



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategic Policy and Resource Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Offer to donate an important clock to Council
<b>Date:</b>	Friday 23 September 2011
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Mr. Peter McNaney , Chief Executive
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Mr Robert Heslip Heritage Officer (ext 3583).

### Relevant Background Information

An offer has been made to donate an important clock that was first used to regulate the Albert Clock and then placed in the City Hall to set the time pieces there. In the early 1970s the clock was considered redundant and sold by Council to the person who was contracted to look after their clocks. His family are now offering to donate the piece to be returned to the City Hall.

Regulators are precision timepieces often used to time astronomical observations or adjust more workaday clocks to keep the best possible time. This example dates to the 1860s and is signed by F. Moore, who had premises at the bottom of High Street – including his own observatory – and whose business included supply navigational chronometers to ships, as well as looking after the Albert Clock.

The clock has a significant historical connection to the City and a very close association with Council from the construction of the Albert Memorial 1865-69 up to the 1970s. It is in excellent condition having recently undergone professional conservation.

### Key Issues

An important historical artefact associated first with the Albert Memorial clock, later with the City Hall, has been offered to Council as a donation.

There is an expectation that, if accepted, the piece would be to some degree visible to the public which may impose some constraints on where it might be positioned.

There are some issues round conservation and security and specialist expertise will be required to install and set-up the clock. It should be accepted that on perhaps a five year cycle minor maintenance will be required.

Acceptance of the clock would provide an opportunity for a small ceremony by the Lord Mayor to acknowledge the generosity of the family.

**Resource Implications**Financial

The estimated cost of moving and setting up the clock is £300. A similar amount may be required on a five year cycle for maintenance.

Human Resources

The proposals would be carried out within current staffing resources.

**Recommendations**

It is recommended that Members :

1. Accept the donation by means of a formal transfer of title process
2. Agree to the provision £300 to cover associated costs