establishing a permanent museum to celebrate Ulster’s greatest sports men and women. Council officers have met with the USMA on a number of occasions to discuss their proposals and the USMA have highlighted that there are strong arguments for locating the sports museum in Belfast City Centre. It has been stressed to the USMA that the Council will not, given the current economic situation, be able to contribute directly to the financing of this project. Further to these discussions the Council investigated the potential for this project to be included as part of the sports facility proposal at the North Foreshore. However this proved to be unviable due to space and cost reasons as it would have prohibitively raised the costs for facility.

Status – Not proceeded with under this call due to the reasons outlined above. Council officers will continue to progress discussions with the USMA to identify other funding opportunities and identify alternative potential locations.

4. *Girdwood Community Hub* – As Members are aware SEUPB have previously deferred consideration of the Council’s application for the development of a Community Hub at Girdwood pending receipt of further information including -
 - an implementation timetable for the Hub and the wider site (including housing and infrastructure) within an agreed masterplan
 - further evidence that there is full political and local community support, particularly in the Protestant/ Unionist community, for the project
 - an Equality Impact Assessment incorporating further consultation
 - further details on the programming of the facility by strategic partners and SLAs

SEUPB have advised that the Priority 2.1 Steering Committee felt that this project has the capacity to be transformational and iconic but that this was caveated by the risks involved in moving forward.

The SP&R Committee agreed in June 2010 that work was progressed on submitting the further information as requested above by SEUPB in relation to this application. As a result the Council has continued to progress work on this application including -

- developing an engagement matrix and continuing the process of engagement with the local political and community representatives re this proposal. These meetings have been very productive and highlighted a general support for the Hub proposal from all participants and a welcoming of the potential to secure a substantial investment in the area
- continuing to work closely with the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) and the Department for Social Development (DSD). Discussions with senior representatives from these Departments have highlighted that work is ongoing in relation to finalising the overall Masterplan for the site and that consideration has been given to the budgetary requirements for funding the infrastructure required to enable development on the site as part of the Budget 2010 process. These discussions are continuing.

As outlined council officers met with SEUPB in December and at this meeting it was highlighted that SEUPB are keen to confirm definitively if the Community Hub proposal is to proceed. It should be noted that the Community Hub proposal has not yet been formally signed off for an award but that it is considered to strongly meet the objectives of the Priority 2.1 programme. However SEUPB have highlighted that they will be unwilling to risk investment in this project without the overall masterplan being agreed.

Members are asked to note that there is a risk to both the Council and SEUPB in terms of the timeframe around this project in that funding needs committed by 2013 and spent by 2015. Working back from 2013 there are considerable pressures to obtain overall agreement, install infrastructure, do detailed design, get planning permission, procure a contract and so on.

Members are asked to consider this tight timeframe and note that the Council has agreed to get back to SEUPB within the coming month with a definitive position in relation to the Girdwood application. Clarification has been sought from DSD regarding the status of the masterplan and the resources necessary to deliver it.

Other projects

5. *St Comgall's* – Officers from the Council met recently with representatives from the Falls Community Council who have submitted an application under the Priority 2.1 call for the development of a shared space centre on the site of the former school at St. Comgall's on the Falls Road. The main objectives of the St. Comgall's projects are to -
 - redevelop the St Comgall's School Site as a symbol of and catalyst for regeneration in an area which is suffering the effects of physical dereliction as a consequence of the conflict and anti-social behaviour;
 - promote cross-community engagement in depicting a shared and balanced view of the history of the conflict and its impact on local residents;
 - provide a facility within a recognised interface area in order to contribute towards an increase in inter-community mobility; and
 - provide an iconic, sustainable, mixed-use space for education, training, and exhibition in order to promote awareness and understanding of cross-community perspectives for local, regional and international audiences.

Further detail on the St. Comgall's project is attached at Appendix A.

The Falls Community Council have requested that the Council act as the lead statutory partner in this project and the Committee is asked to consider if it wishes to act as the lead partner on this project. Within this context, Members are asked to note that this project would support the Council to deliver an improved quality of life for now and for future generations and that the development of the site at St. Comgall's has a good strategic fit with the Council's place-shaping agenda for the city, particularly regarding shared space. The site is strategically important in the regeneration of the area as it is a landmark building on a key arterial route linking the west of the city with the city centre.

Should the Committee agree to act as lead partner for this project, officers will proceed to formalise the partnership and draft the appropriate legal agreements with Falls Community Council.

Resource Implications
4.1 Financial None at present.
4.2 Human Resources Additional officer time will be required to progress applications.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to–

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">5.1 Note that the Council submitted an application for the development of the Community Sports Facility at the North Foreshore and the reasons why the Belfast Story and Ulster Sports Museum proposals were not pursued5.2 Note the update that has been provided in relation to the Girdwood application5.3 Agree to grant authority for the Council to act as the lead partner on the St. Comgall's project which has been submitted by the Falls Community Council, subject to appropriate legal agreements being prepared by the Town Solicitor |
|--|

Abbreviations

DSD – Department for Social Development

SEUPB – Special European Union Programmes Body
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Documents Attached

None.

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	North Foreshore Update
Date:	21 January 2011
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects

1	Purpose
1.1	To update Committee on the North Foreshore project, the first meeting of the political steering group and to seek approval for subsequent actions.

2	Background
2.1	The North Foreshore is a former landfill site owned and operated by Belfast City Council. Although the site closed as a landfill in 2007 it does and will remain a major environmental liability due to the nature of the material deposited as landfill.
2.2	There are consequently a number of ongoing actions such as the completion of site capping, management of methane gas and leachate, continual monitoring and assessment as the physical nature of the landfill changes over time.
2.3	The site also provides opportunities in that it is a large scale open space, well located for commercial purposes and with good transport links.
2.4	The Council has attempted to realise some beneficial development on the on a number of occasions including the Giants Park lottery bid and the energy to waste plant but such major development has been hampered by the high cost associated with installing the necessary infrastructure on such difficult made up ground as well as a lack of consensus on what should be developed.
2.5	The Council did install electrical supply infrastructure to the site and a number of smaller developments have taken place such as gas to electricity generation which is producing an income for Council; a waste transfer station and negotiations are ongoing on regard to both a mechanical biological treatment (MBT) plant and a composting facility. There is also a Peace 3 bid for a sports Village which is detailed in a separate paper on this agenda.
2.6	The committee has agreed to establish a North Foreshore political steering group to drive and direct the development of the overall site via an oversight board of COMT.

