

# Development Committee

Wednesday, 12th September, 2007

## MEETING OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor M. Browne (Chairman);  
the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Kelly); and  
Councillors Attwood, Convery, D. Dodds, Ekin,  
Humphrey, Kyle, C. Maskey, McCarthy, McCausland  
and Stoker.

Also attended: Councillor Mullaghan.

In attendance: Ms. M.T. McGivern, Director of Development; and  
Miss L. Hillick, Committee Administrator.

### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Campbell, Hartley, P. Maskey and Mhic Giolla Mhín.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings of 8th and 15th August were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd September subject to:

- (i) the omission of the minute under the heading "Appointment of Fixed-Term Working Groups" which, at the request of Councillor D. Dodds, was taken back to the Committee for further consideration; and
- (ii) the omission of the minute under the heading "Support for Sport – Hospitality Applications Deadline" which, at the request of Councillor Stoker, was taken back to the Committee for further consideration.

### **Appointment of Fixed-Term Working Groups**

The Committee considered further the minute of the meeting of 8th August under the heading "Appointment of Fixed-Term Working Groups" which, at the request of Councillor D. Dodds, had been referred back to the Committee for further consideration at the meeting of the Council held on 3rd September.

The Director of Development explained that a report in relation to the establishment of Fixed-Term Working Groups would be considered by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and she recommended that the Committee agree to defer consideration of the matter until the report had been considered by that Committee.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

**Support for Sport – Hospitality Applications Deadline**

The Committee considered further the minute of the meeting of 8th August under the head “Support for Sport – Hospitality Applications Deadline” which, at the request of Councillor Stoker, had been referred back to the Committee for further consideration by the Council at its meeting on 3rd September.

The Director suggested that it might be more appropriate for applications for hospitality under the Support for Sport scheme to be considered by the Parks and Leisure Committee and she recommended that the budget for hospitality requests be transferred to the control of that Committee, subject to the Parks and Leisure Committee agreeing to this course of action.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

**“Last Man Standing” – International Mixed  
Martial Arts Tournament**

(Mr. J. Walsh, Principal Solicitor, attended in connection with this item.)

The Principal Solicitor reminded the Committee that, under the authority delegated to the Director of Development, MPR Productions had been granted authority to hold the “Last Man Standing” International Mixed Martial Arts Tournament at the St. George’s Market on 29th September. However, it had been brought to the Council’s attention that a website which had been utilised to promote the event had contained offensive material which had not been deemed to be appropriate. He explained that the website had contained links to pornographic sites, displayed images of an American Pit Bull Terrier and contained a recording by a rap artist with lyrics of a racist nature. Therefore, due to the inappropriateness of such material and the fact that its contents had been deemed offensive, the Director had notified the Applicants that the event could not take place on the Council’s premises.

It was reported that Mr. S. Devine, Barrister and Mr. P. Pierce, Solicitor, together with the applicants Messrs. D. Kelly and R. Gallo, were in attendance in order to appeal the decision. They were admitted to the meeting and welcomed by the Chairman (Councillor M. Browne).

Mr. Devine outlined his clients’ case and the background to the organisation of the event. He pointed out that the “Last Man Standing” competition involved an extreme form of martial arts and that his clients had received a letter from the Council on 31st August revoking the use of the St. George’s Market site due to the content of the material contained on its promotional website. He stated that his clients had displayed exemplary conduct in their dealings with the Council and had taken immediate steps to remove the offensive material from the website and issued an apology. A great deal of organisation had been involved in attracting the “Last Man Standing” event to the City and the applicants had taken all steps to ensure that the event would prove to be a success.

In conclusion, he stated that the use of the venue had been revoked without his clients having been given the opportunity to address any concerns which the Council had with the event. He referred also to the positive economic impact which the event would have on the City and stressed that the mistakes which had been made by the applicants had been made in good faith and had been remedied as soon as they had been made aware of them. The deputation thanked the Committee for receiving them and they retired from the meeting.

After discussion, the Committee agreed, due to the fact that the offensive material depicted on the organisation's website had breached the agreement which the applicants had made with the Council, to uphold the decision not to permit the "Last Man Standing" Mixed Martial Arts event to be held at the St. George's Market on 29th September.

