



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Memorial to Servicemen and women</b>
<b>Date:</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> April, 2009
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Liam Steele, Head of Committee and Members' Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen McCrory, Principal Committee Administrator

### Relevant Background Information

The Council, at its meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2007 passed the following resolution:

*"This Council acknowledges the tremendous support and sacrifice made by Her Majesties Forces during thirty-five years of conflict in Northern Ireland. Operation Banner was the longest running campaign in military history, a campaign which saw the loss of many lives. Peace in Northern Ireland came at a heavy price but without the selfless dedication and commitment of the British Army, Ulster Defence Regiment, Royal Irish Regiment and the Royal Ulster Constabulary/Police Service of Northern Ireland this great City and, indeed, the entire Province would have found itself in a state of civil war. The Council welcomes the ending of Operation Banner but must be ever mindful of the ultimate sacrifice many had to pay for peace. The Council agrees to construct a fitting memorial to the Servicemen and women who helped to maintain peace and law and order during the duration of Operation Banner."*

### Key Issues

The final part of the resolution agrees to construct a "fitting memorial" to Servicemen and women and, as the return to the City Hall will take place by September, 2009, it would now be appropriate to give consideration to the form that this memorial should take.

Members may recall that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2008, agreed that the six elected Members on the Good Relations Steering Panel should act as a cross-party reference group to discuss the display of City Hall memorabilia in the longer term and to agree a programme of work and the acquisition of materials to ensure that the items on display in the City Hall were representative of all communities in the City.

The Committee is asked to either

1. give direction as to the form which the memorial to Servicemen and women should take; or
2. in the first instance, refer consideration of the matter to the cross-party reference group so that it can be considered as part of the overall review of memorabilia with a report thereon being submitted for the Committee's attention within six months.

#### **Resource Implications**

It is not possible at this stage to anticipate the resource implications as these will be dependant upon the form of memorial which is chosen.

#### **Recommendations**

To consider the report and to take such action thereon as may be determined.

#### **Decision Tracking**

1. George Wright, Head of Facilities Management – by 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2009
2. Hazel Francey, Good Relations Manager – by 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2009