3	Key Issues
3.1	The political steering Group (SG) held its first meeting on 16 December 2010 to consider a number of issues.
3.2	The initial meeting consisted of the chairmen of the four relevant committees i.e. SP&R, P&L, H&ES and Development.
3.3	The SG agreed to expand membership to include one additional party group member from the two North Belfast electoral areas. Committee endorsement of this recommendation as with any SG recommendations is required.
3.4	The SG then received a summary of a cross departmental officer workshop which had considered various ideas for the site, their relevance to Belfast and most importantly although most difficult how could any such ideas be delivered.
3.5	<p>There are no immediate and obvious answers as to how the crippling infrastructure costs can be overcome but the SG agreed on the following points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council alone does not have the financial resources to fully develop the site • The Council alone does not have all the necessary expertise • Time is a major consideration as it will take decades to fully develop this site and phasing will be important • The benefits of any development need to be obvious to the city and local communities
3.6	On this basis it was agreed that we should seek out development opportunities that have resources both in terms of finance and expertise and that are compatible with the environmental limitations of the site and of course continue with the agreed waste issues.
3.7	Two specific opportunities were identified. The first was a proposal from Crusaders/Newington and a third party to develop a sports/leisure complex either in conjunction with or instead of the proposed sports village. The SG was keen that this proposal is explored further.
3.8	The second opportunity is in the broad area of the bio-economy which is a growing sector and the site has already attracted interest from sources such as INI and some energy companies for research and development projects and bio fuel possibilities.
3.9	To bring some realism to these latter ideas the SG proposed that a business plan be commissioned either by the Council or in partnership with interested parties to test the viability of going down this route. Such a business plan was also seen to be useful in attempting to exploit any green funding that may be available from Europe or elsewhere.
3.10	The SG was also satisfied that temporary uses such as events should be considered.
3.11	The SG was also updated on the East London Green Enterprise District and

	Sustainable Industry Park which had attracted significant European funding. A site/study visit is suggested to assist the SG understanding of the possibilities and practicalities of developing this site.
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4	Resources
4.1	There are costs associated with the development of a business plan and a potential site visit which can be accommodated within the agreed revenue budget although we do not as yet have detailed costs.

5	Recommendations
5.1	The expansion of the Steering Group to include the chairmen of the four relevant committees and one party group member from each group representing North Belfast.
5.2	The officers explore further the proposed Crusaders/Newington Sports complex proposals including seeking expressions of interest if required subject to legal advice.
5.3	The officers commission a business plan to test the viability of a bio economy model for a portion of the site.
5.4	The Steering Group undertake a site/study visit to the East London Green Enterprise District and Sustainable Industries Park.

6	Decision Tracking

7	Key to Abbreviations

8	Documents Attached

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Connswater Community Greenway Update
Date:	21 st Jan 2011
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects
Contact Officer:	Celine Dunlop Estates Surveyor, Property and Projects.

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Belfast City Council, as part of the City Investment Strategy, has agreed to co-ordinate the acquisition of lands to enable the Connswater Community Greenway Programme to proceed. The Council will secure rights over the land needed for the Greenway and shall be responsible for the management and maintenance of this land and any assets on the land. The Greenway must be accessible for 40 years to comply with the Big Lottery Fund letter of offer, although the intention is to secure rights for longer if possible.
1.2	The Council have awarded the contract for the construction of the Greenway to SIAC/Galliford Try and construction of the first phase is currently programmed to commence in Jan 2011.

2	Key Issues
2.1	(i) An area of land at Elmgrove consisting of some 0.137 acres and shown outlined red on the attached plan at Appendix '1' has been identified as being required for the Connswater Community Greenway. Council officials have agreed to purchase these lands from the Belfast Education and Library Board for £4000.
2.2	(ii) An area of land at Orangefield and Grosvenor schools consisting of 6.38 acres and shown outlined red on the attached plan at Appendix '2' has been identified as being required for the Connswater Community Greenway. Council officials have agreed to purchase these lands from the Belfast

	Education and Library Board for £245,000.
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3	Resource Implications
	Financial
3.1	(i) The proposal to acquire the land at Elmgrove from the Belfast Education and Library Board requires expenditure of £4000 to purchase the land plus associated reasonable professional and legal fees.
3.2	(ii) The proposal to acquire the land at Orangefield and Grosvenor schools from the Belfast Education and Library Board requires expenditure of £245,000 to purchase the land plus associated reasonable professional and legal fees.
3.3	The purchase costs for all of the land required for the Connswater Community Greenway are included in the Connswater Community Greenway budget of the City Investment Fund and there will be no additional cost to Council.
3.4	Human Resources Staff resource required from Estates Management Unit and Legal Services.
	Asset and Other Implications The additional land will form part of the Connswater Community Greenway which when complete will be managed and maintained by the Council.

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	The Connswater Community Greenway will have a positive impact in terms of equality of opportunity and good relations.