### **Directorate**

#### **Council Representation on Outside Bodies**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

##### **"Relevant Background Information"**

**Council is represented on a number of outside bodies and under the new governance arrangements the removal of the Sub-Committee tier has resulted in the need to reassign representation. In addition the normal bi-annual Committee changes, Council requires new representation to be formally adjusted. Appendix 1 contains a list of current representation.**

##### **Key Issues**

**In reviewing the completed lists for representation the range of organisations appeared very large and potentially onerous. However, further analysis has indicated that many of these groups meet infrequently. For these reasons it is suggested that the Chair, Councillor Michael Browne, and Deputy Chair, Councillor William Humphrey, are nominated to represent the Council on all the bodies contained in appendix 1 as appropriate (in some cases only the Chair is nominated). These nominations would then be subject to a review of time commitments etc at the end of the year.**

##### **Recommendations**

**That the Chair of the Development Committee Councillor Michael Browne, and the Deputy Chair, Councillor William Humphrey, are appropriately nominated as representatives on the outside bodies indicated in Appendix 1.**

Documents Attached

Representation on Outside Bodies : Appendix 1.

Appendix 1

Development Committee

<u>Outside Body</u>	<u>Minute of Authority Date</u>	<u>Representation</u>	<u>Current Council Membership</u>
City Centre Management Board	Development Committee 17/01/2002	Chairman of Development	Councillor Nelson McCausland
Gaeltacht Quarter Steering Group	Development Committee 21/06/2006	Chairman of Development  Deputy Chairman of Development	Councillor Nelson McCausland  Councillor Paul Maskey
Interreg Partnership	Development Committee 18/10/2004	Chairman of Development  Deputy Chairman of Development	Councillor Nelson McCausland  Councillor Paul Maskey
Nomadic Trust	Development Committee 20/09/2006	Chairman of Development  Deputy Chairman of Development	Councillor Nelson McCausland  Councillor Paul Maskey
Titanic Quarter Working Group	Development Committee 11/08/2005	Chairman of Development  Deputy Chairman of Development	Councillor Nelson McCausland  Councillor Paul Maskey

Arts Sub-Committee

<u>Outside Body</u>	<u>Minute of Authority Date</u>	<u>Representation</u>	<u>Current Council Membership</u>
Forum for Local Government and the Arts	Arts Sub 4/10/2006	Chairman of Arts	Councillor Bernie Kelly
PLACE (Architecture Centre) Management Board	Arts Sub 1/06/2005	Chairman of Arts	Councillor Bernie Kelly
Queen's University Culture and Arts Committee	Arts Sub 1/06/2005	Chairman of Arts	Councillor Bernie Kelly

**Tourism and Promotion of Belfast Sub-Committee**

<b><u>Outside Body</u></b>	<b><u>Minute of Authority Date</u></b>	<b><u>Representation</u></b>	<b><u>Current Council Membership</u></b>
Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau Limited	Council 26/05/2005	Chairman of Tourism  Deputy Chairman of Tourism	Councillor Diane Dodds  Councillor Tom Hartley +1 representative from each of the Party Groups
City Centre Management Board	Development Committee 19/10/2005	Chairman of Tourism  Chairman of Health  Chairman of Development	Councillor Diane Dodds  Councillor Peter O'Reilly  Councillor Nelson McCausland
Titanic Forum	Tourism and Promotion of Belfast Sub 8/06/2005	Chairman of Tourism  Deputy Chairman of Tourism	Councillor Diane Dodds  Councillor Tom Hartley +1 representative from each of the Party Groups
Titanic Quarter Working Group	Development Committee 11/08/2005	Chairman of Tourism  Deputy Chairman of Tourism  Chairman of Development  Deputy Chairman of Development  Chairman of Town Planning  Deputy Chairman of Town Planning	Councillor Diane Dodds  Councillor Tom Hartley  Councillor Nelson McCausland  Councillor Paul Maskey  Councillor Ruth Patterson  Councillor Cathal Mullaghan
Titanic Signature Project Steering Group	Tourism and Promotion of Belfast Sub 10/08/2005	Chairman of Tourism  Deputy Chairman of Tourism	Councillor Diane Dodds  Councillor Tom Hartley

**Economic Development Sub-Committee**

<b><u>Outside Body</u></b>	<b><u>Minute of Authority Date</u></b>	<b><u>Representation</u></b>	<b><u>Current Council Membership</u></b>
<b>Gasworks Employment Matching Service Advisory Group</b>	<b>Economic Development Sub 1/06/2005</b>	<b>Chairman of Economic Development</b>  <b>Deputy Chairman of Economic Development</b>	<b>Councillor Michael Browne</b>  <b>Councillor Bob Stoker</b>
<b>PLATO Belfast</b>	<b>Economic Development Sub 1/06/2005</b>	<b>Chairman of Economic Development</b>	<b>Councillor Michael Browne</b>
<b>Workspace Management Board</b>	<b>Economic Development Sub 3/08/2005</b>	<b>Chairman of Economic Development</b>	<b>Councillor Michael Browne”</b>

The Committee adopted the recommendation and noted that a review of the Council’s representation would be undertaken at a later date.

