



Subject:	Notice of Motion : Transfer of Regeneration Powers
Date:	20 th January, 2017
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/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider the response from the Minister for Communities in relation to the Council's motion on the Transfer of Regeneration Powers.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none">Note the response and take any such action as may be determined.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	Members will recall that, at the Council meeting on 1st December, Councillor McDonough-Brown proposed the following motion: "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.

The Council:

- i. recognises that these powers would strengthen and enhance our 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 motioned was seconded by Councillor Howard.

3.2 Members will recall also that, at the request of Councillor McDonough-Brown, the Council had agreed, with all forty-eight Members present and voting in support of the proposal, to suspend Standing Order 13(f) to enable the Council to debate point (iii) of the motion. Subsequently, the Council had agreed to adopt point (iii) and, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), had referred points (i) and (ii), without discussion, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. Those points were noted by the Committee, at its meeting on 16th December.

3.3 A response to point (iii) of the motion has now been received on behalf Minister Givan, a copy of which is attached. The response confirms that the Minister will not be reconsidering his position not to proceed with the Regeneration Bill and devolve regeneration powers to local government. The response did, however, stress that, irrespective of where the legislative responsibility lies, local government plays and will continue to play a significant role in ensuring the successful implementation of regeneration programmes. The response concluded by highlighting the importance of the Partnership Panel as a means of engagement between the Northern Ireland Executive and councils.

3.4 Members should be aware that council officers continue to work alongside senior officials within the Department for Communities and Belfast Regeneration Directorate with a view to unlocking prioritised regeneration and development schemes with a view to supporting delivery. This relationship is underpinned by a Memorandum of Understanding which has

	<p>been established between the Council and Department for Communities which supports a joined up approach to be taken to progressing key schemes. This is currently being revised and a list of jointly agreed priority projects is being developed.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Response from the Minister for Communities.