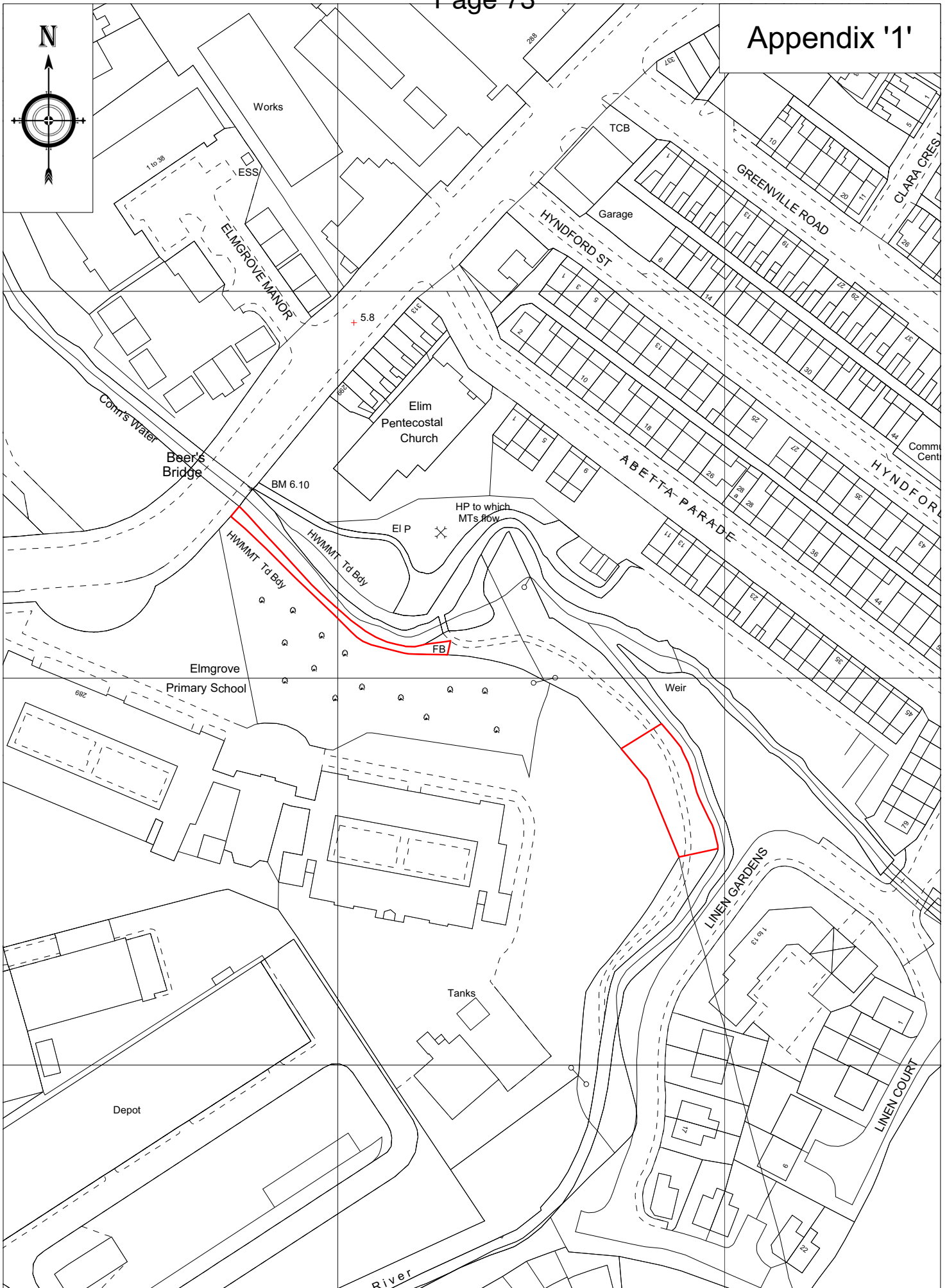
5	Recommendations
5.1	(i) It is recommended that the Committee grant approval for the Council to purchase the lands at Elmgrove outlined red on the plan attached at Appendix '1' from Belfast Education and Library Board for £4000.
5.2	(ii) It is recommended that the Committee grant approval for the Council to purchase the lands at Orangefield and Grosvenor Schools outlined red on the plan attached at Appendix '2' from Belfast Education and Library Board for £245,000.

6	Decision Tracking
6.1	Action to be complete by Celine Dunlop and Lisa Armstrong by 22 nd March 2011.

7	Key to Abbreviations
7.1	N/A

8	Documents Attached
8.1	Plans at Appendix '1' and Appendix '2'.

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Scale 1:1250

Connswater Community Greenway - Plot 42

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Scale 1:3000

Connswater Community Greenway - Plot 88a

Area 6.382 acres

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Asset Management: Former Civic Amenity Sites at Primrose Street & Seapark Drive
Date:	21 January 2011
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects, Ext. 6217.
Contact Officer:	Cathy Reynolds, Estates Manager, Ext. 3493.

Relevant Background Information

Proposed Lease of Primrose Street & Seapark

- 1.1 The Strategic Policy & Resources Committee, at their meeting on 19 June 2009 granted approval to the disposal of the former civic amenity sites at Seapark Drive and Primrose Street, following extensive marketing on the open market. Location Maps are located at Appendices 1 & 2. The Seapark Drive premises extend to approx 0.06 acres and the Primrose Street site extends to 0.087 acres.
- 1.2 Approval was granted to the disposal of Seapark Drive for the sum of £70,500. The Primrose Street premises had been marketed simultaneously (as agreed previously by Committee) with an adjoining piece of land owned by Ligoneil Pigeon Society Social Club and approval was granted to the disposal of both the Council's property and the adjoining land for the sum of £115,000. The Council's pro rata apportionment of this sale was to be £85,000. It should be noted that there was very limited interest in both properties during the marketing period.
- 1.3 Unfortunately, however, both sales have subsequently fallen through. In the case of the Seapark Drive premises the proposed purchaser had initially said they were making a cash offer although subsequently could only complete on the basis of the sale of another property in order to provide equity and additional finance was required. The purchaser has now withdrawn his offer and there are currently no other parties interested despite continued marketing. At Primrose Street there were issues with the title to the adjoining land owned by the Ligoneil Pigeon Society Social Club, which took some time for them to resolve. Whilst they say these are now resolved the proposed purchaser has withdrawn his offer and again there are currently no other parties interested despite continued marketing.

- 1.4 The marketing agents have advised that the value of both properties has fallen significantly. The market for development land is poor due to the lack of capital available to builders and the poor demand from occupiers. In both cases the most likely end use is as small housing sites and demand for residential land is particularly weak.
- 1.5 Despite continued marketing there has been no further interest to purchase either property. Meanwhile the premises lie vacant and there are ongoing maintenance/monitoring issues due to break ins etc. Both premises contain stores and a secured yard area. As an alternative to outright disposal it may be possible, subject to demand, to lease both of the sites for storage/small business use in the short term. If there was interest in leasing the premises this could provide an income stream to the Council pending an improvement in the residential market and availability of capital. In the case of Primrose Street it would only be the Council owned premises that would be offered to let.
- 1.6 Both sites could therefore be offered to let on the open market on the basis of say an annual tenancy that could continue on a yearly basis thereafter subject to the agreement of both parties.

Key Issues

- 2.1 Former civic amenity sites at Seapark Drive and Primrose Street previously agreed for sale but sales have subsequently fallen through.
- 2.2 Despite continued marketing there has been no further interest in purchasing the properties.
- 2.3 Capital Values have decreased since the date of previous marketing.
- 2.4 Rather than the premises continuing to lie vacant with no return to the Council, they could alternatively be offered to let on the open market on a short term basis and subsequent lease management undertaken by the Estates Management Unit.
- 2.5 Following marketing on the basis of a short term lease a further report will be brought back to Committee to seek approval to the terms of the leases.

Resource Implications

3.1 Financial

Not known at this stage. Further reports to be brought back to Committee following marketing.

3.2 Human Resources

No additional human resources required. Existing resource in Legal Services Department and Estates Management Unit (EMU) required in agreeing detailed lease terms.