**Request from West Belfast Partnership Board**

The Director reported that correspondence had been received from the West Belfast Partnership Board requesting the nomination of an officer to its Board. The Board was preparing currently a ten-year strategic regeneration framework and was keen to have officer input thereon. She explained that the Council was represented currently by an officer on the North Belfast Partnership Board which had had a positive impact on the Council’s working relationship with that organisation. Accordingly, she requested that the Committee approve officer representation on the West Belfast Partnership Board.

The Committee granted the approval sought.

**Media Report April – August, 2007**

The Committee noted a report which outlined the amount of media coverage and the extent of press and media enquiries received concerning the work of the Committee during the period from 1st April till 31st August, 2007.

**Cities of the Isles – Summit Meeting**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**“Relevant Background Information**

**Members will be aware of the Cities of the Isles Partnership which formally links the cities of Belfast, Dublin, Liverpool, Cardiff, Glasgow and Edinburgh in sharing best practice in urban regeneration.**

The network grew out of the Irish Sea Partnership, which was established in 1998. In March 2000 Chief Executives of Dublin, Belfast, Cardiff, Edinburgh and Liverpool indicated their intention to establish a formal grouping to shadow the agenda established by the Council of the Isles following the Good Friday Agreement.

One of the main benefits expected was the potential for developing joint projects, with the potential to attract additional resources to the partner cities. The partnership was constituted in May 2000 and to date an annual conference has been held on a rotated basis between the cities.

### Key Issues

At the last Cities of the Isles network meeting in Dublin (January 2007), it was agreed that instead of holding a conference in Dublin in October, the Dublin City Manager John Tierney would invite administrative and political heads plus two senior officials to an annual meeting in Dublin to discuss issues/challenges impacting on our respective cities.

The Objective of this 'Summit Meeting' is for political leaders and Chief Executives of the COTI Cities to collectively;

1. Identify development challenges for the cities for the next decade
2. Identify common or shared challenges
3. Agree a future role, if any, for COTI
4. Agree a work programme for the coming three years.

Each Chief Executive will be invited to make a considered input (15 mins) on the challenges for their city, framed around the following suggested headings:

- Planning
- Social
- Economic
- Technological
- Educational
- Environmental
- International Profile and Positioning

The updated programme is attached as Appendix 1. This meeting provides an important opportunity for Belfast City Council to influence the future direction of this network, to build on our strategic links with the Cities of the Isles and to profile Belfast's regeneration successes.

The European Policy Solutions report entitled 'BLUEPRINT FOR FUTURE JOINT CO-OPERATION' between the Metropolitan Areas of Belfast, Dublin and Glasgow identified a European wide trend of increased co-operation between cities to enhance competitiveness, as well as the importance of regional and local authorities in combating social exclusion and the development of initiatives to address areas of high unemployment and deprivation and issues arising from high levels of inward migration.

It is recommended that the network should primarily focus on:

- identifying common regeneration challenges and improving service delivery in key policy areas, through developing joint European funding pitches (e.g. BERI/WINS and Equality at Work / City Marketing)
- promoting collaboration between businesses (e.g. PLATO)
- promoting collaboration between third level institutions (e.g. BIOISLAND) with a focus on building the knowledge economy and
- promoting tourism development (e.g. development of waterways).

Attendance at this meeting will help determine the true potential value of Belfast's continued membership of the Cities of the Isles network and to identify how future collaborative outputs can become more tangible.

#### Resource Implications

##### Financial

Costs including travel, one night's accommodation and subsistence for the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Development Committee, the Chief Executive, Head of Economic Initiatives and the Economic Development Officer (International Relations) or their nominees, not exceeding £1,250.

##### Recommendations

Members are asked to agree the Member and Officer participation (travelling to Dublin evening of Thursday 11 October and returning evening of Friday 12 October), to nominate a Member to attend, and to approve the resources outlined above."

After discussion, the Committee agreed that it be represented at the event by the Chief Executive and the Head of Economic Initiatives (or their nominees) with a report in relation to the Council's future participation in the initiative being submitted for its consideration at a future meeting.



