



Report to: Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Subject: City Hall Memorabilia

Date: 12 December 2008

Reporting Officer: Hazel Francey, Good Relations Manager

Purpose of the Report

To update the Committee on proposals regarding City Hall memorabilia and balance.

Relevant Background Information

The Committee will recall that at its meeting on 14 November, it agreed that during the closure of the City Hall the Council should take the opportunity to rationalise and improve the tour offering and work towards achieving a fully balanced and inclusive display. The Committee agreed that the 6 elected Members of the Good Relations Partnership should act as a cross-party reference group in any future discussions regarding City Hall memorabilia.

Those 6 elected Members met last Friday 5 December, to discuss how best to ensure that future displays were more representative of the history and population of Belfast. The group was of the view that further work should be commissioned to reflect groups that are not currently represented; it also agreed that there was little in recent displays of interest to young people and no sense of local or recent achievements in, for example, music and sport.

The group agreed that the Council should attempt to seek to involve the people of Belfast and gauge their views on what should be displayed in their City Hall. A short article should be placed in *City Matters* to invite suggestions for possible future displays and information made available on the Council website, considered a particularly important medium for engaging young people.

The group is aware that any relevant decisions have to be taken quickly so that any commissions or work can be completed in time for the Hall's re-opening in summer 2009.

Resources required

Minimal costs for *City Matters* article and website.

Recommendations

The Committee is requested to agree with the approach outlined above.