

# Document Pack

**Democratic Services Section  
Chief Executive's Department  
Belfast City Council  
City Hall  
Belfast  
BT1 5GS**



12 August 2014

## **MEETING OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Dear Alderman / Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room (Room G05), City Hall on Tuesday, 19th August 2014 at 4.30 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully

SUZANNE WYLIE

Chief Executive

## **AGENDA:**

1. Routine Matters
  - (a) Apologies
  - (b) Minutes
  - (c) Declarations of Interest
2. Request for Deputation - St. George's Market Traders
3. Cinemagic - Request for Funding (Pages 3 - 4)
4. BCCM - Request for Funding (Pages 5 - 6)
5. Presentation - Role of Cities in Attracting Foreign Direct Investment
6. Quarterly Financial Report – Quarter 1 2014/2015 (Pages 7 - 18)
7. Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Halls - Performance Report (Pages 19 - 24)
8. Creative and Cultural Belfast Fund (Pages 25 - 28)
9. Update on Capital Schemes (Pages 29 - 34)
10. Belfast Homecoming – One City Conference (Pages 35 - 44)

11. Belfast Future City Conference (Pages 45 - 52)
12. Super Connected Business Growth Initiative (Pages 53 - 56)
13. Future of Comet Economic and INTERREG Partnerships (Pages 57 - 60)
14. Future Support for European Social Fund Projects (Pages 61 - 64)
15. Women in Business Annual Awards – Request for Sponsorship (Pages 65 - 66)
16. St George’s Market Stall Allocation Process (Pages 67 - 68)
17. World Title Boxing Fight in Belfast (Pages 69 - 70)
18. External Markets Application - Taste of Northern Ireland Festival (Pages 71 - 72)
19. Belfast Christmas Continental Market - Three Day Extension (Pages 73 - 74)
20. Update on Transport Issues (Pages 75 - 84)
21. Renewing the Routes Programme - Update (Pages 85 - 88)

Extract from minutes of –

MEETING OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

17th JUNE, 2014

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**“Cinemagic – Request for Funding”**

The Director advised the Committee that a request had been received from Cinemagic seeking a donation from the Council to assist it to meet a £200,000 funding shortfall which it had encountered in the making of a Belfast-themed feature film entitled: ‘The Christmas Star’. The Director reported that no provision existed within the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit’s budget for 2014/2015, but pointed out that officers from within that Unit would continue to provide guidance and assistance to Cinemagic in exploring alternative sources of funding.

The Committee agreed not to accede to the request and noted the comments of the Director.”

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Extract from minutes of –

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17th JUNE, 2014

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**“Belfast City Centre Management  
Additional Funding Requests”**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 14th January, it had agreed to provide funding in the sum of £190,000 to Belfast City Centre Management (BCCM) as the Council’s contribution towards its running costs for 2014/2015. It was reported that the Board of BCCM had since undertaken a review of the salaries of its staff and had adopted the NJC scales, a measure which had resulted in a shortfall of £30,000 in salary costs for £2014/2015. Accordingly, the Director reported that a request for financial assistance for 50% of the shortfall, that is, £15,000, had been received from BCCM.

In addition to the aforementioned request, the Director reminded the Committee that BCCM had been one of six successful applicants selected by the Department for Social Development to oversee a pilot Business Improvement District (BID) project. He reported that BCCM had requested also that the Council consider making a contribution towards the employment of a Development Manager to oversee the implementation of that project. The total cost of employing the Development Manager, over an 18 month period, would be £90,000 and the Council had been requested to consider providing 50% of that cost.

In respect of the request by BCCM for a contribution towards meeting the re-evaluated staff salary costs, Members expressed concern that the Council, should it accede to the request, would be creating a precedent which could encourage further organisations to submit one-off requests for funding. The point was made that employees within the public sector had been subject to pay freezes in recent years and BCCM should have anticipated the extra costs and incorporated them within their original request for annual funding. Therefore, it would be inappropriate for the Council to meet the request as submitted.

Regarding the request for funding for to employ a Business Manager for the BID pilot project, the Committee noted that the Department for Social Development had agreed to contribute a sum of £45,000 towards the post. Accordingly, the Council would be required to provide funding of £15,000 in 2014/2015, with a further amount of £30,000 being allocated within the Council’s 2015/2016 budget to support the project.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Alderman Ekin,  
Seconded by Alderman Webb and

Resolved - That the Committee agrees not to accede to the request for £15,000 from BCCM to meet the increase in costs of staff salaries; but agrees to provide funding in the sum of £45,000, over a two-year period, to meet the costs associated with the employment of a Business Manager to oversee that organisation’s BID pilot project.”

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### Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Quarterly Financial Report – Quarter 1 2014/15
<b>Date:</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> August 2014
<b>Reporting officer:</b>	John McGrillen, Director of Development ext 3470
<b>Contact officer:</b>	David Orr, Business Support Manager ext 3502

#### Relevant background information

The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed on 18 June 2010 that:

- the Council would produce financial reporting packs for the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and each Standing Committee on a quarterly basis
- the Budget and Transformation Panel would receive monthly financial updates if there were any significant issues to report.

The reporting pack (Appendix 1) contains a summary dashboard of the financial indicators and an executive summary explaining the financial performance of the Development Committee in the context of the financial performance of the overall Council. It also provides a more detailed explanation of each of the relevant indicators covering the year to date and forecast financial position at the year-end.

The style and layout of the reporting pack reflect much of the discussion and feedback arising from the Members' financial training at the end of September 2010. As we previously advised the Committee, we will continue to develop the style and contents of the reports in liaison with Members.

Central Finance and our departmental management team have worked together to develop the information contained within this financial reporting pack.

#### Key issues

##### *Current and forecast financial position 2014/15*

The **Development Department** is under spent by £8,888, or 0.1% of its net budgeted expenditure of just over £6.6 million, at the end of quarter one.

Community Services are under spent by £16,302 (0.9%); Economic Initiatives and International Development are under spent by £7,271 (0.3%) whilst City Events and Venues are over spent by £8,631 (0.5%), and Directorate is over budget by £6,054 (0.8%).

There are four main areas which give rise to the current overall £9k (0.1%) under spend within the Department at the end of quarter one:

1. Gross Income was £1,513k, which was £38k (2.5%) less than budgeted income of £1,551k. This variance relates to £25k of less grant funding received in quarter one in EIID than anticipated and £14k less than planned income received within City Events & Venues.
2. Employee costs of £2,450k were £5k (0.2%) more than the budgeted figure of £2,445k.
3. Supplies and Services expenditure of £1,749k was £5k (0.3%) below the budget of £1,754k. This was mainly due to under spends on equipment, tools and materials and licence fees.
4. Premises costs of £1,173k were £47k (3.9%) less than the budgeted figure of £1,220k reflecting decreased utility, security and insurance costs. These are profiling issues and will self correct within the financial year.

It is currently forecast that the Development Department will be over spent by £5k (0.03%) at year end.

- Community Services is forecast to be £20k (0.4%) over budget at year end.
- Economic Initiatives is forecast to be £30k (0.5%) under budget at the year end.
- Directorate is forecast to be on £15k (0.4%) over budget at year end.
- Finally, the City Events and Venues Section are forecast to be on budget at year end.

The Department will continue to monitor the variance between actual and budgeted expenditure during Quarter Two.

The financial reporting pack contains more detail on both the overall Council position and the financial performance in each of the Services within the Development Department.

### **Resource Implications**

There is a year to date under spend of £9k and the forecast is that the Department will be over spent by £5k at year end.



<b>Recommendations</b>
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Members are recommended to note the above report and associated financial reporting pack.
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<b>Decision Tracking</b>
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N/A
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<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
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N/A
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<b>Documents Attached</b>
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Appendix 1: Financial Reporting Pack
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Development Committee

Quarterly Finance Report

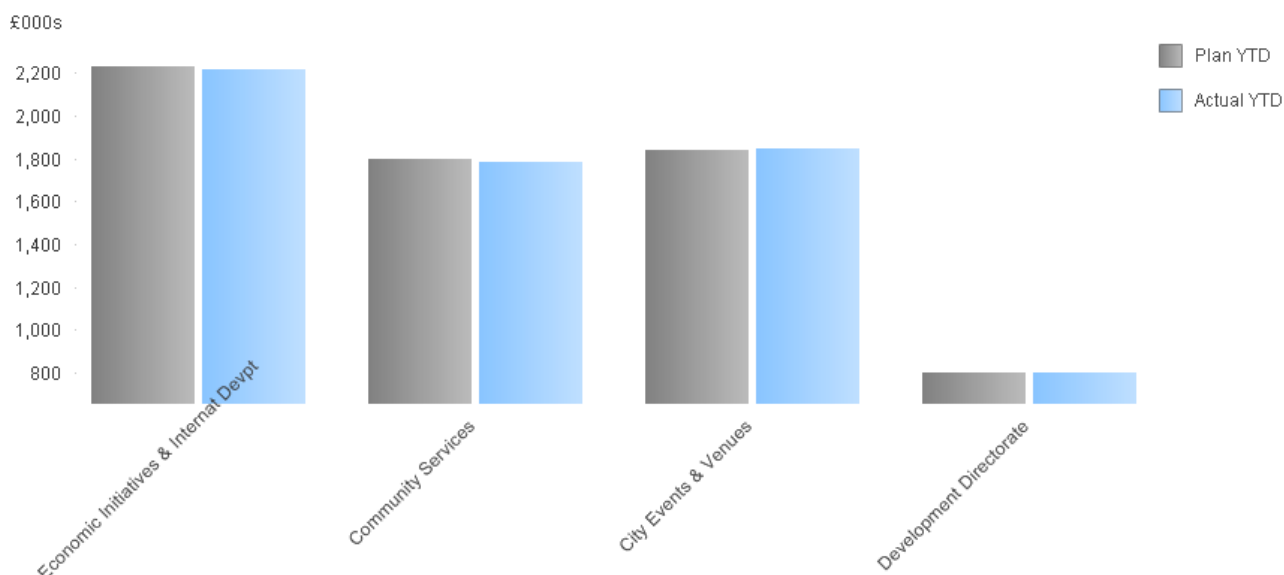
Report Period: Quarter 1, 2014/15

## Dashboard

Revenue Section							Page
Service	YTD	YTD Var £000s	Var %	Forecast	Forecast Var £000s	Var %	3&5
Development Directorate		6	0.8%		15	0.4%	
Community Services		(16)	(0.9)%		20	0.4%	
City Events & Venues		9	0.5%		0	0.0%	
Economic Initiatives & Internat Devpt		(7)	(0.3)%		(30)	(0.5)%	
<b>Committee Total</b>		<b>(9)</b>	<b>(0.1)%</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	

Key Performance Indicators (KPI)				Page
KPI	Actual	Target		
Compliant Purchases	80.0%	90.0%		6
Timeliness Of Goods On System	75.1%	75.0%		7

### Committee Net Revenue Expenditure: Year to Date Position



#### Commentary and action required:

The **Development Department** is under spent by £8,888, or 0.1% of its net budgeted expenditure of just over £6.6 million, at the end of quarter one.

Community Services are under spent by £16,302 (0.9%); Economic Initiatives and International Development are under spent by £7,271 (0.3%) whilst City Events and Venues are over spent by £8,631 (0.5%), and Directorate is over budget by £6,054 (0.8%).

There are four main areas which give rise to the current overall £9k (0.1%) under spend within the Department at the end of quarter one:

1. Gross Income was £1,513k, which was £38k (2.5%) less than budgeted income of £1,551k. This variance relates to £25k of less grant funding received in quarter one in EIID than anticipated and £14k less than planned income received within City Events & Venues.
2. Employee costs of £2,450k were £5k (0.2%) more than the budgeted figure of £2,445k.
3. Supplies and Services expenditure of £1,749k was £5k (0.3%) below the budget of £1,754k. This was mainly due to under spends on equipment, tools and materials and licence fees.
4. Premises costs of £1,173k were £47k (3.9%) less than the budgeted figure of £1,220k reflecting decreased utility, security and insurance costs. These are profiling issues and will self correct within the financial year.

**Economic Initiatives and International Development** is under spent by £7,271 at the end of Quarter One.

(Budgeted expenditure: £2,227,308; Actual expenditure: £2,220,037).