3.3 Asset and Other Implications

The lease of the premises would bring an income-producing use to Council assets that

are currently unoccupied. Duration of lease brings flexibility to Council and to the prospective tenant. Council's ability to recover possession is protected by statute.

Recommendations

4.1 The Committee is recommended to approve that the former civic amenity sites at Primrose Street and Seapark Drive are advertised to let on the open market with a further report to be brought back to Committee in due course to approve the terms of any lettings.

Decision Tracking

5.1 Director of Property and Projects to ensure the premises are advertised to let on the open market by March 2011.

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 – Map showing land owned by Council at Seapark Drive

Appendix 2 – Map showing land owned by Council at Primrose Street

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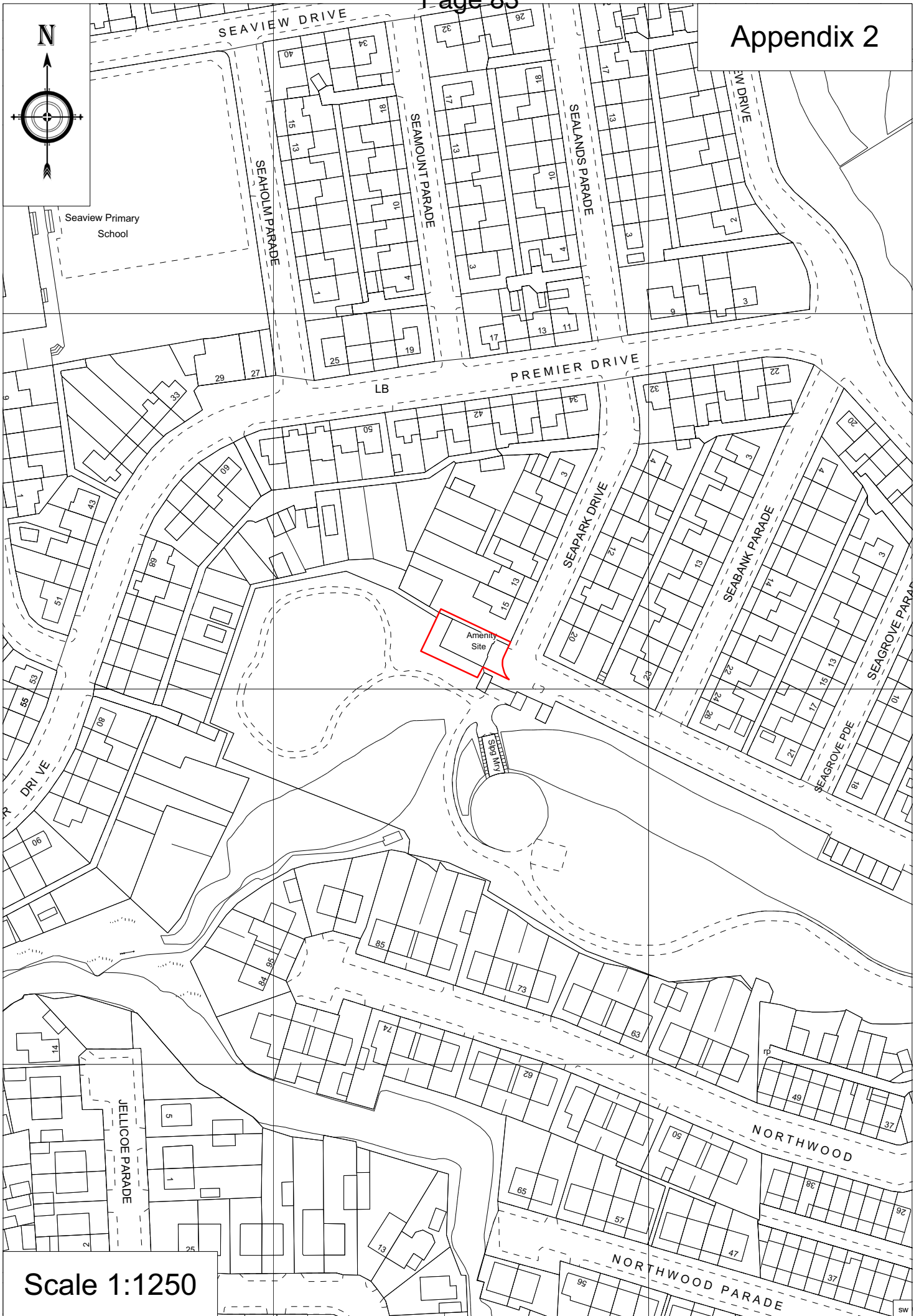
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Seaview Primary School



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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Disposal of land at M2/Duncrue Place to DRD
Date:	21 st Jan 2011
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects
Contact Officer:	Celine Dunlop, Estates Surveyor, Property and Projects

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	<p>Belfast City Council own the lands shaded yellow on the attached plan at Appendix '1'. The land is leased to a number of different tenants for periods of either 99 or 125 years. The area of land consisting of 685.8 sq metres outlined red on the attached plan at Appendix '1' had been retained by the Council. In March 2002 the area outlined red on the plan at Appendix '1' was erroneously sold for £10,000 by the Department for Regional Development(DRD) to Ravenblack Developments Ltd by way of a 999 year lease. The Estates Management Unit (EMU) became aware of DRD's mistake in December 2003 and despite claims by DRD that they owned it, EMU and Legal Services successfully proved that the Council did have title to the land.</p> <p>DRD initially suggested that they return the £10,000 consideration monies (received from Ravenblack in 2002) and that in return the Council would execute a Deed of Rectification in favour of Ravenblack on the same terms as between DRD and Ravenblack.</p> <p>Under the terms of the Local Government Act (NI) 1972 the Council can only dispose of land on the best terms (etc) available, and Council officers were firmly of the view that if DRD simply give the Council the money received by them from Ravenblack this would certainly not represent disposal on the best terms available.</p> <p>Following protracted discussion with the Department of Finance (DFP), DFP agreed in July 2007 to pay the full current market value of the land that DRD had erroneously sold and they subsequently appointed Land and Property Services Agency (L&PS) to assess the market value.</p>

	<p>In May 2010 L&PS reported the following valuations to DFP solicitors:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Estimated 2002 value - £50,000 2. Estimated 2007 value - £170,000 3. Estimated 2010 value - £80,000 <p>Following further protracted negotiations the Estates Management Unit obtained DFP/DRD agreement to the sale of the land at 2007 values, namely £170,000.</p>
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2	Key Issues
2.1	Council officials have agreed to the sale of the land at Duncrue Place/M2 motorway outlined red on the plan at Appendix '1' to DRD for £170,000 subject to Council approval.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p>Financial</p> <p>The sale of these assets will result in a capital return to the Council of a total sum of £170,000 which could be used in furtherance of the City Investment Fund or other corporate priorities.</p>
3.2	<p>Human Resources</p> <p>Staff resource required from the Estates Management Unit and Legal Services.</p>
3.3	<p>Asset and other Implications</p> <p>The proposal to sell this area to DRD resolves to the satisfaction</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	There are no equality or good relations implications to this disposal.