## Arts and Culture

### Thompson Dry Dock and Pump House

The Committee considered a report in relation to the first phase of the restoration of the Thompson Dry Dock and Pump House and the interactive audio visual experience at the Thompson Titanic Trail and agreed that a further report in relation to the restoration and improvements at the site be submitted for its consideration at a future meeting.

### St. Patrick's Concert Proposal 2008

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

#### “Relevant Background Information

On the 8 August 2007 the Council's Events Manager received details of a proposed concert to be staged on or close to St Patrick's Day in 2008. The event would be operated as a commercial concert but with free tickets being made available to public. This would be achieved due to the organisers seeking public sector support and private sector sponsorship. Belfast City Council has been requested to become one the public sector supporters of the event.

#### Key Issues

Details of the event proposal are contained in Appendix 1 of the report. The following are key issues of the submission presented to Council.

Event Organisers – The event management and proposal for the event is from Waddell Media, based in Holywood, Co Down.

Proposed date – 10 March 2008

Proposed Line-up – A range of established bands have been proposed for the event with Ash and Snowpatrol indicated as the headline acts.

Venue & audience size – The organisers have indicated that the Paint Hall in Titanic Quarter would be used as the venue for the event. There would be a maximum of 4,000 people at the event. Tickets would be allocated via sponsors/supporters of the event.

Media – A significant level of television media channels have been indicated as possible broadcasters of the event. The proposal has indicated that the concert would be broadcast on St Patrick's Day, 17 March 2008.

**Financial Aspects** – The proposal has indicated that the overall cost of the event would be £500,000. It is estimated that £300,000 would be sourced from private sponsorship and public sector support.

The actual figure requested from the Council for headline sponsor is £75,000; however a lower level of support would be welcome from the event organisers.

#### **Resource Implications**

##### **Financial**

The exact financial contribution for headline sponsor is £75,000. However a lower level of support would be welcome from the event organisers.

#### **Recommendations**

Members are requested to decline this request. This recommendation is based on a number of factors.

- Currently there are no additional financial resources within the Council's Events Units budget. The current budgets within the Unit's finances have been agreed by Council and earmarked for a series of annual events. Therefore additional finances would need to be sourced from Policy and Resources Committee.
- Initial indications are that this event would be staged without the support of Council. The event organisers have indicated major commercial sponsor is being sought and this would supersede the Council's input.
- The event audience size would be limited to a maximum of 4,000. The allocation of tickets would be to sponsors/supporters and this would be based on the level of financial input. Therefore the event would not be open to a large public audience base.
- Supporting this type of event would set a clear precedent with regard to other commercial concerts. Additional event organisers such as those involved in the annual Tennents Vital concert (which currently has national TV coverage via the BBC) could be seen to eligible to Council support."

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

## Economic Development

### Citywide Employability Co-ordination

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

#### “Relevant Background Information

Members will be aware at the Development Committee in August 2007, a Citywide Employability Co-ordination plan was presented which sought to extend the already existing Citywide Employability Consortium (CEC) by a further 6 months, and to work with the Employers Forum during this time to engage in mechanisms and implementation of a Citywide Forum. At this meeting Committee deferred consideration of the report in order that further information could be provided in respect of the membership of the various employment boards and in regard to the number of trainees within the various schemes who had, subsequent to their training, been successful in obtaining full-time employment. This information requested is enclosed in Appendix 1 for Member’s consideration.

Members are reminded in March 2004 the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) awarded three Labour Market Intermediaries (LMIs) in the east, north and south of the city (GEMS NI, LEAP and Stepping Stone) and Targeted Initiatives (TI) in the west. These contracts delivered a job matching service including the provision of job preparation services and recruitment services. These contracts were delivered from April 2004 – March 2007. Since April 2007 the Local Employment Intermediary Service (LEMIS) contract has been in operation across all areas of the city.

Whilst DEL was responsible for the development of LMI activity, additional financial support was also provided to each of the LMIs by Council for employer liaison co-ordination in north, south and east of the city. West Belfast employer provision was provided by the Employers Forum.

In August 2006 Members of the Economic Development Sub-Committee agreed it would no longer be feasible for Council to continue to fund three individual employer liaison services due to the forthcoming budget cuts but agreed that a wider strategic approach would be required for moving forward. Council therefore actively encouraged the three existing LMI’s to work together to develop a citywide approach to employability. This contract commenced in October 2006 and since this time the CEC has developed an operational plan for the city-wide employer interface service.