The reasons for this variance were under spends in premises costs primarily relating to City Markets incurring lesser utility and security charges than anticipated ; reduced employee costs due to vacant posts within the Economic Development unit and lesser supplies and services costs.

This under spend is offset by a reduction in planned income as a result of having less match funded programmes within the Economic Development unit in quarter one than originally profiled.

**Community Services** is under spent by £16,302 at the end of Quarter One.

(Budgeted expenditure: £1,798,737; Actual expenditure: £1,782,436).

The primary reason for this under spend relates to premises costs due to decreased utility, rental and insurance charges incurred within the first quarter.

**City Events and Venues** is over spent by £8,631 at the end of Quarter One.

(Budgeted expenditure: £1,840,068; Actual expenditure: £1,848,699).

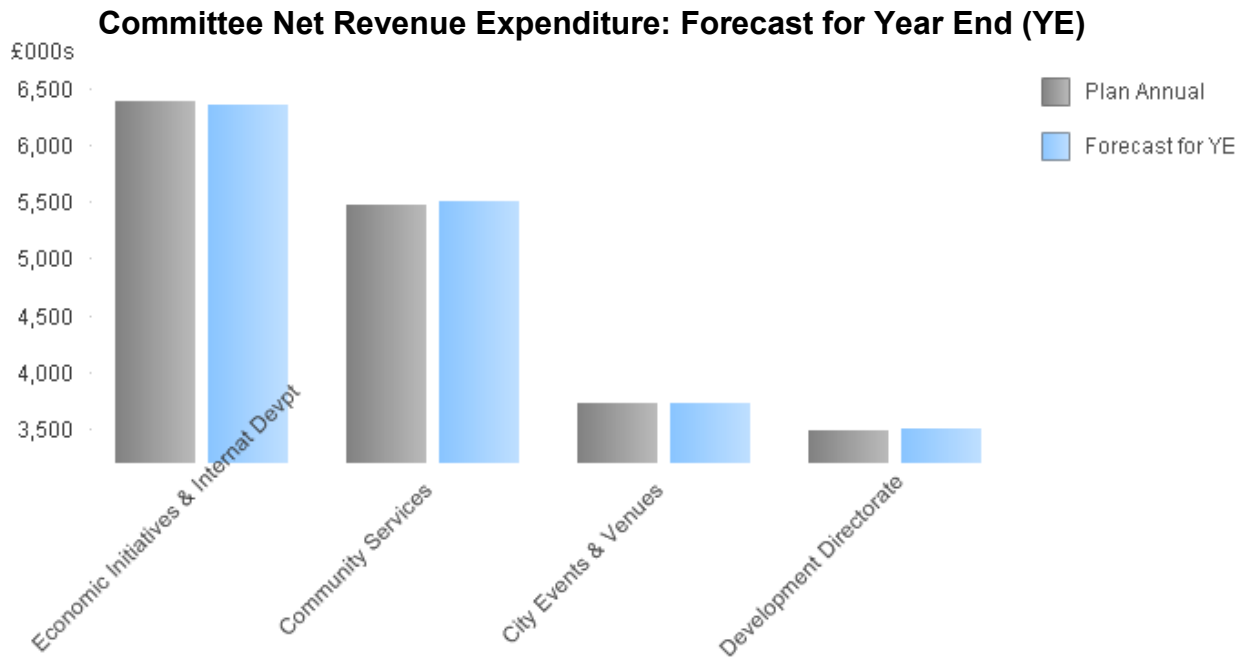
Within this, City Events was over spent due to overtime costs incurred due to the Giro D'Italia programme.

City Venues were over spent in relation to additional supplies and services expenditure incurred.

**Directorate** is over spent by £6,054 at the end of Quarter One.

(Budgeted expenditure: £795,588; Actual expenditure: £801,642).

The over spend within Directorate is attributable to increased spend within supplies and services in relation to the City Development unit.



*Commentary and action required:*

**Forecast for Revenue Expenditure:**

**It is currently forecast that the Development Department will be over spent by £5,000 at the end of the 2014 – 2015 financial year.**

The Economic Initiatives and International Development unit are forecast to be under spent by a total of £30,000. This relates to increased income and decreased employee costs.

The Community Services budget is forecast to have an over spend of £20,000 at the end of the year. This is in relation to higher than planned employee costs.

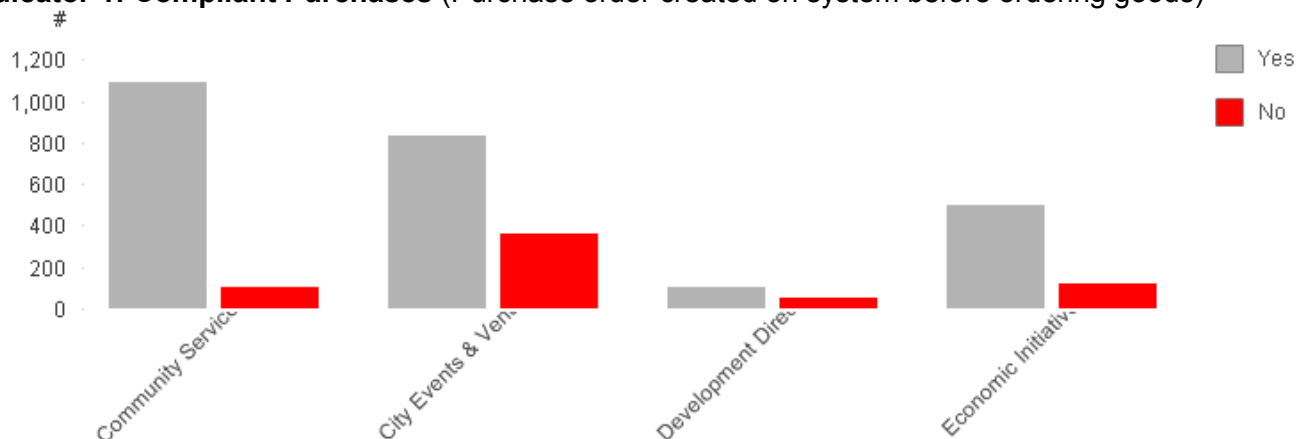
The City Events and Venues unit are forecast to be on budget at the end of the financial year.

Directorate are forecast to be over budget by £15,000 at the end of the year. This is in relation to increased supplies and services expenditure.

## Key Performance Indicators (KPIs): Procurement Compliance

Procurement Compliance refers to the purchases that are made in compliance with the standard procure to pay process in BCC. These processes help ensure that our creditors are paid in a timely fashion and our accounts are accurate and up to date. The following indicators are intended to give a flavour of how well we are doing at adhering to the processes.

### Indicator 1: Compliant Purchases (Purchase order created on system before ordering goods)



The impact of ordering goods without a purchase order being created on the system are that a) the authorisation for purchasing goods has not gone through the proper channels, b) incomplete records are available and decisions are being made based on information that is not correct and c) suppliers whose invoices do not have purchase orders take longer to pay and this contravenes an objective of the investment programme, negatively affecting supplier relationships with BCC.

#### Commentary and action required:

	Yes	No	Total	% Compliant
	<b>2,534</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>3169</b>	<b>80.0%</b>
Community Services	1,096	105	1201	91.3%
City Events & Venues	837	361	1198	69.9%
Development Directorate	106	51	157	67.5%
Economic Initiatives & In...	495	118	613	80.8%

The Development Department is currently 80.0% compliant in terms of the Purchase Order being raised before the supplier invoice date. The Development Department is exactly in line with the Council average compliance rate.

Departmental compliance is affected by the continuous reliance on manual requisitions and processes, collections and delivery of manual requisitions from remote locations, increased processing time as a result of "sourcing" which elongates the approval process and the recent implementation of the SRM system to specific services.

The Department is currently working to implement and roll out the SRM system to all services within the department. The Department is also fully participative in systems improvement via the SAP Improvement Group, the identification of hot spots and the provision of training for staff.

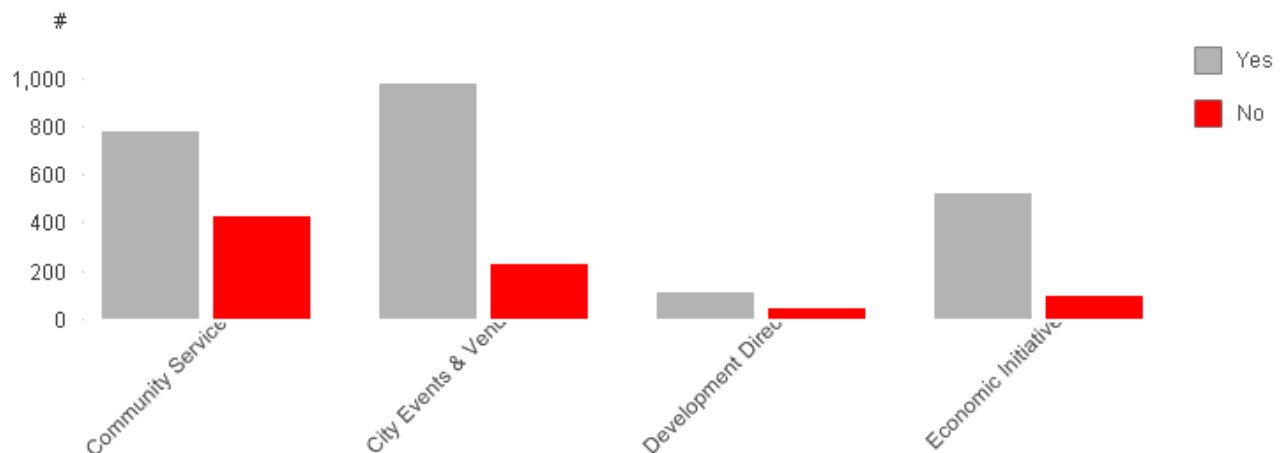
The department has recently implemented a new initiative that will monitor, identify and resolve specific instances of non-compliance at Unit level.

Procurement compliance is kept under constant review and is reported on a monthly basis to the Departmental Management Team.



## Key Performance Indicators (KPIs): Procurement Compliance

**Indicator 2: Timeliness of Goods on System** (Goods received and marked received on system within 5 days)



The impact of not marking goods as received onto the system is that a) BCC records of goods on site are not up to date and b) there is a risk that a department might overspend its budget as goods have been received but are not showing against the budget and c) it can take longer to pay the suppliers invoices and this contravenes an objective of the investment programme, negatively affecting supplier relationships with BCC.

*Commentary and action required:*

	Yes	No	Total	% Compliant
	<b>2,380</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>3169</b>	<b>75.1%</b>
Community Services	779	422	1201	64.9%
City Events & Venues	972	226	1198	81.1%
Development Directorate	111	46	157	70.7%
Economic Initiatives & In...	518	95	613	84.5%

The Development Department is currently 75.1% compliant in terms of the goods received note (GRN) being created before the supplier raises the invoice. The Development Department is marginally above the Council average which is 72% compliant.

Departmental compliance is affected by the continued reliance on manual processes and paperwork, collections and delivery of manual goods received notes from remote locations and the recent implementation of the SRM system to specific services.

The Department are currently working to implement and roll out the SRM system to all services within the department, are fully participative in systems improvement via the SAP Improvement Group, the identification of hot spots and the provision of training and re-training of staff.

The department has recently implemented a new initiative that will monitor, identify and resolve specific instances of non-compliance at Unit level.

Procurement compliance is kept under constant review and is reported on a monthly basis to the Departmental Management Team.

