

Document Pack

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



16th January, 2012

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room (Room G05), City Hall on Friday, 20th January, 2012 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

2. Finance/Value-for-Money

- (a) Investment Programme 2012-15 – Revised Draft (Pages 1 - 46)
- (b) Financial Estimates and District Rate 2012-13 (Pages 47 - 50)
- (c) CIPFA Prudential Code and Treasury Management Indicators (Pages 51 - 66)
- (d) ICT Update (Pages 67 - 70)
- (e) Minutes of Meeting of Audit Panel of 13 December (Pages 71 - 82)

- (f) Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel Meeting (Pages 83 - 84)

3. **Democratic Services and Governance**

- (a) Requests for the use of the City Hall and the provision of Hospitality (Pages 85 - 90)
- (b) Use of the City Hall and civic hospitality for the World Police and Fire Games in 2013. (Pages 91 - 92)
- (c) Best Practice Visits (Pages 93 - 104)
- (d) The live streaming and archiving of Council proceedings on the internet (Pages 105 - 106)
- (e) Documentary on Lord Mayor – Request to Film Council Meeting (Pages 107 - 108)
- (f) St Patrick’s Day Celebrations 2012 – Washington DC (Pages 109 - 110)
- (g) Notes of Meeting of Party Leaders Forum of 16th December (Pages 111 - 112)

4. **Human Resources**

- (a) Appointment to the Post of Head of Contracts (Pages 113 - 114)
- (b) Standing Order 55 - Employment of Relatives (Pages 115 - 116)

5. **Asset Management**

- (a) Girdwood Community Hub - Update (Pages 117 - 124)
- (b) Lagan Canal- Ministerial Visit (Pages 125 - 126)
- (c) Connswater Community Greenway-Flood Alleviation Scheme Project Update (Pages 127 - 130)
- (d) Connswater Community Greenway - Land Acquisition (Pages 131 - 136)
- (e) North Foreshore - Proposed licence (Pages 137 - 140)
- (f) Rent Reviews – Smithfield Car Park & St George’s Market Retail Units (Pages 141 - 144)
- (g) Belmont Car Park (Pages 145 - 148)
- (h) Construction Contracts - Social Clauses (Pages 149 - 150)

6. **Good Relations and Equality**

- (a) Minutes of Meeting of Good Relations Partnership of 9th January (Pages 151 - 164)

7. **Cross-Cutting Issues**

- (a) New Dynamics of Learning and Ageing Conference (Pages 165 - 166)
- (b) Proposal from Belfast Health and Social Care Trust to provide Member information Clinics (Pages 167 - 168)

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

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Financial Estimates and District Rate 2012/13
Date:	20 January 2012
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources
Contact Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources Mark McBride, Head of Finance and Performance

1	Relevant Background Information																								
1.1	<p>Members will recall that the following process has been followed for setting the district rate and agreeing the estimates for 2012/13.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Agreed rate setting process for 2012/13</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Apr</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Budget Panel and SP&R</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Indicative rate, efficiency target and overview of efficiency programme</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Jun</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Budget Panel and SP&R</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Year End Report Agree Efficiency Programme</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Aug</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Budget Panel and SP&R</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Issue Guidance on estimates and medium term financial plan to Departments Q1 Finance Report</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Sep-Oct</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Budget Panel and SP&R</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Update on Rates Position Update on Medium Term Financial Plan Capital Investment Programme</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Nov</td> <td style="text-align: center;">SP&R</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Further update on rates to highlight key issues & Scenario analysis Q2 Finance Report</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Dec</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Budget Panel and SP&R</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Discuss and finalise options for rates position taking into account Medium Term Financial Plan, capital financing strategy and treasury management strategy</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Jan</td> <td style="text-align: center;">SP&R Department Committees SP&R</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Recommendation to Council on district rate and medium term financial plan,</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Feb</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Council</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Agree district rate Q3 Finance Report</td> </tr> </table>	Apr	Budget Panel and SP&R	Indicative rate, efficiency target and overview of efficiency programme	Jun	Budget Panel and SP&R	Year End Report Agree Efficiency Programme	Aug	Budget Panel and SP&R	Issue Guidance on estimates and medium term financial plan to Departments Q1 Finance Report	Sep-Oct	Budget Panel and SP&R	Update on Rates Position Update on Medium Term Financial Plan Capital Investment Programme	Nov	SP&R	Further update on rates to highlight key issues & Scenario analysis Q2 Finance Report	Dec	Budget Panel and SP&R	Discuss and finalise options for rates position taking into account Medium Term Financial Plan, capital financing strategy and treasury management strategy	Jan	SP&R Department Committees SP&R	Recommendation to Council on district rate and medium term financial plan,	Feb	Council	Agree district rate Q3 Finance Report
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Feb	Council	Agree district rate Q3 Finance Report																							

1.2	<p>So far the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee has agreed the following in relation to the revenue estimates and district rate 2012/13:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The cash limit and the revenue estimates for the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. 2. The cash limits for the Health and Environmental Services, Parks and Leisure, Development and Town Planning Committees. 3. A stepped increase of £1m for the waste plan. 4. The general reserves will not be enhanced through the district rate in 2012/13. 5. The Estimated Penny Product for 2011/12 should also be used for 2012/13.
1.3	<p>The departments' revenue estimates have all now been agreed by the relevant Standing Committees based on the cash limits agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p>
1.4	<p>The impact of these decisions means an overall increase in the estimates of £287k or 0.22% on the district rate is required.</p>
1.5	<p>In order to finalise the district rate for 2012/13 Members also need to agree on the financing of their capital investment decisions as detailed in the Investment Programme 2012-15.</p>
2	<p>Key Issues</p>
	<p>Capital Investment</p>
2.1	<p>The capital investment detailed in the Investment Programme 2012-15 is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £75m in council facilities • £20m in partnership projects • £50m levered from sources outside of the council • £5m in smaller regeneration projects.
2.2	<p>This programme of physical investment will be financed and delivered through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Programme – used to pay for enhancements or new assets owned by the council and paid for through a mixture of loans, grants, capital receipts and one-off payments. • City Investment Fund – used to finance investment package schemes for non-council assets and paid for through cash generated from the rates or capital receipts. Currently, £3m from rates go into the fund every year. By 2014/15 there will be £11m in the fund net of current commitments. • Local Investment Fund – used to fund neighbourhood capital projects for non-council assets. There is currently £2.5m in the fund.
2.3	<p>The £75m investment in council facilities will be delivered through the capital programme. This programme can be financed through one-off cash payments, loans, receipts from the sales of assets and grants from other bodies. The capital budget already provides for £10.14m of capital financing and it is recommended that this budget is sufficient to cover the proposed capital programme commitments. The Prudential Indicators, which are the subject of a separate report on the agenda, demonstrate that the proposed level of capital financing is prudent, affordable and sustainable. This means that there is no requirement to increase the district rate to support the capital programme.</p>

- 2.4 The £20m investment in partnership projects and the associated £50m leverage financing from other sources will be delivered through the City Investment Fund. This fund provides financial support to projects where the asset will not be owned by the council. It is currently financed through an annual £3m contribution from the rate and from capital receipts. The forecast for the fund is that by 2014/15 £11m would be available for financing partnership projects. This means there is a shortfall of £9m. Based on discussions at the Budget and Transformation Panel on 11 January, **it is recommended that this shortfall is met through a one-off increase in the district rate of 2.38%**. This means that the annual rate contribution to the city investment fund would be £6m. Financing the fund in this way avoids spikes in the district rate and provides for sustainable investment over the longer term.
- 2.5 The £5m investment in smaller projects will be financed through the Local Investment Fund. This fund currently has a balance of £2.5m. The fund has been created through the re-alignment of budgets and is not supported by the district rate. Members will recall that at the meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 18 November it was reported that there could be an opportunity to increase the fund to £5m over the next two years. Members are aware that waste management costs are due to increase by some £3.7m in 2014/15 when the arc21 Residual Waste Contract commences. The council has been planning for this increase in costs through a gradual increase in the rate in order to avoid a spike in the rate in 2014/15 and a further stepped increase of £1m has already been agreed for 2012/13. The money generated through the gradual increase in the rate is placed in a waste fund which is used to finance on a non-recurrent basis the implementation of waste management improvements. However, for 2012/13 and 2013/14, £1.25m is available to be allocated to other funds. **It is therefore recommended that £1.25m is allocated to the Local Investment Fund from the Waste Fund in 2012/13 and 2013/14 which will make available a total of £5m available to the fund.**

Summary of District Rate 2012/13

- 2.6 In summary, the overall impact of the recommendations is as follows:
- 0.22% district rate increase to support the running costs of the council,
 - 2.38% district rate increase to support the Investment Programme 2012-15.

This means the overall rate increase for 2012-13 is recommended to be 2.6%. Based on an EPP of £4,800,110 the domestic rate is recommended to be 0.3094p and the non-domestic rate to be 27.0237p.

Impact on the Ratepayer

- 2.7 Table 1 below summarises the impact of the 2.6% district rate increase on the ratepayer. From the table it can be seen that the **average domestic rates bill will increase by 35 pence a week. For retail property the average rates bill will increase by £2.68 and for office property the increase is £3.33.**
- 2.8 **Table One: Impact on Ratepayer of 2.6% district rate increase** (includes regional rate increase of 2.2%)

PROPERTY	Rates Bill 2011/12	Rates Bill 2012/13	Increase in Rate Bill	Increase in Rate Bill
			Annual	Weekly
Domestic Properties				
	£	£	£	£
Terrace House	581.81	595.62	13.81	0.27
3-Bed Semi-Detached House	889.79	910.90	21.11	0.41
4-Bed Detached House	1,978.15	2,025.09	46.94	0.90
Apartment	561.31	574.63	13.32	0.26
Average Capital Value	774.18	792.55	18.37	0.35
Non-Domestic Properties				
Office Property	7,271.51	7,444.88	173.37	3.33
Retail Property	5,854.11	5,993.69	139.58	2.68

2.9	Members should note that the Chairs of the Strategic Policy and Resources and Development Committees and the Vice- Chair nominees met with members of the Business Alliance including representatives of the CBI, IOD, Northern Ireland Chamber of Trade and Commerce and the Centre of Competitiveness. The representatives of the business community expressed their support for an investment programme funded by a modest rate rise where operating costs were maintained at zero and money was used for capital and for creating job opportunities, particularly for the young.
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3	Recommendations
3.1	<p>Members are requested to note the contents of the report and agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) To maintain the current capital financing budget at its current level of £10,145,676; (b) To increase the district rate by 2.38% in relation to the financing of the City Investment Fund; (c) To increase the district rate, in total, by 2.6% for 2012/13 based on the Estimated Penny Product of £4,800,110 which means that the domestic rate for 2012/13 is recommended to be 0.3094p and the non-domestic rate to be 27.0237p; and (d) To allocate £1.25m in 2012/13 and 2013/14 from the Waste Fund to the Local Investment Fund.
4	<p>Decision Tracker Responsible Officers: Director of Finance & Resources</p>



Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	CIPFA Prudential Code and Treasury Management Indicators
Date:	20 January 2012
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources
Contact Officer:	Mark McBride, Head of Finance and Performance

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011 and the supporting Prudential Codes produced by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), require the council to consider the affordability and sustainability of capital expenditure decisions through the reporting of prudential and treasury management indicators.
1.2	This report provides information for Members on the prudential indicators for Belfast City Council for the period 2012/13 to 2014/15 and the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2012/13. Members should note that the work carried out to develop these indicators has been validated by CIPFA.
2	Key Issues
2.1	The Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011 requires the Council to adopt the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities. In doing so, the Council is required to set and monitor a series of Prudential Indicators, the key objectives of which are to ensure that, within a clear framework, the capital investment plans of the council are affordable, prudent and sustainable.
2.2	At the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the 9 December 2011, Members approved the Council's Treasury Management Policy which is based on the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice. The Treasury Management Policy requires that a Treasury Management Strategy be presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on an annual basis and that it is supported by mid-year and year end treasury management reports.
2.3	The prudential indicators for the Council are included as Appendix A to this report, while the treasury management strategy and treasury management indicators have been included as Appendix B. The indicators include the capital expenditure

	<p>impact of the Investment Strategy being considered by members at this meeting as part of the district rate report.</p>
2.4	<p>The comparison of “Net Borrowing” to “Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)”, is the main indicator of prudence when considering the proposed capital investment plans of the Council. Estimated net borrowing should not exceed the CFR for the current year plus two years. The Council’s estimated net borrowing position, illustrated in Table 3, Appendix A, is comfortably within the CFR in the medium term. The Director of Finance and Resources therefore considers the estimated levels of net borrowing as being prudent.</p>
2.5	<p>Table 4 and 5 (Appendix A) shows the estimated financing costs for capital expenditure as a percentage of the estimated net revenue stream for the Council, based on the medium term financial plan, and the incremental impact on the rates of the Investment Programme. These illustrate that in the medium term, capital financing costs will represent 6.21% of the Council’s net running costs. On this basis the Director of Finance and Resources is satisfied that the level of capital expenditure is affordable and sustainable.</p>
2.6	<p>The Finance Act requires the Council to set an affordable borrowing limit, relating to gross debt. The Prudential Code defines this affordable limit as the “Authorised Borrowing Limit” and gross borrowing must not exceed this limit. Table 6 (Appendix A) sets out the recommended “Authorised Borrowing Limit” for the Council as being £106m.</p>
3	Recommendations
3.1	<p>Members are asked to note the contents of this report and the prudential and treasury management indicators included within the appendices to the report.</p> <p>Members are also asked to agree:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Authorised Borrowing Limit for the Council of £106m • The Treasury Management Strategy for 2012/13, which has been included as Appendix B to this report.
4	<p>Decision Tracker Responsible Officers: Director of Finance & Resources</p>

Prudential Indicators for 2012/13 to 2014/15

1. Background

The Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 requires the Council to adopt the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities. In doing so, the Council is required to set and monitor a series of Prudential Indicators, the key objective of which is to ensure that, within a clear framework, the capital investment plans of the Council are affordable, prudent and sustainable.

2. Capital Expenditure Indicators

2.1 Capital Expenditure

This indicator outlines estimated annual Capital Expenditure which will be incurred by the Council, to ensure that capital investment plans are sustainable. The Council's estimated additional annual capital expenditure is included in Table 1 below.

Table 1
Estimated Annual Capital Expenditure

	Actual 2010/11 £'000	Estimate 2011/12 £'000	Estimate 2012/13 £'000	Estimate 2013/14 £'000	Estimate 2014/15 £'000	Estimate 2015/16 £'000	Estimate 2016/17 £'000
Capital Expenditure	6,016	18,453	18,622	35,364	49,480	8,781	8,338

2.2 Capital Financing Requirement

The Capital Financing Requirement reflects the Council's underlying need to borrow for a capital purpose. It shows the total estimated capital expenditure that has not been resourced from capital or revenue sources. This requirement will eventually be met by revenue resources through the Minimum Revenue Provision mechanism. The actual Capital Financing Requirement for the Council is shown in table 2 below.

Table 2
Capital Financing Requirement

	Actual 2010/11 £'000	Estimate 2011/12 £'000	Estimate 2012/13 £'000	Estimate 2013/14 £'000	Estimate 2014/15 £'000
Capital Financing Requirement	52,028	56,837	64,603	85,480	108,827

3. Prudence Indicator

3.1 Net Borrowing and the Capital Financing Requirement

This is a key indicator of prudence which ensures that over the medium term, net borrowing will only be for a capital purpose. Under the prudential code, it is permitted for net borrowing to exceed the Capital Financing Requirement in the short term, provided that it does not exceed the estimate for the current year plus the next two financial years. The following table demonstrates that the estimated net debt position is comfortably within the estimated Capital Financing Requirement over the medium term.

Table 3
Net Borrowing and Capital Financing Requirement

	Actual 2010/11 £'000	Estimate 2011/12 £'000	Estimate 2012/13 £'000	Estimate 2013/14 £'000	Estimate 2014/15 £m
Capital Financing Requirement	52,028	56,837	64,603	85,480	108,827
Net Borrowing	8,932	20,231	27,856	32,257	32,603
Is Net Borrowing within CFR?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

4. Affordability Indicators

4.1 Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream

An important aspect of the Prudential Code is the assessment of affordability of the capital investment plans. One mechanism for doing this is by ascertaining the proportion of the revenue budget which is spent on capital financing, net of receipts from investment income. This does not include direct revenue financing amounts for capital schemes. Table 4 below summarises the ratio of financing costs to the estimated net revenue stream for the Council.

Table 4
Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream

	Actual 2010/11 £'000	Estimate 2011/12 £'000	Estimate 2012/13 £'000	Estimate 2013/14 £'000	Estimate 2014/15 £m
Financing Costs (FC)	2,950	3,785	5,610	6,559	8,673
Net Revenue Stream (NRS)	126,547	130,591	133,870	136,559	139,207
Percentage of FC to NRS	2.33%	2.90%	4.19%	4.80%	6.23%

The financing cost estimates are based on the capital financing budget in the budget report for 2011/12 and future years. The net revenue stream is calculated as the amounts met by government grants and the Rates.

4.2 Incremental Impact of Capital Investment Decisions on the Rates

A key measure of the affordability of capital decisions is the ultimate impact on the Rates. This indicator identifies the increase in the proposed Rates which is attributable to the proposed changes in the Capital Programme being approved at this meeting. There has been no requirement to increase the current capital financing element of the Rate to finance the Council's Capital Programme and therefore the only incremental impact on the Rates will be the increase in the City Investment Fund of £2.75m in 2012/13. The impact of this increase is illustrated in table 5 below.

Table 5
Incremental Impact on Rates

	Estimate 2012/13	Estimate 2013/14	Estimate 2014/15
Incremental impact on Rates	2.38%	0%	0%

5. External Debt Indicators

5.1 Authorised Borrowing Limit

The Act requires the Council to set an affordable borrowing limit, which relates to gross debt. This limit is referred to within the Prudential Code as the Authorised limit and must not be breached. It is therefore set at a level which includes sufficient headroom for the operational management of the treasury function. It is important to note that a key feature of the Prudential Code is that borrowing ahead of immediate need is permitted to the extent by which net borrowing cannot exceed the Capital Financing Requirement. Going forward, it is essential that the limits allow sufficient flexibility to allow further borrowing in advance of immediate need provided that all the implications and risks have been adequately considered.

The Director of Finance and Resources has delegated authority to effect movement between borrowing and other long term liabilities. The authorised borrowing limit, or estimated debt to 2014/15 is shown in table 6 below.

Table 6
Authorised Borrowing Limit

Authorised limit	Actual 2010/11 £'000	Estimate 2011/12 £'000	Estimate 2012/13 £'000	Estimate 2013/14 £'000	Estimate 2014/15 £m
Borrowing	29,232	69,480	92,827	91,071	106,508
Other Long Term Liabilities					
Total	29,232	69,480	92,827	91,071	106,508

5.2 Operational Boundary

Unlike the Authorised Borrowing Limit, the Operational Boundary is not a limit and instead provides an indication of the most likely, but not worst case scenario of the estimates of gross external debt.

Table 7
Operational Borrowing Limit

Operational Boundary	Actual 2010/11 £'000	Estimate 2011/12 £'000	Estimate 2012/13 £'000	Estimate 2013/14 £'000	Estimate 2014/15 £'00'0
Borrowing	29,232	40,837	48,603	69,480	92,827
Other Long Term Liabilities					
Total	29,232	40,837	48,603	69,480	92,827

6. Treasury Management Indicators

The Prudential Code also requires the production of key treasury management indicators. These are included within section 9 of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.

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Annual Treasury Management Strategy 2012/13

1. Introduction

Belfast City Council's Treasury Management Policy is based on the Chartered Institute of Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Treasury Management Code of Practice. The policy requires the Director of Finance and Resources to submit an annual Treasury management Strategy to the Council.

This strategy covers the following issues in respect of 2012/13:

- Current treasury position
- Outlook for interest rates
- Capital Financing Plans
- Establishing the Borrowing Requirement
- Borrowing strategy
- Debt rescheduling
- Investments
- Treasury Management Indicators

2. Current Treasury Position

Figure 1 below shows Belfast City Council's treasury position as at 30th September 2011 and 31st March 2011, as well as the projected position at 31st March 2012.

Figure 1
Current and Projected Treasury Position

	31st March 2011 £'000	Average rate	30th Sept 2011 £'000	Average rate	31st March 2012 forecast £'000	Average rate
Borrowing	29,232	6.41%	28,853	6.47%	40,837	5.90%
Investments	20,300	0.5%	30,900	0.7%	20,606	0.5%
Net Borrowing	8,932		(2,047)		20,231	

This shows that at the 30th September 2011, the net borrowing of the Council has decreased by approximately £11m from the 31 March 2011 position. This decrease is due to the positive cashflow in the year to date. However, the net debt position is forecast to increase to £20m before 31st March 2012 as further expenditure is incurred and met from reductions in investment balances and increases in external borrowing.

3. Outlook for Interest Rates

Market expectations are that interest rates will remain unchanged until late 2012 and then only a half point increase to 1% by mid-2013.

4. Capital Financing Plans

It is essential that the level of borrowing is considered within the context of the Council's capital expenditure and plans, as is required by the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance.