### Key Issues

Since the CEC commenced in October 2006 the group has arranged 358 job interviews for unemployed clients and has placed 162 clients into employment. A list of employers the CEC has worked with is attached in Appendix 1. The current CEC contract completes at the end of September 2007. Given the initial outputs achieved by this group Council believes there is merit in considering further support to such an initiative which would provide a co-ordinated approach across the city bringing in the West and Greater Shankill areas of the city. Progress has already commenced in this area through engagement with the Employment Services Board. A proposal has been received to look at the potential of progressing the West Belfast and Greater Shankill employers' forum into a citywide forum.

In order for the Citywide Employability Consortium and the Employers' Forum to join forces and play a fundamental role in shaping the citywide approach, it is necessary that time be given for these activities to be embedded. Members are asked to consider supporting the following up until March 2008:

1. Extension of the Citywide Employers Consortium – it is recommended that a further 6 month extension is provided to the consortium to continue their existing employer activity, as well as, work with the Employers Forum during this time to engage in mechanisms and implementation of a city wide forum.
2. Employers Forum – There is significant interest from employers and employment bodies from other areas of the City, in implementing the services of the Employers' Forum further a-field and extending its reach across Belfast. It is proposed to expand the services of the Forum across the city on a phased basis to become a fully operational City Wide Forum by April 08. A summary of the proposal is enclosed in Appendix 2.

Members are asked to note that research is currently underway into developing a Citywide Employability Co-ordination plan for Belfast. The key purpose of this research is to help identify gaps in current provision and to make recommendations for developing an evidence based citywide approach to employability, highlighting Council's role in this.

### Resource Implications

#### Human Resources

Economic Development Manager and Officers to co-ordinate

### Recommendations

It is recommended that Members:-

1. Note the contents of the report
2. Approve a financial budget of:
  - £76,021 from October 07 – March 08 for the Citywide Employability Consortium contract to be extended for a further 6 months.
  - £35,000 towards the Employers' Forum from September 2007-April 2008. Members are also asked to approve in principal a further two year funding dependant on having initiated a demonstration project of city-wide employer engagement, during this initial phase.

### Key to Abbreviations

**GEMS NI – Gasworks Employment Matching Service**  
**LEMIS – Local Employment Intermediary Service**  
**LEAP – Local Employment Access Partnership**  
**CEC - Citywide Employers Consortium.”**

After discussion, the Committee approved a financial budget of £76,021 for the period from 1st October, 2007 till 31st March, 2008 in respect of the Citywide Employability Consortium contract and agreed to allocate a sum of £35,000 towards the Employers' Forum for the period from 1st September, 2007 till 30th April, 2008.

### ABC Councils' Regeneration Committee

The Committee was reminded that the Development Committee, at its meeting on 21st April, 2004, had granted permission for the Council to participate on a Working Group which had been established to address economic decline in East Belfast. The joint effort between Ards, Belfast and Castlereagh Councils, known as the ABC Regeneration Committee, had been designed to provide a response to the decline of manufacturing in the East Belfast area and, since its formation, the joint Committee had been working actively to lobby central government for an increased focus on support for the area.

The Director of Development reported that the joint Committee's first key initiative had been a highly successful "Future East" Conference, which had been held during October, 2006. The Conference had launched the "Future East" Action Plan and had provided the then Minister for Social Development, Mr. D. Hanson, M.P., with the opportunity to endorse the work of the joint Committee and its six key priorities. More recently, the joint Committee had met with Mr. P. Robinson, M.L.A., the Minister for the Department of Finance and Personnel, to highlight the areas where government intervention would work best and seeking his support for its key objectives. In order to ensure that the ABC Regeneration Committee was promoted effectively over the forthcoming months and to implement its six priorities as outlined in the Future East Action Plan, each of the three Councils had been requested to consider making a contribution of £10,000 towards the initiative. A programme of work would be drawn up and funding would be allocated to appropriate schemes designed to raise the profile of the ABC Regeneration Committee and lobbying Government to secure additional funding for the travel-to-work area. Accordingly, she recommended that the Committee approve a contribution of £10,000 towards the initiative.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