## Development Committee

Service	Section	Plan YTD £000s	Actuals YTD £000s	Variance YTD £000s	% Variance	Annual Plan 2014/2015 £000s	Forecast for Y/E at P3 £000s	Forecast Variance £000s	% Variance
<b>Total</b>		<b>6,662</b>	<b>6,653</b>	<b>(9)</b>	<b>(0.1)%</b>	<b>19,077</b>	<b>19,082</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
Development Directorate	<b>Total</b>	<b>796</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>3,481</b>	<b>3,496</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0.4%</b>
Development Directorate	Business Research & Development	116	121	5	4.6%	538			
Development Directorate	City Development	9	55	47	546.2%	250			
Development Directorate	Development Business Support	447	416	(31)	(6.9)%	1,796			
Development Directorate	Urban Development Unit	224	209	(15)	(6.7)%	897			
Community Services	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,799</b>	<b>1,782</b>	<b>(16)</b>	<b>(0.9)%</b>	<b>5,478</b>	<b>5,498</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0.4%</b>
Community Services	Community Services	1,799	1,782	(16)	(0.9)%	5,478			
City Events & Venues	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,840</b>	<b>1,849</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>3,728</b>	<b>3,728</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
City Events & Venues	Events	766	770	4	0.5%	1,454			
City Events & Venues	Waterfront Hall	1,074	1,079	5	0.4%	2,274			
Economic Initiatives & Internat Devpt	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,227</b>	<b>2,220</b>	<b>(7)</b>	<b>(0.3)%</b>	<b>6,389</b>	<b>6,359</b>	<b>(30)</b>	<b>(0.5)%</b>
Economic Initiatives & Internat Devpt	City Markets	54	25	(29)	(53.4)%	(105)			
Economic Initiatives & Internat Devpt	Economic Development Unit	95	137	42	44.2%	1,326			
Economic Initiatives & Internat Devpt	European Unit	88	83	(5)	(5.9)%	391			
Economic Initiatives & Internat Devpt	Tourism Unit	1,990	1,975	(15)	(0.8)%	4,776			

# Agenda Item 7

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of the Council's Policy on the  
Publication of Committee Reports on the Internet.

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**Belfast City Council**

<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Creative and Cultural Belfast Fund
<b>Date:</b>	19 August 2014
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Lisa Toland, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3427

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	As Members will recall, in August 2013 the Development Committee agreed to open the Creative and Cultural Belfast Fund.
1.2	The purpose of the fund is to deliver large-scale, ambitious arts and heritage projects that challenge social exclusion. Proposals must demonstrate how they support the Cultural Framework's Distinctly Belfast and Inspiring communities themes and will be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- cross-community</li> <li>- cross-city</li> <li>- delivered in partnership between cultural and community organisations</li> <li>- of benefit to hard-to-reach areas and communities.</li> </ul>
1.3	£150,000 per annum was ring-fenced in the 2013/14 and 2014/15 budgets, with the same level of support projected for 2015/16 subject to approval of draft budget estimates. The Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI) agreed to provide match funding of £450,000, bringing the programme budget to £900,000. £10,000 per year is ring-fenced for administrative costs. This means the total funding budget is £870,000.
1.4	Tranche 1 of Creative and Cultural Belfast opened in September 2013, and in February 2014, Members agreed to award a total of £585,000, comprising one exceptional grant of £300,000 and three standard grants of £95,000. Further information on these projects is included at Appendix 1.
1.5	It was anticipated that the second round of funding for Creative and Cultural Belfast would open in April 2015. Three standard grants of £95,000 would be made available.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	<u>Value of grants</u> £585,000 of funding was allocated in tranche 1, including £445,000 of ACNI funding. The balance available for tranche 2 is therefore £285,000, including £5,000 of ACNI's funding. However, ACNI funding cannot be used to part-fund a contract at this level.
2.2	It is therefore recommended that the value of grant is reduced from three grants at £95,000 to three grants at £90,000. The surplus of £15,000 will be used for programme support, such as training, marketing and evaluation.
2.3	<u>Timescales</u> Belfast City Council's budget must be substantially spent within the current financial year. It is therefore recommended that the call for applications is brought forward and opens in September 2014. Recommendations for funding will then be presented to Committee in January 2015.

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	<u>Financial</u> Funding is included in the TCA Unit's draft budget estimates for 2014/15. ACNI has agreed to provide match funding of £450,000.
3.2	<u>Human Resources</u> This will be covered within the work programme of the TCA Unit.

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
4.1	The Cultural Framework was subject to a full Equality Impact Assessment and relevant equality and good relations implications have been taken in to consideration.

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report and agree to open the second round of the Creative and Cultural Belfast Fund in September 2014 to award three grants of £90,000.

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
Timeframe: January 2015	
Reporting Officer: Lisa Toland	

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
ACNI - Arts Council of Northern Ireland	
TCA - Tourism, Culture and Arts	

<b>8</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
Appendix 1 - Creative and Cultural Belfast summary of tranche 1 projects	



## Appendix 1

### **Creative and Cultural Belfast Tranche 1 Grants**

#### **1. Abhainn bheo na Fearsaide/The living river Farset project**

**Lead organisation:** Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich (exceptional grant)

**Partner organisation(s):** The Spectrum Centre

**Value of grant:** £300,000

**Project description:** Through a series of arts and heritage workshops, the Living River Farset/Abhainn bheo na Fearsaid will explore the role of the river in the development of Belfast, discovering the origins of place names, traditions and language and reviving forgotten crafts. It will culminate in a one-day festival, when Fearsaid, a 15ft willow personification of the river Farset, will arise at dawn from the Belfast hills in an explosion of light and sound. Fearsaid will then move through the city, reaching her destination at the mouth of the river at Laganside at dusk for a major festival of water and light.

#### **2. Art at the heart from the very start**

**Lead organisation:** Replay Theatre Company

**Partner organisation(s):** Belfast Childcare Partnership, East Belfast Partnership Board

**Value of grant:** £90,000

**Project description:** Art at the heart from the very start will see babies and families filling the city's streets when Belfast unveils Baby Day, the first-ever festival for babies and their adults. Baby Day will include the world premiere of 'The Belfast Lullaby', to be composed by Neil Martin, which will ring out across the city from City Hall.

#### **3. Draw Down the Walls 2014–16 Visual Arts Showcase**

**Lead organisation:** Golden Thread Gallery

**Partner organisation(s):** North Belfast Interface Network, Lower Shankill Community Association

**Value of grant:** £90,000

**Project description:** Draw Down the Walls will commission a new piece of temporary visual art. The project aims to provoke debate about 'barriers in our society' and will be informed by community participation every step of the way.

#### **4. Nine Nights**

**Lead organisation:** ArtsEkta

**Partner organisation(s):** Annadale Housing Residents Association, New Lodge Arts, Spectrum Centre

**Value of grant:** £95,000

**Project description:** Nine Nights is an outdoor theatre and storytelling experience based on centuries-old Hindu folklore, re-imagined as a mammoth contemporary outdoor spectacle with music, dance and pyrotechnics.



<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Update on capital schemes
<b>Date:</b>	19 August 2014
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Lisa Toland, Head of Economic Initiatives and International Development, ext 3427

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	Members will be aware that there are a number of major capital schemes that are being led by the Development Committee, in line with commitments set out in the Council's Investment Programme 2012-2015. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Waterfront Hall conference and exhibition centre</li> <li>– Innovation Centre</li> <li>– Creative Hub</li> <li>– Public Bike Share Scheme</li> </ul>
1.2	While the investment decisions and funding authority for the schemes are presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, the majority of the development activity is taking place across a range of teams based within the Development Department.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	<u>Waterfront Hall conference and exhibition centre</u> As Members may be aware, the tenders for the main construction project were returned in early June 2014 and McLaughlin and Harvey have been selected as the preferred bidder for the work. The company is currently working on detailed designs and construction is likely to get underway in September 2014.
2.2	The letter of offer is in place from NITB and this covers the ERDF funding element of the project. In order to meet the funding deadlines, resources have been put in place to oversee the project management on the capital side as well as looking at the operational aspects of the building and taking account of how it will function post-completion.
2.3	The letter of offer commits the Council to maximising the economic benefit of the investment. It also requires the Council to consider all available options for the

	<p>future delivery of services. An options appraisal will be undertaken in the coming months and a report will be presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources (SP&amp;R) Committee for consideration in due course.</p>
2.4	<p>An Interim MD – Geoff Fenlon – was appointed in April 2014 to oversee the development of the project from an operational perspective. Given his experience in a number of similar projects, he has been providing technical expertise to ensure that the proposed development can compete on a global stage and deliver the ambition economic benefits and targets set out in the letter of offer. He has also been focusing on the operational overheads and looking at how the ongoing Council subsidy to the development can be reduced.</p>
2.5	<p><u>Innovation Centre</u>  The Forthriver Innovation Centre is a 55,000 sq ft capital build project with 35,000 sq ft nett lettable space located off the Springfield Road. The capital build cost of the Innovation Centre is estimated at £9.1m. A funding allocation of £6,153,254 from Invest NI (INI) and the NI ERDF Programme has been positively appraised but a formal letter of offer for the project is still awaited.</p>
2.6	<p>Quantifiable outputs for the project (in-line with the indicative funding letter of offer) are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To support approximately 221 jobs in the ongoing operation of the Innovation Centre (assuming 1 job per 125 sq ft and circa 84% occupancy from year 10 onwards).</li> <li>- To deliver via the appointed operator a suite of collaborative, specific, exemplar business support within an enterprising organisational culture leading to business support events / programmes to 100 companies annually from 2016 onwards.</li> <li>- 5 collaborative networks supported from 2016 onwards.</li> <li>- To deliver an economic benefit from the ongoing operation of the Innovation Centre of approximately £1.2m net GVA per annum from year 10 onwards.</li> </ul>
2.7	<p>Officers have continued to progress the project under the Council's approval at risk so to meet the ERDF and INI spend deadline of 31st December 2015. Tenders for the capital programme closed on Friday 1st August and at the time of writing were being assessed with a view to making an award early September (subject to necessary Council approvals and receipt of the Letter of Offer). Subject to a successful contract award the programme is considered achievable by the December 2015 timescale.</p>
2.8	<p>The planning application was submitted in April 2014 and the project is being considered a Large Scale Investment with an estimated assessment timeframe of 6 months. Recent meetings with Planners have been relatively positive with any technical aspects able to be addressed. Further discussions are being scheduled with Planners to further discuss the permitted use classifications that will apply to the site.</p>
2.9	<p>In parallel to the capital programme and planning application officers are preparing a specification for the appointment of an operator to be procured through a competitive dialogue procurement process (subject to approval by SP&amp;R and Shadow SP&amp;R). The appointment of the Operator is scheduled to complete Sept / Oct 2015 depending on the number of competitive bids received.</p>

2.10	A further layer of financial modelling is being undertaken to inform and define the Council's position in the operator business model.
2.11	Social clauses are incorporated into the capital contract and social outputs will be considered as part of the competitive dialogue process towards appointment of the operator.
2.12	The lease from Invest NI to Council for the land to facilitate the project is in final draft format.
2.13	<p><u>Public Bike Share Scheme</u></p> <p>The development of a Public Bike Share Scheme is identified as a partnership project in the Council's Investment Programme 2012-2015. The Council secured funding of £1.1 million for the capital infrastructure of the Belfast Public Bike Share Scheme from the Department for Regional Development (DRD) as part of their Active Travel Demonstration Projects budget.</p>
2.14	As Members may be aware, the Council carried out a competitive procurement process in November/December 2013 for a provider to design, supply, maintain and operate a Belfast Bike Share Scheme. As a result, the Council selected a preferred supplier, NSL and its partner Nextbike, who submitted the most economically advantageous tender. The SP&R committee agreed on the 21 <sup>st</sup> March to proceed to award the contract to NSL and this received full Council endorsement on the 1 <sup>st</sup> April. Nextbike will provide the bicycle infrastructure and management system and NSL will oversee the operation and maintenance of the system. The contract between NSL and the Council is for 6 years with an option to renew for a further 3 years to operate and maintain the scheme.
2.15	The Council also carried out a competitive procurement process at the same time to secure a sponsor for the scheme and SP&R agreed in March 2014 to allow the Council to continue the negotiations for the sponsorship with interested parties with a view to securing the optimal outcome. This process is ongoing and a report will be brought back to SP&R for a decision at a later date.
2.16	The current funding for Phase 1 of the Public Bike Share Scheme aims to create a network of up to 30 docking stations supporting 300 bikes with associated infrastructure in the Belfast city centre as previously agreed by Committee in April 2013. It is desirable to extend the Scheme into the surrounding residential areas and employment, retail, educational and tourism/cultural destinations outside the city centre boundary and the options for future expansion of the scheme will be considered at a later date.
2.17	The siting of the docking station for phase 1 is currently being finalised with DRD Transport NI and the various landowners to ensure the Council can put the necessary statutory approvals in place. Consultation has also continued with a range of stakeholders and inner city community groups to inform them of the development and implementation of the scheme.
2.18	The construction of the docking station and associated infrastructure is scheduled to take place from November 2014 to February 2015. Commissioning and testing is planned for March 2015 with the scheme planned to go live in April 2015.
2.19	<p><u>Creative Hub</u></p> <p>The Creative Hub Project entails the refurbishment of a property located at 19-21</p>