Figure 2 below shows how the reduced capital expenditure and financing plans will impact on the net cash requirement of the Council. It should also be noted that

movement to and from reserves will impact on the cash requirement (i.e. if there are net transfers from reserves, this will create an additional need for cash).

Figure 2
Net Cash Requirement

	2011/12 £'000	2012/13 £'000	2013/14 £'000	2014/15 £'000
Capital Expenditure	18,453	18,622	35,364	49,480
Financed from "other" sources (e.g. grants, contributions, revenue, capital receipts etc)	11,908	7,737	11,264	21,926
Remainder to be "borrowed"	6,545	10,885	24,100	27,554
Notional Repayment of Principal (MRP)	1,735	3,119	3,222	4,208
Increase / (decrease) in CFR	4,809	7,766	20,878	23,346
Transfers (to) / from reserves	6,490	(141)	(1,476)	(3,000)
Net Cash Requirement	11,299	7,625	19,402	20,346

The way in which this total funding requirement of £103.5m for 2012/13-2014/15 and future years is met, is a key consideration of the treasury management strategy. This requirement will increase the net borrowing position of the Council and consideration needs to be given to whether this is met by increasing borrowing, or reducing investment balances.

5 Establishing the Borrowing Requirement

The starting point for ascertain the appropriate level of borrowing is the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). The CFR is derived from the Balance Sheet and represents the Council's underlying need to borrow for a capital purpose, as it takes account of all capital expenditure incurred which is resourced from borrowing.

However, in addition to the debt position created by historic capital expenditure met from borrowing, the Council also has significant values of reserves, provisions and balances supported by cash, which reduce the net indebtedness of the Council. These positive cash flows allow the Council to consider utilising this cash to support capital expenditure in lieu of external borrowing.

If external borrowing is higher than the CFR, this indicates borrowing in advance of immediate need (permitted within the Prudential Code) and borrowing below CFR would indicate internal borrowing (i.e. the level of cash used in lieu of external borrowing)

At 31st March 2011, the external borrowing of the Council was £22.8m below the total CFR, reflecting the fact that there is a significant level of internal borrowing.

The relatively high levels of reserves and balances on the Council's balance sheet have therefore enabled the Council to benefit from not having to borrow externally to the full extent of the underlying need. However, it cannot be assumed that this position can continue into perpetuity and needs to be given active consideration.

In order to create a framework around the extent to which the council's reserves and balances can continue to be used, the Director of Finance and Resources is recommending an internal limit to be placed on the level of internal borrowing, based on CIPFA Treasury management Code of Practice that can be used before having to

borrow externally. This is known as the Allowable Internal Borrowing limit. This limit has regard to the components of reserves and balances and the estimated longevity of these balances. The Director of Finance and Resources has assessed that of the £43m that existed on the balance sheet at 31st March 2011, approximately £16m will remain for the foreseeable future and that this the amount that may therefore be used in lieu of external borrowing. The Allowable Internal Borrowing Limit of £16m has been validated by the CIPFA NI through a review of the Council's balance Sheet. From the allowable internal borrowing limit, the proposed amount of external borrowing to be held, known as the Liability Benchmark can be determined.

Figure 3
External Borrowing Requirement

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Projected closing CFR	56,837	64,603	85,480	108,827
Allowable Internal Borrowing Limit	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000
Liability Benchmark	40,837	48,603	69,480	92,827
Projected closing borrowing	28,466	40,060	44,852	68,701
Borrowing maturing in year	(766)	(777)	(3,751)	(779)
Additional Borrowing Required	12,371	8,543	24,629	24,126
(Increase) / Decrease in Investment Balances	(306)	(141)	(1,476)	(3,000)

It should be noted that, in the event of slippage within the capital programme, the CFR may not increase as much as has been forecast and therefore if the external borrowing had been undertaken as planned, internal borrowing would be lower than the limit specified.

6. Borrowing Strategy

In terms of meeting the external borrowing requirement identified above, one of the most important considerations is the timing, in terms of the potential to save significant interest costs and it is key that this position is proactively managed using all information available to inform decisions. It is essential therefore that the considerations of timing of borrowing form a key element of the borrowing strategy.

It is of course not possible for all borrowing to be undertaken at the lowest rates of interest available, as unforeseen events can significantly alter the path of rates. It is therefore essential that the risks to adverse movements are fully understood and actively managed.

One of the key borrowing objectives is to achieve certainty around interest costs, and there is therefore little appetite to undertake variable rate borrowing. It is unlikely that long term interest rates will fall over the medium term and therefore to reduce the risk of rising interest rates, officers will seek to carry out the external borrowing in the financial year to which the expenditure relates.

It is recognised that whilst the capital expenditure and financing plans will be a driver of borrowing costs, the management of risk is the prime objective of the

borrowing strategy and reduction of interest rate risk and refinancing risk within the portfolio is essential.

Therefore, the Council remains prepared to undertake the potential borrowing ahead of immediate need (up to three years in advance), if it results in a reduction of interest rate risk within the portfolio. The Council recognises that this may temporarily increase investment balances, and increase net interest costs in the short term, and that these factors will form part of the decision making process when the strategy is executed. It would be necessary to demonstrate value for money when making a decision in respect of borrowing in advance of need, therefore it will only be undertaken if there is a strong view that rates may rise.

It is expected that requirements for long term borrowing will be met from the Government Loans Fund as, although the costs of borrowing increased in the Comprehensive Spending Review in October 2010, this remains the lowest cost fixed rate borrowing.

7. Debt Rescheduling

The prime objective of any restructuring is to reduce risk in the portfolio, whether that be interest rate or refinancing risk. Any savings that may be created as a result will be considered in the context of the overall risk profile.

Debt restructuring opportunities will be kept under constant review, however the penalties of premature redemption of loans at higher rates than prevailing interest rates mean that there may be significant costs associated with this, which will reduce the attractiveness of opportunities.

8. Investments

Annual Investment Strategy

The Council has regard to the Guidance for Local Government Investments for District Councils in Northern Ireland (the Guidance) as cited under Section 25(1) of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (the Act) when setting the Investment Strategy. The Department recommends that each local authority produce and publish an Annual Investment Strategy, approved by the Council and revised in year as required. This sets out the Council's policies for managing investments and for giving priority to the security and liquidity of those investments. This investment strategy states which instruments the Council may use for investment purposes, making a distinction between specified and non-specified investments. This strategy also determines limits in respect of their overall levels.

The prime objective of the Council's investment strategy is to ensure prudent investment of surplus funds. The Council's investment priorities are the security of capital, liquidity of investments and, within those objectives, to secure optimum performance.

All investments will be made in accordance with the Council's investment policies and prevailing legislation and regulations.

8.1 Specified Investments

An investment is a **specified investment** if:

- The investment is denominated in Sterling and all payments or repayments are payable only in Sterling,

- The investment is not a long term investment (i.e. due to be repaid within 12 months of the date in which it was made or one which the Council may require to be repaid within that period),
- The making of the investment is not defined as capital expenditure by virtue of regulation 12 of the Local Government (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2011; and
- The investment is made with a body which has been awarded a high credit rating, or is made with one of the following:
 - a) The United Kingdom Government;
 - b) A District Council; or
 - c) A Local Authority in England and Wales, or a similar body in Scotland;

The following categories of investments may be used under the definition of specified investments:

- Short term cash deposits
- Call accounts
- Certificates of Deposit (with maturity dates < 1 year)
- UK Government Gilts
- Treasury Bills
- Money Market Funds

The Council considers a high credit rating for money market funds to be those with a long term Fitch Rating of AAA (or the equivalent highest rating from Standard and Poors or Moodys).

The Council will have regard to all 3 rating agencies and considers a high credit rating for other investments to be as follows:

Fitch Credit Rating	Minimum level
Short Term Rating	F1
Long Term Rating	A

Fitch defines these ratings as follows:

A: High credit quality.

'A' ratings denote expectations of low default risk. The capacity for payment of financial commitments is considered strong. This capacity may, nevertheless, be more vulnerable to adverse business or economic conditions than is the case for higher ratings.

F1: Highest short-term credit quality.

Indicates the strongest intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments

8.2 Non-specified Investments

In respect of **non-specified investments**. The following instruments have been identified by the Council.

Category of Non-specified investment
Sterling denominated Foreign Government Securities
Sterling medium term Deposits or Certificates of Deposit
Floating rate Certificates of Deposit
Highly rated Corporate Bonds (including investments in a Corporate

Bond Fund)
Sterling Reserve Funds
Index-linked structured deposits
Collateralised deposits
Foreign Currency denominated investments
Deposits with non-rated Building Societies

The Council do not intend on making any investments in the 2012/13 year which meet the definition of non-specified investments and therefore there is no limit set on this within the Investment Strategy.

The CIPFA Code of Practice recommends that the Investment Strategy sets out the maximum period over which investments will be made.

The Director of Finance and Resources recommends that a maximum duration of 2 years should be set, although it is only expected that investments over 12 months will be made in exceptional circumstances.

Regulation 12(1) (d) of the Local Government (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 states that some categories of investment are defined as Capital Expenditure. This relates to the acquisition of share or loan capital in any body corporate. However, in the event that this expenditure is made as an investment for the prudent management of the Council's financial affairs, it shall not be treated as capital expenditure.

The impact of investing in instruments of this nature are such that, unlike other investment instruments, either capital or revenue resources would have to be applied to this expenditure, and once the investment was sold or matured, the income would be a capital receipt.

The Council do not intend on making any investments which meet the definition of capital expenditure and therefore there is no limit set on this within the Investment Strategy.

8.3 Investment Risk

The prime consideration of risk within investments is the loss of capital invested. Therefore investments will only be made with bodies with a high credit rating defined above. Credit ratings will form the primary driver for assessing credit quality, although it is recognised that this is not the only means of assessing credit quality.

Caution will be exercised in determining the creditworthiness of investment counterparties, even if they meet the minimum criteria above.

In the event that any institutions are at the minimum criteria and are on negative rating watch, monies will not be placed with that organisation until such time that the negative outlook is revised.

Geographical limits will be considered to ensure an appropriate spread of risk. Sovereign ratings will be taken account of when placing funds with institutions outside of the UK.

Credit ratings for existing investment counterparties will be monitored on a monthly basis, as well as immediately before new deposits are placed.

Market intelligence will also be considered before entering into any investments with proposed counterparties meeting the minimum criteria.

8.4 Treasury Management Advisers

The Council does not currently utilise the services of external advisers when determining the credit quality of its investment counterparties. However, the Director of Finance and Resources intends to review this during 2012/13 with the intention of making use of external advisers in future years. The Council recognise that responsibility for the decision to invest with a counterparty rests with the Council as the principle undertaking the transaction.

Credit ratings will be obtained directly from the rating agencies' websites, and officers will regularly read the financial press for information relevant to the credit-worthiness of counterparties.

8.5 Investment Training

The Council recognises that investments, as well as wider treasury management issues require a high level of specialist knowledge. Officers undertaking the decisions are all qualified accountants with many years of experience. However, the Council recognises the need for officers to be kept up to date with developments and through the annual appraisal system will identify any training needs to further enhance the current skills base.

In the event of new Officers joining the function, they will be provided with significant on the job training as well as being provided with the opportunity to attend relevant external training courses.

The Council recognises that although there may be costs involved with sending officers to training courses, when these costs are considered in the context of the size of the portfolios being managed, and the amount of the Council's money at risk, investment in training is a worthwhile area of expenditure.

In addition to the training of officers, in order for elected members to provide effective scrutiny of the strategy and to have the knowledge to make informed decisions regarding the strategy, it is also important that training is provided to Members of the Council.

8.6 Other Investment Considerations

The level of investment balances is not specifically targeted in the strategy; it will be a consequence of the net spending plans of the Council, and the level of external borrowing to be undertaken. To date, balances have remained relatively stable over recent years. However, the introduction of the Prudential Code, and the self regulation of borrowing limits and capital financing strategies, may result in higher or lower levels of balances going forwards as the level of external borrowing is given active consideration.

It should also be noted that the investments are largely as a result of the level of reserves and provisions that the Council has at any one point in time. In addition, there is an amount of working capital (excess of creditors over debtors) as well as being a factor of the extent to which investment balances have been used in lieu of external borrowing.

Section 5 of this report explained the concept of setting a limit on the level of balances and reserves that can be used to support capital expenditure, and as a result, investment balances are expected to decrease as further investment balances are used in lieu of external borrowing.

The remaining cash balances that will not be used in lieu of external borrowing will primarily exist to manage cash flow volatility within the Council. It is therefore not expected that investments of a long term strategic nature will be made. Instead the duration of new investments will remain relatively short in order to meet liquidity demands.

The Council recognises that a consequence of short dated investments is that it exposes the portfolio to interest rate risk, which would otherwise be reduced if investments were made of a long term nature. The current historical low short term rates will limit the risk of further falls in investment rates. The budget for investment income takes a prudent approach to expected returns from investments.

9. Treasury Management Indicators

The CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice requires various indicators to be set within the strategy. This section of the report sets these out in the format required by the Code. Whilst they are required to provide boundaries within which the treasury management operations will be managed, it is also important that there is sufficient flexibility to enable officers to react to unforeseen favourable movements in the financial markets which may present beneficial opportunities to the Council.

9.1 Adoption of the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management

The first Treasury Management Prudential Indicator is that the Council has adopted the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management in the Public Services. The aim of the Code is for authorities create sound objectives and procedures to ensure decisions are made within an appropriate framework, and to emphasise the overriding importance of effective risk management. In response to this, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed a Treasury Management Policy for the Council and the Director of Finance and Resources maintains Treasury Management Practices for the effective management and control of the treasury management activities in line with the CIPFA Code of Practice.

9.2 Interest Rate Exposures

The Council is required to set upper limits for both fixed and variable exposures for the forthcoming years. The purpose of this indicator is to contain the Council's exposure to unfavourable movements in interest rates. The indicators are expressed as Fixed Rate Borrowing less Fixed Rate Investments and Variable Rate Borrowing less Variable Rate Investments. The Council defines variable rate investments as including those instruments maturing within each year, as the replacement of those instruments will be subject to prevailing rates of interest. The following table shows the upper limit of fixed rate exposure and the upper limit of variable rate exposure for the forthcoming four years.

	Estimate 2011/12 £'000	Estimate 2012/13 £'000	Estimate 2013/14 £'000	Estimate 2014/15 £'000
Upper limit of fixed rate exposure	40,837	48,603	69,480	92,827
Upper limit of variable rate exposure	(18,132)	(16,564)	(13,114)	(11,289)

9.3 Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowing

The Council is required to set upper and lower limits of fixed rate borrowing maturing within certain periods, in order to contain the exposure to re-financing risk which may arise if significant proportions of borrowing were maturing within a short period of time. The Council has set the following limits for the forthcoming financial year.

	Lower Limit	Upper Limit
Under 12 months	0.00%	25.00%
12 months – 24 months	5.00%	25.00%
24 months – 5 years	10.00%	30.00%
5 years – 10 years	15.00%	45.00%
10 years and above	5.00%	55.00%

9.4 Total Principal Sums Invested for periods longer than 364 days

The purpose of this indicator is to contain exposure to the possibility of loss that may arise as a result of the Council having to seek early repayment of sums invested.

The Council would not, through its normal course of investment activities, expect to make investments beyond 12 months. However, there may be exceptional circumstances which may result in investments being made up to 2 years in duration, as is referred to within the Annual Investment Strategy.

	Estimate 2012/13	Estimate 2013/14	Estimate 2014/15
Total principal sums invested for longer than 364 days	£2m	£2m	£2m

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	ICT Update Report
Date:	20 January 2012
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources
Contact Officer:	Paul Gribben, Head of ISB

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members on a number of ICT improvement and VFM projects.
2	Key Issues
	Mobile Phones
2.1	Currently Belfast City Council has 2 mobile telephone suppliers. In order to select one corporate supplier for mobile phones a mini competition was held within the OGC (Office of Government Commerce) framework. A specification and costing model based on one month of typical mobile phone usage was developed and sent to the 4 suppliers on the OGC list. All 4 suppliers were then given an opportunity to personally present and discuss the merits of their submissions. The 4 suppliers were BT, Vodafone, Orange and O2.
2.2	As a result of a detailed evaluation Vodafone is the recommended supplier. If agreed the new contract will offer a fixed rate line rental that also covers all voice and text usage. This means there will be no charges for phone calls and text messages as long as usage remains within 15% of current volumes.
2.3	The move to the new contract will begin in February, current Vodafone users (90%) will be automatically transferred to the new contract. The remaining mobile phone users will be assisted by ISB with the transfer process. This will involve replacing the current mobile phone Sim card and transferring the user's number.
2.4	There will be an estimated £30,000 reduction in overall mobile phone costs.
	Landline Telephony
2.5	The Council's land line telecoms services are currently provided by three suppliers, BT, Virgin Media and Cable & Wireless. Virgin Media provide telephony services to the City Hall and Cecil Ward Building, Cable & Wireless provide a small proportion of services at ISB and BT is responsible for the remaining telephony services.
2.6	As part of the Council's agreed efficiency programme, telecoms experts Entel have carried out an analysis of telecommunications services provided to the council, with a view to identifying cost reduction opportunities. They have recommended that the Council should move to one

2.7	<p>single supplier with savings being in excess of £31,000 a year. The movement of telephony services to one supplier will not require changes to telecoms infrastructure.</p> <p>It is recommended that the Council procures a single telephony supplier. Entel have agreed to assist with the procurement exercise and the implementation of the new telephony contract. Payment for this work will be dependent on the level of cash savings achieved and will be compliant with the Council's procurement rules.</p>
2.8	<p>Public Wireless Access – City Hall</p> <p>The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed at its meeting on 23 September 2011 that a feasibility study on providing wireless public access in the City Hall and its grounds could be carried out. British Telecom was commissioned to carry out the study. The work has revealed that it would cost £30,000 to install a public wireless network covering the ground floor, the Banqueting Hall, Great Hall, Reception Hall, Council Chambers and the lawn at the front of the City Hall. The cost of the installation would be covered as part of the 2011/12 budget.</p>
2.9	<p>Audit Management System</p> <p>A key strand of the governance framework of the Council is the work delivered by the Audit, Governance and Risk service. Currently, Health and Safety Inspections, risk registers and audit recommendations are all managed through a manual system. There is an urgent need to automate these key governance processes in order to improve their efficiency and effectiveness. A business case has been presented to the Corporate Governance Team and Members are requested to agree to the Director of Finance & Resources proceeding to tender for the supply of an automated audit management system. The agreement will be for a period of 3 years, with the option to extend for a further 2 years. It is estimated that the cost will be in the region of £50,000 which will be financed through a revenue contribution within the existing capital budget.</p>
2.10	<p>Super-connected cities project</p> <p>Fourteen cities across the UK have the chance to become super-connected cities. In the Autumn Statement, the Chancellor George Osborne announced that up to 10 cities would share £100m and become super-connected with 80-100Mbps broadband access.</p> <p>The four capitals – London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast – will benefit while the others will be chosen through a competition.</p> <p>On the 20th December details of those eligible to apply was published along with guidance for bidders.</p> <p>As part of their proposal to access money from the £100m urban broadband fund, each city will have to bid.</p> <p>The bidding cities will have to show how they will use super-connected status to drive growth with a particular focus on SMEs and strategic employment zones. Proposals will also need to include plans for city-wide high-speed mobile connectivity.</p> <p>The first stage of the bidding process is to submit a high level proposal by 13 February 2012. The successful cities will be announced in the Budget in March. The Government will then work with the successful cities to produce fully developed plans and the money allocated to each city will be announced in July.</p> <p>Following discussion with DETI and Invest NI the bid for Belfast will be led by Belfast City Council. It is recommended that the Council prepares a high level proposal in line with the Investment Programme 2012-15 and because of the tight timeframes authority is delegated to the Chief Executive to prepare the initial high level proposal. If the initial bid is successful then Members, through the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, will have the opportunity to shape the detailed plans which must be submitted by the June 2012.</p>

3	Recommendations
3.1	<p>Members are requested to note the contents of the report and agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) To the awarding of the Council's mobile phone contract to Vodafone; (b) To procure a single landline telephony supplier; (c) To submit an initial high level bid in line with the Council's Investment Programme to the Urban Broadband Fund; and (d) To seek tenders for an audit management system using pre-determined evaluation criteria including quality and cost. In addition, Committee approval is sought under the Scheme of Delegation for acceptance of successful tenders to be delegated to the Director of Finance & Resources.
3.2	<p>Members are also requested to advise as to whether officers should proceed with the delivery of a public wireless network in the City Hall as outlined in paragraph 2.8 above.</p>
4	<p>Decision Tracker Responsible Officers: Director of Finance & Resources</p>

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Audit Panel

Tuesday, 13th December, 2011

MEETING OF AUDIT PANEL

Members present: Alderman Rodgers (Chairman);
Aldermen M. Campbell and Smyth;
Councillors Jones and Mullan and Mr. D. Bell.

In attendance: Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources;
Mr. A. Wilson, Head of Audit, Governance and
Risk Services;
Mr. M. McBride, Head of Finance and Performance;
Ms. C. O'Prey, Audit, Governance and Risk
Services Manager;
Mr. R. Allen, Director, Northern Ireland Audit Office;
Mr. S. Knox, Audit Manager, Northern Ireland Audit
Office; and
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Apology

An apology for inability to attend was reported from Councillor Lavery.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 14th September were taken as read and signed as correct.

