



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Request for Meeting – Royal Maternity Hospital Liaison Group
Date:	20th June, 2008
Reporting Officer:	Mr. L. Steele, Head of Committee and Members' Services
Contact Officer:	Mr. L. Steele (extension 6325)

Relevant Background Information

Correspondence had been received from Councillor T. Attwood, on behalf of the Royal Maternity Hospital Liaison Group, seeking a meeting with the Committee to discuss the commitment to build a new regional hospital for children and women on the site of the Royal Group of Hospitals.

Key Issues

The correspondence indicates that, whilst the Minister for Health and Social Services and Public Safety has stated that the hospital is a priority, there has been no firm commitment given to meet the capital costs of the development, which is estimated at £404 million.

In addition, there is a question as to whether or not the Department has set aside funding to clear the Royal site, the estimated cost of which is £30 million. A decision regarding this funding is due to be made during the summer.

The Group is seeking the support of the Council to ensure that the new women and children's hospital is built as soon as possible and that the money is released to start the clearance of the site.

Resource Implications

There are no financial or Human Resource implications associated with this report.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to consider whether it wishes to hold a special meeting to receive representatives of the Group. If the Committee agrees to this course of action, given that the funding issue in relation to the clearing of the site is due to be taken in the summer, it might be appropriate to hold the meeting prior to the summer recess.

The date of Wednesday, 2nd July has been indicated by the Group as being suitable and, providing it is suitable to the Members, a special meeting could be held for this purpose at 12.00 noon on that day.