	<p>Donegall Street in Cathedral Quarter to support the City's creative and digital media industry. The Hub is estimated to have a nett lettable area of 9,100 sq ft (subject to final detailed design). It will accommodate approximately 90 desks for hire on a lettable term or as hot-desks. It will also include informal and formal meeting space, kitchenettes and an events space. The Hub aspires to be a totem pole for the Creative Digital Industry Sector to accelerate growth through collaboration, mentoring and tailored programmes of support.</p>
2.20	<p>The total cost of the refurbishment is estimated to be £3,181,598 including £900,000 for building purchase. The estimated funding allocation from Invest NI and NI ERDF Programme is £2,239,993 although the economic appraisal for the project has not yet been completed. Recent correspondence received from Invest NI advised that the economic appraisal will conclude week commencing 26th August. Following this date the project will be subject to case-work by Invest NI and Central Government Departmental Approvals before a formal Letter of Offer for funding will be issued by Invest NI.</p>
2.21	<p>The property purchase for the achievement of the Creative Hub Project is still pending in anticipation of a funding award outcome.</p>
2.22	<p>A tender for the appointment of a design team to develop the detailed design proposal for the project closed at the beginning of August and is currently being assessed.</p>
2.23	<p>Further technical input is being sought from operators in this field to inform the detailed design. A draft operator specification is being prepared. Upon notice of a positive economic appraisal and subject to Committee approval a public procurement exercise will be undertaken to appoint the operator for the project in line with the capital programme.</p>
2.24	<p>Planning implications will be determined upon completion of detailed design but it is not anticipated that a major planning application will be required for the achievement of the project.</p>
2.25	<p>The ERDF and INI expenditure deadline for the Creative Hub Project is December 2015.</p>

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	<p>Budgets for the capital development associated with these projects have been agreed and approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. Consideration is being given to the ongoing resource commitments associated with the operation of these projects, with a view to reducing the reliance on council subvention. Reports on the revenue commitments will also be presented to future meetings of the SP&amp;R Committee.</p>

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
4.1	<p>Projects will be subject to equality screening.</p>

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
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5.1	It is recommended that Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Note the ongoing work on the major capital investment schemes as part of the Investment Programme 2012-2015</li><li>- Note the upcoming milestones and key deadlines on the projects</li></ul>
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<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
Timeline: December 2014	Reporting Officer: Lisa Toland

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
ERDF – European Regional Development Fund NITB – Northern Ireland Tourist Board	

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<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Belfast Homecoming – One City Conference
<b>Date:</b>	19 August 2014
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Laura Leonard, European Unit Manager, ext 3577

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	Members will be aware that one of the key commitments of the Councils' Investment Programme 2012-2015 is that the Council will work with city partners to promote Belfast proactively on the international stage to attract trade and investment, increase visitor and student numbers and build the networks necessary to support growth.
1.2	As part of the International Relations Framework, BCC has entered into three cooperation agreements to work with the cities of Boston, Shenyang and Dublin on the targeted areas of trade, education and tourism/leisure.
1.3	BCC has received a request to support the Belfast Homecoming – One City Conference on 25-26 September 2014. This conference brings together key stakeholders from a range of sectors from two of our new formal partner cities outlined above, namely Dublin and Boston.
1.4	The conference programme involves a number of sessions and initiatives which complement the Councils' economic development and regeneration objectives and align to the objectives of the Councils' International Relations Framework and associated city agreements.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	The Mayor of Boston, Martin Walsh, will be a key note speaker at the Homecoming event and will take the opportunity to engage with BCC's Lord Mayor and officials to explore potential actions for mutual benefit for both cities.
2.2	Members will be aware that the Lord Mayor will make a return visit to Boston during the EU-USA eHealth Conference in October 2014. During this visit, the Mayors will meet again to promote the Sister City Partnership between Belfast and Boston.

2.3	During the Homecoming – One City Conference, Mayor Walsh and the Lord Mayor of Belfast will share a speaking platform to outline the potential benefits of this Sister City Agreement and inform other Belfast stakeholders of this recently signed collaboration.
2.4	There will be other panels involving the Chair of the Development Committee and a panel specifically to discuss and promote the Belfast-Dublin Economic Corridor Agreement.
2.5	Members will be aware that a formal cooperation between both cities and stakeholders along the corridor was explored during an event led by the former Lord Mayor of Belfast, Cllr Máirtín Ó Muilleoir and the former Mayor of Dublin, Cllr Oisín Quinn on 28 March 2014. Subsequently, both cities signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for cooperation.
2.6	The conference session will involve speakers from Dublin and Belfast councils and will pick up on the range of ideas for cooperation generated at the inaugural corridor event on 28 March 2014.
2.7	A further opportunity for BCC to promote the priorities of the Councils' Investment Programme is the main plenary planned event in Titanic Belfast on the recent Berridge report on Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment.
2.8	An additional opportunity for Belfast to feature its investment work is to showcase the £30m Belfast Waterfront Hall Conference and Exhibition development and to appeal to the NI diaspora to promote the facility for new business and leisure conferences.
2.9	A full outline of the conference programme for the Belfast Homecoming – One City Conference is attached as Appendix 1 of this report.
2.10	Sponsors secured to date for the conference include, Ulster Bank, Titanic Quarter Ltd., and United Airlines.
2.11	BCC has been asked to co-sponsor the event given the strong promotion of the Councils' investment priorities and its strong leadership for the city.
2.12	Members are asked to provide a financial contribution of £4,500.

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	The cost of sponsoring the Homecoming – One city Conference will not exceed £4,500.

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
4.1	There are no Equality and Good Relations considerations attached to this report.

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	It is recommended that Members agree to support the Homecoming – One City

	Conference on 25-26 September 2014, through participation in the various panels outlined above, and provide a financial contribution of £4,500 from within the International Relations budget.
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<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
Timeline: September 2014	Reporting Officer: John McGrillen

<b>7</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
Appendix 1 – Belfast Homecoming – One City Conference programme.	

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## Appendix 1

### Belfast Homecoming-One City Conference

Honorary Chairs to include Sammy Douglas MLA, Alderman Tom Ekin, Howard Hastings, Sorcha Wolsey, Geraldine McAteer, Roisin McDonough, Paul Maskey, Tony McCusker, Peter Dixon.

#### **Launch: Wed 17 September**

9:30am Launch of Belfast Homecoming-One City Conference at Delta Print & Packaging boardroom, Belfast, by State Senate President of Massachusetts Therese Murray and tour of new \$60m expansion.

Delta Print and Packaging is the biggest manufacturing employer in West Belfast and, led by local entrepreneur Terry Cross for four decades, has just made its biggest-ever investment leading to the recruitment of 100 new staff from across the city. Delta Print's success is built on longstanding business relationships with US companies, including McDonald's and KFC, who can attest to the company's reputation for speed, quality and keen price. State Senate President Murray traces some of her ancestors back to the Harrolds who left Belfast in the nineteenth century.

Presentation of Homecoming Hero Award to State Senate President Murray

#### **Wed 24 September**

##### **Opening Ceremony**

7pm. Pop-Up Homecoming-One City Banquet

Venue: Titanic Drawing Rooms

Chef: Niall McKenna, James Street South/Hadskis's.

With Belfast Community Gospel Choir.

Magners

10pm Conference Club Dirty Onion

#### **Thursday 25 September**

10am Folktown Revisted, Belfast's newest public performance space. Berry Street Presbyterian Church and Bank Square.

Noon: East-Side Reborn.

Venue: Strand Cinema. With the emergence of the East Belfast Arts Fest and the CS Lewis Festival, there are ambitious efforts in train to rebrand the resurgent east of Belfast.

Delegates are invited to hear more about the excited Eastside offering. Light lunch served.

Host: Maurice Kinkaid, East Belfast Partnership Board

2:30pm An Chultúrlann, An Cheathrú Ghaeltachta. Presentation on Abhainn Bheo na Fearsaide/The Living Farset and tour of Gaeltacht Quarter.

5:30pm Registration Duncairn Arts and Cultural Centre.

6pm Opening Reception and book launch with artist Rita Duffy.

Music by City of Belfast Youth Orchestra.

6:30pm Welcome to Compassionate City Belfast: Rev Bill Shaw, Director Duncairn Arts and Cultural Centre.

Welcome to North Belfast: Nigel Dodds MP

Diaspora Response: Mayor of Boston, Marty Walsh

6:45pm 'Ring the Bells which still can Ring': Building a Capital of Culture

Chair: Joan Burney-Keating

Xabier Paya, Director Donostia 2016 San Sebastian, European City of Culture

Mark Carruthers, Chair Lyric Theatre

John Kindness, artist

Eimear Ní Mhathúna, Director An Chultúrlann

Representative of Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin, Derry, hosts of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2013.

7:30pm Belfast's Trajectory: Time To Chose. Mark Hackett, Forum For Alternative Belfast

7:50pm Boardroom Dialogue Sessions

ReBranding Belfast

Chair: David Lyle, Director Lyle-Bailie International

John Keane, CEO Ardmore

Gerry Lennon, Visit Belfast

City Centre AND Neighbourhoods. Can we have it both ways?

Chair: Geraldine McAteer, CEO West Belfast Partnership Board

Harry Connolly, Fáilte Feirste Thiar

Wendy Langham, Connswater Greenway

Sammy Douglas MLA

Gerry Carlile, Fáilte Restaurants

City of Minorities. Celebrating a diverse Belfast; pushing forward?

Chair: Nisha Tandon, Arts Exta

Gabrilie Nig Uidhir, St Mary's University College

8:30pm Snapshots

New Islamic Centre for Belfast

PRIDE

8: 45pm Presentation of Spirit of Belfast/Spiorad Bhéal Feirste Award

Tony McCusker, Chair Community Foundation NI. To Anna Lo MLA.

9pm Conference Club: Dirty Onion

### **Friday 26 September**

7:45am Continental Breakfast and Registration

Breakfast Sessions:

A Compelling Narrative: Sustaining Belfast's Rise

Chair Peter Dixon. Panel: Paul McMorran, Crosslé, Andrew Bamber, Allen & Overy,

Jayne Brady, Kernel Capital, Danny Moore, Loughshore

Forging a New Alliance Between Dublin and Belfast.

Chair: David Horgan, CEO Petrel Resources. Panel: Philip Cassidy, Vice-President Concentrix, Tom McCusker, Tennents NI, Peter Finnegan, Director Economy and International Relations, Dublin City Council

9am Welcome to a City Reborn: Elvina Graham, CEO Ulster Bank NI

9:05am Future Cities  
Lord Mayor of Belfast Nichola Mallon  
Mayor of Boston Marty Walsh  
Response: Terry George

9:20am Putting Belfast To Work - The Berridge Report  
Chair: Jackie Henry, Partner Deloitte  
Trevor Annon, MD Mount Charles  
Cllr John Kyle, PUP  
Cllr Deirdre Hargey, Chair Development Committee, Belfast City Council  
Cllr Claire Hanna, SDLP

9:55am Tomorrow's Belfast: Snapshots  
CQ Works

10:10am Game-changers: The £100m-Plus Projects Transforming Belfast  
Chair: Áine Brolly, Invest NI Vice President West Coast USA  
Peter McNaney, Chair Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.  
Alastair Adair, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Provost, University of Ulster  
Michael Ryan, Vice President and General Manager Bombardier Aerospace  
Carál Ní Chuilín MLA, Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure  
David Gavaghan, CEO Titanic Quarter

10:50am Moving Up A Gear: Fueling Business Growth  
Chair: Seán Hunt, Partner TFC Investment Management, London  
Richard Ramsey, NI Economist Ulster Bank Group  
Séamus McAteer, Founder Datasnap.ie, Silicon Valley  
Liam Lynch, New York Angels  
Alastair Hamilton, CEO Invest NI

11:30am Waterfront Convention Centre: A Call to Action for the Diaspora  
Alderman Gavin Robinson, Chair Strategic Policy and Resources Cttee,  
Belfast City Council

11:45am In the Frame: The Cultural and Commercial Case for New Civic Art Gallery  
Chair: Roisin McDonough, CEO Arts Council of NI  
Peter Murray, Director Crawford Art Gallery, Cork  
Marguerite Nugent, Curator Northern Ireland Collection, Wolverhampton  
Art Gallery  
Tim Cooke, Director National Museums NI

12: 15pm Boardroom Dialogue Sessions

*We have identified three areas with massive potential to transform the economic fortunes of the city of Belfast: the renaissance of a city of Quarters from the Gaeltacht Quarter in the west through Cathedral Quarter to the Titanic Quarter as a tourism Mecca; forging the city's reputation as the fastest-growing knowledge economy in Europe with indigenous start-ups and foreign direct investment; and Glocalisation, a look at how the Diaspora can partner Belfast on a mutually beneficial journey.*

Renaissance City

Chair: Ciarán Mackel.