Welcome

The Chairman on behalf of the Panel welcomed Mr. M. McBride and Ms C. O'Prey to their first meeting following their recent appointment to the posts of Head of Finance and Performance and Audit, Governance and Risk Services Manager respectively.

Presentation by Corporate Health and Safety Manager

The Panel was reminded that, at its meeting on 14th September, it had agreed to receive at its next meeting a presentation on the role of the Council's Corporate Occupational Health and Safety Unit. Accordingly, Miss E. Eaton, Corporate Health and Safety Manager, was welcomed by the Chairman.

The Corporate Health and Safety Manager informed the Panel that the Council undertook as part of its everyday business a wide range of activities, most of which involved some element of hazard or risk. She explained that those were required to be identified and managed in such a way as to protect the health and safety, not only of the Council's employees, but of all those who came into contact with the Council's services.

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She indicated that the role of the Corporate Occupational Health and Safety Unit, which now included the Occupational Health Section, was to ensure that the Council delivered those services safely and in compliance with the requisite Health and Safety legislation and in recognition with best practice.

She explained that, in accordance with the Health and Safety Assurance Framework, which had been agreed by the Audit Panel in 2010, the Corporate Occupational Health and Safety Unit reported on an operational level to the Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services and on a strategic level to the Health and Safety Assurance Board. She reviewed the key areas of work which were undertaken in relation to health and safety, which included the undertaking of an annual health and safety inspection programme across the Council. The inspection comprised a documentation audit, a premises inspection and a staff awareness survey. The results of the inspections were communicated subsequently to managers and any action points arising therefrom were monitored to ensure compliance. In addition, the Corporate Occupational Health and Safety Unit delivered a mandatory programme of health and safety training throughout the year for all Council staff to ensure that they were conversant with the types of key hazards, risk and control measures in place within the workplace and to refresh their knowledge of their health and safety roles and responsibilities and key Council policies.

She reported further that meetings of the Workplace Health and Safety Committee and of the Health and Safety Assurance Board took place on a quarterly and bi-monthly basis respectively in order to review, amongst other things, recent actions and incidents, changes in legislation or the Council's policies, and issues such as event safety arrangements. She explained that another proactive element of the Unit's work involved the maintenance of the Workplace Health and Safety manual, which contained the Council's Health and Safety Policies and codes of practice. She added that the Corporate Occupational Health and Safety Unit had received accreditation in terms of the OHSAS 18001 Health and Safety Management system and had supported a number of other units across the council to attain that standard.

She informed the Panel that, in addition to its proactive work, the Unit undertook also extensive reactive work, such as the recording, investigating and analysis of accidents and incidents within the workplace, the provision of advice and support to managers in relation to health and safety and the compilation of health and safety performance indicators.

Having answered a number of questions which had been raised by the Members, Miss Eaton thanked the Panel for receiving her and retired from the meeting.

Belfast City Council Financial Accounts 2010/2011

(Mr. T. Wallace, Financial Accounting Manager, attended in connection with this item).

The Director of Finance and Resources informed the Panel that the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 required the Council to approve by resolution its annual statement of accounts as soon as was

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reasonably practical and, at the latest, before 30th June immediately following the end of the financial year. He reminded the Panel that, at its meeting on 9th June, 2011, it had approved and recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, the Councils Financial Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2011. He explained that the audit of those accounts had now been completed and published and had resulted in an unqualified opinion. The Local Government Auditor had, during the course of his audit, highlighted a number of material adjustments which the Council had since addressed and which had been significantly less in number than in the previous financial year.

Mr. Allen informed the Members that, following the completion each year of the Council's accounts, the Local Government Auditor issued an annual audit letter and management letter, which set out any recommendations to be implemented. He reported that the management letter would, in future, be replaced by a document entitled "Report to those charged with Governance - Audit Results", which would be circulated to all councils, and that it would be submitted to the next meeting of the Audit Panel for its consideration.

After discussion, the Panel noted the information which had been provided and that a copy of the Council's Financial Accounts for 2010/2011 was available on the Modern.gov intranet site.

**Audit Recommendations Monitor –
Update on High Priority Recommendations**

The Panel was reminded that, at its meeting on 14th September, it had been advised that Audit, Governance and Risk Services had put in place a system to monitor the implementation of audit recommendations. At that meeting, the Panel had expressed concern that, more than six months after the original implementation date, forty-eight high priority recommendations remained outstanding and had agreed that a report be submitted to its next meeting outlining the progress which had been made to implement those outstanding recommendations.

The Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services reported that, following that meeting, the Directors had been advised of the Panel's concerns and had been requested to provide updates on the status of the outstanding high priority recommendations. These had been verified subsequently by Audit, Governance and Risk Services. As a result, the number of outstanding high priority recommendations had been reduced to thirty-one and a number of those were expected to be implemented fully in the near future. He provided details in relation to those recommendations which remained outstanding, which included the management of overtime across the Council, controls over bank accounts, cash flow and investments within the Finance and Resources Department, the recording of information in relation to the monitoring of waste within the Waste Management Service and the financial/procurement systems used within the Property and Projects Department to collate contract information. He pointed out that the next review of progress was planned for February, 2012 and that Audit, Governance and Risk Services was examining, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Resources, the feasibility of automating the monitoring process further.

After discussion, the Panel noted the information which had been provided and agreed, in view of the significant number of high priority recommendations which remained outstanding, that Directors be requested to ensure that they be implemented fully by 31st March, 2012.

Corporate Risk Management

The Panel considered the undernoted report:

“1. Relevant Background Information

On 15th February, 2010, the Audit Panel agreed that risk reports should be made to the Corporate Management Team and the Audit Panel on a quarterly basis starting from quarter one 2010/2011. This report addresses these requirements.

Specifically, the purpose of this paper is to:

- **report on the operation of the assurance processes over the arrangements for the management of risk for the quarter ending September, 2011**
- **present the Corporate Risk Register**
- **provide an update on the mid year review of action taken to address significant governance issues which were disclosed in the Council’s Annual Governance Statement for 2010/2011 (this information has been specifically requested by the Council’s Audit Panel)**

2. Key Issues

1. Assurance on the Management of Risk

Each of the 14 risks in the corporate risk register has a Chief Officer as a nominated Risk Owner who is responsible for ensuring that the risk is managed effectively and evidenced as such in the relevant departmental risk action plans. A number of corporate risks apply to all departments and so are managed through all of the departmental registers, these relate to the following risk areas:

- **management of financial resources**
- **management of staff resources**
- **demonstration of good corporate governance**
- **RPA (see note below)**
- **health and safety**
- **business continuity.**

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Management are responsible for ensuring that risks are properly identified, evaluated, managed and reviewed. In order to obtain assurance on the management of risk, on a quarterly basis each Chief Officer prepares and signs a quarterly assurance statement to:

- confirm compliance with risk management processes
- list the key risks that they have responsibility for managing (corporate risks and 'red' departmental risks)
- confirm that there are appropriate action plans in place to manage these risks
- identify any proposed actions and, where applicable, explain any slippage
- provide a formal assurance that the risks are being managed.

Audit, Governance and Risk Services (AGRS) can confirm that, for the quarter ending September 2011, all Chief Officers have signed assurance statements confirming that the corporate, departmental and operational risk registers and action plans have been reviewed and updated and that they are content that overall the Council's agreed risk management processes, as set out in the Council's risk management strategy and supporting guidance, are being complied with.

2. Emerging Risks

During the quarter ending June 2011, Chief Officers identified three new corporate risks, which are now included in the corporate risk register:

- uncertainty of the rate base
- financial and management information does not meet the changing needs of the organisation and the city
- failure to maximise the draw down of European funds by missing EU funding deadlines.

More information in relation to these risks is set out at risks 12-14 in the Risk Register, a copy of which has been circulated to the Panel. Audit, Governance and Risk Services (AGRS) can confirm that the relevant Directors have prepared a risk action plan for each of these new corporate risks.

For the quarter ending September 2011, our review meetings with individual Directors to discuss the management of Corporate Risks did not identify any new risks for inclusion within the Corporate Risk Register.

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3. Mid year review of action taken to address significant governance issues disclosed in the Council's Annual Governance Statement for 2010/2011

As previously noted, the Audit Panel has requested an update on the significant governance issues that were highlighted in the Annual Governance Statement for 2010/11:

- non-achievement of NILAS targets
- continued embedding of health and safety management
- the impact of the economic climate on the Councils financial position
- governance of major Council projects.

AGRS has met with the relevant Directors to get a mid-year update on the actions that have been taken and that are planned to be taken during 2011/12 in order to address these issues. The outcome of this review has been to confirm that there is evidence to demonstrate that these risks are being actively managed as a matter of priority, although there is still action ongoing / further action required to fully manage the risks.

4. Business Continuity Management (BCM)

AGRS can confirm that all of the 15 critical services have either undertaken rehearsals of their business continuity plans or have set a date for the plans to be rehearsed before 31st March 2012.

External consultants, Marsh, have conducted a high level review of the Council's BCM programme against best practice set out in the BS 25999. This has been reported separately to the Audit Panel.

3. Resource Implications

Financial

None.

Human Resources

None.

Asset and Other Implications

None.

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4. **Equality Implications**

None.

5. **Recommendations**

The Audit Panel is requested to note:

1. **the corporate risk register for the quarter ending 30th September, 2011;**
2. **that a mid-year review / update on the governance issues highlighted in the Annual Governance Statement for 2010/2011 has been completed and to note the progress being made to address each disclosed issue.”**

After discussion, the Panel adopted the recommendations and noted that a copy of the Corporate Risk Register was available in full on the Modern.gov intranet site.

**Business Continuity Management –
Review of the Council’s Arrangements**

The Panel was reminded that it had a responsibility, as set out within its terms of reference, to monitor the effective development and operation of risk management and corporate governance of the Council. The Audit, Governance and Risk Services Manager explained that a critical aspect of good governance was the ability to anticipate, prepare, respond to and recover from the impact of disruptive events. The Council addressed this requirement by ensuring that it had in place effective business continuity management arrangements to ensure that all critical services could be delivered in the event of a major event/disaster or disruption. She reported that considerable work had been undertaken in recent years to establish such arrangements, including the formulation of a business continuity management strategy and associated policies, the development of service/location specific plans, the undertaking of staff training and the exercising/testing of plans. That work had complemented the civil emergency planning arrangements within the City, which were overseen by the Council’s Emergency Planning Team based within the Health and Environmental Services Department.

She reported that Audit Governance and Risk Services had, during 2011, commissioned Marsh Consulting to undertake a review of the Council’s business continuity management arrangements. The review had sought to provide Members and senior managers with an external valuation of the business continuity management framework in order to measure performance against current practice and identify opportunities for improvement. The key findings arising from the review had been positive and the consultants had concluded that it was evident that the Council had, over the past five years, invested significantly in business continuity management, which had resulted in the development of a system which was appropriate for the organisation and well implemented across the Council.

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The Audit, Governance and Risk Services Manager reported further that the consultants had identified areas for improvement in relation to performance measurement/monitoring and the reviewing of the process and had made recommendations in relation to the consolidation of existing policies, guidance notes and templates into a business continuity manual and the development of templates to support managers in improving the process for exercising and updating their Business Continuity Management Plans. They had recommended also the development of a protocol for the undertaking of an annual review of all elements of the business continuity management programme, which included a reference for the need to separate the assurance function from the co-ordination and implementation of the programme.

She informed the Members that the Directors of Finance and Resources and Health and Environmental Services had met in order to discuss the recommendations arising from the review and that they were in the process of developing an appropriate action plan to address each of the recommendations.

The Panel noted the information which had been provided and that a copy of the review document was available in full on Modern.gov intranet site.

Audit, Governance and Risk Services Progress Report

The Panel considered a report outlining the work which had been undertaken by Audit, Governance and Risk Services between September and November, 2011. The Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services reported that, during that period, the Service had undertaken a review of the status of high priority recommendations set out within the Audit Recommendations Monitor and had assessed the progress being made within the Parks and Leisure Department to address audit recommendations relating to Facility Management Agreements. In addition, audits relating to Community Services Grant funding and monitoring and the 2009 Tall Ships event were at draft report stage and would, once finalised, be submitted to the Audit Panel. Audits of arc 21, a review of new business processes/controls relating to the implementation of the upgrade to the electronic leisure management system within the Parks and Leisure Department and compliance arrangements in respect of the Review of Freedom of Information/Data Protection Act were in progress. Audits of financial reporting, the Pest Control/Dog Licensing Unit, Payroll and Property Maintenance were being planned.

The Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services provided an update in relation to the National Fraud Initiative which had been conducted by the Northern Ireland Audit Office, which sought to assist public bodies in identifying fraudulent and duplicate transactions using sophisticated data matching techniques. He confirmed that, of the 212 matches which had been investigated and resolved, no specific instances of fraud had been identified in relation to the Council. He provided details also in relation to investigative work which had been undertaken by Audit, Governance and Risk Services during the period and reported that the Service was providing governance-related training to staff as part of the Manager and Officer Development Training Programme. The training had covered areas such as risk, control, fraud, and key governance policies. A review of the Council's anti-fraud policy had been undertaken also which, once concluded, would result in an updated copy of the policy being presented to the Panel for approval.

The Panel noted the information which had been provided.

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Absence Management

The Head of Human Resources reminded the Panel that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 17th June, had agreed a two-year target to maintain sickness absence across the Council at 10.31 days per person by March, 2012 and at 10 days by March, 2013. She submitted for the Panel's consideration a report providing information in respect of sickness absence for the second quarter of 2010/2011. The report indicated that sickness absence per employee for that period had been 5.24 days, which represented an increase of 0.53 days compared to the same period in the previous year, which meant that the Council was not on target to maintain sickness absence at the agreed target of 10.31 days. She outlined the extent of the work which was being undertaken to manage attendance in those units which were at risk of not meeting their target for 2011/2012, should their current level of absence continue. She highlighted the fact that employees who were on long-term absence were being monitored and managed by the relevant Department and by the Human Resources and the Occupational Health Sections and that reports on absence management would continue to be submitted on a quarterly basis to both the Audit Panel and the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

The Panel noted the information which had been provided and agreed to receive at its next meeting a presentation from the Head of Human Resources on the Council's sickness absence policy.

Staff Numbers, Overtime and Agency Costs

The Panel considered the undernoted report:

"1. Purpose of report

1.1 This report provides information on staff numbers, overtime and agency costs for the second quarter of 2011/2012

2. Background

2.1 The Audit Panel, at its meeting on 7th March, approved a revised reporting framework, with effect from quarter one 2011/2012, which:

- provides information on the number and status of vacant posts in the Council;**
- compares actual staff costs to agreed staff budgets at corporate and departmental level;**
- details how much of the actual staff budget was spent on agency and overtime at corporate and departmental level.**

3. Key Issues

3.1 Staff costs compared to staff budget

- at the end of Quarter 2, 2011/2012 staff costs for the council were £41,738,410 against a target of £41,821,201
- this represents an overall underspend of £82,791 or 0.20% of budget.
- appendix 1 provides details of staff costs at corporate and departmental level.

3.2 How much of the total was spent on overtime and agency?

- at the end of Quarter 2 2011/2012 overtime accounted for 5.98% or £2,496,694 of direct employee costs;
- at the end of Quarter 2 2011/2012 agency accounted for 5.30 % or £2,211,424 of direct employee cost;
- appendix 2 provides details of overtime at corporate and departmental level;
- appendix 3 provides details of agency at corporate and departmental level.

4. Resource Implications

None.

5. Equality and Good Relations Implications

None .

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 The Audit Panel is requested to note the contents of this report.

Audit Panel,
Tuesday, 13th December, 2011

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Appendix 1

Staff costs compared to staff budget – Quarter 2 2011	Mid year target – Quarter 2 2011/12	Actual staff costs at end of September 2011	Variance £	% Variance
BCC	41,821,201	41,738,410	- 82,791	- 0.20
Chief Executive's	3,290,566	3,196,014	-94,552	- 2.87
Finance and Resources	4,499,086	4,167,210	-331,876	- 7.38
Health and Environmental Services	14,241,670	14,003,341	-238,329	- 1.67
Parks and Leisure	10,244,771	10,797,149	552,378	5.39
Development Department	4,924,062	4,934,181	10,119	0.21
Property and Projects	4,621,046	4,640,515	19,469	0.42

Appendix 2

% of staff budget spent of overtime – Quarter Two 2011	Actual staff costs at end of September 2011	How much of the total was spent on overtime at end of September 2011	% of Actual staff costs were overtime
BCC	41,738,410	2,496,694	5.98%
Chief Executive's	3,196,014	31,226	0.98%
Finance and Resources	4,167,210	35,957	0.86%
Health and Environmental Services	14,003,341	989,485	7.07%
Parks and Leisure	10,797,149	983,816	9.11%
Development Department	4,934,181	190,208	3.85%
Property and Projects	4,640,515	266,002	5.73%

Appendix 3

% of staff budget spent of agency – Quarter Two 2011	Actual staff costs at end of September 2011	How much of the total was spent on agency at end of September 2011	% of Actual staff costs were Agency
BCC	41,738,410	2,211,424	5.30%
Chief Executive's	3,196,014	153,404	4.80%
Finance and Resources	4,167,210	49,618	1.19%
Health and Environmental Services	14,003,341	735,703	5.25%
Parks and Leisure	10,797,149	797,126	7.38%
Development Department	4,934,181	319,415	6.47%
Property and Projects	4,640,515	156,158	3.37%

The Director of Finance and Resources outlined the work which was being undertaken across the Council to address the issue of overtime and agency costs. He informed the Panel that a review of the requirement for agency staff was being undertaken on a case-by-case basis in order to determine if duties could be fulfilled by a full-time member of staff. An analysis of the need for overtime working for all employees was being undertaken also. He pointed out that the outcome of each review would, once completed, be presented to the Audit Panel for its consideration. At the request of Members, he undertook to provide, in future, additional information in relation to staff costs, overtime costs and agency costs on the basis of functional units within each department and in relation to the previous year.

Noted.

Date of Next Meeting

The Panel agreed that its next meeting be held at 1.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 6th March, 2012.

Chairman

**Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel Meeting
11 January 2012**

1. Attendance

Members:

Cllr Tim Attwood
Alderman David Browne
Cllr Deirdre Hargey (Chair)
Cllr Maire Hendron
Cllr Jim McVeigh
Alderman Robin Newton
Alderman Hugh Smith

Officers:

Peter McNaney, Chief Executive
Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources
Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects
John McGrillen, Director of Development
Mark McBride, Head of Finance and Performance
Sharon McNicholl, Strategic Policy Manager

Mr Paul McTernan, SLR Consulting (for item 2 only)
Jonathan Huish, Peer Member

2. Belfast Masterplan

The Chair welcomed Mr Paul McTernan to the meeting.
Mr McTernan delivered a presentation to the panel which provided a summary of the draft Belfast Masterplan after which Mr McTernan answered questions from Elected Members.

The following points were made in relation to the draft Masterplan and the presentation:-

- Members welcomed the presentation and the opportunity to have an external view of the Masterplan proposals.
- It was noted that the Masterplan highlighted that the areas of deprivation in the City referred to in the 2003 Masterplan, still remained in deprivation. It was therefore important that investment in the “Learning City” theme of the Masterplan should assist in tackling long term unemployment in these areas.
- The importance of the links to Investment Package needed to be made in both the communication and delivery of the Masterplan.
- The ability of the Masterplan to impact on Good Relations in the City should be a key consideration of investment and design plans.

Following the presentation J McGrillen advised the Panel that the Masterplan would be presented to a special meeting of the Development Committee on the 26 January 2012, to which all members of council will be invited. It was also noted that the University of Ulster will be invited to attend the 6 February meeting of the Development Committee to talk about the proposals of the University to relocate to the York Street site.

3. Investment Programme

The Chief Executive referred to the latest draft of the Investment Programme which had been provided to the Members of the Panel and which had been updated taking on board

the comments of the party groups. The Investment Programme would be considered at the Strategic Policy and Resources meeting on the 20 January 2012, with the District Rate report.

The Chief Executive stated that when the final document is published and promoted, it would send out a powerful joint political message, that Belfast is serious about investing in the City through committing to the delivery of £150m of capital investment, investing in tourism and neighbourhoods and creating employment and that this would be achieved through a below inflation rate increase.

All Party Group Leaders congratulated the officers on **their work on the** investment programme.

Mr McGillen outlined the proposed arrangements for the launch of the Investment Programme, with the main launch venue being the Gallery at the Waterfront Hall on the 2 February 2012, following the Council meeting on the 1 February 2012. This would be followed by neighbourhood launches at local venues during the week commencing the 6 February 2012. The launches would set the programme in the context of the rates and signpost the Masterplan for the City.

A full briefing for the Chair of SP&R and the Party Group Leaders would be provided in advance of the launch date in preparation for press interviews following the launch.

4. Capital Investment Element of the 2012/13 Rate Increase

R Cregan reported that the revenue estimates had been agreed by each of the departmental committees and that the remaining decision required by members was the level of capital investment to be included in the District Rate increase. It was noted that this would be considered at the Strategic Policy Resources Committee on the 20 January 2012, along with the Investment Package.