5	Recommendations
5.1	It is recommended that the Committee grant approval for the Council to dispose of the lands at Duncrue Place and as outlined red on the plan at Appendix '1' to DRD for £170,000.

6	Decision Tracking
6.1	Action to be completed by Legal Services by 31 st March 2011.

	Key to Abbreviations
<p>DFP Department of Finance and Personnel DRD Department for Regional Development L&PS Land & Property Services Agency EMU Estates Management Unit</p>	

	Documents Attached
<p>Plan at Appendix'1'</p>	

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M2 MOTORWAY

M2 MOTORWAY

DUNCRUE PLACE

DUNCRUE PASS

Warehouse

Tank

Warehouse

ESS

Warehouse

Scale 1:1250

SS

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Application for use of City Hall grounds to hold a Tesco "Taste Northern Ireland" food event
Date:	21 st January 2011
Reporting Officer:	G Millar, Director of Property & Projects
Contact Officer:	George Wright, Head of Facilities Management (Ext. 6232/5206)

Relevant Background Information

- 1.1 Members will be aware that the Committee has delegated authority for routine requests for use of the City Hall grounds etc. to the Director of Property & Projects, on the basis of an agreed set of criteria. However it was recognized that there would still be occasions on which the nature, scale and/or scope of the request means that it is appropriate to place the matter directly before the Committee. The request detailed below falls into this category, and the direction of the Committee is therefore sought.
- 1.2 A formal request has been received from Tesco to organise a "**Taste Northern Ireland**" consumer food event in the grounds of the City Hall in late August or early September 2011 (exact dates to be confirmed). Essentially this would involve Tesco inviting local food and beverage producers to participate in a 2 or 3-day event aimed at show-casing local produce to consumers.
- 1.3 The event would take place in a covered marquee which would be approx. 1,300m² in size. Exhibitors would populate stands with their products, literature and own branding, often adding cookery demonstrations and other similar activities to add interest. They may make sales direct to the public and can also issue vouchers which consumers can use in-store. A cookery kitchen inside the marquee would operate for the duration of the event, giving local restaurant chefs the opportunity to promote their businesses to potential customers in addition to providing educational cookery sessions etc. A 'kidzone' would be provided for visiting children, themed around food production. Similar events have been held at other venues in recent years (including one in partnership with Glasgow City Council) and have apparently attracted attendances of up to 12,500.
- 1.4 The various exhibitors would pay exhibitor fees to Tesco in order to participate in the event, however the Tesco application emphasizes that "in return for exhibitor

fees we will provide logistical and other support, plus a marketing campaign which will drive high visitor numbers. The event is non profit-making and Tesco will be far and away the main funder". It should, however, be noted that the entire event would carry fairly prominent Tesco branding.

- 1.5 No fast-food or similar vendors are permitted to participate, so there would be little in the way of direct competition with city-centre based retailers. The organisers do not require any access to the main City Hall building, although they will require use of the electrical infrastructure to provide power to the various appliances etc.
- 1.6 In terms of marketing, the event would be promoted via 'billboards, a partnership with a local radio station, a PR campaign, leafleting at busy locations around Belfast and leafleting in all local Tesco stores'.
- 1.7 Tesco has indicated that there may be an opportunity, if desired, to develop a joint message with BCC in relation to the in-store leafleting and marketing campaign. Tesco has asserted that that it would be willing to offer "the opportunity for BCC to promote some of its own projects and activities at Tesco stores, which have a very high reach into local communities particularly for families...whether via literature or manned, i.e. we can explore opportunities for the partnership [to] work to enhance BCC's interests beyond the event itself".
- 1.8 Discussions have therefore taken place with Corporate Communications in relation to these potential opportunities and - if the Committee is minded to avail of and maximise these opportunities – it has been suggested that this could best be achieved through the inclusion of the council's Advertising Manager in the team developing the PR and marketing campaign, in order to ensure that BCC's reputation and key messages are protected and promoted.

Key Issues

- 2.1 Members will be aware that the Committee has previously been reluctant to permit events of a largely commercial nature to use the City Hall grounds. This event could certainly be regarded as commercial in nature given the overall Tesco branding, although Tesco do contend that the principal purpose is to allow local food producers who sell to Tesco to 'gather and celebrate the excellence of food produced in Northern Ireland'.
- 2.2 Tesco also suggest that the use of "City Hall as a venue underscores the agri-food industry's importance to the local economy more than any other venue". It emphasizes the Tesco contribution to the local economy in terms of employing over 9,200 staff, buying local goods to the value of £500m in 2010 and having more local suppliers than any other major retailer.
- 2.3 Members will also be conscious of the potential for creating a precedent in this case, as there are of course a number of other significant retailers (Sainsburys, Asda, Marks & Spencer etc) who have occasionally expressed an interest in using the grounds in the past and who may be encouraged to make formal

applications should this event be permitted to proceed.

2.4 Finally, this would be a quite significant event in terms of its scale and scope but would generate no income for the council under the current arrangements (unlike, for example, the Continental Market which operates under specific contractual arrangements and does generate income).

2.5 Members will be aware that a special meeting of this Committee has already been agreed to consider a report on the future use of City Hall, including the issue of charging for the use of the main building and grounds etc, and may wish to defer taking a decision on the Tesco request until the wider strategic discussion has taken place, although Tesco has indicated that it will require a decision soon in order to proceed with event-planning and marketing etc.

Resource Implications

3.1 There will be no direct resource implications in respect of this application as the organisers will make the appropriate arrangements in terms of stewarding etc. No access to the main building is required, and the organisers would be required to comply with all standard terms and conditions including legal indemnities and lawn re-instatement etc if approval is given.

Decision(s) required

4.1 The direction of the Committee is therefore sought on whether or not to approve the request by Tesco for use of the City Hall grounds for the stated purpose and, if so, whether it wishes to impose any specific conditions.