Tim Husbands, Titanic Belfast

Kevin Gamble, Féile an Phobail

Maurice Kinkaid, East Fest

Mandy Patrick, Chair Hotel Federation NI

Michelle Hatfield, George Best Belfast City Airport

Bill Wolsey, Founder Merchant Hotel

Europe's Fastest-Growing Knowledge Economy

Chair: Michael Black, Intel

Mary McCall, TreatTicket

Colin Walsh, Chair CBI NI

Terence Brannigan, Chair Connected Health

Partnering the Diaspora to our Mutual Benefit

Chair: Veronica Munoz, New York

Alan McConnell, Toronto

Ed Lynch, New York

Russell Smith, DehnSmith, North Carolina

Tim Brundle, University of Ulster

1pm Homecoming-One City Networking Luncheon and Belfast Business Top 50 Awards Presentation

Compere: Paul McErlean, Chair Cathedral Quarter Trust

Guest Speaker: Simon Hamilton MLA, Minister of Finance and Personnel

Presentation to Mayor Marty Walsh of Boston

3pm Inspirational People Building the Peace: A Presentation to Those who have Come Home

Introduced by Terry George

Alison Pettigraw, Root Soup

Joanne Stuart, US-NI Mentorship Programme

Monica Culbert, Project Children

3pm Start-Up Shooting Stars: Four Belfast start-ups pitch to a select Dragons Den Panel Start-Ups

Panel: Tom Gray, Tim Brundle, Claire Gheel, Deloitte, Ulster Bank, Cybersource

4pm Game of Thrones Visit

5pm Conference Club: Stix and Stones, 44-46 Upper Queen Street, Belfast



6:30pm Farewell Reception at the Residence of US Consul General Greg Burton and Nana Lee Felding

9pm Conference Club Dirty Onion, Cathedral Quarter, Belfast

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<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Belfast: Future City Conference 2014 – A vision for our city centre
<b>Date:</b>	19 August 2014
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3509
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Claire Patterson, Business Research & Development Manager, ext 3379

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	The Belfast City Masterplan identified the 'Centre City' as a spatial objective to create an accessible, vibrant and dynamic centre city driving the regional economy. In recognising that the core of the city centre is important to driving growth and investment in neighbourhoods, the Council approved the appointment of a consultant team (Urban Strategies (Joe Berridge), with Deloitte and ARUP) to develop a Belfast Core City Regeneration Framework and Investment Plan. This work should take a holistic approach to the delivery of regeneration within the City and should build upon existing policies and strategies, most notably the draft City Masterplan Review and the Council's Investment Strategy.
1.2	Urban Strategies, along with Deloitte and ARUP, as part of the consultant team, were appointed in March 2014 to establish: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- an aspirational strategic vision for Belfast's Centre City for the next 10 years, building upon and refreshing the existing policy framework; and</li> <li>- a delivery plan, learning from best practice examples to recommend models and processes that can be deployed to assist the delivery of the strategy, recognising the challenges that present themselves in attracting increased investment.</li> </ul>
1.3	As Committee will be aware, the Belfast: Future City Conference took place on Friday 20 June in Belfast Waterfront Hall. This provided the forum for Urban Strategies to present their initial proposals for the city centre, focusing on '8 policies, 6 projects and 4 places'. The objectives for the conference were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To launch the initial findings of the core city regeneration and investment plan and test the direction of travel.</li> <li>- To agree key opportunities for growth for Belfast, particularly within</li> </ul>

	<p>the changing context of the return of regeneration and place-shaping powers to Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To launch and sign post the Council's process for community planning.</li> <li>- To provide a focus for practitioners to share experience and ideas for Belfast's city centre development and growth.</li> </ul>
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<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	The conference hosted 223 attendees representing a range of anchor institutions, community, voluntary, a number of private sector organisations such as the banks and business parks, and public sector organisations (including key government departments such as the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM), Department for Social Development (DSD), and Department for Enterprise, Trade & Investment (DETI)).
2.2	Professor Michael Parkinson chaired and moderated the event, reinforcing the role of Belfast as the regional driver and highlighting that for the city centre to be successful as the generator of growth for Belfast and the region, the city centre requires specific attention to address the critical issues of innovation, connectivity and quality of the environment which are essential to attract people. He emphasised that the City Centre Framework can provide the new narrative for action and delivery, with delivery being crucial.
2.3	Joe Berridge (Urban Strategies) outlined the proposals contained within the "Initial Directions" report, highlighting the deliverable opportunities to transform the city centre. This was designed to generate support and debate amongst participants to test the direction of travel being proposed by Urban Strategies. The policy proposals explored during the five parallel workshop sessions are outlined in Appendix 1.
2.4	The feedback from the workshop discussions demonstrated general support for the proposals as outlined by Urban Strategies. There was agreement that the city centre needed a distinctive draw that should be wider than retail and the need to attract more people, both young and old into the city centre. Support was also expressed for the Royal Exchange proposals to provide greater connection and links between Castlecourt and Victoria Square. The catalyst projects that would support regeneration of the city centre were considered to be Translink Hub, BBC relocation, National Gallery and the University of Ulster relocation.
2.5	In addition, the skill levels within the city need to be addressed to maximise inclusion, ensure that communities can avail of the opportunities created and to grow the economy. It was suggested that schools should be more actively engaged as well as higher and further education institutes.
2.6	While there was agreement that the city would benefit from a second major tourist attraction, there was debate as to whether the city needed a new venue attraction or more co-ordinated programming of activities and events - is it a 'Place' or 'Event' such as a festival? Suggestions were also made that the

	Ulster Museum should be included in the document and the need to ensure that the strategy also connected to the southside of the city.
2.7	In addition, the need to enhance connectivity and 'green' the city to make it a more pleasant and attractive environment was also discussed. There was also support for a city centre app that links tourism, retail, parking, walking routes etc.
2.8	A key message from the conference was the need to secure successful delivery of the proposals with realistic timescales and costs attached. This will require a clear city centre agenda which the framework will form the basis of and greater co-ordination and ownership of the city centre. It is also critical that the framework clearly connects the city centre to the surrounding areas to ensure that the benefits are felt by all communities. While this is a long term vision and plan for the city centre, it was emphasised that there are changes that can be made to improve the city centre in the short term, such as the 'greening' of the city centre and building on the city's success in hosting major events to attract more people of all ages into the city centre.
2.9	The Transformation Committee at its meeting in June 2014 also highlighted a number of key comments that have been forwarded to Urban Strategies. This included the need to expand the Belfast Rapid Transit system to include north and south Belfast; the need for an additional visitor attraction, on a scale similar to Titanic Belfast and to include the Shankill area within the tourism policy. In addition there were suggestions to ensure that the 'places' of opportunity that have been identified connect to the west of the city and the regeneration of the Great Victoria Street/Shaftesbury Square are to link Queen's University to the city centre through to the University of Ulster.
2.10	Following approval at the Transformation Committee on 26 June 2014, the Initial Directions report has been made available on the Council's website to encourage feedback and comment which the Council is relaying to Urban Strategies. The report is available at: <a href="http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/business/developmentplans/Regenerationandinvestmentplan.aspx">http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/business/developmentplans/Regenerationandinvestmentplan.aspx</a>
2.11	Members should also note that a specific session will be organised for all elected Members to discuss the proposals and direction of the final report with Urban Strategies at the end of August. This final report will form the basis of the Council's future land-use plan.
2.12	Media coverage of the event and response to the development and proposals for the City Centre Regeneration and Investment Framework has been positive. There have been reports in various newspapers and on radio, with interest continuing.
2.13	A video from the event is being finalised, and will also be made available on the Council's website. It will also be possible to include elements of the video on social media. In addition, delegates' views were recorded as vox pops during the event and these will also be made available through various communications platforms, once finalised. It is hoped that this will be used when the final report is agreed and launched in autumn 2014.

	<p><u>Next Steps</u></p> <p>The next steps to deliver the City Centre Regeneration and Investment Framework in September/October 2014 are as follows:</p> <p>2.14 - Urban Strategies are continuing to review and incorporate the feedback generated as a result of the conference to inform their final report.</p> <p>2.15 - Urban Strategies are completing further work to examine and develop investment and resource options to support the delivery of their proposals.</p> <p>2.16 - Urban Strategies will schedule a further engagement towards the end August/early September to discuss the report with Members and a number of key city stakeholders.</p> <p>2.17 - To support the delivery and resourcing of a final regeneration framework, Professor Michael Parkinson will also prepare an 'advocacy' document to provide up-to-date and comparable evidence to contextualise and demonstrate the importance of Belfast and the city centre for the region, as the location of new economic growth and as the focus of our image to the rest of the world.</p> <p>2.18 - As part of the development of an integrated regeneration plan for the city centre, particularly with the identification of the University of Ulster as a key project and area, Urban Strategies will also deliver a campus regeneration plan for the University of Ulster relocation. This will ensure that an integrated and holistic regeneration plan is developed for the city centre and will also ensure that the regeneration benefits of the university in the city are captured and connected to the needs of the surrounding communities. This approach may also inform the other proposed key projects identified in the city centre.</p> <p>2.19 - The key message from the conference is that delivery is critical and proposals will therefore be developed to establish a 'City Stakeholders Forum' to take this forward. Urban Strategies will be considering governance arrangements for delivery as part of their final report. This will require a review of potential delivery models and will need to align with other activities, such as the Council's community planning process, the engagement taking place with central government departments around the transfer of functions and key projects; the proposed Citywide Economic Forum emerging from the Integrated Economic Strategy; and the ongoing engagement of anchor institutions.</p> <p>2.20 <u>Future planning processes</u></p> <p>The framework is expected to address thematic challenges including, city centre living, repopulation, student housing and capturing the benefit of regeneration for the communities of Belfast. It will focus on securing economic growth, capturing benefits for residents, addressing quality of life issues and creating neighbourhoods of choice. This City Centre Framework will provide a basis for developing regeneration frameworks across other areas of Belfast and assist in the integrated development of the regeneration plan for the University of Ulster campus relocation, which will involve the surrounding communities, to support this process.</p>
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2.21	Initial discussions with Urban Strategies about developing local regeneration frameworks have proposed the need to focus on the areas surrounding the city centre in the first instance and the importance of ensuring that the process and level of engagement is appropriate to the nature of issues within areas. Given the importance of social, educational and economic issues within many areas it is therefore important that any area regeneration framework aligns with the Council's community plan and reflects the Council's approach to community planning at a local level which will include community engagement and agreement of area based outcomes. Members should note that a stakeholder event is planned for autumn 2014 which will outline the Council's approach to community planning and it is intended that this should link with the work of Urban Strategies.
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<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	The budget for this city centre conference event was met within the existing Development Department budget.

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
4.1	Equality and Good Relations Considerations will be taken into account in all aspects of this work.

