



Subject:	Notice of Motion re: Transfer of Regeneration Powers
Date:	16 th December, 2016
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To consider Parts (i) and (ii) of a notice of motion in relation to the Transfer of Regeneration Powers which, in accordance with standing orders, was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 1 st December, 2016.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider the notice of motion and to take such action thereon as may be determined.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> <p>In accordance with notice on the Council agenda, Councillor McDonough-Brown proposed:</p> <p><i>“This Council expresses its profound disappointment in the decision of the Minister for Communities not to proceed with the Regeneration Bill and devolution of regeneration powers to local government.</i></p> <p><i>The Council:</i></p> <p><i>(i) recognises that these powers would strengthen and enhance our</i></p>

ability to drive strategic regeneration activity, when used alongside community and land use planning;

(ii) believes this decision to be in conflict with the entire direction and ethos of local government reform and to be a significant missed opportunity; and

(iii) reiterates our support for the devolution of regeneration powers to local government; and calls for the Minister for Communities to meet with the Council with a view to reversing his decision and proceeding with the Bill.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Howard.

Suspension of Standing Orders

3.2 At the request of Councillor McDonough-Brown, the Council agreed, with all forty-eight Members present and voting supporting the proposal, to suspend Standing Order 13(f) to enable the Council to debate point (iii) of the motion.

3.3 After discussion, the Council agreed to adopt point (iii) of the motion and, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), referred points (i) and (ii), without discussion, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

3.4 In considering the notice of motion, Members should be aware that in responding to the draft Programme for Government (PfG) - a separate item on the Committees Agenda - the Council has formally requested that the NI Executive commit within the PfG that regeneration powers in-fact transfer and complement existing planning and economic development functions of councils. The benefits of transferring important place-shaping regeneration functions, including comprehensive development schemes and compulsory purchase powers, was a key aspect of the recent Westminster and Stormont engagement and lobbying events.

3.5 Direct engagement is also ongoing with the Department of Communities and NI Executive to explore how the Council may utilise specific regeneration powers on behalf of the Department through an agency-type arrangement. Such an approach would help unlock and progress prioritised regeneration and development schemes within the city and secure the necessary funding to deliver such schemes through innovative funding models including potential public and private co-financing. Members will be aware a Memorandum of

	Understanding was established between the Council and Department for Communities to enable a joined up approach to be taken to development.
3.6	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> None.
3.7	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> There are no equality or good relations considerations associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None.