4.2 In addition, if the Committee is minded to approve the application, it would be useful if the Committee could indicate the basis on which this approval is given, namely either (a) as a 'partner' in the event in terms of the marketing and promotional activities outlined above or (b) as a simple facilitator, providing the site for the event on the basis of the usual requirements and legal obligations etc. but without any connection or linkage to the event itself.

Key to Abbreviations

None.

Documents Attached

None.

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GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP**MONDAY, 10th JANUARY, 2011****MEETING OF THE GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP**

Members present: Councillor Hendron (Chairman); and
Councillors Attwood, Crozier, Maskey and J. Rodgers.

External Members: Mr. S. Brennan, Voluntary/Community Sector;
Rev. L. Carroll, Presbyterian Church;
Ms. A. Chada, Minority Ethnic Groups;
Mr. R. Galway, Bombardier Aerospace/
Confederation of British Industry;
Ms. J. Hawthorne, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;
Mr. P. Mackel, Belfast and District Trades Council;
Mr. P. Scott, Catholic Church; and
Ms. E. Wilkinson, Belfast Regeneration Office.

In attendance: Mrs. H. Francey, Good Relations Manager;
Mr. I. May, Peace III Programme Manager;
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer; and
Mr. G. Graham, Democratic Services Assistant.

Local Area Networks Programme

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Partnership viewed a short DVD highlighting the success of the East Belfast in Bloom Interface Project which was being delivered as part of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's Local Area Networks Programme.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Kyle, McCarthy and Stoker and from Mr. P. Bunting, Archdeacon B. Dodds and Ms. M. de Silva.

Expression of Sympathy

The Partnership was informed that the funeral of Councillor Stoker's mother had taken place earlier that day and, accordingly, it agreed that a letter expressing its condolences and deepest sympathy be forwarded to him.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 3rd December were taken as read and signed as correct.

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**Good Relations Partnership
Monday, 10th January, 2010**

Peace III – Implementation Update

The Partnership considered a report which provided an update in respect of the implementation of Phase I of the Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan. The report provided an overview of the various themes and actions set out within the Plan, together with a summary of expenditure under each of the four elements of the Plan. The Peace III Programme Manager drew the Partnership's attention to the following issues:

Forthcoming Events

“Are Youth Missing Peace?”

A conference which would address the key issues of Young People and Peace would be taking place in the Ulster Hall on 11th January. The event would be facilitated by young people participating in the Youth Intervention Programme which was being delivered by the Scoutlink Trust and all Members of the Partnership were invited to attend.

“Speak Your Peace”

An event was being organised by the Community Relations Council and POBAL in order to discuss primarily issues of particular relevance to the promotion of peace-building initiatives. The conference would be held in the Armagh City Hotel on 24th February and an invitation would be extended to all Members of the Partnership.

Cultural Networks Review Session

The Partnership was advised that the Good Relations Unit, in conjunction with Groundwork NI, would, on 28th January, be facilitating an event in order to review the 2010 Cultural Networks Programme and to provide an update on the proposed Programme for 2011. The review session, which would be held in the offices of Groundwork NI, would involve community, statutory and other organisations and all Members of the Partnership were invited to attend the session.

Respect Through Sport Programme

An event to celebrate the success of the Respect Through Sport Programme, which was being delivered by the Council's Parks and Leisure Department, would be taking place in the City Hall at 7.00 p.m. on 18th January. All Members of the Partnership were invited to attend.

Project Extensions

The Peace III Programme Manager reported that a number of partner organisations, which had been contracted until 31st December, 2010 to deliver projects under the Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan, had sought to have their contracts extended beyond that date. He explained that the extended period would allow for the completion of project activities. He pointed out that there would be no additional costs associated with the proposed extensions and

**Good Relations Partnership,
Monday, 10th January, 2010**

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recommended that the following projects be extended until no later than 31st March, 2011 and that the associated Letters of Offer be revised accordingly, subject to the agreement of revised action plans and expenditure forecasts with the PEACE III Team:

- Belfast Interface Project (Supporting Sharing Project);
- Falls Community Council (Sharing Contentious History);
- Intercomm Ireland (Shaping a Shared Future);
- LINC Resource Centre (Life Beyond Prejudice); and
- Mount Vernon Community Development Forum
(Concilium in Skegoniel and Glandore).

“They Served with Us”

The Peace III Programme Manager tabled for the information of the Members a booklet entitled “They Served with Us” which had been published recently by the North and West Belfast Parades and Cultural Forum. The publication, which had been funded under the Peace III Programme, contained accounts from Members of the Armed Forces who had direct experience of serving alongside individuals from different racial and ethnic backgrounds, particularly from Commonwealth countries.

The Partnership noted the information which had been provided and approved the foregoing project extensions.

Peace III – 70th Anniversary of the Belfast Blitz Commemorative Project

The Partnership was reminded that, at previous meetings, it had considered the issue of uncommitted funding and had identified a number of projects as being suitable for funding under the Belfast Peace and Reconciliation Plan. The Good Relations Manager reported that, included within these had been a project to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Belfast Blitz. She explained that, following consultation with a number of stakeholders and the Special European Union Programmes Body, the following proposal aimed at marking the 70th Anniversary had been formulated:

“Belfast City Council Peace Plan Proposal

Blitz Commemorations 2011

Introduction

The EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland 2007 – 2013 (the Peace III Programme) is a distinctive European Union Structural Funds Programme aimed at reinforcing progress towards a peaceful and stable society and promoting reconciliation.

It will promote social and economic stability in the region by supporting actions to promote cohesion between communities. It will assist Northern Ireland and the Border Region and specifically focus on reconciling communities and contributing towards a shared society. The Programme will carry forward key aspects of the previous Peace Programmes (Peace I and II) and will have a continued and renewed emphasis on reconciliation. The programme has a strong emphasis on addressing sectarianism and racism.

Belfast City Council has brought together a Good Relations Partnership to manage and deliver the Peace III Programme Priority 1.1, Building Positive Relations at a Local Level. The objective of Priority 1.1 is to challenge attitudes towards sectarianism and racism and to support conflict resolution and mediation at the local community level.

The Good Relations Partnership of Belfast City Council has developed the Belfast Peace & Reconciliation Action Plan to meet this objective.

The four key themes of the Plan are to promote:

- Shared city space
- Transforming contested space
- Shared cultural space
- Shared organisational space

Organisations represented on the Partnership include elected Members from all the six political party groups on Belfast City Council; representatives from the major statutory agencies in the city - NI Housing Executive and Department of Social Development's Belfast Regeneration Office; business and the trade unions - Confederation of British Industry, Belfast City Centre Management, Irish Congress of Trade Unions and Belfast Trades Council; the churches and minority faith groups; and representatives from the voluntary and community sector.