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Note the positive feedback from the conference and ongoing interest in the work of Urban Strategies.</li> <li>- Note and approve the proposed 'Next Steps' including a return visit from Joe Berridge and the work of Professor Michael Parkinson in supporting the importance of Belfast's role in the region.</li> <li>- Approve in principle the proposed approach for the development of future area-based plans for the city which will link to community planning process and agreed city and area based outcomes.</li> <li>- Note the stakeholder event to secure commitment for community planning that will be organised for September/October and the importance of integrating the work of Urban Strategies.</li> </ul>

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
<p>Timeline:      October 2014                      Reporting Officer: John McGrillen</p>	

<b>7</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
Appendix 1: Summary of Belfast: Future City conference workshop themes	

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## Appendix 1

### Belfast: Future City conference 2014: Workshop Discussion Sessions

#### Belfast and its talent

**Workshop hosts and facilitators** — Gavin Poole, Eddie Friel and Prof Tony Gallagher

People, their talent, creativity and energy are the drivers of the modern economy and Belfast must develop the best in its domestic population and attract in-migration of skilled newcomers. Belfast's growing role as NI's regional and economic hub has seen the transformation of the city centre as a place where people make decisions to invest, live or start a business. This session will focus on the encouragement and expansion of innovative and entrepreneurial activity in the city centre as well as a discussion on how best to maximise the impact of our educational anchors and the University of Ulster's regenerative opportunities in the city centre's northern end.

#### Belfast and its Waterfront

**Workshop hosts and facilitators** — Eddie Smith and Mike Smith

Belfast's river and waterfront location is still an unrealised opportunity. A transformative plan for the river corridor will help increase Belfast's attraction as a waterfront city and better connect the core to regeneration areas north and south of the city centre. New open spaces can provide focal points for development and attract the clustering of new office spaces and residences. This session will focus on the creation of new neighbourhoods in the city centre and the regeneration of the Lagan River Corridor

#### Destination Belfast

**Workshop hosts and facilitators** — Terry Stevens and Anne McReynolds

Tourism is a critical industry for a contemporary city centre and one which appears to still have room for substantial growth in Belfast. Contemporary tourism is much more than specific attractions or events – the whole city is the destination. Belfast has made great strides in this regard, particularly with the success of Titanic Belfast. This session will discuss how to turn Belfast into both a popular weekend destination and attractive place to do business through the employment of additional attractions, improvements to a wide range of activity and attractions and greater branding of the city's distinct culture.

#### Belfast and its connectivity

**Workshop hosts and facilitators** — Jerome Frost and Ciaran de Burca

City centres have to work for people on foot and Belfast has made a lot of progress in this area in recent years. There are however still too many places in the city that feel too far away. Connections within the centre and to adjacent neighbourhoods can create a more interesting and attractive pedestrian experience. The introduction of Belfast Rapid Transit system has the potential to transform the city centre into one that encourages the use of transit as an alternative to driving. Belfast's flat terrain and relatively wide right of ways

provide prime conditions for cycling. This session will focus on city wide connectivity and the encouragement of alternative transport options within the city centre.

## **Belfast and its city centre economy**

**Workshop hosts and facilitators** — Christine Addison, Paul McMahon and Paul McErlean

Retail activity in city centres across the UK is undergoing fundamental change. The competition from out-of-centre shopping, new format retail and e-retailing has the potential to provoke dramatic changes in the requirement for conventional city centre retail space. These trends require that city centre retail management be highly directed and realistic. Belfast's office market is also experiencing great change. The city's low office rents, whilst attractive to FDI clients, present difficulties in supporting new office construction. This is exacerbated by the fact that much of the city's office stock is housed in much older buildings, not appropriate for modern working environments. An office strategy for the city centre needs to be implemented to ensure the trend of near-shoring continues and to provide the city with a plentiful employment base



<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Super Connected Business Growth Initiative
<b>Date:</b>	19 August 2014
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Colin McCabrey, Economic Development Manager, ext 3805

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	Members will recall that the Council previously agreed to make a funding application to the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to secure up to 75% of the costs of a demand stimulation programme that would complement the Super Connected Cities Voucher Scheme funded by DCMS. This would both raise awareness of the infrastructure investment and provide targeted mentoring support to help businesses get online or use the technologies to help them work more efficiently
1.2	Belfast City Council has now been awarded £218,445 of grant funding from Invest NI and the NI ERDF Competitiveness Programme to support the Super Connected Cities – Demand Stimulation Programme. The demand stimulation programme will supplement and support the investment in telecoms infrastructure through the £13.7 Super Connected Cities Initiative funded by DCMS, helping local businesses to improve their productivity and competitiveness.
1.3	The need for a complimentary support programme for the Super Connected Cities Initiative has been identified from experience elsewhere as well as feedback from early engagement with local companies which suggested that businesses require support to help them maximise the potential of the infrastructure.
1.4	<u>Aim Of The Programme</u> The aim of the demand stimulation programme is to assist in the creation of a vibrant, digitally enabled economy across Belfast, by helping local SMEs to understand the transformation of traditional business models which effective exploitation of the digital platform will bring about. The initiative will seek to grow the capabilities of Belfast based SMEs through a tailored and structured

	programme of support to assist them to adopt, utilise and fully exploit the opportunities presented by ultrafast and superfast connectivity.
1.5	The Super Connected Cities Business Growth Initiative has a number of elements, some of which will be delivered directly by Belfast City Council with the remaining support activity to be delivered as part of a tender process.
1.6	Belfast City Council will directly deliver a number of Super Connected Cities awareness raising Seminars. The seminars, delivered by the BCC Super Connected Team will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- General overview of the Super Connected Programme</li> <li>- Case-studies of business efficiency and growth potentially demonstrated by local business benefactors</li> </ul>
1.7	The total cost for this element is £13,350.
1.8	It is intended that an external organisation will be procured to deliver the remaining elements of the programme which include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mentoring support to 300 Belfast based businesses to assist them in implementing business improvement techniques aligned to investment in new technologies</li> <li>- Workshops/Master Classes, 18 half day sessions in total targeting 20 participating businesses per session. The focus of these sessions will be informed by the needs of the client businesses</li> <li>- Participant Engagement and Recruitment for both Mentoring and Workshops/Master Classes</li> </ul>
1.9	Objectives Of The Programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To provide an accessible, needs-led business improvement programme;</li> <li>- To support participating businesses to become more competitive and sustainable by implementing emerging digital technologies;</li> <li>- To develop the knowledge and skills of participating businesses;</li> <li>- To provide businesses with opportunities for peer learning;</li> <li>- To work in partnership with Invest Northern Ireland to provide a pipeline of support for those businesses with high growth potential.</li> <li>- To deliver measurable business growth/improvements for participating businesses</li> </ul>
1.10	It is intended that the demand stimulation support will be available to all companies in the Council area, focusing on those availing of connection vouchers. Support will be tailored to meet the demands of the individual businesses.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	The letter of Offer for the demand stimulation programme from Invest NI has been received.

2.2	Following discussions with Belfast City Council's Digital Services Team who are responsible for the delivery of the Super Connected Cities Connection Vouchers scheme, it became apparent that they would be best placed to deliver the Connection Voucher Seminar's element of the demand stimulation programme. This is based on their forward work plan and the timescale for roll out of the Connection Voucher Scheme which will create a pipeline of participants for the Connection Voucher Seminars element of the Demand Stimulation programme. A draft tender specification has been prepared for providing the elements detailed in paragraph 1.8.
2.3	The total value of the proposed procurement elements (refer to paragraph 1.8) is £255,300. The current timescale for achievement of the project is June 2015.
2.4	Approval for tender award was previously granted by Committee in line with standing orders. Due to the timeframe for delivery extending beyond Local Government Reform Members consideration is requested with the resolution requiring consideration by the Shadow SP&R committee.

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	<u>Financial</u> The cost of this element of the demand stimulation programme is £255,300 with ERDF/INI to support 75% of total cost of the workshops/master classes element and 56% of the total cost of the mentoring element (refer to paragraph 1.8). The net cost to Council will be £108,825.

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
4.1	There are no specific Equality and Good Relations considerations attached to this report.

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In line with Standing Orders, due to the timeframe for delivery beyond Local Government Reform, Members consideration is requested to commence public procurement of the Super-Connected Cities Demand Stimulation Programme at a budget of £255,300 with the recommendations requiring referral to shadow SP&amp;R Committee for consideration.</li> </ul>

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
Decision to be referred to shadow SP&R Committee	
Timeline: September 2014	Reporting Officer: Colin McCabrey

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
ERDF - European Regional Development Fund	

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<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Future of Comet Economic and INTERREG Partnerships
<b>Date:</b>	19 August 2014
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Laura Leonard, European Manager, ext 3577

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members will be aware that Belfast City Council has worked with partners across the metropolitan area for more than a decade. That work has principally been focused through two partnership structures, namely the Comet Economic Partnership and the Comet INTERREG Partnership.
1.2	The Comet Economic Partnership involves economic development staff from each of the six council areas. Collaborative activity includes lobbying with regards to EU funding and policies, delivery of joint projects to support SME development and engagement in best practice sharing EU funded projects.
1.3	In 2005, the councils were approached by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) to form a shadow Comet INTERREG IIIA Partnership to prepare the Greater Belfast area for pursuing INTERREG IVA funding. At this time, a shadow Comet INTERREG Partnership was set up consisting of 12 elected members, 2 from each of the council areas. The Partnership became fully operational in 2007, and is coordinated by a secretariat based within Belfast City Council's EU Unit.
1.4	SEUPB currently provides all funding for running costs of the secretariat (currently around £85,000 annually). This covers staff and overhead costs for the INTERREG Partnership Manager whose role is to support the Board as well as managing all claims and compliance issues between the project partners and the SEUPB.

2	Key Issues
2.1	<p><u>Comet Economic Partnership</u> Members will be aware that the Comet area as currently defined (i.e. council areas of Belfast, North Down, Newtownabbey, Castlereagh, Lisburn and Carrickfergus) will no longer exist in its current format following the reform of local government in April 2015. At the April 2013 AGM of the Comet Economic Partnership, the six councils agreed to continue the partnership in its current format until March 2015 and to see out a number of operational commitments agreed through the annual action plan and service level agreement arrangement. Traditionally, councils had set aside a nominal amount to support small-scale collaborative project activity, focused on business development and growth as well as shared learning and collaboration on EU issues.</p>
2.2	<p>Given the boundary changes that will come about as a result of local government reform, as well as the changing priorities and areas of focus of the new councils, there is an opportunity to consider whether these arrangements should continue as is or whether there is a need to change the way of working.</p>
2.3	<p>While the current partnership arrangements provide an opportunity for officers to share information and engage in collaborative working, the majority of the engagement occurs at an operational level, with limited opportunity for strategic input.</p>
2.4	<p>The EU institutions and other international governance structures and partnerships such as OECD are increasingly focusing on the importance of working at the functional urban area level, namely the travel to work area or the area beyond the administrative boundaries within which the majority of movement and activity takes place. Given the changing dynamics within the new council areas, there may be an opportunity to consider how greater strategic collaboration across the adjacent council areas can be achieved, focusing on those issues that lend themselves to joint planning and delivery.</p>
2.5	<p>In the interim, the options for collaborative working at operational level include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="373 1339 1388 1473">1. Enter into a new and extended service level agreement (SLA) with those councils who make up the new/expanded metropolitan area, develop a new agreed action plan and agree an annual budget for collaborative activities</li> <li data-bbox="373 1473 1388 1603">2. Councils to work together on an informal project by project basis. This would not require any formal structure and would be sufficiently flexible to accommodate a broad range of activities, beyond the current areas of focus.</li> </ol>
2.6	<p>While there is some value in the collaborative engagement, it is considered that the current structures no longer lend themselves to the priorities of individual and collective councils. Moreover, there is a considerable staffing requirement on the part of Belfast City Council's EU team to resource the partnership and, given the increasing commitments on EU and international activity, it may be more appropriate to re-focus the activities towards this new area of work.</p>
2.7	<p><u>Comet INTERREG Partnership</u> The Comet INTERREG Partnership along with the other cross border local authority partnerships (namely the North West Cross Border Group, the East Border Region, the Irish Central and Border Region and the North East</p>



	Partnership), have lobbied extensively to maximise the role of local authorities in the design and delivery of the future INTERREG V programme.
2.8	SEUPB have, however, indicated that they will not be willing to financially support the INTERREG Partnerships under the new INTERREG V programme. Equally, the partnerships will not have a formal status in the new programme structure. Therefore, if councils wish to retain the partnership structure, they will have to resource them fully from their own budgets.
2.9	In the case of the partnership for the new Belfast metropolitan area – depending on how this was defined – it would require the councils to meet all overheads associated with the operation of the partnership – currently £85,000 per annum.