Members agreed that the issue regarding the level of capital investment would be discussed at the Party Group Leaders meeting which would follow this Budget and Transformation meeting.



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Tender for a print contract for City Matters magazine
Date:	20 January 2012
Reporting Officer:	Eamon Deeny
Contact Officer:	As above

Relevant Background Information

City Matters is the most effective vehicle for communicating key council messages directly to our ratepayers. It is distributed five times a year to over 130,000 homes.

We ran a pilot edition in September 2002 which was approved by Council in 2003.

City Matters continues to be a successful publication, proven by our 2010 public survey results:

- 89% claim to receive City Matters (up 108% from 2007)
- 83% of these people said that they read City Matters
- 87% of those who read it said that it has improved their understanding of the council.

Over 1,000 responses are received following each edition. It has been rated 'Best Newspaper or Magazine' by the Chartered Institute of Public Relations in Northern Ireland, achieving gold status in 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2011, and silver in 2007 and 2009.

City Matters follows the council's Environmental Policy on use of paper.

A new print contract is required for the period of three years.

Key Issues

Evaluation of tenders

The appropriate cost quality matrix will be agreed and used in conjunction with the Procurement Unit.

Resource Implications

Financial

The estimated cost for the print element of each edition is £26, 000. (Members should note that distribution costs per edition are approximately £15,000.)

The Committee's approval is required to go out to tender for the print contract for City Matters.

Human Resources

None

Asset and Other Implications

None

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to approve putting out a tender for the print of City Matters for a three year contract from June 2012 – June 201, with delegated authority for the Town Solicitor/Assistant Chief Executive to approve the successful tender, in accordance with the agreed award criteria.

Key to Abbreviations

None

Documents Attached

None



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, 20 th January, 2012
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 the 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.

6.	Decision Tracking
Officer responsible – Gareth Quinn	
7.	Key to Abbreviations
Not applicable.	
8.	Documents Attached
Appendix 1 – Schedule of Applications	

Appendix 1

Organisation/ Body	Event/Date - Number of Delegates/Guests	Request	Comments	Recommendation
Law Society of Northern Ireland	The Law Society of Northern Ireland Council Dinner 28 th September, 2012 Approximately 300 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-dinner drinks reception	This event seeks to provide an opportunity for representatives from the judiciary, business, voluntary and community sectors to come together to acknowledge the achievements of the Society. The event aims to highlight best practice and to develop relations with key stakeholders. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of wine and soft drinks Approximate cost £500
Belfast City Marathon Limited	Deep RiverRock Belfast City Marathon Expo and Pack Collection 1 st - 5 th May, 2013 Approximately 30,000 over 4 days	The use of the City Hall	The provision of the City Hall will enable participants to come to a central point to collect their marathon packs and view the exhibitions on display. This will showcase the City Hall to the 30,000 + individuals and in particular international entrants and will also be of benefit to the city's economy. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together'.	The use of the City Hall
Belfast Healthy Cities	Shaping Child Friendly Environments 28 th February, 2012 Approximately 100 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits.	This event will highlight the need for shaping healthier neighbourhoods for children and will give children the opportunity to put forward their ideas. It will also showcase the project which addresses inequalities and added value of partnership working and community engagement. Belfast City Council has been a partner of Belfast Healthy Cities since its inception in 1988. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together', 'Better opportunities for success across the City', 'Better care for Belfast's environment' and 'Better support for people and communities'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits. Approximate cost £250

Appendix 1

The National Deaf Children's Society	<p>Young Authors and Artists Prize Day 2012</p> <p>23rd May, 2012</p> <p>Approximately 130 attending</p>	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits	<p>This event aims to celebrate the artistic achievements of deaf children and young people across Northern Ireland. Furthermore, the awards seek to improve the confidence and self-esteem of participants.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'Better opportunities for success across the City', 'Better support for people and communities' and 'Better services – listening and delivering'.</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 £325</p>
Plumbing and Mechanical Services Training (Northern Ireland) Limited	<p>Apprenticeship Achievers Awards Ceremony</p> <p>19th June, 2012</p> <p>Approximately 300 attending</p>	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-dinner drinks reception	<p>This event seeks to recognise the achievement of those individuals who have successfully completed an apprenticeship programme.</p> <p>This event provides an opportunity for the Council to show its support to an industry which is suffering due to the economic downturn whilst demonstrating support for the development of our city's young people.</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>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of wine and soft drinks</p> <p>Approximate cost £500</p>
Cinemagic Limited	<p>Cinemagic Awards 2012</p> <p>23rd November, 2012</p> <p>Approximately 500 attending</p>	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-dinner drinks reception	<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>Designed for and by young people, Cinemagic caters for local people with a range of film and cultural interests.</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 wine and soft drinks</p> <p>Approximate cost £500</p>

Appendix 1

Mountpottinger Methodist Church	<p>125th Anniversary of Mountpottinger Methodist Church</p> <p>30th November, 2012</p> <p>Approximately 200 attending</p>	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-dinner drinks reception	<p>This event seeks to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of Mountpottinger Methodist Church and to acknowledge its contribution to the general life and well-being of the city.</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 a pre-dinner drinks reception.</p> <p>Approximate cost £500</p>
Embrace NI	<p>Launch of "A Word of Welcome" Poster</p> <p>24th February, 2012</p> <p>Approximately 30 attending</p>	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits	<p>The event will launch a "Welcome Poster" and accompanying Guide Book which will display the languages representing the diversity of languages spoken by residents of the city.</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', 'Better support for people and communities' and 'Better services – listening and delivering'.</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 £75</p>

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Use of the City Hall and civic hospitality for the World Police and Fire Games in 2013.
Date:	Friday, 20 January, 2012
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (ext 6314)
Contact Officer:	Gareth Quinn, Senior Democratic Services Officer (ext 6316)

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	In August 2013, Belfast will be the host city for the World Police & Fire Games (WPFG). The Games are the third largest multisport event in the world behind the Olympics and the World Masters Games. To put the Games in context they are more than twice the size of the Commonwealth Games, which are scheduled for Glasgow in 2014. Competition to host the Games is always intense and in 2007 when the Games were awarded to Belfast the city resisted competition from ten other cities.
1.2	The WPFG are the “Olympics” for police, fire, prisons, border security, customs and coast guard services. The Games comprise of 65 sports, these include all the traditional competitions such as football, rugby, hockey, athletics, tennis, boxing etc and some such as the ultimate fire fighter, which are specifically designed to test the skill and endurance of professional fire fighters. At each Games the Host City is permitted to introduce 2 new sports to the programme, Belfast has proposed to the WPFG Federation Gaelic football and 20-20 Cricket.
1.3	Over 100 countries from around the world have competed in the Games, the largest teams coming from North America and Europe. In 2013 Belfast will welcome around 10,000 competitors plus an additional 15,000 friends and family for the 2 week event. The influx of such a huge number of athletes and their families will bring significant commercial opportunities (average daily spends for the last three Games was over \$200 US).

2	Key Issues
2.1	WPFG Federation Directors organise and fund a ‘Host Appreciation Dinner’ as a ‘thank you’ to the host city, their officials and Games organisers. The dinner is normally held in a prestigious venue which reflects the culture and history of the Host City. In addition to the Host City representatives, the Games Federation also invites the Organising Committees from future host cities - Fairfax, Virginia in 2015, Montreal 2017 and the successful bidding city for 2019 (this appointment will take place during the Belfast Games).

2.2	The Committee is recommended to grant the use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a wine and soft drinks reception up to a value of £500 (in accordance with Council policy) for this event which will take place during the games from 1 to 10 August, 2013.
2.3	Furthermore, when considering the above background information, it is apparent that a lot of hard work has gone into securing and planning for the delivery of the games, not least by the original Board which saw the potential for Belfast and was instrumental in compiling the bid which resulted in Belfast being chosen as the host city for the 2012 games.
2.4	The Board included representatives from Belfast City Council, the Department for Culture Arts and Leisure, the Fire and Rescue Service, the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Prison Service.
2.5	In order to acknowledge the important role played by members of the initial Board who were responsible for the submission of the bid the Council is asked to consider the hosting of a lunch in the City Hall. The lunch would be for approximately 20 people and would include the Lord Mayor, the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Committee and members of the original Board of the WPFG.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	The drinks reception for the 'Host Appreciation Dinner' will cost £500.
3.2	The lunch to acknowledge the role played by the original Board of the WPFG will cost £600.
3.3	Provision has been made in the revenue estimates for hospitality such as that outlined above.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	As with all major civic events, public events like this have the potential to bring together people from a wide range of backgrounds and therefore promote good relations in the city.

5	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is recommended to grant the use of the City Hall for the 'host city' dinner as part of staging of the WPFG 2013 event and to provide hospitality in the form of a wine and soft drinks reception up to a value of £500.
5.2	The Committee is also recommended to agree to host a lunch in February 2012 to acknowledge the role played by the original Board of the WPFG in securing Belfast as the host city for the 2013 WPFG.

6	Decision Tracking
Gareth Quinn, Senior Democratic Services Officer February 2012	



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Best Practice Visits
Date:	20th January, 2012
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (ext 6314)
Contact Officer:	

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	A request has been received from Alderman Newton for the issue of best practice visits to initiatives in Unionist areas of the city to be placed on the agenda for the meeting on 20th January. The Chairman has agreed for the matter to be discussed at that meeting.

2	Key Issues
2.1	Alderman Newton, in order to provide a context for the discussion at the meeting on 20th January, has provided a background note which provides some information on several of the initiatives (Appendix 1).
2.2	Alderman Newton will speak to his proposal at the meeting.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	There would be costs involved in the provision of transport for any best practice visits but this can be covered from existing budgets.

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	It is intended that the visits would be open to all Members of Council to attend.

5	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is requested to consider the attached information and to take such action thereon as may be determined. In particular, the Committee is requested to decide if it wishes the best practice visits to be organised.

6	Decision Tracking
Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager February, 2012.	

7	Documents Attached
Appendix 1 – Note from Alderman Newton.	

Appendix 1

Best Practice Visits – Community Development in Unionist Areas

Background

The Committee, at its meeting on 23rd September, 2011, agreed to organise site visits to several locations to examine Irish language initiatives in the city. I think that it would be useful for the Committee to agree to also undertake visits to several best practice organisations in the field of Community Development in Unionist areas of the city.

I have set out below several organisations which the DUP Members on the Council feel would be ideal for such visits:

East Belfast

Pottinger DEA

- East Belfast Alternatives – Andy Moorehead - formed in 1998, the aim of the project is to reduce the number of “punishment beatings” carried out against young people by both loyalist and republican paramilitaries.
- East Belfast Community Development Association – Michael Briggs – the membership is drawn from community groups representing a population of 109,000. Its role is to add value to the activities undertaken by groups in local areas and to work with key organisations to ensure the continued development of a community sector in East Belfast that is recognised, valued and effective.
- Willowfield Parish Church – Canon David Mclay – the aim is to be a church in the community, for the community; in the city, for the city (see attached information).
- Walkway Community Centre

Victoria DEA

- Connswater Community Greenway
- Wandsworth Community Centre (see attached information)
- Victoria PACT (see attached information)
- East Belfast Partnership

North Belfast

- Crusaders Football Club
- Good Morning Ballysillan

Oldpark DEA

- Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre – Jimm Potts – the Centre ran on a voluntary basis for 10 years operating out of portacabins before finally getting new purpose-built accommodation
- North Belfast Alternatives – Joan Totten – engages with restorative justice programmes in the area.

South Belfast

- Sandy Row Development Association
- GVRT Ballynafeigh CDA

Shankill

- Shankill Women's Centre – formed in 1987 as a locally based group to provide education for women. Since that time it has flourished and developed to its current position as a key provider for training, health awareness, childcare and young women's activities in the Greater Shankill and beyond.
- Spectrum Centre – is a major landmark in the Shankill area. It has developed as an Arts and Culture venue which lies at the heart of the community.

The Vision of Willowfield Parish Church

The Vision of Willowfield Parish Church

Our Common Purpose

I appeal to you brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.

1 Corinthians 1:10

Why do we exist as a Church?

To be a church:

In the community, for the community; in the city for the city.

We are united in the cause of Christ to pursue three basic purposes together:

We have a passion to gather searching hearts into the saving embrace of God's love in Jesus Christ. To that end we bless those around us inside and outside of the Church.

We have a passion to grow as people in the truth and transforming power of the gospel. To that end we keep on running discipleship and training classes and events.

We have a passion to give ourselves to our families, our church, our community, and our world in a way that honours and exalts Jesus Christ. We call our members to generosity.

The W Club

For Adults 18+

The 'W Club' was formed in 2003 when Brian Dawson, Colin Robinson (Bridge), Christine Acheson (Engage with Age), Joe Watson (Belfast City Council) and Alan Higgins (Willowfield Parish) discussed the need for a men's group in Woodstock/Willowfield/Lower Ravenhill Area.

Life Groups

There are currently 24 small groups which meet each week at various times and on different days, catering for teenagers through to seniors, but all come under the collective name of Life Groups. These gatherings are a vital part of the heartbeat of church life in Willowfield and it is through these groups that individuals can get connected with others that are at similar stages of life and build positive friendships that will help them grow. We call them Life Groups at Willowfield because we:

Help people to experience the abundant life of God

Support each other through real life issues

Bring life to others

Groups meet in homes and have tea, cake, discussion, a chance to pray for each other, practise spiritual gifts in a safe environment and invite one another into each others lives. Life Groups don't merely exist for those within the group but for those beyond the group, so there are opportunities to serve Him together in the church, community and beyond.

If you would like to know more about Life Groups or want to be part of a group then please speak to Richard Gough (9079 9826), Erika Frank, or Hilary McClay.

You can also email: lifegroups@willowfieldchurch.co.uk

Prayer Ministry

Each Sunday at the 10am, 11.30am & 7pm services we offer prayer ministry at the end. We have what is called a Prayer Ministry Team who are a group of people who have been trained in praying for others. They go to the front of the church at the end of the service and are there to pray for any need that you may have. People come for prayer for all sorts of things, for physical healing, for guidance, for healing from past hurts & traumas etc. Sometimes people ask for prayer for loved ones & illnesses in their families. Others just want to meet afresh with God. Sometimes people come looking for God's forgiveness and sometimes needing help to forgive others.

The team try to pray for people as they themselves would like to be prayed for, with compassion, respect, being treated with dignity, making people feel safe, always with confidentiality the key.

When people come forward for prayer they are asked what they want Jesus to do for them. He is the only one who can bring true healing, peace and hope in our lives and our aim is that as people come for prayer they will experience his presence & healing, know that he loves them and is interested in what is happening in their lives.

Life at times can be difficult and not always go the way we would desire and plan. While we can pray ourselves sometimes it is good to have the prayers and support of others, this is what the prayer ministry team are there for.

Healing on the Streets

We believe God Heals today! Do you suffer from Back Pain, Arthritis, Addiction, Cancer, Ulcers, Depression, Allergies, Asthma, Paralysis, Crippling Diseases, Phobias, or any other sickness?

Saturday mornings from 9.30am - 12noon, Cregagh Road, East Belfast. We would love to pray for you. It will not cost you a thing - just a moment of your time.

Refresh

Refresh is community space based at 91 Ravenhill Road, Belfast and part of Willowfield Parish Church. We want Refresh to be a place where people feel welcome and safe to experience God's love.

Regular Activities:

Refresh Sunday Lunch

Sunday // 1pm - 2.30pm

Every Sunday a two course meal is made available to support local people who are finding it harder to 'make ends meet' and to meet new friends. Suggested donation £3.00

Just Drop In

Friday // 10am - 12pm

Every Friday Refresh opens it's doors for local people to 'Just Drop In' for a cup of coffee and a chat.

Organised with Christians Against Poverty (CAP) a debt counselling charity that works within the local area to help people who are struggling with debt, the local centre is based in Refresh.

Just 55

Lagan Village Hall

Sunday // 5pm - 5.55pm

Just 55 is 55 minutes for Children (P1 - P6) which includes crafts, fun, games, friendship and learning to live as a Friend of Jesus.

Just 55 takes place in the Lagan Village Hall, Ballarat Street

Ethnic Minority Ministry

at Willowfield Parish Church

Current Programs:

Laduma (Football and keep fit club)

Leadership Bible Class (Life Group)

Connect (Relax, Reflect and Rejoice)

Diversity Celebration Service (First Sunday of each month)

In Details:

LADUMA

Men's indoor football and keep fit club on Thursdays at Willowfield Church Halls.

Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Contact: Fred Wepions on 07522 661148 or Ezekiel on: 07500 679512

LBC (Life Group)

Bible based training program aimed at developing leadership potentials within people.

Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm.

Contact: Mrs. H. Karanda on: 07766387099 or email: hlaleleni@yahoo.co.uk

CONNECT

It's a twice a month social networking events for the Afro Community held on first and third Saturday of each month. A night of great entertainment, food, table quiz, and conversations.

Time: 6:00pm

Contact: Francis on 07940 208693 or email Franciswme@yahoo.co.uk , or Ezekiel on 07500 679512

DIVERSITY CELEBRATION SERVICE

Multicultural church service held at Willowfiled Parish church on the first Sunday of each month.

Time: 10 am

Wandsworth Community Association

Wandsworth Community Association was established back in October 1994 to serve the East Belfast areas of Belmont and Ballyhackamore.

The Association is run by a small management committee made of of men and women who oversee the general running of the community centre in a voluntary capacity and we have a Voluntary Community Development Worker (VCDW) who looks after the day to day business, attends network meetings, oversees the centres programme of activities and acts as the main contact between the committee and users of the centre.

Wandsworth Community Association has no paid workers but rather relies heavily on the support of over 40 volunteers to run the community centre buildings and its full 7 days a week programme of activities.

Wandsworth has strong links with other established community groups and community centres across East Belfast, good relationships with all local schools and churches and is actively involved in working together with PSNI, Housing Executive, the local business community and Belfast City Council to build strong community cohesion.

Wandsworth has been working very closely with Beat Initiative (Belfasts Community Arts Team) for several years now and for the past two years Wandsworth have branched out from this relationship and established their own carnival arts programmes and run their own festivals, carnivals and lantern parades for the local community. At its recent Lantern Parade (10th Dec 2011) Wandsworth worked in conjunction with Strandtown Traders to bring "A Victorian Christmas" to the area and after running several lantern making workshops both at the centre and in local schools and churches were amazed at the public support for the event. Again the whole show could not have gone on the road without the support of volunteers who ran the workshops, helped create the various carnival floats and costumes and with over 350 participants of all ages arriving back at the community centre it was no mean feat trying to cater for all yet a willing band of volunteers worked throughout the afternoon cooking and organising hot food and refreshments for everyone. Carnivals have helped us bring the whole community together and indeed it is great to see so many families from across the divide sharing fun times together. Wandsworth prides itself on being a community centre where everyone is welcome regardless of religion or nationality and all our activities, events and classes have a strong mix of religions and cultures.

Wandsworth has an established youth group again with good cross community links and our youth are encouraged to get involved in volunteering and giving back to their own community what they get from it. We currently have 57 young people aged 12 - 25 enrolled, some of whom practice on a regular weekly basis playing the carnival drums and learning to lead at the front of our carnivals and parades. We are registered with Belfast Education & Library Board and through them provide Duke of Edinburgh's Award and currently we have 8 young people doing their Bronze award and 6 going for Gold. This month they will all start formal training for their canoeing expedition with a residential at Delamont Outdoor Pursuits Centre. Wandsworth Youth also incorporates a 25 strong team of young people who work closely with PSNI as the Youth Independent Advisory Group, meeting up with PSNI regularly for discussion, advice and teambuilding sessions along with intergenerational programmes with elderly victims of crime. One of our youth members has joined the management committee this year, has completed his DofEd Gold Award and been to Kenya to represent Northern Ireland at the International Gold Event. Aaron is currently working on BELB's LIDS (Leadership in a Diverse Society) Project and is going off to Malaysia and Cambodia this April to complete the project. Wandsworth provides for elderly residents also and has various classes and groups for the over 50's. Volunteers prepare, cook and serve a healthy 3 course lunch every Monday and our VCDW also runs a programme of activities for them on a monthly basis. With many getting to grips and learning how to work computers in our computer suite, being encouraged to get involved as volunteers and in intergenerational work projects there is something for everyone at Wandsworth.