#### **Restart Your Business Programme**

The Committee was reminded that the former Economic Development Sub-Committee, at its meeting on 2nd May, had granted approval to develop a programme of support targeting previously failed business people who wished to restart a new business venture. In response to public advertisement, four tenders had been received in respect of the provision of the programme. Each tender had been evaluated against a pre-agreed criteria and she recommended the acceptance of the most economically advantageous tender received, that submitted by Ortus Business Development Agency, Twin Spires Centre, Northumberland Street, Belfast, in the sum of £30,813 for a period of one year commencing 1st October, 2007, subject to the completion of an appropriate agreement to be prepared by the Director of Legal Services.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

#### **Estate Management – Markets**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

##### **"Relevant Background Information**

##### **Trader Vehicle Parking at St. George's Market**

**Belfast City Council Officers along with certain Members of Council have held regular meetings with DRD Roads Service, Police and Market Traders since the refurbishment of St. George's Market in 1999 to discuss trader and customer car parking issues at the Market.**

At these meetings, on occasions chaired by the Lord Mayor, the Council and traders have consistently provided Roads Service with ideas and requests which would assist those using the Market. These proposals included facilitating parking perpendicular to the May Street pavement adjacent to the Market building, doubling the number of vehicles which could be parked there. The DRD Road Service has consistently said they do not have the legislative power to make any considerations for the holding of a Market.

The Markets Development Officer has at various times over the last 8 years been able to obtain the use of adjacent lands for trader vehicle parking and obtain discounted car parking offers for market shoppers.

Most recently market traders have enjoyed free vehicle parking on Plot 2 Lanyon Place, the surface site directly in front of Belfast Waterfront Hall. Since a change of management in the Hilton Multi-story car park some 12 months ago, no discounted car parking has been obtainable for market shoppers.

#### Market shops - letting criteria

Shop units at St. George's and Smithfield Markets are let on the basis of accepting the best rental terms. It is important to protect the Council in terms of financial risk and allow the selection of the best product and service mix for the Markets.

#### Continental Markets

In March 2007 the Development Committee received and noted a report on the Christmas Continental Market 2006. The Committee was informed that a customer survey, conducted by Millward Brown Ulster, had indicated that approximately 538,500 people had visited the Belfast Christmas Continental Market during the period from 22nd November till 19th December and that almost six out of ten of those persons had travelled from outside of the City.

The survey had revealed also that a total of £15.2 million had been spent and that 22% of those surveyed had indicated that they would not have visited Belfast if the Market had not been in place. The Committee was informed that 84% of the respondents had indicated that they would be visiting at least one additional activity whilst in the City and 99% of all persons had rated the event positively and would recommend it to their family and friends.

Key Issues

Trader Vehicle Parking at St. George's Market

The Department of Social Development, which is presently landlord of Plot 2 Lanyon Place, has given notice terminating the Council's Licence Agreement for this site with effect from 30 September 2007, as building work is now due to commence there.

The Markets Development Officer has been constantly trying to obtain a vehicle parking solution for St. George's Market traders. With the use of the present facility about to end, having written to all local car park and site owners, the Council has only received one offer for the use of a site, that offer being received from agents acting for Killultagh Properties Limited for the use of a development site at the junction of East Bridge Street and Stewart Street, see site map at Appendix 1. Officers are investigating this opportunity and intend to bring a report to the October meeting of Development Committee setting out the terms of any agreement. Members should note that there is likely to be a rental cost which would need to met either:

1. Entirely by the Market Traders
2. Entirely by Belfast City Council
3. Shared in some proportion between Council and Traders

The issue of parking at St. George's Market has been much more difficult since the decriminalisation of car parking offences in October 2006, due to the new car parking enforcement regime being implemented by NCP, working under contract to the DRD Roads Service.

At a meeting chaired by the Lord Mayor on 23 January 2007 Roads Service officials and senior managers from NCP assured the meeting that market traders would be permitted to load and unload at St. George's before moving their vehicles to a suitable car park. A small number of traders have continued to receive tickets every week. On Friday 4 August two traders received tickets while they were in the process of unloading their goods for sale in the Market. Members may recall sympathetic press attention given to Continental Market traders who received parking tickets while trying to load their goods into the Christmas Continental Market at City Hall.



When NCP took over the enforcement of car parking on 30 October 2006 the Council had some 30 traders on waiting list seeking a stall at St. George's Market (the waiting list had remained constantly above that number for 7 years), today we have 5 traders on the waiting list. The Market which was always a busy early morning attraction is now extremely quiet until around 10am. Officers believe that the provision of a vehicle parking facility for traders is absolutely essential to the survival of the Council's Friday and Saturday Markets at St. George's.

