



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Board of the Ulster Orchestra Society Limited
Date:	19 th August, 2011
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (ext 6314)
Contact Officer:	

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Correspondence has been received from the Chairman of the Ulster Orchestra concerning the corporate governance of the Ulster Orchestra Society Board (copy attached at Appendix 1).

2	Key Issues
2.1	The letter explains that the Board has been reviewing its corporate governance arrangements and has made a number of changes to provide for better governance, including reducing from 9 to 7 the number of non-executive directors and seeking to replace any vacancies which arise on the Board with persons who provide different areas of expertise.
2.2	In addition the Board has decided that the status of the five 'Representative' and the "Assessor" members should change from that of a 'Representative' to that of an 'Observer'. The Council's representative on the Board (currently Councillor Maskey) is one of these 'Representative' members who will be affected by this change along with the representatives from the BBC, NILGA, the Friends of the Ulster Orchestra and the Players representative. The main implication of that change appears to be that the Council's representative, whilst having access to all information and whilst being entitled to be present at Board Meetings, will not have voting rights.

2.3	In the absence of the Chairman of the Board, contact was made with the Ulster Orchestra's Chief Executive who pointed out that the vast majority of Board decisions are taken by consensus and very rarely is a vote necessary. He also advised that the views of the 'Observers' are always sought at Board meetings and are fully taken into account when decisions are reached.
2.4	Councillor Maskey, the Council's representative on the Board, has indicated that he is content with the new arrangements.

3	Resource Implications
	None

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	None

5	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is requested to note the information provided.

6	Decision Tracking
Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager	
2 nd September, 2011	

7	Documents Attached
Appendix 1 – Letter from the Ulster Orchestra Chairman	