Our weekly programme -

Mondays 10am- 11.30 Wandsworth Mums & Chums (Tots group), 10am-12 Creative Writing
12.15 - 1.30 Seniors Lunch Club, 3.45 - 4.45pm After schools multisports club
5 - 6 Class Act Drama Academy, 6 - 7pm Zumba, 7 - 8pm Aerobics, 8-9.30pm Yoga,

Tuesdays 10am - 11am Yoga, 2-4pm Knock Retirement group, 4-7pm Irish Dancing
7 - 8pm Aerobics, 7 - 8pm Youth carnival drumming, 8.15- 9.30pm Tai Chi

Wednesdays 10am - 12noon Needlework Hobby Class, 1.30-3.30pm Flower Arranging Hobby Class
3.45 - 4.45pm Afterschools multisports club, 7-8.30pm Yoga

Thursdays 10am - 12noon Creative needlework, 5-6pm Hip Hop Dancing Class, 7-8pm Aerobics,
7-10pm Sugarcraft Guild (monthly), 8 - 10pm Core combat

Fridays 10am- 12noon Computers for Beginners, 12 - 2pm Lunchtots, 1-3pm Computers for Fun,
3 - 5pm Playball Tots 7-8pm Childrens Ju Jitsu 8.30-10pm Boxing

Saturdays 9.30am-12.30pm Jump Jiggle & Jive (Baby Dance), 10am - 12 Little seedhead arts
1pm - 3pm Ignite Dance school,

Sundays 11am & 7pm Christadelphian Church Group

Youth meet on various nights usually twice monthly

Wandsworth also organise month by month Ladies nights out (cinema, theatre etc), youth events,
elderly events etc.

Our VCDW is also involved with PACT (Police, Partners & Community Together) being vice-
chair of this group. Alison also leads the youth groups, tots groups, our seniors activity sessions
and organises the monthly nights out/events.

Our annual summer scheme attracts 170 children aged 4-18yrs and is usually held throughout
August and is staffed by 35+ volunteers for our programme morning, noon and nighttime.

Wandsworth has its own newsletter which we put in print 4 times a year. Printed free for us by
the Northern Ireland Housing Executive this 20 page newsletter is distributed by volunteers to
1400 homes locally. The newsletter is a means of keeping the community informed of what we
are doing, what classes and groups are available and also advertises for local businesses in
exchange for work done for the centre.

We have our own 17seater minibus, insured for anyone over 25 with the required licence.

Our premises - a main hall with toilets and kitchen facilities, a portacabin with integral computer
suite/teaching area, an upstairs youth snug/storage facility, an external garage storage space for
housing our large carnival floats etc and a community play area/garden space with decked BBQ
area and vegetable gardens with shed storage space.

Our funding - Just under half our funding is self generated through recycling facilitation, hire of
premises to groups and fundraising efforts. Our main revenue funding, occasional projects and
summer scheme are funded by Belfast City Council, youth funding and minibus upkeep are funded
by Belfast education & Library Board and HSC provide funding for seniors lunchclub, tots groups
and Knock Retirement Group. We have had 2 large grants in recent years from BCC for our
festivals but fund the lantern parade ourselves.



Introducing Victoria PACT

PACT stands for Police, Partners and Community Together.

It is an exciting community initiative which is being developed in the Victoria Neighbourhood Area of East Belfast. PACT welcomes local participation and engagement from the public on how local communities are managed and developed.

Vision Statement

PACT aims to:

Identify, address, and resolve the root causes of community problems and concerns in partnership with community groups, elected representatives, key stakeholders and the police through the use of collaborative problem solving and joint strategies.

Victoria PACT welcomes visitors and observers who wish to learn more about PACT and observe PACT in action.

For further information on PACT Contact:

Peter Quigley Chairman

peter.s.quigley@gmail.com

Mobile: 07818062370

PACT Meetings

PACT meetings, normally take place every two months, are open to the public and aim to:

- Obtain the views and concerns of the community.
- Work together to deal with community issues.
- Support Active Citizens Networks and Neighbourhood Watch Schemes.
- Refer important issues to the Victoria PACT Panel* for action.
- Give access to partner organisations including Elected Representatives, Police, Belfast City Council, NI Housing Executive, District Policing Partnership, Youth Justice Agency, Belfast Education and Library Board.
- Provide regular updates on action taken to address issues raised.

Details of PACT Meetings are available at

http://www.psnipolice.uk/index/bdistrict/east_belfast/victoria_pact.htm

**The PACT panel meets immediately after PACT Public Meetings and consists of all key partner organizations.*

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	The live streaming and archiving of Council proceedings on the internet
Date:	Friday, 20 January, 2012
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (ext. 6314) Eamon Deeny, Head of Corporate Communications (ext. 6285)
Contact Officer:	Gareth Quinn, Senior Democratic Services Officer (ext.6316)

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members may be aware of an article and editorial comment which appeared recently in the local print media which criticised the webcasting of Council meetings and specifically the viewing figures for the January meeting of Council. The article is inaccurate and misleading in that it does not give a true reflection of the value for money of the project.
1.2	Although reports will be brought to the Committee it was felt important, in light of the aforementioned article, to bring Members up to speed on the performance of the webcasts to date. This brief synopsis is intended to provide Members with a more realistic analysis of the value for money when compared with the original intention of Council which was to encourage wider interest among the public, and particularly young people, and would create an enhanced awareness and participation in the civic life of the city.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The contract for the provision of the webcasting solution has been awarded for a period of two years with an option for the Council to increase the term to three years. A report providing Members with the necessary information to make this decision will be brought to the Committee in the Autumn of 2013.
2.2	The webcasting of Council meetings is at a very early stage with only two meetings, namely the December and January meetings of Council, being streamed live. Due to a technical problem affecting the specially designated internet connection, it was not possible to view the Special Council meeting on 5 December. However, the footage was uploaded to the archive and made available for viewing.

2.3	The December monthly meeting of Council experienced extremely high viewing figures which eclipsed by 5 times the 500 viewer average experienced by the 55 other Council's across the British Isles, all of which operate the same webcast solution.
2.4	It is important to note that the webcast solution not only permits viewers to watch the meeting of Council live but also enables them to watch proceedings at a later date through the archive. With this in mind, it is important that Members are made aware of the fact that the live or archived footage of the past three meetings has been viewed approximately 4,500 times. The initial meeting was responsible for approximately 4,000 viewers with the Special meeting of Council on 5 December and the January meeting of Council having approximately 500 viewers.
2.5	Dublin City Council, which operates the same system, currently has an average of 500 viewers per meeting and when they initially launched the solution four years ago for the first few meetings they had similar viewing figures to that of the January meeting of Council.
2.6	Taking all of this into account, it is clear that the webcasting project has had a satisfactory first few months. The newspaper article was extremely unfair and gave an inaccurate picture to readers. Members are advised that the Head of Corporate Communications has already raised concerns with the editor of the newspaper particularly in relation to the editorial comment, the unfair way that the cost was represented and expressing surprise that the newspaper would be anything other than supportive of the Council's efforts to make democracy more accessible to the public.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	n/a

4	Equality Implications
4.1	n/a

5	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is recommended to note the contents of this report.

6	Decision Tracking
Officers responsible: Gareth Quinn, Senior Democratic Services Officer	



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Documentary on Lord Mayor – Request to Film Council Meeting
Date:	20th January, 2012
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (ext 6314)
Contact Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (ext 6314)

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Committee, at its meeting in November 2011, granted authority for a film company, Waddell Media, to record the proceedings of the December 2011 Council meeting as part of a documentary it was producing on behalf of the British Broadcasting Company on the Lord Mayor's year in office. The company has now requested to also film the March, 2012 Council meeting in order to give a rounded picture of the duties of the Lord Mayor.
1.2	It is understood that the company would require two personnel to be in attendance to carry out the filming. One camera would be used, operating from both a fixed and non-fixed positions.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The Council has agreed to similar requests in the past, most recently in 2003 when a similar documentary was produced on the year in office of the then Lord Mayor, Councillor Alex Maskey and again in 2006 when the BBC was producing a documentary on the city.
2.2	The filming of the proceedings of the Council meeting will not cause any disruptions to the proceedings and staff from the Corporate Communications Section will liaise directly with the production team to make them aware of the rules and protocols to be observed.

3	Resource Implications
	None.

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	None,

5	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is recommended to accede to the request for the filming of the Council meeting on 1st March, 2012.

6	Decision Tracking
Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager	
March, 2012	



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	St Patrick's Day Celebrations 2012 – Washington DC
Date:	20 January 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, Ext 3470
Contact Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, Ext 3470

Relevant Background Information	
1.1	Members will be aware of the significant political and lobbying activity which takes place over the St Patrick's Day celebrations in Washington DC. Over the years this has been used as an opportunity by the political establishment and business community to influence political support for the peace process and to promote the island of Ireland as a profitable investment location for US businesses.
1.2	Over the last number of years, the Northern Ireland Bureau in Washington has been very active in working with the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister in ensuring that Northern Ireland is given visibility at the events which take place in Washington at this time. The First and Deputy First Ministers along with Executive Ministers are regular attendees at the White House reception and other events in the US capital at this time.

Key Issues	
2.1	The Northern Ireland Bureau is currently finalising arrangements for a business breakfast to be held on Tuesday 20 March 2012 at which the First Minister and deputy First Minister will be presenting the Northern Ireland business proposition to business leaders from across the United States.
2.2	The theme of the breakfast will be Northern Ireland 2012 and the tourism industry. Focus will be given to Belfast's tourism offer and in particular the opening of Titanic Belfast and the wider Titanic events programme.
2.3	The Director of Development has been contacted by the Director of the Northern Ireland Bureau to suggest that given the level of coverage which Belfast and the Titanic related

	events are likely to be given at the Bureau's Breakfast Briefing and a range of other events it would be appropriate for the Lord Mayor and the Chair of the Development Committee to travel to Washington DC to participate at the Breakfast Briefing.
2.4	Should the Lord Mayor and the Chair of the Development Committee be given approval to attend the Breakfast Briefing, the Northern Ireland Bureau will seek to ensure that they would also receive invitations to other events where there will be further opportunities to promote the city as an investment and tourism destination. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The American Ireland Fund Dinner, Monday 19 March 2012 • Speaker's Lunch, Tuesday 20 March 2012 • Irish Ambassador's Reception, Tuesday 20 March 2012
2.5	The White House reception, hosted by President Obama, also takes place on Tuesday 20 March. Invitations to this event are issued by the State Department. The Acting Consul General, Kevin Roland, has indicated that he would seek invitations for the Lord Mayor and the Chair of Development Committee should they be attending the Northern Ireland Bureau Breakfast Briefing.
2.6	In addition, the American Consulate would be willing to arrange meetings in New York with investors in Belfast such as the New York Stock Exchange as part of the visit programme.

	Recommendations
3.1	It is recommended that the Committee agree that the Lord Mayor and the Chair of the Development Committee attends the Northern Ireland Bureau Breakfast Briefing and other associated events in Washington DC and to visit investors in New York City before returning to Belfast. It is recommended that they are accompanied by the Chief Executive and the Director of Development or their nominees.

	Resource Implications
4.1	The costs of the visit are not likely to exceed £5000 and will be met from existing budgetary provisions.

Party Leaders Forum 161211 Notes**Stimulus / Investment Package**

- Process - follow current arrangements of SP&R on 6 Dec & Budget Trans on 11 Dec
- Include PLF on 11 Dec at 11-1 prior to Budget Transformation
- Cross Party Support & Announcement
- Pre-announcement lobbying prior to formal announcement
- Communication agenda

PLF

- To be the front end of policy process
- Process to run as is for remainder of this years budget process
- For future, remove duplication - PLF can invite other members / officers as required
- Need to generate forward work programme based on priority for council process to follow
- Need to establish 15-20 year plan / Belfast 20-20 / vision
- Need to link groups and officers into this planning process
- Need to lobby government around resultant priorities
- Need to establish development programme for PLF, SMT, Groups & Next tier officers
- Need to do letter to staff following stimulus package
- Need to develop City Network - like London Welsh - to promote package

Rate / Package

- Target 2 - 3 % to create £30 - £50m investment package
- Need to create lobbying and communications package round this
- Follow existing P&R / budget transformation meeting schedule

Diversity Meetings

- To follow dates outlined
- Duncan Morrow to facilitate, JH to attend if possible
- DM to produce schedule for agendas based on sensitivities - following discussions with group leaders, ready for discussion at PLF on 11/01/12
- No meetings pre Christmas

Other Issues

- Need to quickly develop programme around apprenticeships, training programmes, procurement process (eg. Manchester) and bursaries - a pilot programme?
- Need to develop a PLF / SMT away day to establish Belfast 20-20 & teamwork
- Need a session to look at European and other funding opportunities
- Need a session to look at Support to Social Economy - CEx to look at Compton report, JH to bring speaker from Wales
- Need to look at title for Hugh Smith - Father of the House - and Freedom of the City
- Next meeting of PLF, 11 Jan 11-1
- Letter from CE to ratings agency
- Presentation required around benefits changes
- Follow upon- governance report.....

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources
Subject:	Appointment to the post of Head of Contracts
Date:	20, January 2012
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects

Relevant Background Information

At its meeting on 23 September 2011, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed that authority be delegated to the selection panel to make this appointment with the outcome of the recruitment and selection process being reported back to Committee for notation.

The post was publicly advertised on 3 and 4 November 2011 with a closing date of 18 November 2011.

Key Issues

The selection panel comprised three elected members: Councillor Deirdre Hargey, Councillor Adam Newton, and Councillor Mervyn Jones; the Director of Property and Projects, Gerry Millar and the Head of Human Resources, Jill Minne.

20 applications were received by the closing date of 18 November 2011 and, following short-listing, 9 applicants were invited to attend an assessment centre on 6 and 7 December 2011. The outcome of the assessment centre was that 4 applicants were invited to attend for final interview on 15 December 2011.

Following the final interviews, the selection panel unanimously recommended the appointment of Mr Donal Rogan on the appropriate point of the chief officers' salary band. Mr Ray Forbes was nominated as reserve candidate.

Resource Implications

None

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members note the appointment of Mr Donal Rogan to the post of Head of Contracts with effect from 19 December 2011.

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Standing Order 55 – Employment of Relatives
Date:	20 January 2012
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, (Director of Finance and Resources, ext 6083)
Contact Officer:	Jill Minne, Head of Human Resources, ext 3220

Relevant Background Information

To inform the Committee of delegated authority exercised by the Director of Finance and Resources to the employment of individuals who are related to existing officers of the Council.

The Director of Finance and Resources has authorised the appointment of the following individuals who are related to existing officers of the Council in accordance with the authority delegated to him by the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee on 27 June 2005. The Committee is asked to note the appointments are authorised by the Director under Standing Order 55.

NAME OF NEW EMPLOYEE	POST APPOINTED TO	RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING OFFICER	NAME OF EXISTING OFFICER	DEPARTMENT
Julie Gregg	Business Support Clerk	Sister	Nicola Gregg	H&E Services
		Aunt	Norma Gregg	Parks & Leisure
Leah Erwin	Business Support Clerk	Aunt	Jayne Byrne	Chief Executive's
Sean Conlon	Casual Front of House Steward	Father	John Conlon	H&E Services
Ann Heaney	Casual Front of House Steward	Husband	Brian Heaney	Development
Sarah McChesney	Leisure Attendant (Temporary)	Daughter	Sean McChesney	Parks & Leisure

Roisin McAnulty	Leisure Attendant (Temporary)	Sister	Harry McAnulty	Parks & Leisure
Jennifer Holmes	Leisure Attendant (Temporary)	Daughter	Brian Holmes	Parks & Leisure

<p>Resource Implications</p> <p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>Provision for this post exists within the revenue budgets of the relevant departments.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>There are no Human Resource considerations. All appointments have been made on the basis of merit in accordance with the Council's Recruitment Policies.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>There are no other implications.</p>
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<p>Recommendations</p> <p>Committee is asked to note the appointments authorised by the Director of Finance and Resources in accordance with Standing Order 55.</p>
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<p>Key to Abbreviations</p>

<p>Documents Attached</p>



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Girdwood Community Hub – Update
Date:	20 th January 2012
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects
Contact Officer:	Caroline Wilson, Project Officer, Chief Executive's Sinead Grimes, Strategic Planning and Policy Officer, Chief Executive's

1.0	Relevant background information
1.1	Members were informed at the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee meeting in 18 th November that the SEUPB Priority 2.1 Steering Committee has recommended the Girdwood Community Hub project for funding and that it had been forwarded it to the two governments' accountable departments for approval. (A copy of the letter from SEUPB is attached at Appendix 1)
1.2	<p>Council Officers met with SEUPB to seek further information on the letter and potential conditions of offer. The Director of Property and Projects updated Committee on a number of other issues which had been highlighted by SEUPB including -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Until the formal letter of offer is issued, the Council and its partners incur any expenditure at risk; - The Priority 2.1 Steering Committee were very positive about catalytic potential of the Hub and commended the Council and its partners for the significant work which had been undertaken to address the issues highlighted in the original economic appraisal however there were still a number of considerable risks on the implementation of the Hub; - Offer of funding is subject to proven capacity to implement within the tight timeframe; - Project has been forwarded to DSD economists which can take 12 months and then still needs to go to DFP after this. They will identify conditions of offer, related to risks identified; - Under SEUPB guidelines, the Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) normally act as advisers on the procurement, design and construction of capital projects; <p>SEUPB concluded by highlighting that the Priority 2.1 Steering Committee need further assurance by June 2012 on the risks identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) implementation plan for wider site b) ensuring consolidation of community and public buy-in c) securing planning permission d) securing SLA's with partners. <p>It was also highlighted that there are other projects pending if the Hub is deemed unrealistic by the June deadline. SEUPB also asked that no public announcements or press releases are about the project without the prior approval of SEUPB.</p>
1.3	At the Committee meeting on 18 th November, the Director of Property & Projects brought to Members attention that SEUPB guidelines require the use of the CPD. He highlighted that given the nature of the project and the need for community involvement, he did not believe that this would be the best course and the Council should act in this role given the unique nature of this project and the Council's proven track record of delivering major capital projects. The Committee endorsed this approach and it was agreed that the Director of Property meet with SEUPB and CPD to outline this. It was further agreed that an update report would be brought back to Committee in due course.

2.	Key issues to be addressed
2.1	<p>Use of Central Procurement Directorate (CPD)</p> <p>Following guidance from Members, Council officers met with SEUPB and CPD in mid December. During this meeting the adviser from CPD outlined their role in providing procurement advice to SEUPB. (See Appendix 2). The Director of Property and Projects outlined SP&R Committee's position on CPD. SEUPB recommended writing to them on this matter and they would seek the appropriate authority to deviate from their policy position.</p>
2.2	<p>Project Issues to be addressed by June 2012</p> <p>As Members are aware the timeframe for the delivery of the Hub project is extremely tight as all monies have to be committed and spent by 2015. In order to meet this timeframe it will be necessary for the Council to work at 'risk' over the coming months until, and if, a formal letter of offer is received. Subject to agreement by SP&R Committee and their authority to proceed at risk, the issues to be addressed by June 2012 in order to ensure that the Hub progresses include -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation plan for wider site This is a key consideration for the departmental economists who are keen to ensure that the Hub is developed in the context of a vibrant site and a recent meeting was held with the North Belfast Member for Parliament and Assembly Members to discuss this matter. It was agreed that the Director of Property and Projects would meet with DSD and OFMDFM representatives by the end of the month and provide a map showing latest thinking on use allocation for political consideration in February. - Ensuring consolidation of community and public buy-in At a meeting with the interim Hub Forum in December (community and statutory partners), the Director of Property and Projects outlined the issues above, including the risks involved. There is a commitment by the Forum to continue and increase public engagement, particularly in relation to the design of the building and its programmes. The Forum has agreed to meet over the next few weeks (18 Jan and 2 Feb) with an external facilitator to plan for the next stage of community engagement, widening community support for the project and involving local people in the design and programming of the Hub. - Securing planning permission DSD officials are carrying out an analysis of the infrastructure required for the Hub. This report will be completed shortly. Further discussions are ongoing in relation to the precise location for the Hub. To meet the tight funding deadlines, it is anticipated that the Council would submit a planning application for the Hub in July 2012. The timeline for a decision on this is dependent on the Planning Service and speedy engagement with statutory consultees, such as DRD Roads Service. Following the meeting with the North Belfast politicians it was agreed to address the infrastructure investment at the meeting with DSD officials. - Securing Service Level Agreements with partners Initial commitment to the Hub has been provided by Belfast Metropolitan College, the Prince's Trust and Police Service Northern Ireland. While they are all supportive of the Hub and believe that locating their programmes in the Hub would be beneficial to their objectives, there is a limit to how far we can proceed with legally-binding Service Level Agreements, prior to confirmation of the design of the building and the community engagement process. However, Council will work to develop Heads of Agreement documents with these 3 partners in advance of June 2012.

2.3	Critical Path – Next steps
	A critical path for the design, build and completion of the Hub is attached at Appendix 4 for the information of Members. The key steps over the coming months up to June 2012 include the procurement of a design consultant. This would however be at risk to the Council in advance of the letter of offer from SEUPB.

3.0	Decisions required
	Members are asked to note - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the key issues and risks which have been identified in relation to the Hub project and that the Council has been requested to provide further assurance on these to SEUPB by June 2012 – - agree that the Council proceeds at risk now in order to address the issues raised by SEUPB and to meet the tight timeframes involved - that there will be ongoing political and community engagement re the Hub project.

4.0	Resource Implications
	<p>Human</p> <p>Officers from the relevant Council departments will work with the Department for Social Development to implement a realistic project plan and with the Hub Forum on a community engagement process.</p> <p>Financial</p> <p>All expenditure for the project, as outlined in the application, must be claimed from SEUPB by mid-2015. The costs for the design consultant could be in the region of £250,000. It is anticipated that community engagement costs will be in the region of £15,000.</p> <p>Assets</p> <p>Property and Projects Department, in liaison with other departments, will oversee the land acquisition issues and construction programme and seek the appropriate approvals from Committee in due course.</p>

5.0	Equality Implications
	The Committee previously approved the Equality Strategy for the Girdwood Community Hub. It outlines how the Council will fulfil its equality obligations during the development of the Girdwood Community Hub and the Hub's likely impact and outcomes in terms of equality and good relations.

