



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Election Protocol
Date:	20th March, 2009
Reporting Officer:	Mr. S. McCrory, Senior Committee Administrator (extension 6314)
Contact Officer:	Mr. S. McCrory, Senior Committee Administrator (extension 6314)

Relevant Background Information

Members may be aware that the Council, at its meeting on 1st November, 2004, agreed an "Election Protocol" which provides guidance for Members and staff on issues which may arise during the period before an election. While it relates mainly to the immediate run-up period (i.e. between the official Notice of election and the poll) it states "*caution also needs to be exercised in relation to some activities, such as the organisation of Council events involving publicity, just outside the run-up period particularly where the likely impacts would extend into the sensitive election period.*"

Key Issues

The Protocol has been re-issued to departments in advance of the official election period so that it can be taken into account when planning for that period. As Members will be aware, there is a European Parliamentary Election due to be held shortly. The Notice of Election will be published on 27th April and the Committee and Members' Services Section have advised the Chief Officers as indicated in the Protocol.

Resource Implications

There are no resource commitments arising from this report but there may be some impacts in departments when following the protocol.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note the contents of the Election Protocol.

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 – Election Protocol

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