Further details are available on www.belfastcity.gov.uk/goodrelations

Belfast City Hall

Belfast City Hall is a key feature of the urban landscape of our capital city. Since its inception local people have made it their own through the erection of statues, protest marches and celebrations. The City Hall reflects the city's unique political, social and economic experiences.

The Council aims to make the City hall environment more balanced and inclusive, reflecting the cultural perspectives of all of the citizens of the city and to demonstrate that our principal civic building is a City Hall for All. Peace III funding will bring clear additionality to this aim.

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Background to Belfast Blitz

When World War II began in 1939 Belfast was woefully unprepared. Despite the fact that Belfast was a prime target for the Luftwaffe, because of its shipyards, aircraft and munitions factories, defence preparations were far from adequate and amongst the poorest in the UK. There was a general belief that Belfast was simply too far away. The city had no fighter squadrons, no barrage balloons and only 7 anti-aircraft batteries. By the beginning of 1941 there were only 4 public air-raid shelters made of sandbags round the City Hall; the Government had paid more attention to arranging camouflage for Parliament Buildings and protecting Carson's statue.

The Blitz in Belfast in April and May of 1941 caused massive damage, both to the city's densely populated inner city housing stock and to its industrial heartland. Almost 1,000 people were killed in the raids and thousands injured. Outside London, no other city in the UK suffered as much loss of civilian life in a single night. More than half the city's housing stock was damaged, leaving around 100,000 people homeless.

Fire bombs and incendiary devices resulted in a huge inferno and fire crews came from Scotland and the north of England. The Irish Government agreed to send help and fire crews from Dublin, Drogheda and Dundalk sped north to help their fellow countrymen.

As the Irish Times recorded: 'Humanity knows no borders, no politics, no differences of religious belief.....Yesterday the hand of good fellowship was reached across the Border. Men from the South worked with men from the North in the universal cause of the relief of suffering'. The Belfast Presbytery recorded its thanks to the southern firemen and De Valera expressed his public sympathy with the victims of the Belfast attack.

The mortuary services had emergency plans to deal with only 200 bodies. In the event, the Falls Road and Peter's Hill public baths and Saint George's market (all Council properties) were used as mortuaries. The many unidentified bodies were buried in mass graves in Milltown and City Cemeteries.

In partnership with community and voluntary based organisations throughout the city, Belfast City Council is keen to organise events in and around April 2011 to mark the 70th anniversary of the Belfast Blitz and the biggest single loss of life in one night in the city's history.

The programme of events will focus on the Blitz as an experience shared equally by the protestant and catholic communities. Such events have a strong potential to reconnect communities that suffered grief and death together and provide an opportunity for them to come together in joint remembrance of this atrocity as a part of our shared history.

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PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

1. The following community groups have been funded by the Council's Good Relations grant aid in relation to their Blitz related activities:

Small Steps Education Group – adding 3 chapters to 'Bodies in our Backyard' a book about the Blitz and conducting workshops about the Blitz in catholic and protestant primary schools. Award = £1,720

The Hub (the only civic defence building remaining in Belfast) a shared history programme about the Belfast Blitz. Award = £3,200

Both these projects will be linked with the Council's plans to commemorate this period in the city's shared history.

2. Intercomm proposal

Intercomm is proposing is to reallocate the resources noted below towards Shaping a Shared Future programme activity. The proposal, outlined below will fit neatly into the wrap around programme that the Council is developing.

The programme would have two phases:

Phase 1: To convene a series of recorded discussions with Third Generation Leaders to engage in the Shaping a Shared Future Programme. The programme would elicit their memories of the Belfast Blitz and how these memories and experiences traversed traditional community boundaries. Story-telling and memory sharing (and importantly how they are heard) are the core building blocks for building tolerance and promoting trust.
6 Days: £250 per day = £1,500

Phase 2: A workshop that seeks to engage and raise awareness among 100 Third Generation Leaders about their role in recounting memories of the Belfast Blitz.

2 Day Planning: £250 per day = £500; 100 people @ £12 delegate rate: £1200; Room Hire: £300 – TOTAL £3,500

The programme outcomes would be:

- * Enhanced capacity among third generation leaders to engage in good relations work
- * Raised awareness among third generation leaders about their role and responsibility to shape a better future
- * An understanding of the good relations agenda and the impending decade of significant historical anniversaries

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3. BCC's Blitz original proposal to Peace III

In an earlier draft Peace III proposal regarding the Belfast Blitz programme £3,000 was requested in relation to the cost of music, visuals and hospitality; £15,000 costs in relation to an exhibition and £1,000 to organise a lecture and discussions events. Dr Brian Barton has just confirmed that he is available in April 2011 to give a lecture on the Blitz. He has written a book on the Belfast Blitz and is currently acting as a historical advisor to the BBC in relation to a documentary on the subject.

On reviewing the £3,000 element of the proposal relating to music, visuals and hospitality, we would request reprofiling this element and request that the successful contractor in relation to the exhibition would be awarded this £3,000 to manage a citywide community involvement programme of activities.

The successful contractor would be required to involve communities from north, south, east & west of the city e.g.

North of the city was badly hit during the bombing raids so there should be a rich source of material in relation to the Blitz. We envisage partnering with community groups already working in cross-community partnership e.g. REAL project (includes Mount Vernon, Tigers Bay and New Lodge); the schools listed in the GR funded 'Small Steps' project; the Synagogue etc.

South Belfast Roundtable could be involved in working with new communities such as Polish, Roma and Chinese.

Working with East Belfast Mission staff would ensure wide community involvement. Clare Hackett, from Falls Community Council previously worked with Duchas which has a rich archive of Belfast history including citizens memories of the Blitz.

In West Belfast Clonard Monastery crypt was used as a shared community air raid shelter during the Blitz.

Each area could be given £700 to carry out local projects, perhaps using music or film footage to set the scene for storytelling and reminiscence. The remainder of the £3,000 could be used for hospitality.

The Council is actively exploring the possibility of acquiring one of the fire engines from Dundalk, Drogheda or Dublin to come up to Belfast in April 2011. The Dublin Fire Authority has agreed to investigate this possibility and have recorded their willingness to become involved in some way with this project. If this proposal becomes a reality, we would explore the possibility of the fire engine journeying to the four areas of the city highlighted above to bring a small number of people from each of the areas into the city hall on the evening of the launch of the exhibition.