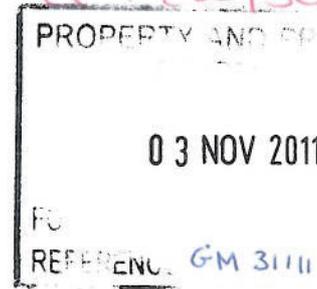
6.0 Documents Attached	
Appendix 1	Correspondence from Special European Union Programmes Body (02 Nov 11)
Appendix 2	CPD diagram
Appendix 3	Critical path programme

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2nd November 2011

Mr Gerry Millar
Belfast City Council
 Adelaide Exchange
 24-26 Adelaide Street
 Belfast
 Co. Antrim
 BT2 8GD



BELFAST CITY COUNCIL – GIRDWOOD COMMUNITY HUB

Dear Mr Millar,

The Peace III, Priority 2.1 Steering Committee considered the above application for funding on 24th/25th October 2011. The Steering Committee ultimately recommended the project for funding.

As the project exceeded the minimum scoring threshold, we have progressed your proposal to the Accountable Departments under Priority 2.1 (DSD in Northern Ireland and DECLG in Ireland) for approval.

This process will take a number of months. Only subject to its satisfactory completion, can an application be brought to the stage where a Letter of Offer can ultimately be issued to the promoter and the project implementation can commence.

I should advise you that, until such a point is reached, the promoter and its partners incur expenditure on this project at their own risk. Furthermore please refrain from making any public announcements or having any communication with the press without the prior approval of SEUPB.

I would be grateful if you would contact **Debbie McCann** at our Omagh office on Tel 028 82255750 to arrange a meeting to discuss the conditions of the funding.

Yours sincerely

pp. D. McGee

Howard Keery
 JTS Director

An Ómaigh
 Béal Feirste
 Muineachán

Teach AE
 11 Bóthar Chéibhlinne
 An Ómaigh
 Tuaisceart Éireann
 BT78 1LB

Omagh
 Belfast
 Monaghan

EU House
 11 Kevlin Road
 Omagh
 Northern Ireland
 BT78 1LB

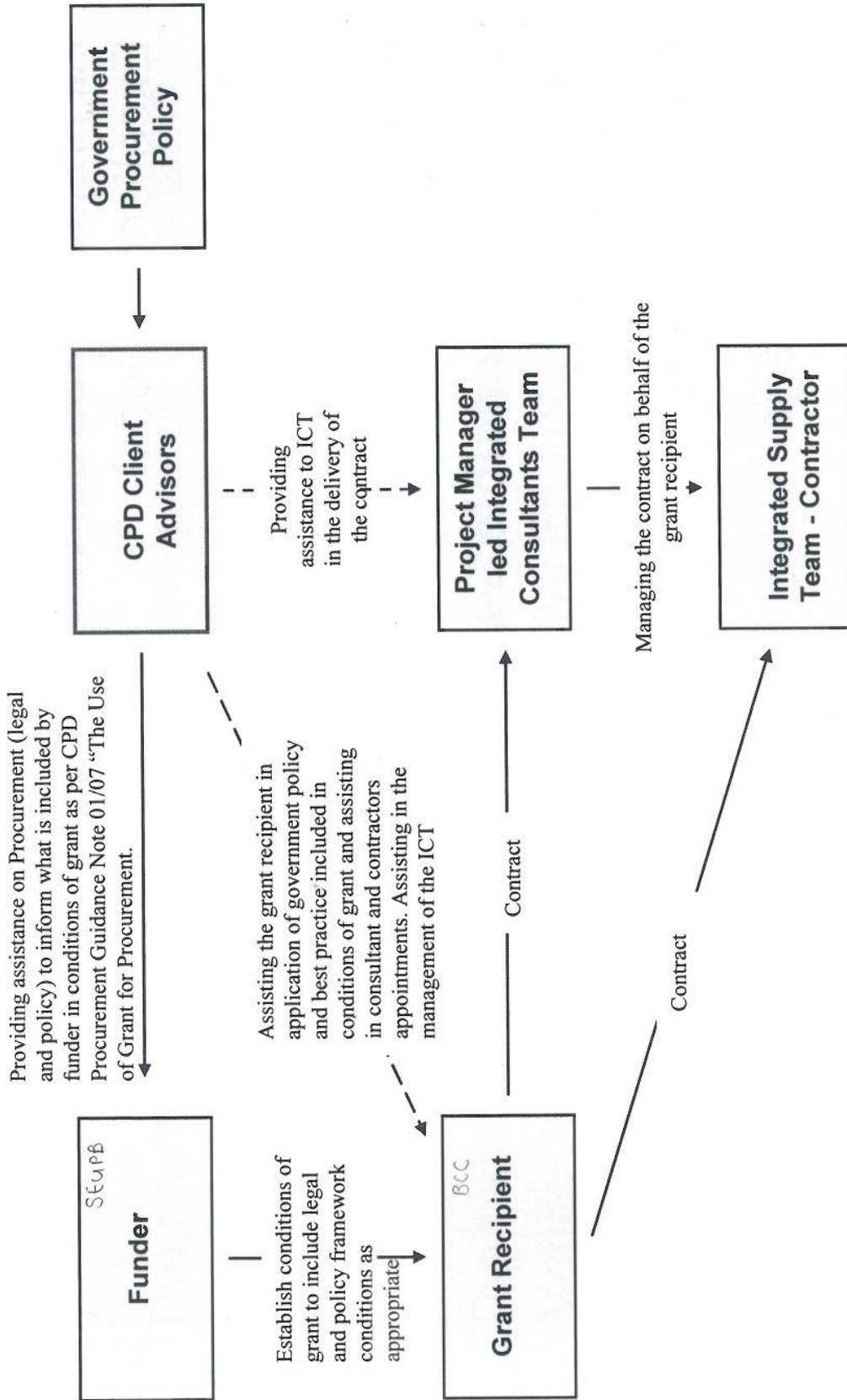
Omey
 Bilfawst
 Munachan

EU Hoose
 11 Kevlin Road
 Omey
 Norlin Airlan
 BT78 1LB

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Central Procurement Directorate

Procurement Delivery Model





Project: Cricwood Community Hub Revision A
 Date: Fri 06/01/12

Legend:
 ■ Task
 ■ Milestone
 ■ Progress
 ■ Summary
 ■ External Milestone
 ■ External Task
 ■ Deadline



BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Lagan Canal- Ministerial Visit
Date:	20 January 2012
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects
Contact Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects

1.0	Background
1.1	It was agreed by Council in November 2011 that an All Party Group should accept an offer to meet with the Minister for Culture, Arts & Leisure regarding the potential support for a Lagan Canal Project.
1.2	The meeting took place on 21 November and was attended by Alderman Rodgers, Councillor Ó Muilleoir and Councillor Mullan, with apologies from Alderman Stalford and Alderman Ekin. Council Officers accompanied Members and the Minister was of course supported by staff from DCAL.

2.0	Key Issues
2.1	Members outlined the background to the project, the context of the All Island Waterways Network, the work undertaken to date by the Council and our relationship with Ulster Garden Villages who are a keen supporter of the Lagan Canal concept.
2.2	Members then expended on the various benefits of this project including tourism, links to maritime history, leisure, community cohesion, enhanced open space and opportunities for sport, physical activity and ensuing health benefits.
2.3	The Minister accepted and endorsed these benefits and was particularly taken with the possibilities for increasing the participation of working class communities in river and riverside activities.
2.4	The Minister did however point out that her Department had no spare budgetary capacity for this Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) period and that the priority for the Department was the development of new Stadia over the next few years. She did not rule out future funding if the project was sufficiently developed.

2.5	The Minister did, however, see merit in involving both DSD and DETI in discussion on this project as it impacted on areas with those departmental remits and agreed to raise the issue with ministerial colleagues.
2.6	Furthermore the Minister also undertook to write to Sports NI, seeking advice on how they might increase river and towpath participation in working class communities and also to ask SIB for their views on the project and possible funding options.
2.7	The Members responded by providing some further detail on the broader range of physical projects then identified in the draft Stimulus Package and also explained that the Council's economic appraisal for the project was being refreshed as part of an overall business case looking at the whole of river from the harbour to Lough Neagh.
2.8	Members also accepted that money would not be immediately available but were encouraged at the Ministers idea of broadening support to include other Departments. The Members also suggested it may be helpful to arrange via the Lord Mayor an event for all interested parties to look at ways forward.
2.9	The Minister welcomed the meeting and suggested further communication with Belfast City Council in terms of a more joined up approach to capital projects and more frequent meetings between Belfast City Council and the Department.
2.10	In summary the meeting was positive and besides the issue raised regarding the Lagan Canal Project, was a useful step in enhancing the overall advocacy of Council in making things happen for Belfast.

3.0 Resources

No additional implications on staff or budgets at this stage.

4.0 Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- i. Note the report of the meeting.
- ii. Agree to seek the Lord Mayor's support for an event for all interested parties to this project.
- iii. Agree to continued and increased communication with the Department in regard to Capital Projects and to follow up with other Departments in regard to the Lagan Canal Project.

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BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Connswater Community Greenway - Land Acquisition
Date:	20 January 2012
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects, Ext: 6217
Contact Officer:	Celine Dunlop, Estates Surveyor, Property and Projects, Ext: 3419

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Belfast City Council, as part of the City Investment Strategy, has agreed to coordinate the acquisition of lands to enable the Connswater Community Greenway (CCG) 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.

2	Key Issues
2.1	An area of land adjacent to Village Green and off Ladas Drive consisting of 0.178 acres and shown outlined red on the plan attached at Appendix '1' has been identified as being required for the CCG. Council officials have agreed to purchase this land from Cregagh Sports Club for £2670.
2.2	An area of land at Upper Knockbreda Road shown outlined red on the attached plan has been identified as being required for landscaping as part of the CCG. The land is owned by the DRD, Roads Service and while DRD cannot dispose of the land on a permanent basis they have agreed to grant the Council a licence at nil cost to allow the CCG contractor to landscape the area.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	The proposal to acquire the lands at Linen Gardens from Cregagh Sports Club requires expenditure of £2,670 plus reasonable legal fees.
3.2	The purchase costs for all the land required for the CCG are included in the CCG budget of the City Investment Fund and there will be no additional cost to the Council.
3.3	The proposal to take a licence to use the DRD land at Upper Knockbreda Road is at nil cost. Officers have agreed to pay DRD's reasonable legal fees if required.

3.4	<u>Human Resources</u> Staff resources required from Estates Management Unit and Legal Services.
3.5	<u>Asset and Other Implications</u> The additional land will form part of the CCG which when complete will be managed and maintained by the Council.

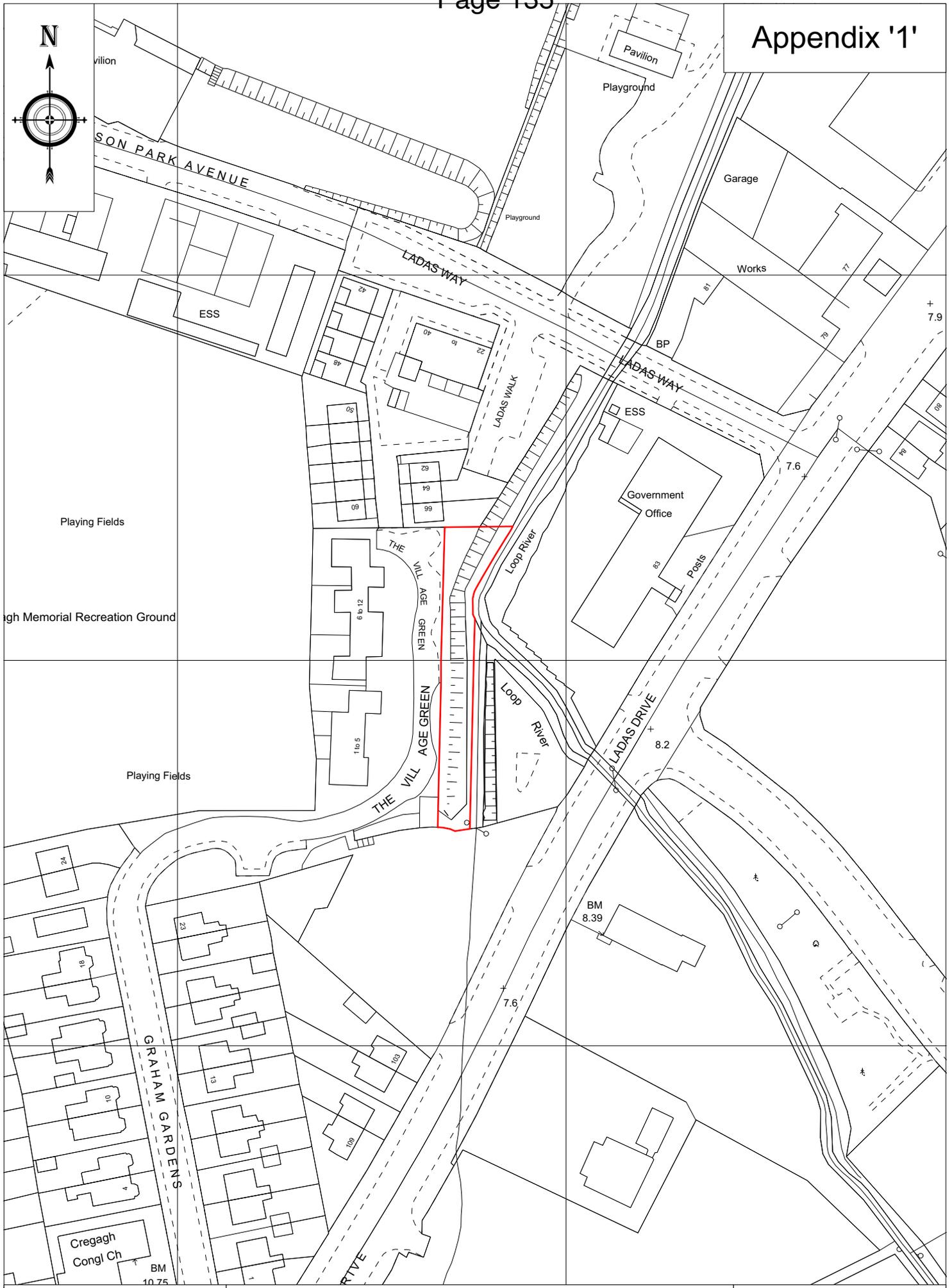
4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	The CCG will have a positive impact in terms of equality of opportunity and good relations.

5	Recommendations
5.1	It is recommended that the Committee grant approval for the Council to purchase the lands outlined red on the plan attached at Appendix '1' from Cregagh Sports Club for £2,670.
5.2	It is recommended that the Committee grant approval for the Council to take a licence from DRD for the land outlined red on the plan attached at Appendix '2'.

6	Decision Tracking
6.1	Action to be complete by Celine Dunlop and Lisa Armstrong by 31 st March 2012

7	Key to Abbreviations
7.1	CCG Connswater Community Greenway
7.2	DRD Department for Regional Development

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

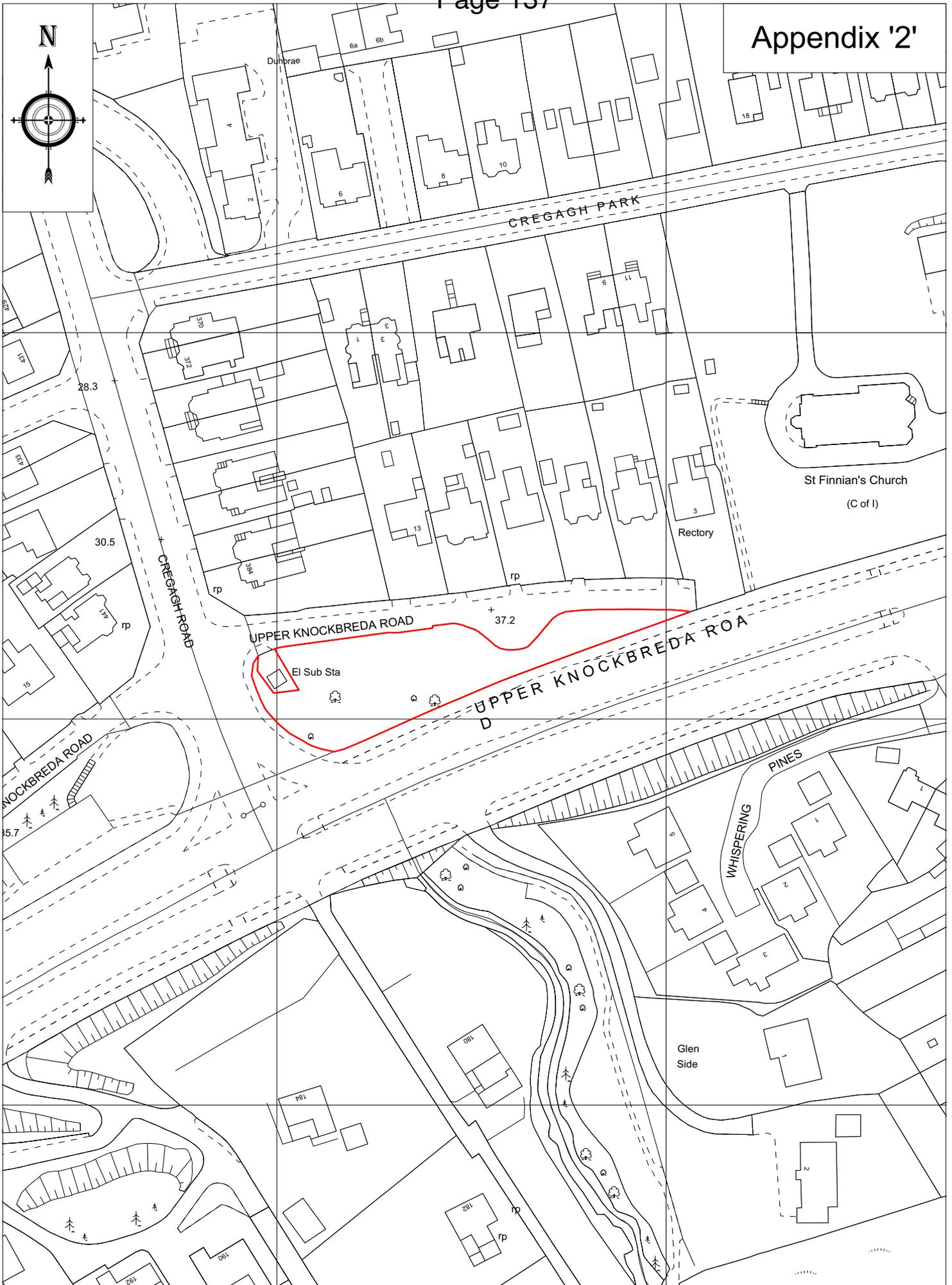


Scale 1:1250

Connswater Community Greenway - Plot 66a

Area 0.178 acres

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Scale 1:1250

Connswater Community Greenway - Plot 78b

Area 0.409 acres

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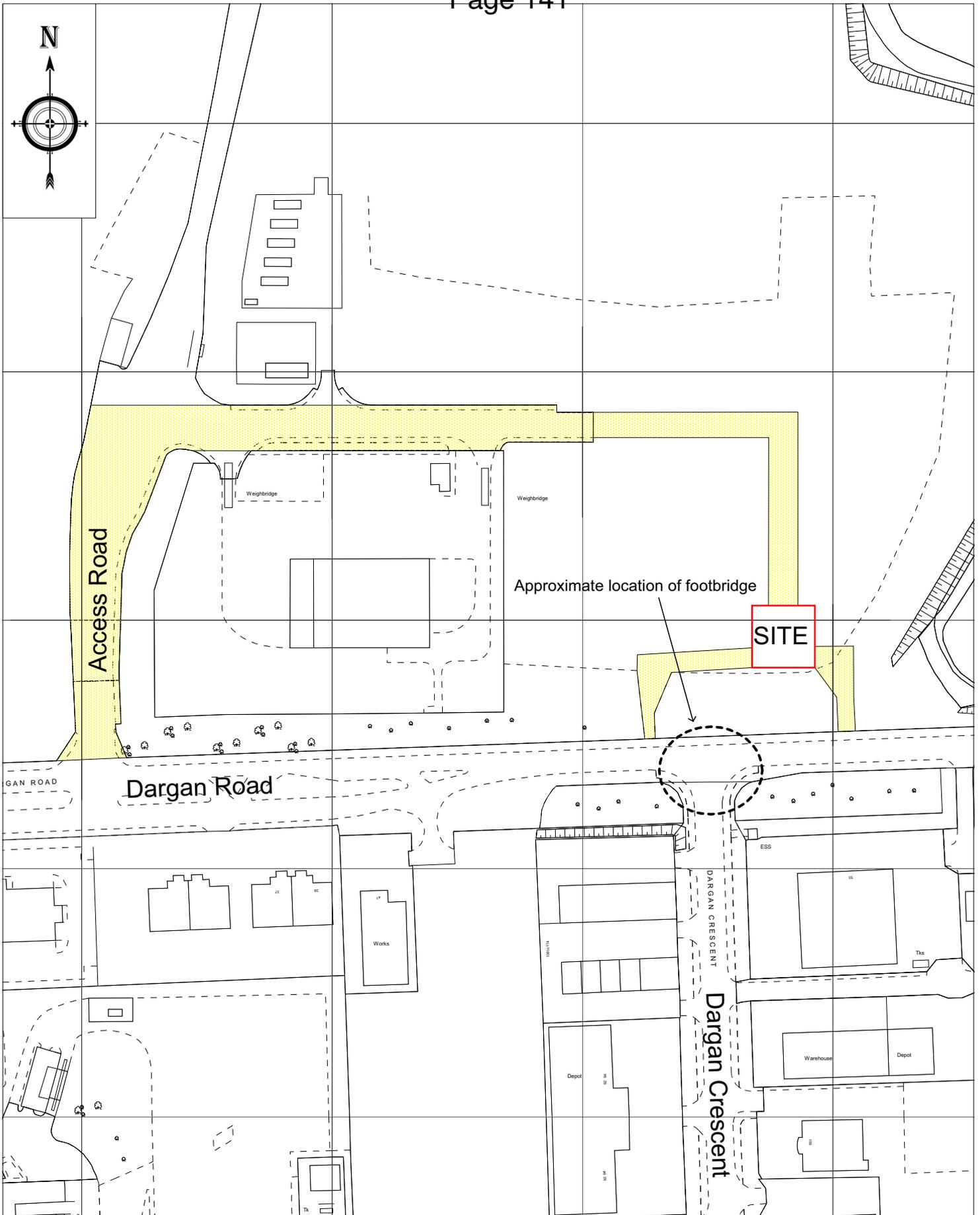


BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	North Foreshore - Proposed licence to Seating and Access Contractors Ltd
Date:	20 January 2012
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects, Ext: 6217
Contact Officer:	Susan Quail, North Foreshore Project Unit Manager, ext 3441

1.	Relevant Background Information
1.1	In recent years, the Belfast City Marathon route ran along Dargan Crescent, across Dargan Road and onto the cycle track on the northern shore of Belfast Lough. Runners were required to cross a busy dual carriageway linking the Port to the M2 Motorway. Due to increased port traffic this has presented an obstacle and a safety hazard for the runners.
2.	Key Issues
2.1	The solution is a temporary foot bridge over Dargan Road to be erected by a contractor appointed by Belfast City Marathon Ltd, the event management company. To facilitate material storage and bridge construction, Belfast City Marathon Ltd has requested the temporary use of a stoned site fronting Dargan Road in the North Foreshore Giants Park – see map Appendix 1.
2.2	Belfast City Marathon Ltd has appointed Seating and Access Contractors Ltd of Unit 2, Block 4B, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15 to erect the temporary foot bridge. Belfast City Council has been requested to grant a licence to Seating and Access Contractors Ltd on a c25metre x 25metre site from 3 rd May to 8 th May 2012 inclusive. This will be used for plant and material storage purposes only. The licensee will erect temporary fencing and site access will be via the existing internal road network. Security will be provided by the licensee.
3.	Resource Implications
3.1	Financial The licence will be for a period of 6 days and usage restricted to works related to the erection of the temporary foot bridge. Belfast City Council is a sponsor of the Belfast Marathon Event. This is considered a good use of a council asset for the benefit of the city. A nominal £1.00 licence fee is proposed.
3.2	Other Implications None
4.	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	None

5.	Recommendations
5.1	<p>The grant of a licence to Seating and Access Contractors Ltd on a site at the North Foreshore for use in connection with the construction of a temporary foot bridge over Dargan Road.</p> <p>This site is as shown on the attached drawing. The licence term is from 3rd to 8th May 2012 and the licence fee shall be £1.00 nominal. The licensee will provide all necessary insurance cover and indemnify the council against any claim arising out of its use and occupation of the site.</p>
6.	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – location map



Based on the Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland map with the permission of the Director & Chief Executive. © Crown Copyright.

MAP REFERRED TO
 BELFAST CITY COUNCIL to SEATING AND ACCESS CONTRACTORS LIMITED
 LAND AT NORTH FORESHORE, BELFAST

Produced by:-

SW

Estates Management Unit,
 Belfast City Council,
 Property and Projects Dept.,
 Adelaide Exchange,
 24-26 Adelaide Street,
 Belfast BT2 8GD.

Date:-

06/01/2012

Scale 1:2000

Site Area: 25m x 25m

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BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Belmont Park Car Park Rent Review – The Church of Ireland Young Men’s Society
Date:	20 January 2012
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 former Client Services (Parks and Amenities) Committee on 22 August 1995 agreed to lease a 0.884 acre site to the Church of Ireland Young Men’s Society for the purposes of a car park. The site had previously been used unofficially for parking by members of the CIYMS and the public. The extent of the site leased to the CIYMS is outlined red on the map attached as Appendix 1, with the surrounding Council owned Belmont Park shaded green. The lease is for a period of 50 years from 1 November 1995 and is subject to 5 yearly rent reviews. The rent payable fell due for review on 1 November 2010.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The current Lease restricts the use of the land to a car park for use by Members of CIYMS and permitted visitors in connection with the occupation and use of CIYMS’s adjoining lands. CIYMS must also provide access and permit parking on the land by members of the public using the adjoining Belmont Park.
2.2	The current rent of £2,430 per annum for this site fell due for review on 1 November 2010. After negotiation with an agent acting for the CIYMS a revised rent of £2,900 per annum has been provisionally agreed, subject to committee approval. The revised amount is for the period 1 November 2010 to 31 October 2015 and has been increased to a level similar to other recent comparable lettings. It also reflects the restricted user clause and the fact that the car park has shared use with members of the public.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Financial Implications</u></p> <p>Revised rental of £2,900 per annum represents an additional rental income of £470 per annum. This revised rent is for the period 1 November 2010 to 31 October 2015 and arrears accrued to date will be invoiced.</p>

3.2	<p><u>Human Resources Implications:</u></p> <p>Staff resource required to complete the rent review process.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>Completion of this rent review represents effective asset management.</p>

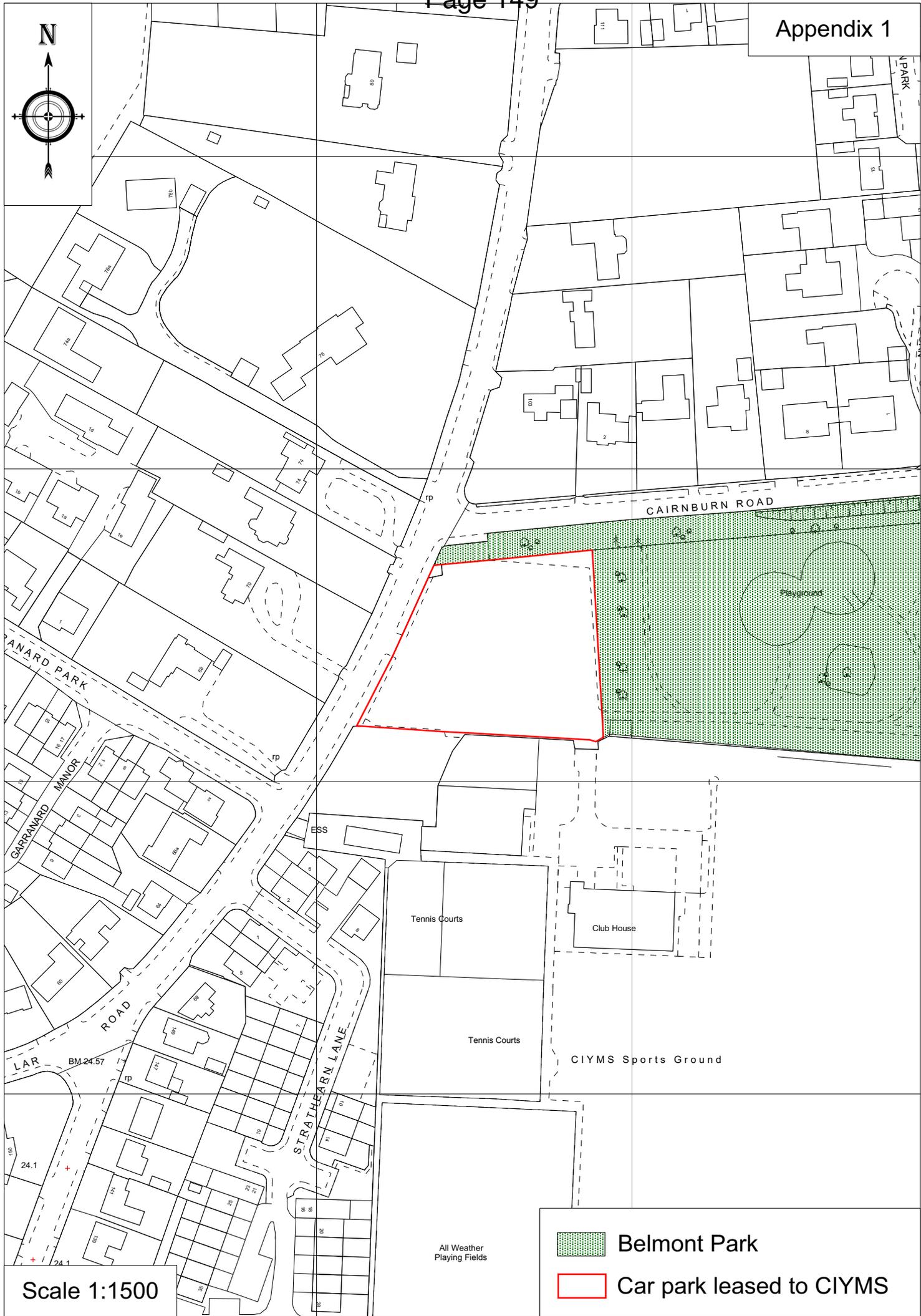
4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	The CIYMS state that its membership is open to both genders, all religious denominations and faiths, and all ages.

5	Recommendations
5.1	It is recommended that the Committee agree to a revised rent of £2,900 per annum for the 5 year period from 1 November 2010 until 31 October 2015.

6	Decision Tracking
Director of Property & Projects to ensure revised rent payable, together with any arrears from date of review, is correctly invoiced; Director of Finance & Resources to ensure rent subsequently collected in timely manner.	

7	Key to Abbreviations
CIYMS – Church of Ireland Young Men’s Society	

8	Documents Attached
Appendix 1 – Map showing the extent of the area leased to the CIYMS outlined red. Council owned Belmont Park is shaded green.	



Scale 1:1500

All Weather Playing Fields

-  Belmont Park
-  Car park leased to CIYMS

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Construction Contracts – Social Clauses
Date:	20 January 2012
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects – ext 6217
Contact Officer:	Michael Stanley, Capital Programme Manager – ext 3483

Relevant Background Information	
1.1	Members have previously asked officers to consider the issue of how social clauses in procurement might be used to provide opportunities to local firms and those not in employment.

Key Issues	
2.1	Procurement and employment laws mean that the Council cannot limit contract awards to Belfast or local firms, require contractors to use Belfast or local suppliers or sub-contractors or require local people to be employed by contractors or sub-contractors. However, there are several initiatives which might be applicable:
2.2	Construction Sales Growth Programme: This initiative, which is already running, is funded by the Council, through the Economic Development Unit, and the European Regional Development Fund's European Sustainable Competitiveness Programme for Northern Ireland. It is aimed at small Belfast-based firms in the construction and allied business sector who want to identify, target and exploit supply chain opportunities with the major building contractors delivering large-scale construction and regeneration projects.
2.3	Social Clause Delivery Forum: Central government includes requirements for construction contractors to provide employment opportunities through the DEL Steps to Work Programme (targeted at the unemployed and economically inactive) and to employ a specified level (5%) of their own, and their sub-contractors', workforce on formally recognised paid apprenticeships. These requirements are pro-rata the value of labour content in a contract; however, the scale of the Council's contracts is generally less than those of central government and therefore the application of this requirement might need to be adjusted accordingly. DEL advise that this initiative would be monitored by them on our behalf.
2.4	Local publicity: The Project Management Unit, supported by the Economic Development

2.5	<p>Unit, could provide information in the locality of major construction projects to publicise potential supply chain opportunities. This would include clarification of the scale and nature of upcoming opportunities, providing opportunities for building consortium bids and advice on issues to consider when tendering.</p> <p>Tender/Contract Alert: Notifications of future tenders and the award of contracts are currently published on the Council's tender website to alert contractors, sub-contractors and suppliers of potential business opportunities.</p>
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Resource Implications	
3.1	It is not expected that the implementation of these initiatives would have any significant impact on the budgets for the Council's construction contracts.
3.2	The Construction Sales Growth programme is being managed by Economic Development Unit and funded by EU and existing Council resources.
3.3	The Steps to Work Programme and the Apprenticeship Scheme are funded by DEL.
3.4	The Social Clause Delivery initiative would be monitored by DEL on our behalf.

Recommendations	
4.1	It is recommended that the Committee approve the implementation of the above initiatives on relevant construction contracts as a pilot scheme over the next 12 months.

Decision Tracking	
5.1	A report on the implementation and effectiveness of these initiatives will be presented at the end of the pilot period.

Key to Abbreviations	
DEL: Department of Employment and Learning	

Documents Attached	
None	

GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP**MONDAY, 9th JANUARY, 2012****MEETING OF THE GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP**

Members present: Councillor Hendron (Chairman);
Alderman Stoker;
Councillors Attwood, Kyle and Maskey.

External Members: Mr. S. Brennan, Voluntary/Community Sector;
Ms. A. Chada, Minority Ethnic Groups;
Mr. P. Mackel, Belfast and District Trades Council;
Mrs. M. Marken, Roman Catholic Church;
Ms. J. Peden, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;
Mr. P. Scott, Roman Catholic Church; and
Ms. M. de Silva, Voluntary/Community Sector.

In attendance: Mrs. H. Francey, Good Relations Manager;
Mr. I. May, Peace III Programme Manager;
Miss A. Deighan, Good Relations Officer;
Ms. L. Dolan, Good Relations Officer; and
Mr. B. Flynn, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillor Reynolds, Mrs. J. Hawthorne and Mr. W. McGivern.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 28th November were taken as read and signed as correct.

Ms. J. Peden

The Chairman welcomed Ms. J. Peden, who had been appointed as the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust representative on the Partnership, to her first meeting.

Future Meeting at Suffolk Lenadoon Interface Group

The Partnership was reminded that, at its meeting on 7th November, it had agreed that it should investigate the feasibility of holding a future meeting at the offices of the Suffolk Lenadoon Interface Group, which would enable the Members to be updated on the good relations work ongoing at this interface. Accordingly, the Good Relations Manager reported that she had made arrangements for the meeting of the Partnership, scheduled for 6th February, to be held at the premises of the organisation. She added that transport to and from the City Hall would be arranged for Members.

Noted.

Presentation on 'Our SPACE' Programme

The Partnership was advised that Mr. Peter Shaw, Director of the Belfast Community Sports Development Network, was in attendance to provide an overview on the work of the Network's 'Our SPACE' programme and he was admitted to the meeting and welcomed by the Chairman.

Mr. Shaw stated that the Belfast Community Sports Development Network had been established in October, 2006 and had worked with a wide range of community regeneration organisations to deliver programmes through the medium of sport. He pointed out that the Network sought to oversee activities which promoted social inclusion and healthy living primarily within areas of social and economic deprivation. He explained that the Network had, from December, 2009 until June, 2011, overseen the delivery of the 'Our SPACE' project, which had been funded by the Council through the Peace III Programme. He stated that the aim of the project had been to promote an anti-sectarian and anti-racist message through the medium of sport and to enable young people to partake in activities which would prove to be beneficial on both a personal and educational basis. Mr. Shaw then provided examples of the types of activities which had been delivered through the project and outlined the main achievements of the initiative. He then paid tribute to the work of a range of bodies, agencies, clubs and volunteers who had assisted in the delivery of the programme and provided statistics on the numbers and geographical spread of participants, together with an overview of the positive impact provided to local communities.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Shaw for his presentation and paid tribute to the Network on the success of the project. Mr. Shaw then answered a range of Members' questions in respect of the future plans for the delivery of the project; the work ongoing to engage further with groups who were considered to be socially marginalised; and the current structure and direction of the organisation. He concluded by pointing out that the Network would be happy to work again in conjunction with the Council in the delivery of further projects of this nature.

After further discussion, the Partnership noted the information which had been provided.

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 Peace III Programme Manager reported that work was ongoing in the collation of progress reports and monitoring returns for the last quarter of 2011 and that these would be presented for the Partnership's consideration at its meeting in February. He reported further that, subsequent to a number of queries raised by the Special European Union Programmes Body in respect of the Youth Engagement Programme and Tension Monitoring Programme, additional information had been provided to the Body and the Partnership was advised that a decision regarding future funding would be forthcoming. He advised the Partnership that calls for applications to the Strategic Grants Programme, which had opened on 21st October, had closed on 16th December and that an Assessment Panel had been established to review the applications on 17th and 18th January. The Peace

**Good Relations Partnership,
Monday, 9th January, 2012**

99

III Programme Manager indicated also that a memorandum had been received from the Special European Union Programmes Body in respect of the criteria for the re-distribution of Phase I 'slippage money' which indicated that submissions in this regard must be submitted to the Body by 20th January. He then outlined a range of forthcoming events and indicated that invites would be forwarded for the attention of Members.

The Good Relation Relations Manager drew the Members' attention to the level of 'ineligible expenditure' as identified through the verification of expenditure for the Programme, which stood at 0.65%. She pointed out that every effort had been made to minimise such ineligible expenditure and stated that the levels achieved represented a very low error rate, which was due to the vigilance and attention to detail by the Peace III team.

The Partnership noted the information which had been provided and congratulated the officers for their management and monitoring of expenditure associated with the Programme.

Revised Equality Action Plan

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

"Purpose

Following the public consultation period on the Council's revised draft Equality Scheme, the Partnership is asked to approve the revised Equality Scheme, revised Interim Equality Action Plan and the proposed Council response to the consultation comments.

Background

The Good Relations Partnership will recall that last year they considered reports outlining revised guidance from the Equality Commission on S75 duties and the implications for the Council. The revised guidance required the Council to prepare a revised Equality Scheme, drawn up in accordance with a model template issued by the Equality Commission, and consult with the public. In addition all public authorities are requested to:

- **Introduce revised screening procedures, report quarterly and make all related documents available on the website**
- **Undertake an Audit of Inequalities and**
- **Develop an Equality Action Plan, linked to the corporate planning cycle, to ensure that equality and good relations are incorporated and mainstreamed at a strategic level across the Council's business.**

At its meeting on 10 October 2011, the Good Relations Partnership approved the draft revised Equality Scheme, Audit of Inequalities and Interim Equality Action Plan for consultation; these were approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 21 October 2011 and were then submitted for an eight week period of public consultation from 21 October – 16 December 2011.

Consultation Process

The Council's Equality Consultation List (known as the AA list) was updated in September 2011. All consultees received an electronic copy of the revised Equality Scheme, the Audit of Inequalities and the Interim Equality Action Plan, a consultation response form and an opportunity to update their details on the Council's consultation list.

In addition, the documents were presented to consultees at the Council's own Consultation Forum on 10 November 2011, at a NI regional equality consultation event at Lagan Valley Island Civic Centre on 16 November 2011 held in partnership with the Local Government Staff Commission, and to the Equality Coalition on Wednesday 14 December 2011.

The closing date for the consultation process was 16 December 2011. The Council received only 5 formal written responses, from the Equality Commission, Disability Action, the Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ), the Rainbow Project and Employers for Disability NI. All consultees' responses are recorded, considered and responded to.

Comments received

- The Equality Commission made no reference to the draft Equality Scheme. It commended the draft Audit of Inequalities, stating that the Council had taken a "positive approach". It also made some general comments about the draft Action Plan in relation to monitoring, layout, outcomes, promoting participation in public life and employment inequalities.
- The response from Disability Action commented on the draft Equality Scheme in detail, particularly the two chapters relating to consulting and ensuring access to information. They also commented on the Audit of Inequalities and the proposed Interim Action Plan.
- The CAJ response was a generic one submitted to all City, Borough and District Councils and to the Local Government Staff Commission.

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- The Rainbow Project's comments related to making greater use of LGBT data and research information and the promotion of greater awareness of LGBT issues within the workforce.
- The Employers for Disability NI (EFDNI) response related to wider distribution of information regarding job opportunities.

These comments have been taken into account and relevant amendments made where possible; the proposed Council response to each comment is attached.

Amendments required

As a result, some textual amendments have been made to Chapters 3 and 6 of the Equality Scheme.

No amendments to the Audit of Inequalities will be required prior to formal submission since no specific comments on this were received during consultation.

Equality Action Plan

The Equality Action Plan will require minor amendments before submission to the Equality Commission, following comments made during public consultation. These amendments have been included in the revised Interim Equality Action Plan and have been agreed with the appropriate Departmental staff. The amendments are:

- To remove the reference to the Young People's Strategy
- To develop and consult on the Integrated Cultural Strategy
- To develop and implement the Older People's Action Plan.