<b>3</b>	<b>Resources Implications</b>
3.1	<u>Comet Economic Partnership</u> Under the current structure, the six COMET local authorities make an annual financial contribution of £5,000 towards a service level agreement under which a range of planned activities are undertaken. The partnership is supported by officers from the council's EU unit.
3.2	<u>Comet INTERREG Partnership</u> The current INTERREG partnership costs £85,000 per annum and costs are currently fully met from SEUPB funds. Should council wish to maintain a structure of this type, it is likely that the annual running costs would be similar to this.

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
4.1	There are no equality and good relations considerations attached to this report.

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	It is recommended that Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agree to end the current SLA structure between the COMET councils but commit to exploring ongoing strategic and operational engagement on issues that lend themselves to joint planning and delivery</li> <li>- Agree to abolish the current Comet INTERREG Partnership when it ends in 2015.</li> </ul>

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	Should the recommendations be approved, no decision tracking is required.

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<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Future support for European Social Fund Projects
<b>Date:</b>	19 August 2014
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Lisa Toland, Head of Economic Initiatives and International Development, ext 3427

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	Members will be aware that the European Social Fund (ESF) is an EU fund to address economic inactivity and increase workforce skills. In Northern Ireland, the programme is administered by the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL). Funding is allocated by means of an open call for projects. Successful projects attract funding of up to 65% of the total project cost and project promoters are expected to find the remaining 35% funding from other sources.
1.2	At present, Belfast City Council is providing match funding support to 5 externally-managed projects and one project that the council runs itself (but which it has commissioned an external partnership to operate on its behalf).
1.3	The new ESF programme is expected to open for applications in November 2014. Successful projects are likely to be operational from April 2015 (current projects will end in March 2015).

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	Members will be aware of ongoing challenges around the administration of ESF and the implications for the council presented by the open call process. Previous reports have provided updates on officer engagement with DEL staff to identify a way in which the match funding provided by the council and other public sector bodies can be used to contribute to targeted delivery, as opposed to on a case-by-case basis as is currently the way of working. While many of the individual projects produce positive outputs in their own right, it is almost impossible to measure the overall impact of the investment in terms of skills development or employment outcomes within the city. At present, there are over 50 ESF schemes operating in the Belfast City Council area.

2.2	<p>The transfer to councils of responsibility for community development and regeneration powers from Department for Social Development (DSD) means that there is likely to be a much more significant and diverse demand on council resources to match fund projects in the coming financial year as well as in future years (the open call is for projects with a three year duration). Officers have identified that, in the current financial year, DSD is providing match funding totalling £703,000 to ESF projects based in the Belfast City Council area. Members will be aware of the challenges around the resource allocation model and the significant shortfall in resources being transferred from DSD to Belfast City Council. This will have an impact on the council's ability to meet the expectations of organisations who are seeking match funding from the council, including those that were successful in receiving ESF match funding from DSD in previous years.</p>
2.3	<p>While DEL has signalled that there are a number of ESF measures that will be 100% funded this time – namely Family Support Programme and measures to target young people aged 16-24 not in education, training or employment – the other measures (e.g. support for economically inactive, lone parents, those with health issues etc.) will still require match funding at a level of 35% of overall project costs.</p>
2.4	<p>While the ESF budget is only a small part of the funding available from DEL to address inactivity and improve skills levels, it involves significant levels of funding nonetheless. Over the six year programme period, funding of around €300m will be made available to successful projects. Based on previous programme, it is likely that a significant proportion of this budget will be allocated to projects located in the Belfast City Council area. Given that two of the four measures will require 35% match funding, there is likely to be a significant expectation that local authorities – including Belfast City Council – will be able to provide the match funding resources. Council officers have made it clear to DEL officials that local authorities are unlikely to have access to the required levels of match funding for ESF projects so this is likely to lead to significant challenges in the coming months.</p>
2.5	<p>In addition to ESF, there are a range of additional initiatives to support employability and skills development that are being rolled out in specific parts of the city or will become available in the coming year. These include the Social Investment Fund (SIF) and the upcoming Peace IV programme as well as the United Youth programme.</p>
2.6	<p>With regard to the SIF projects on employability, the following projects have already been approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Belfast North Zone: employment fuel poverty project – aims to improve employability and reduce fuel poverty in the area – budget £2million</li> <li>- Belfast South Zone: employment programme – project targeting 375 local people to train in catering, hospitality, retail and IT – budget £2.2million</li> <li>- Belfast West Zone: integrated employment programme – an intermediate labour market (ILM) programme to support 300 people to get back to mainstream employment – budget £3.3million.</li> </ul>
2.7	<p>There is also an employability project in Belfast East Zone which is awaiting approval and there are a number of other projects across the zones that will</p>

	have an impact on employability support including childcare and family support and early years interventions.
2.8	The Peace IV programme is currently out for consultation but it incorporates a number of themes that will contribute to employability initiatives such as support for children and young people. This measure has a budget of €50million available, including €20million ring-fenced for measures within council-led Peace plans.
2.9	DEL's mainstream employment support programme – Steps to Success – will roll out across Northern Ireland from September 2014. This contract is divided into three areas, one of which covers the whole of the Belfast City Council area. Ingeus have been appointed to deliver this contract in Belfast. Officers are in the process of engaging with Ingeus to understand how they plan to roll out the programme across the city and to understand how pre-employment support could help improve employment outcomes for a number of hard-to-reach groups.
2.10	The council is currently in the process of updating its research on employment, inactivity and unemployment by target group and by area. This will generate a more informed baseline and will help build a picture of need within the key target groups and locations. It will also help inform our optimal level engagement in the European Social Fund programme.
2.11	Given the level of interest from partner organisations, it is proposed that a meeting is organised in early September to which interested organisations will be invited. This will include those organisations currently receiving match funding from Belfast City Council and Department for Social Development (DSD) for their ESF projects. The aim of the event will be to understand the scale and nature of existing and planned employability support activities across the city with a view to informing how the council can best use its resources to support those projects requiring match funding, while ensuring that a strategic approach is taken to the employability and skills challenges across the city.
2.12	Given the limited budget available, the assumption is that council resources should be used to meet identified gaps or target specific activities that are not already planned or underway, or that will complement planned activity, with a view to improving sustainable employment outcomes and building skills levels to meet employer needs. Equally, it will be important to consider how this activity can sit within an overall strategic plan to address economic inactivity and improve skills levels across the city. Consecutive reports have identified the inactivity levels in some communities as the largest drag on the city competitiveness. In addition, the changing skills requirement of the new growth sectors in the city mean that there is a need to ensure that residents have access to the skills that they need to access future employment opportunities.
2.13	If Members agree this approach, a paper will be brought to the next meeting of the Development Committee to outline the proposed next steps for the council in terms of match funding support for ESF and strategic employability and skills alignment across the city.

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	Resource implications associated with hosting the event included in Economic Development Unit annual budget which has already been approved.

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
4.1	No specific equality or good relations implications.

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	<p>It is recommended that Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Note the current position with regard to the European Social Fund and other externally-funded employability and skills development support</li> <li>- Agree to support a workshop involving interested organisations across the city to inform the council's approach to match funding and engagement in collaborative employability support initiatives from 2015</li> <li>- Agree to receive an update report and presentation at the next meeting of the Development Committee, outlining the proposed council approach.</li> </ul>

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
<p>If approved, a report will be presented to the September 2014 meeting of the Development Committee.</p> <p>Timeline: September 2014 <span style="float: right;">Reporting Officer: Lisa Toland</span></p>	

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
<p>DEL – Department for Employment and Learning  ESF – European Social Fund  ILM – Intermediate Labour Market  SIF – Social Investment Fund  DSD - Department for Social Development</p>	



<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Women in Business Annual Awards – request for sponsorship
<b>Date:</b>	19 August 2014
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Lisa Toland, Head of Economic Initiatives & International Development, ext 3427

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	Members are advised that a request has been received from Women in Business NI to provide sponsorship for the Women in Business Annual Conference to be held on 20 November 2014 at the Culloden Hotel.
1.2	The Women in Business NI Annual Conference, now in its fourth year, is an annual signature event for business women from across Northern Ireland. Applications are welcomed across a range of award categories.
1.3	The event is sponsored by a range of organisations including Invest NI, Irish News, JC Decaux, Moy Park and the Equality Commission.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	There will be 11 award categories in the 2014 awards. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Best new start-up</li> <li>- Entrepreneurship/Innovation</li> <li>- Outstanding Management/Leadership</li> <li>- Best Marketing Campaign</li> <li>- Best small business</li> <li>- Best customer service</li> <li>- Best in professional services</li> <li>- Young business woman of the year</li> <li>- Advancing diversity in the workplace</li> <li>- Best exporter</li> <li>- Excellence in IT.</li> </ul>
2.2	Last year's awards attracted over 100 applications and 480 people attended the event on the evening. The applications were shortlisted to 36 finalists. Feedback

	from both applicants and finalists has been very positive in terms of the peer connections made, profile gained and learning from the experience. Another key benefit of the awards ceremony is the platform it gives to female role models and the encouragement the winners can provide to others to grow their business or develop their leadership skills.
2.3	Members are reminded that, from 1 April 2015 onwards, local authorities will have responsibility for business start-up support, including any targeted interventions for key groups such as females and youth. At present, Invest NI does not provide any specific support for female entrepreneurship but does provide sponsorship for events such as the Women in Business Awards. Invest NI is the event's key sponsor this year.
2.4	In recognition of the significant challenge on budgets, it is proposed that the amount available for sponsorship of this year's event is set at £1,500. This will provide access for the council to all associated promotional activities in the run-up to the event as well as on the evening of the event and all post-event publicity. Invitations will be issued to a number of key council representatives to attend the event, as part of the sponsorship arrangement.

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	It is proposed that sponsorship of £1,500 is provided towards this year's event.

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
4.1	This event is intended to acknowledge, celebrate and reward the achievements of women in business.

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	Members are asked to note the content of the report and the request to sponsor the Women in Business NI Annual Conference in November 2014.

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
There is no specific decision tracking attached to this report.	





<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	St George's Market Stall Allocation Process
<b>Date:</b>	19 August 2014
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Lisa Toland, Head of Economic Initiatives and International Development ext 3427

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	At its meeting on the 18 February Committee heard a presentation from Deloitte about their review of St George's Market. Deloitte discussed their research and conclusions before making a range of proposals and recommendations. Following the presentation, committee agreed in principle to Deloitte's recommendations subject to further detailed proposals from officers.
1.2	One of the recommendations concerned the way that vacant stalls are allocated to traders who wish to become 'permanent' in the market. Deloitte proposed that officers should be given more discretion in the allocation of stalls to improve the variety and quality of stalls and hence overall appeal of the St George's to visitors and shoppers.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	The current approach in St George's is to award permanent stalls based on a waiting list system. Traders complete an application and, subject to meeting the criteria, they are added to a waiting list in whichever categories best matches the goods they intend to sell (hot food, cold food, jewellery, etc). As stalls become available in different sections of the market, they are offered to whoever is at the top of the waiting list in the appropriate category.
2.2	This approach can cause problems when there is no one on the waiting list, or when people on the list drop out at the last minute. In these cases market staff advertise for expressions of interest to be received by a fixed closing date. The new applications will then all arrive in the same time period and there are usually more applications than stalls available. There is no formal process for deciding who gets priority in this case.
2.3	The other major problem occurs when the next people on the waiting list are

	selling a product that is already over represented in the market (for example, too much fried food in the hot food category or too many cupcakes in the baked food category). The current system means that we continue to add to the problem of over representation of a particular type of product.
2.4	Deloitte recommended that the approach “should be refined to allow some discretionary allocation by Council”. The report said we should be allowed to use a discretionary sub-category in circumstances where there is a reasonable rationale for doing so. Deloitte gave the example of hot food where certain food types would add breadth to the offering (e.g. gluten free, local pies, oriental etc). Deloitte said that this would increase the appeal of the market to regular shoppers and visitors by increasing variety, quality and choice.
2.5	To ensure that any discretionary allocation is properly managed, it is proposed that a panel is convened in cases where it is appropriate. The panel would consist of two market officers plus another suitable officer from within the department. Where necessary an expert may be called in to provide additional advice, for example the catering manager to advise on food products.
2.6	This approach would be used as required such as in the cases mentioned previously; where staff have to choose from multiple applications at once, or where there is overrepresentation of a particular type of product.