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Rationale

These proposals would add to Peace III objectives around promoting cohesion between the two communities and provides meaningful focus on peace & reconciliation. Most of the initiatives outlined above have the capacity to provide a lasting legacy & we could work up the cross-border nature of the project (fire engine from ROI). We would ensure that the communities we partner with are stakeholders & fully involved in the programme of activities. We would also commit to reaching out to other communities such as those involved in the Peace III funded cultural network element of the bonfire management programme.

By including the cultural network participants and NSEW communities we are clearly identifying communities that have been affected by the conflict and have experienced problems of segregation, marginalisation and isolation. It also highlights the collaborative nature of the proposal & has a bottom-up approach.

Good Relations Officers involved in delivering training on ending hate crime, migrant awareness training and good relations training could offer this package of learning to groups involved with the programme. This element would help meet the PIII objectives of challenging attitudes towards sectarianism & racism.

The Council has contacted QFT regarding their availability to show a film about the Blitz in April 2011 and they have confirmed they would be happy to show some complementary material, yet to be confirmed, but likely to be old Ministry of Information wartime short films.

Commissioning of 2011 Exhibition

Belfast City Council wishes to commission a qualified and experienced contractor to design, construct and install an exhibition to mark the 70th anniversary of the Belfast Blitz and the biggest single loss of life in one night in the city's history.

The exhibition should primarily centre on the fact that the Blitz was an experience shared equally between the protestant and catholic communities. The Luftwaffe did not distinguish between protestant and catholic in dropping bombs and the anguish and grief that followed was city wide. The Council believes that such an exhibition has a strong potential to reconnect communities that suffered death and grief together and provide an opportunity for them to come together in joint remembrance of this atrocity as part of our shared history.

Media coverage

The events will be publicised in advance within the Council's own City Matters magazine. Other media will also be used to maximise the opportunities in which the events are publicised to local communities and

will contain references to other Blitz related events in the city, such as displays in the City Hall and Central Libraries and in the Ulster Museum and any community organised events. The Council's Corporate Communications team would help with promoting a communication plan to ensure as wide publicity as possible."

After discussion, during which Members made a number of additional suggestions, including the need to include the experiences of people from Dublin who had been involved in some way in the Belfast Blitz and the requirement to liaise closely with the Northern Ireland War Memorial organisation, the Partnership approved the foregoing proposal. The Partnership noted that all expenditure incurred under the Peace III programme would be recouped in full from the Special European Union Programmes Body.

Peace III – Update on Phase II Local Action Plan

The Good Relations Manager informed the Partnership that correspondence had been received from the Special European Union Programmes Body indicating that the Council's Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan had now been recommended for approval. She reported that the Peace III Priority 1.1 Steering Committee, which had evaluated the Plan, had agreed to award funding of £3,945,847 towards programme costs. The correspondence had stated that additional funding to meet management support costs would be made available. However, in advance of making that award, the Steering Committee had requested the Programmes Body to undertake an option analysis, which, if completed and approved by the Steering Committee, would lead to a detailed Letter of Offer being forwarded to the Council outlining the total amount of funding being made available for both of the aforementioned elements.

The Good Relations Manager reported further that discussions had taken place subsequently with a representative of the Programmes Body, during which it had been determined that a number of projects submitted within the Council's Peace and Reconciliation Plan had not been approved. She provided details in respect of those projects, together with those for which approval had been granted and stated that she had requested the Steering Committee to forward to the Council a copy of the Economic Appraisal which had been completed in order to determine if there were sufficient grounds for appeals to be submitted in the case of those projects which had been unsuccessful.

After discussion, the Partnership noted the information which had been provided and that a report on the matter would be submitted to a future meeting, once the economic appraisal had been received.

Migrant and Minority Ethnic Support Project

The Committee was advised that the Good Relations Unit had, as part of the Council's Peace III Programme, established a Migrant and Minority Ethnic Support Project under the Peace III objective of Shared Cultural Space. The Good Relations Manager reported that, over the past two years, funding had been made available to support the overall delivery of the project, including salary costs, and that it had now been incorporated into the overall structure of the Good Relations Unit. She explained that it was now proposed that funding which had been set aside for salary costs be used to support the development and delivery of a training programme for post-primary schools.

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She reviewed the work which would be required to be undertaken by the successful applicant and explained that the programme would be designed to provide participants with an understanding of the extent and impact of prejudice and hate crimes in schools and in society at large and to enable them to develop practical skills for intervening at the earliest opportunity in order to address these issues. She informed the Members that the evaluation criteria used to assess tenders would take into account the calibre and competencies of the project team, methodology, value-for-money and ability to work in partnership and to meet requisite timescales. The total cost of the project would be £25,500, which would be recouped in full from the Peace III Programme. Accordingly, she recommended that the Partnership agree to the re-profiling of funding and grant approval for the instigation of a tendering exercise for the delivery of a training programme for post-primary schools.

After discussion, during which Members made a number of suggestions around schools which could potentially be included within the training programme, the Partnership adopted the recommendation.

Application for Support for Chinese New Year Celebrations

The Partnership was advised that correspondence had been received from the Chinese Welfare Association seeking funding from the Good Relations Unit towards the cost associated with the organisation of the 2011 Chinese New Year Celebrations. The Good Relations Manager explained that the event, which would again be held in St. George's Market, had, in 2010, attracted over 7,000 people and had included cultural performances, a Masterchef competition, workshops and stalls. A delegation from Heifei province, which was twinned with Belfast, would be in Northern Ireland over the period of the Celebrations and would be in attendance. She outlined the level of funding and assistance being provided by Council Departments, which included a sum of £500 from the Community Safety Unit and the attendance of Food Safety officers at the Masterchef Competition. She recommended that funding of £2,000 be made available by the Good Relations Unit to the Chinese Welfare Association in order to assist in the organisation of the New Year Celebrations, subject to the Association demonstrating that it was promoting the good relations element of the event.

The Partnership adopted the recommendation.

**Update on Meeting with Department for Social Development Minister
on Peace III Matters**

The Partnership noted the outcome of a meeting which had taken place on 6th January between the Minister for Social Development and a delegation from the Council, which had included the Lord Mayor, the Deputy Lord Mayor and the Chairman of the Good Relations Partnership. The meeting had been arranged in order to share information and to identify opportunities for closer collaboration between the Council and the Department for Social Development regarding the implementation of Phase II of the Belfast Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan. The Partnership noted also that the Department for Social Development would submit to a future meeting of the Partnership a report outlining areas for increased collaboration and information sharing between the two organisations.

Chairman