These amendments are in response to the comments made by the Equality Commission, which drew attention to the need for clarity on the current state of development of various strategies; in particular, to the fact that references had been made to strategies and action plans which are not yet completed and still in development. The Partnership should note that any public document should refer only to policies/strategies which have been equality screened and made available on our website.

The Interim Equality Action Plan will run until March 2012 and the Equality and Diversity Officer will work with staff across the Council to develop a more comprehensive Equality Action Plan which will run in conjunction with the corporate planning cycle for 2012/13. Any outstanding consultation issues will be addressed at this stage.

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The Partnership will be aware that although socio-economic status is not one of the nine official equality categories under Section 75, it is an important consideration for us in broader terms. The Council is concerned about addressing poverty and general inequality within the City and is currently developing an anti-poverty strategy and economic stimulus package. It is likely that an action relating to this strategy will be included within the full Equality Action Plan planned for 2012/13.

Key issues

Timescale

Since the Council has been formally notified that it must submit its revised Equality Scheme to the Equality Commission for approval by 1 February 2012, final documents must be approved during the January 2012 Committee cycle.

Training

The Equality and Diversity Officer is currently delivering a series of workshops, on a Departmental basis, for staff involved in developing policies, focusing on the revised equality screening process. These workshops will be tailored towards the differing needs of staff, help raise the profile of the revised equality process, build capacity and ensure a more consistent approach to the policy development process within the Council.

Resource Implications

Minimal – to be met from the Good Relations Unit's revenue budget.

Equality and Good Relations Implications

Positive implications in equality-proofing and good relations-proofing Council policies and services.

Recommendations

The Good Relations Partnership is requested to note this report and approve the:

- revised Equality Scheme
- revised Interim Equality Action Plan
- proposed responses to consultation comments

The Good Relations Manager outlined the principal aspects of the report and, after discussion the Partnership adopted the recommendation and endorsed the contents of the Council's Revised Equality Scheme. It was noted that copies of the documents referred to within the recommendation were available on the modern.gov site.

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Presentation – Migrants and Minority Ethnic Project

The Partnership was advised that Ms. L. Dolan, Migrant and Minority Ethnic Project Officer, was in attendance to update the Members in respect of the Migrants and Minority Ethnic Project.

Ms. Dolan outlined the background to the development of the project and explained that its primary aim was to encourage integration between new and existing residents of the City and she outlined how the Council had provided civic leadership in addressing the issue of migration and the emergence of new minority communities. The Partnership was informed that the project, which was funded through the Peace III Programme, had been established to address the significant increase in the number, background and diversity of migrants who had moved to Belfast since 2004. Ms. Dolan explained that the project sought to improve awareness of migrant issues and to promote interagency co-operation to enable enhanced support for, and the integration of, new communities within Belfast. She then outlined the role of the Belfast Migrants' Forum and provided an overview of the future training programmes and initiatives which would be provided through the Belfast Integration and Inclusion Programme which, she indicated, would create additional opportunities for new communities to participate more effectively in a full range of activities.

The Partnership was then updated on the plans which had been formulated to deliver additional training to migrant workers in respect of their employment rights which would be achieved through the holding of advice clinics and the provision of support and representation for affected individuals. She concluded by outlining the challenges which existed, particularly to the Roma and Bulgarian communities, together with an overview of the practical steps which had been taken to enhance relationships, especially within South Belfast.

Ms. Dolan then answered a range of questions in relation to the provision of English lessons to migrants as well as the projected timescale for the specialised transitional arrangements which had been established for the integration of the Roma community in Belfast.

The Partnership congratulated Ms. Dolan on the progress achieved by the project and noted the information which had been provided.

St. Patrick's Day 2012 - Small Grants Scheme

The Partnership considered the undernoted report and, after discussion, agreed unanimously that Grant Aid be awarded, under the delegated authority of the Chief Executive, to the organisations as set out within the recommendations:

“Relevant Background Information

The Partnership will recall that at its meeting on 15th August 2008, it recommended that the Council support community and voluntary groups wishing to organise small-scale events to mark St. Patrick's Day through the Good Relations Grant-Aid Fund. The total budget was not to exceed £32,000 and the upper limit for each application was to be £1,000. All applications would be assessed against pre-agreed criteria.

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This decision was approved by the Policy and Resources Committee and was adopted by Council at its meeting in October 2008.

For the 2012 round, applications and guidelines were drawn up and letters were distributed to previous applicants as well as Councillors informing groups of the existence of the fund. Notifications were also forwarded to the Community Relations Council e-bulletin and the NI Council for Voluntary Action Grant Tracker website. The information was also made available on the Belfast City Council website.

Key Issues

The St. Patrick's Day fund has again proved extremely popular. At the closing date of 12 noon on Friday 25th November 2011, 127 applications for grant-aid had been received, with a total amount requested of £103,368 which greatly exceeds the £32,000 available. Compared to last year an additional 33 applications were received. A full list of the organisations who applied is attached.

There was a good geographical spread with applications received from all over the city, as indicated in the following table:

BT1	1	0.75%
BT2	3	2%
BT3	1	0.75
BT4	19	15%
BT5	8	6.5%
BT6	6	5%
BT7	8	6.5%
BT8	2	1%
BT10	1	0.75%
BT11	10	8%
BT12	19	15%
BT13	16	12%
BT14	12	10%
BT15	17	14%
BT17	1	0.75%
BT36	3	2%

Activities proposed are wide-ranging and for all ages and include educational visits, workshops, educational displays and cultural events.

A scoring matrix was devised to assess applications against the criteria, a copy of which is attached as appendix 2. Following assessment, it is proposed that successful applications receive funding proportionate to the score obtained, as follows:

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Marks	Max Award £	Number of Groups	Total Allocation £
0-10 marks	Up to £0	3	0
10-20 marks	Up to £200	13	1850
20-30 marks	Up to £300	18	4300
30-40 marks	Up to £400	43	13600
40-50 marks	Up to £500	33	13850
50-60 marks	Up to £600	11	5800
60-70 marks	Up to £700	3	1950
70-80 marks	Up to £800	1	700
80-90 marks	Up to £900	2	1700
Total			44,050

Although the total allocation of £44,050 exceeds the approved figure of £32,000, the Partnership will be aware that grant-aid is paid on receipted expenditure only and experience indicates that it is likely that some groups will not spend their full allocation. In 2010, for example, the total sum approved was £39,666 but the actual figure paid out was £24,654.80. Last year the total sum approved was £33,374 and the actual figure paid out was £18,801. It is envisaged that this will be the same in 2012.

Resource Implications

Financial

Provision for this expenditure has been made in the Unit's budget, 75% of which can be recouped from OFM/DFM through the District Council's Good Relations Programme.

Equality and Good Relations Considerations

The St. Patrick's Day grant scheme aims to fund small-scale local community events or activities to enable communities celebrate St. Patrick's Day at a local level. The fund forms part of the Council's aim to promote and support cultural diversity within the City. The geographical spread of applicants demonstrates that this fund was accessed by a wide range of community and voluntary groups from across the City. Equality and Good Relations considerations are therefore central to the provision of funding in this way.

Recommendations

The Good Relations Partnership recommends that the following projects fulfil the St. Patrick's Day Small Grants criteria and that grant-aid is awarded, up to these amounts, to the groups listed below:

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- a. Up to £900
2526 South Belfast Area Youth Project
- b. Up to £800
2512 East Belfast Mission
- c. Up to £700
2501 Ballymacarrett Arts and Cultural Society
- d. Up to £650
2441 Culturlann McAdam O Fiaich
2507 Sandy Row Residents Association
2530 St. James Community Forum
- e. Up to £550
2446 Ardmonagh Family Centre
2463 John Vianney Senior Citizens Club
2465 Beyond Skin
2486 St. Oliver Plunkett Parish
2496 Divis Youth Project
2497 Crosswires
- f. Up to £500
2435 Crusaders Youth Football Club
2438 Concerned Residents of Upper Ardoyne
2440 Annadale & Haywood Residents Association
2495 Falls Youth Providers
2524 Feile an Phobail
- g. Up to £450
2413 Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group
2416 Whitecity Over 50s Group
2443 Society of St. Vincent de Paul
2448 Spectrum Centre
2453 Oliver Plunkett Lunch Club
2467 Glen Community Centre Tuesday Group
2473 Sandy Row Cultural Society
2481 Belfast Orangefest
2509 Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre
2517 Markets Community Centre
2519 ArtsEkta
2523 MARA (Connswater Community & Leisure)
2528 Greater Village Reperation Trust

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h. Up to £400

- 2412 Whitecity Community Development Association
- 2418 Bridge Community Association
- 2419 Conway Senior Citizens Group
- 2420 Short Strand Community Centre
- 2431 Star Neighbourhood Centre
- 2447 Ballysillan Community Forum
- 2451 Walkway Community Association
- 2452 Carrick Hill Residents Association
- 2458 Docksiders Senior Mens Group
- 2461 Sailortown Cultural & Historical Society
- 2475 166 Sydenham Cross Community Support Centre
- 2480 Clonard Senior Citizens Group
- 2482 East Belfast Historical & Cultural Society
- 2484 Willowfield Parish Community Association
- 2485 Inner East Youth Project
- 2490 Royal Irish Rangers Old Comrades Association
- 2500 Ballymac Friendship Centre
- 2513 Lower Oldpark Community Association
- 2515 Ullans Academy
- 2516 Ballymacarrett Community & Cultural Engagement Project
- 2529 Blackie River Community Group

i. Up to £350

- 2410 Newhill Youth & Community Centre
- 2411 Wishing Well Family Centre
- 2417 Harbour Lights Senior Women
- 2421 West Belfast 50+ Forum
- 2423 Greater Shankill Senior Citizens Forum
- 2428 St. Peter's Senior Citizens Group
- 2429 Men United
- 2442 Lower Shankill Group Welfare
- 2444 Indian Senior Citizens 50+ Club
- 2455 Joanmount Open Door Ltd
- 2468 174 Older Peoples Group
- 2470 St. Kevins
- 2479 Middle Andersonstown Festival Group
- 2498 Volunteer Now
- 2503 Sirocco Youth Football Club
- 2506 St. Patrick's Young Men FC
- 2511 Argyle Senior Citizens Group
- 2521 Clarendon Development Association
- 2532 KOG Community Action Group
- 2537 EXIT

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i. Up to £300

- 2422 Island Resource Centre
- 2439 Highfield fifty Plus Group
- 2445 Trinity New Lodge Senior Citizens Association
- 2449 St. Patrick's Church Ballymacarrett
- 2456 Brookvale Senior Citizens Association
- 2459 Cullingtree Senior Group
- 2460 Sailortown Mothers & Toddlers
- 2462 Sailortown Arts & Crafts
- 2464 Woodvale/Cambrai Youth & Community Group
- 2472 Newtownards Road Women's Group Ltd
- 2492 Manor Street/Cliftonville Community Centre
- 2504 East Belfast Titanic Festival
- 2533 Greater Shankill Fathers Forum
- 2534 Woodvale Young at Heart 50+ Group
- 2535 Denmark Street Community Centre
- 2536 Sydenham Mothers & Toddlers
- 2538 Orangefield Community Association
- 2539 Sydenham Community Development Agency
- 2540 Sydenham United Football Club
- 2541 Automatic School of Dance
- 2542 Connswater Womens Group
- 2543 Mount Community Association

j. Up to £250

- 2430 Horn Drive Senior Citizens
- 2433 Glen Colin Residents Association
- 2454 Clara Park Tenants & Residents Association
- 2457 Midland Senior Citizens Club
- 2466 Silver Threads
- 2469 Time 4 u
- 2474 Quality User Group Seniors
- 2487 Belles of Belmont Ladies Club
- 2494 South Belfast Malecare
- 2499 Sydenham Court
- 2514 Mornington Community Project
- 2518 Silver Threads (North Belfast)
- 2525 Lagan Valley Heritage & Cultural Society
- 2531 St. John Vianney Youth Centre

k. Up to £200

- 2527 Ligoniel Improvement Association
- 2436 Mountpottinger Presbyterian Senior Citizens
- 2478 Beech Hall Members Advisory Committee
- 2520 Strand Presbyterian Church
- 2522 Belfast Sparta Football Club

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I. Up to £150

- 2415 Hannahstown Community Association**
- 2432 Royal Scottish Country Dance Society**
- 2437 Friends of Chestnut Grove**
- 2477 Disabled Drivers Association**
- 2483 Belfast Central Mission**
- 2489 Salisbury Special Olympics Club**
- 2493 Corpus Christi Services**

m. Up to £100

- 2434 Avoniel Over 50s**
- 2476 Fairhill Community Association**
- 2488 Whiterock Senior Citizens Club**
- 2508 Ardavon Park Senior Citizens**
- 2510 Young at Heart Seniors Group**

The following applications were rejected as they did not meet the criteria of the St. Patrick's Day Small Grants Scheme:

- 2491 Northern Ireland Mixed Marriage Association**
- 2502 No Limat Community Interest Company**
- 2505 Greater Shankill Community Council."**

Irish Language Event – City Hall

The Partnership was reminded that, at its meeting on 28th November, it had noted that a report which provided an update in respect of the hosting of an Irish language event would be submitted for the Partnership's consideration at its meeting in January. Accordingly, the Good Relations Manager outlined the principal aspects of a report which provided an overview of an event which was scheduled to take place in the City Hall on the evening of Tuesday, 31st January. She advised the Partnership that the event had been organised in line with the Council's objective of making the City Hall a building which was inclusive of all cultures and indicated that the associated programme had been formulated in conjunction with a range of Irish language bodies across the City. The event would be hosted by Lynette Fay from Radio Ulster and it was anticipated that the proceedings would be broadcast as part of that station's Irish language output. She pointed out that the total cost of the event would be £6,000, 75% of which would be recouped from the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, with the remaining amount being met from within the Unit's budget.

The Partnership approved the hosting of the event and noted that invites would be forwarded to each Member of the Partnership.

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Proposed Centenary Event – Request for Assistance

The Good Relations Manager reported that a request for financial assistance had been received from the Reverend Wilfred Orr, Newtownbreda Presbyterian Church, to enable the staging of a play which would portray prominent characters and reflect historical opinions prevalent at the time of the signing of the Ulster Solemn League and Covenant in September, 1912. The play, which had been written by Philip Orr and Alan McGuckian, would provide an overview of unionist and nationalist perceptions to the enactment of the Third Home Rule Bill and explore attitudes to the signing of the Covenant.

It was reported that two performances of the play would be staged at Aquinas Grammar School on Wednesday, 14th March. It was intended that the afternoon performance would be aimed at students from local schools including Wellington College, Aquinas Grammar, St Malachy's College and Our Lady and St. Patrick's of Knock, while the evening show would be performed to an audience drawn from across all communities. Each performance would be followed by a discussion session which would be facilitated by the co-authors. Accordingly, given the Council's involvement in supporting local community initiatives to mark the Decade of Centenaries, the Good Relations Manager recommended that the Partnership approve funding in the sum of £1,000 towards the hosting of the play, 75% of which would be recouped from the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister.

After discussion, during which it was agreed that officers would explore the feasibility of staging the play in the City Hall as part of the Council's programme of events associated with the Decade of Centenaries, the Partnership adopted the recommendation.

Good Relations Unit – Staff Development Event

The Good Relations Manager reminded the Partnership that the scope and extent of the work of the Unit had increased greatly over the past number of years. She indicated that it was considered essential that all staff within the Unit were provided with an opportunity to acquaint themselves with the latest developments in the area of good relations. Accordingly, she sought the Partnership's support to hold, during the spring of 2012, a staff development event which would enable work to be carried out on the Unit's business plan; to focus on the concept of information sharing; to enhance methods of good practice; to enable project development; and to improve staff communication and motivation. She indicated that the proposed event would take place at the Corrymeela Centre which was renowned for its focus on improving relationships and community development work. She indicated that the total cost of the event, which would be attended by all 16 Unit staff members, would be in the region of £1,000, 75% of which would be recouped from the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, with the remaining amount being met from within the Unit's training budget.

The Partnership agreed that the Strategic Policy and Resources, at its meeting on 20th January, be recommended to approve the holding of the staff development event as outlined by the Good Relations Manager.

Chairman



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	New Dynamics of Learning and Ageing conference: Research, Policy and Practice: 20-22 March 2012
Date:	January 2012
Reporting Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Head of Environmental Health, Ext 3281
Contact Officer:	Adele Keys, Environmental Health ext 3607

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Northern Ireland, like many other European Countries, has an increasing number of older people. The demographic structure has changed from a population largely under 50 to one where people over 50 account for around a third of the population and where it is estimated that people over 60 will outnumber people under 16 within the next few years.
1.2	In Belfast, 19.65% of the population is over 60. With life expectancy rising dramatically in the last 50 years, annual improvements in survival rates and falling levels of fertility it is estimated that by 2030 25% of people in Belfast will be over 65 years of age. As a City we must address this and be prepared for an increasingly ageing society and plan for how this will affect our City economically, socially and culturally e.g. the number of retired people will increase and therefore tax payers decrease; the costs of pensions, benefits and health care will also increase significantly.
1.3	The "GIVE" (Grundtvig Initiative on Volunteering in Europe for Seniors) is a European initiative which was introduced in 2009. It consists of a scheme of grants to support senior volunteering projects between local organisations located in two countries participating in the European Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP).
1.4	The initiative is a new form of co-operation within the Grundtvig Programme, fostering collaboration between the organisations sending and hosting volunteers. It allows organisations which join the programme to enrich their work through the exchange of good practice and create sustainable European collaboration between them.

2	Key Issues
2.1	Belfast and Madrid were successful as partners in applying for this European funding and are currently over half way through the exchange programme (8 of the 12 volunteers have been on an exchange).
2.2	The project objectives include the development of lifelong skills, enabling local communities to draw on the potential of senior citizens as a source of knowledge,

	competence and experience, to learn other cultures and to build the volunteer's confidence and self belief.
2.3	An abstract of the Grundtvig project was submitted to the conference call for papers and was accepted by the panel. It is anticipated that the abstract will be presented by an elected member and one of the senior volunteers who have travelled on the exchange. An officer will also attend to support the elected member and older person.
2.4	The conference will aim to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify new areas of teaching and learning, especially through arts and creativity ▪ Share good practice about older adults' learning and educational opportunities ▪ Include the voice of the older learner ▪ Highlight the EU year of Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity (2012) ▪ Showcase the work of the conference partners and other contributors

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>The cost for attending the 3 day conference in Dublin including delegate fees, travel and accommodation is approximately €400 per delegate. Alternatively, a day rate is also available which will cost €150 per delegate. Costs for the attendance for the councillor and older volunteer will come from the EU supported Grundtvig project. If an officer attends it will be funded via the revenue estimates.</p>

4	Recommendations
4.1	<p>The Committee is asked to agree that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the chair of the All Party Reference Group on Older People (or her nominee) speaks at the conference 2. an older volunteer speaks at the conference 3. A Council officer attends the conference to support the Elected Representative and the older volunteer

Key to Abbreviations
LLP – Life Long Learning programme
EU – European Union

Documents Attached
None



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resource Committee
Subject:	Proposal from Belfast Health and Social Care Trust to provide Member information Clinics in the City Hall on a trial basis.
Date:	20 January 2012
Reporting Officer:	Damian Connolly, Environmental Health Manager, ext. 3361
Contact Officer:	Suzanne Wylie, Director of Health and Environmental Services, Ext. 3260

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Belfast Health and Social Care Trust is one of the largest in Western Europe. Not only does it have 3 major hospitals located within the city, it is also responsible for a larger number of local health centres (some of which are health and well being centres), community based health services, social services, children in care and older people's services (including nine residential homes). The Trust also commissions a wide range of services in local areas and has taken an increasing role in prevention over recent years.
1.2	The vast majority of residents in Belfast access the Trust's services, many on a regular basis. The Trust has a number of mechanisms for engaging with its users, including a Personal and Public Involvement Programme. There is also a regional Patient, Client Council, which aims to glean the views of users and ensure that they are brought to the attention of the Trusts.
1.3	There have been, and will continue to be, significant changes to health services in Belfast. The Committee recently received presentations on changes to acute service provision, to Accident and Emergency provision and the Compton Review will bring further reform.
1.4	The Trust wishes to have an ongoing relationship with the Council, and specifically with the Elected Members. In addition to presentations to Committee on major changes to services, it wishes to be more accessible to Members, particularly in dealing with constituency issues.

2	Key Issues
2.1	To improve accessibility for Members to the Trust in respect of constituency issues, the Trust has proposed that it sets up a dedicated 'Member Information clinic' in BCC once a month. The Trust has asked for permission to use a room in City Hall to provide these clinics and will use their Public Affairs staff.
2.2	It is intended to plan these clinics around the Strategic Policy and Resources meeting dates and to operated them on a trial basis for 2 -3 months. Members will receive regular information to promote the time and place.

3	Resource Implications
	None

4	Recommendations
4.1	The Committee is asked to agree that the Belfast Health and Social Services Trust can use a room in the City Hall to provide a 'Member Information Clinic' once a month on a trial basis.