Members are asked to note that independent research carried out by Millward Brown (Ulster) Ltd in 2006 showed that St. George's Friday and Saturday Markets, in addition to being a valuable tourist asset, provide a gross economic impact to Belfast City Centre of some £9.5m per annum

#### Market shops – letting criteria

In letting properties Belfast City Council has a statutory duty to obtain the best terms that it can for the ratepayer. However there are other important considerations. In seeking to maximise customer footfall through St. George's and Smithfield Markets, it would be beneficial if officers could manage the mix of the retail offer within these retail facilities. It is also in the Council's interest, when there are competing offers for a particular property, to consider the business risk to the Council associated with each offer.

Officers therefore recommend that in considering applications to let units at St. George's and Smithfield Markets the following criteria should be used:

#### Letting terms and conditions:

- Level of business investment and tenant fit-out
- Types of goods or services to be sold and effect on existing tenant mix
- Two years accounts if existing business, or first year's business plan if a 'new start' business
- Previous business experience of the potential tenant
- Guarantor or rental deposit being offered as security

### Continental Markets

The Council's existing contract with Market Place Europe Limited for the provision of Continental Markets expires after the conclusion of the Christmas Continental Market 2007.

Permission is sought to tender for a suitably qualified and experienced market operator to deliver two Continental Markets per year in the front grounds of City Hall, for a further 3 years i.e. 2008 to 2010, and delegate authority to the Chair, Deputy Chair and Director of Development to appoint the most advantageous offer. These Continental Markets would consist of a four-day Market on the last bank holiday weekend in May, to coincide with the Lord Mayor's Carnival, and a 28-day Christmas Continental Market to be delivered in the lead-in to Christmas.

It is anticipated that Belfast City Council would receive a minimum income of £60,000.00 from this contract, subject to tenders received

### Resource Implications

#### Financial

It is anticipated that Belfast City Council will receive an income of not less than £60,000.00 through this contract.

### Recommendations

#### Trader Vehicle Parking at St. George's Market

It is recommended that the Development Committee:

1. Note the contents of this report and the imminent risk presented to the Council's markets, along with the scale of the potential economic loss.
2. Invite the Minister for Regional Development to meet with nominated Members and Officers of Council to:
3. Discuss options for car parking at St. George's Market, such as the proposal for perpendicular parking along the May Street pavement adjacent to the Market building.
4. Seek renewed commitment to the undertakings given to the Council through the Lord Mayor on 23 January 2007 in respect to vehicle users at St. George's Market.
5. To include a site visit to St. George's Market to witness the operational difficulties pertaining to car parking.

**Market shops – letting criteria**

The Committee is asked to endorse that the following criteria will be used in assessing offers to let shop units at St. George's and Smithfield Market:

- Letting terms and conditions
- Level of business investment and tenant fit-out
- Types of goods or services to be sold and effect on existing tenant mix
- Two years accounts if existing business, or first year's business plan if a 'new start' business
- Previous business experience of the potential tenant
- Guarantor or rental deposit being offered as security

**Continental Markets**

The Committee is asked to:

1. Approve the commencement of a tender process to obtain a suitably qualified and experienced market operator to deliver two Continental Markets per year, in the front grounds of City Hall, for a further 3 years i.e. 2008 to 2010 and delegate authority to the Chair, Deputy Chair and Director of Development to appoint the most advantageous offer.
2. To recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that they grant use of City Hall grounds for the operation of these events."

After discussion, the Committee agreed to adopt the recommendations contained within the report and agreed that an All-Party Deputation meet with the Minister for Regional Development in relation to the trader vehicle parking at St. George's Market.

**Lagan Corridor Navigation Initiative**

The Committee was informed that funding of £1 million had been made available by the Ulster Garden Villages towards the reopening of the gateway lock number one at Stranmillis and the resourcing of an officer position on a fixed-term contract. The Director outlined the proposed activities which were anticipated to be developed in relation to the key aspects of the project, including the identification of funding, stakeholder engagement, creating awareness of the Lagan Corridor, sustainability and examining best practice. She recommended that the Committee approve the draft Lagan Corridor Action Plan, a copy of which was available for inspection on the Members' Portal.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

### Nashville

The Committee was informed that, in addition to the forthcoming visit to Belfast by Dr. Ian Brick, the founder of the Belfast/Nashville Links, the Director of the Chamber of Commerce in Nashville has advised the Council that senior officials from healthcare companies had been selected to attend an inward trade mission visit to Belfast during the autumn and that officers from the Economic Initiatives Section would be involved in identifying health care organisations from the City which would participate on a reciprocal visit to Nashville.

The Director recommended that the Committee approve, in principle, the acceptance of the invitation for a delegation visit to Nashville to be held during early 2008, subject to further details being submitted in due course and authorise funding in the sum of £3,500 towards the costs associated with two inward visits from Nashville during late 2007.

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

### Conference Subvention

The Director reported that the Equalising the Workplace – Diversity in Action Policy Forum would be held in Belfast during the period from 28th till 30th November, 2007. A request for financial assistance had been received from Proteus (Northern Ireland) towards the costs associated with the Forum Conference. The event would attract approximately 250 delegates, contributing an economic impact of £150,750 to the City. She recommended that the Committee agree to provide a conference subvention of £1,000 towards the event.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

## Community and Neighbourhood

### Neighbourhood Renewal

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

#### “Relevant Background Information

Members will be aware that in June 2003, the DSD published ‘People and Place: A strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal’ a document which aims to tackle the complex, multi-dimensional nature of Northern Ireland’s most disadvantaged urban neighbourhoods. In order to progress this Agenda, Department of Social Development progressed the establishment of

12 Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships (NRPs) within the Belfast City Council area. Each Partnership was tasked with producing a Vision Framework (7-10 years) and Action Plan (3 years) for the Neighbourhood Renewal area. The 12 partnerships are:

- Inner East Belfast
- South West Belfast
- Greater Falls
- Upper Springfield
- Inner North Belfast
- Ligoniel Village
- Inner South Belfast
- Greater Shankill
- Lenadoon
- Crumlin/Ardoyne
- Andersonstown
- Upper Ardoyne/Ballysillan

### Key Issues

#### Neighbourhood Partnership Board Representation

At present, Belfast City Council currently provides Officer representation on eight out of the 12 Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships (Inner East, Inner North, Greater Falls, Upper Springfield, Lenadoon, Crumlin/Ardoyne, Upper Ardoyne Ballysillan and Andersonstown). Representation has been dealt with on a request by request basis and therefore participation has not been actively sought by Belfast City Council. At present the majority of representation on the Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships is provided by Community Services.

It is proposed the new Strategy for Community Services will continue to facilitate the move away from a facilities based approach to one of neighbourhood and area development. Support for community networks and neighbourhood partnerships will therefore form an integral element of Community Services Officer's duties.

It is therefore recommended that Council representation on all of the Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships would be provided by Community Services Officers.

In addition to this it is also recommended that Belfast City Council also takes a pro-active approach to securing Officer representation on the remaining four NRPs who are as yet without representation i.e. Ligoniel (a request has recently been received for representation), Inner South, South West and Greater Shankill in order to ensure a consistent approach to NR activity by Belfast City Council.

### Neighbourhood Partnership Board Co-ordination

The SNAP team currently co-ordinates Council's work on Neighbourhood Renewal which entails the following:

- Providing a support framework for all NR representatives from BCC including the co-ordination of the BCC NR representatives group.
- Providing a consistent and co-ordinated response to all NR Action Plans on behalf of BCC
- Facilitating the NR consultation process within BCC
- Development and maintenance of a database that monitors council activity within the action plans and the key actions and responses pertaining to BCC and to provide feedback to the NRP's to that effect.
- Preparation of all Action Plans for approval through the Development Committee and monitoring of Council activity.

### Neighbourhood Partnership Action Plans

The Action Plans are at varying stages of development within each of the Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships. At present, the following Partnerships have submitted their plans to Belfast City Council for a formal response. These can be detailed as follows:

- Inner North
- Inner East
- Lenadoon
- Upper Springfield
- South West Belfast
- Inner South
- Greater Falls

A response has been formulated for Inner North Belfast which is provided within Appendix 1. A full copy of the Inner North Action plan is contained within Appendix 2. Members are asked to endorse the contents of each response and to note that the remaining Action Plans will each be presented to Committee for approval in due course.

### Resource Implications

#### Human Resources

Co-ordinated by the SNAP Manager

**Recommendations**

**Members are asked to:**

- **Note the contents of the report**
- **Agree to representation on the NRPs being provided by Community Services officers**
- **Endorse the response formulated to the Inner North Belfast NR Action Plans**

**Key to Abbreviations**

**NR – Neighbourhood Renewal  
SNAP – Strategic Neighbourhood Action Programme”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations and noted that a copy of the response to the Inner North Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan was available for inspection on the Members' Portal.

Chairman