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	Some minimal staff time to review applications.

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
4.1	No equality implications have been identified however, there is the potential to have a positive impact as it may encourage more unusual culturally varied products to be represented in the market.

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	Members are asked to approve the use of a panel to increase the discretionary allocation of stalls as outlined in section 2.

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
Timeline: September 2014	Reporting Officer: John McGrillen



### Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	World Title Boxing Fight in Belfast
<b>Date:</b>	19th August 2014
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Gerry Copeland, City Events Manager, ext 3412

#### 1.0 Relevant Background Information

- |     |  |
|-----|--|
| 1.1 | The Committee will recall that, at its meeting on 17th June, it had agreed to provide funding of £7,500 to support a series of boxing events to mark Carl Frampton's IBF world title fight with Kiko Martinez at the Titanic Slipways on 6th September. The fight is being promoted by Barry McGuigan's 'Cyclone Promotions' organisation. |
| 1.2 | The Committee agreed also, given the Ulster Hall's long association with boxing, that the holding of the fight would provide an opportunity to showcase the venue by making it available for the purposes of a public weigh-in and tours prior to the bill.  |

#### 2.0 Key Issues

- |     |  |
|-----|--|
| 2.1 | Since the Committee meeting in June, Cyclone Promotions has agreed to avail of the use of the Ulster Hall for the public weigh-in on Friday 5th September from 12pm – 2 pm. It is anticipated that this event will generate considerable media interest and attract a sizeable audience.   |
| 2.2 | On Wednesday 3rd September, Barry McGuigan has agreed to participate in a pre-fight preview evening in the Ulster Hall. The event will take the form of an interview with McGuigan where he will talk about his boxing career in the 1980s. It is anticipated that many prominent boxers from that era will attend this ticketed event, which would have a nominal fee of £5.00.   |
| 2.3 | On Tuesday 2nd September and Thursday 4th September, there will be two open evenings for local boxing clubs. It is anticipated that young boxers will be given tours of the Ulster Hall, particularly the boxing exhibition in the south corridor. These tours will be conducted by former boxers and the evening will provide an opportunity for a behind-the-scenes look at the iconic venue. Light refreshments will be provided. |
| 2.4 | Officers did enquire about the IBF world title fight being relayed on the Big Screen, however they have been advised this isn't possible due to pay-for-view rights attached to the event.   |

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	The £7,500 budget will be utilised for the events as outlined and there may well be costs associated with providing technical support at the weigh-in on Friday 5th September.

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
4.1	As with all major civic events, public events like the above have the potential to bring together people from a wide range of backgrounds and promote good relations in the city.

<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	The Committee is requested to note the contents of the report.

<b>6.0</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
Officers will monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the project and provide post-project details as part of the Department's annual review. These outcomes will be presented as part of the City Events Unit's key performance indicators.	
Timeline: March 2015	Reporting Officer: Gerry Copeland

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
IBF – International Boxing Federation	



<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	External Markets Application
<b>Date:</b>	19 August 2014
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Lisa Toland, Head of Economic Initiatives and International Development, ext 3427

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	Belfast City Council has exclusive rights to hold markets in Belfast. Anyone wishing to operate a market or car boot sale within Belfast must apply to Council for permission.
1.2	The Markets Unit have received an application for the 'Taste of Northern Ireland Festival' to be held in Custom House Square, Belfast on 12 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> and 14 <sup>th</sup> September 2014.
1.3	This event has been held in Belfast for the last 4 years, up to this year it was given permission under Street Trading legislation. Due to the layout and set up of the event it is felt that this should now seek permission under Council's Markets Rights policy.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.2	Denvir Marketing on behalf of Tesco's have applied to operate a one off market 'Taste of Northern Ireland' in Custom House Square on 12 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> and 14 <sup>th</sup> September 2014. This event has been held in Belfast for the last 4 years and previously been given permission under Street Trading by the S P & R Committee. Due to some small changes in the event it is now felt that it should come under the Council's Markets Rights.
2.2	The market is designed to showcase the range of food and drinks produced in Northern Ireland, some stall holders will hope to sell their products but many will be there to 'meet and greet' the public and demonstrate their product range.
2.3	Denvir Marketing has paid the £50 application fee and will pay per stall fee after the event when final attendance numbers have been confirmed.
2.4	Denvir Marketing have supplied the relevant documentation for this event such

	as Public Liability insurance, Method statement and Risk assessments, HACCP Policy and House rules, Operational plan which includes security and stewarding, traffic management system, first aid provision, Environmental Health information regarding noise omission, sale of food and beverages, food sampling, alcohol sampling and licensing, waste management and Fire regulations. These documents are available to Members on request. Officers have also engaged with the relevant officers across the Council in order to check and verify this documentation.
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<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	Minimum income of £310 in application and stall fees.

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
4.1	There are no Equality and Good Relations considerations attached to this report.

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- grant a market licence to Denvir Market for their one off event in September 2014 for the 'Taste of Northern Ireland Festival'.</li> </ul>

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
Timeline: September 2014	Reporting Officer: Lisa Toland

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
HACCP - Hazard, Analysis, Critical, Control, Point	



<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Belfast Christmas Continental Market 3 day extension
<b>Date:</b>	19 August 2014
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Lisa Toland, Head of Economic Initiatives and International Development, ext 3427

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members to extend the Belfast Christmas Market by 3 days at the end period of the market in 2014 from 18-21 December and in 2015 from 17-20 December when the current contracts ends.
1.2	Market Place Europe Ltd (MPEL) currently has the contract to deliver Continental themed Markets in the grounds of Belfast City Hall during May Spring Bank holiday and Christmas. In December 2012 due to poor trading within Belfast MPEL agreed at very short notice to keep the market on for an extra 3 days to try and entice footfall back into the City Centre. The extra 3 days was granted again last year in 2013 as a thank you for the traders staying on the previous year at very short notice.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.2	MPEL currently has 2 years left on their current contract to supply Continental themed markets.
2.2	MPEL have declared interest in staying the extra few days at this year's Christmas market and again for the Christmas market in 2015 when the current contract ends.
2.3	This has worked well for the last 2 years and meant a lot of the breakdown and cleaning work was carried out while the City Hall was either closed or during a quieter period due to staff taking leave over the Christmas period.
2.4	All extra costs will be paid for in full by the contractor MPEL, with no extra cost to BCC. MPEL have also confirmed they will have adequate 24 hour

	security cover on duty over the Christmas period and will also ensure everything is cleaned and cleared away by 31 December.
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<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	Income of approx £200,000 for next 2 years.

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
4.1	As with other events in the city the Belfast Christmas Market has the potential to bring people from a wide range of backgrounds together and therefore promote good relations.

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Approve the extra 3 days for the Belfast Christmas market for the periods of 2014 and 2015</li> </ul>

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
Timeline: September 2014	Reporting Officer: Lisa Toland

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
MPEL – Market Place Europe Ltd BCC- Belfast City Council	





<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Update on Transport issues
<b>Date:</b>	19 August 2014
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Keith Sutherland, Urban Development Manager, ext 3578

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	<p>DRD Transport NI (formerly Roads Service) have contacted the Council to seek views on an number of issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review of parking and servicing arrangements – Sustainable Transport Enabling Measures introduced as part of Belfast On The Move;</li> <li>- Requests for changes to access to Royal Avenue;</li> <li>- Requests for changes to the Taxi Rank at Donegall Square North; and</li> <li>- A new parking bay adjacent to 23 Short Strand.</li> </ul>
1.2	<p>DRD are also seeking the Council's views on the proposed introduction of a 20 mph speed limit within the city centre. Initially, the scheme will operate on a pilot basis and an evaluation will be undertaken at its conclusion. Transport NI have placed a 'Notice of Intention' in local newspapers on 30th July and is seeking responses to its proposal by 21 August.</p>
1.3	<p>Translink have also contacted the Council to provide information to elected members on changes to some of their Metro Services to be introduced from the 1 September 2014.</p>

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	<p><u>Review of parking &amp; servicing arrangements - Belfast On the move</u>          DRD carried out road works associated with the 'Belfast on the Move' project starting in 2011 and completed in May 2013. DRD now intend to carry out a review of all the measures and are currently seeking views on the current operation of the parking bays/loading bays/taxi rank and bus stops in the city centre.</p>
2.2	<p>The Belfast On The Move project resulted in the provision of 37 new dedicated disabled bays, 338m of loading bays and 3 coach parking bays to complement</p>

	the existing bus stops/taxi ranks/parking bays. The list of the parking and servicing facilities to be reviewed is outlined in Appendix 1.
2.3	It is suggested that the Council supports the ongoing provision of 37 dedicated disabled bays which improve access to the city centre for those with limited mobility.
2.4	It is suggested that the Council highlights the increase in demand for coach parking in the city in recent years and the view that the current provision is inadequate to cope with the current demand.
2.5	The provision of the coach parking bays on Donegall Square West is supported in the short term, however coach parking provision in the vicinity of the City Hall in the long term should be considered as part of Street Ahead Phase 2 project. It is also suggested that strict enforcement should be in place to ensure that the coach drivers adhere to the 20 minutes waiting time.
2.6	In relation to the loading bays, it is suggested that the Council also supports the provision; however consideration should be given to amending the restriction on All hours (24 hour) All days (Monday to Sunday). It is suggested that in consultation with the businesses that the restriction could be relaxed on Sundays to provide additional parking for visitors to the city centre if the bays are not in use.
2.7	<u>Access to Royal Avenue</u> The Department for Regional Development has received a request to consider amending the existing legislation in order to permit taxi access into Royal Avenue, at certain times of the day. Currently Royal Avenue has restrictions on cars and taxis and is bus access only.
2.8	A relaxation is being sought between the hours of 18.00 – 11.00hrs to allow taxi access to venues on Royal Avenue so customers can be picked up and dropped off in the evenings.
2.9	It is suggested that any amendment to the access in this area should be considered by DRD/DSD and the Council as part of the next phase of the Streets Ahead project which is presently being planned and will incorporate Royal Avenue. Streets Ahead Phase 3 should provide an opportunity for a holistic approach to reconsider how the streets are used and accessed in the northern area of the city centre.
2.10	<u>Taxi Ranks – Donegall Square North</u> DRD have received a request from the public hire taxi industry that the existing taxi rank in Donegall Square North (at Robinson & Cleavers / M&S) should be extended to operate as a double rank and also serviced by a new feeder rank located within sight of the main rank, possibly sited in Wellington Place, Donegall Square West, or Donegall Square North on the western side of Donegall Place. The taxi association wish to use the rank for pick-up only, with fares to the city centre being dropped off elsewhere. They state that the rank will be self-regulating with drivers picking up fares from the front of the rank, and joining it from the feeder rank only. Drawings have still to be developed in the meantime the Department are seeking views on the request.
2.11	It is suggested that clarification is sought on whether the potential double taxi rank will impact on the adjacent bus lane and proposed Bus Rapid Transit lane.

	<p>Whilst the Council recognise the valuable contribution that the public hire taxis make to the city centre accessibility there should be a balance between all road users.</p>
2.12	<p>It is also suggested that the Council would also have concerns from an operational point of view that an increase of capacity of taxis waiting in this section of Donegall Square North could potentially cause problems for access to street cleansing in this area.</p>
2.13	<p><u>Short Strand – New loading Bay</u> DRD Transport NI through an improvement scheme funded by DSD Belfast Regeneration office (BRO) has been asked to consider limited waiting to a new parking bay adjacent to 23 Short Strand. This request has come from local businesses along this stretch of the road and local elected representatives. The proposed restrictions will be - Monday to Saturday, 8.00am – 6.00pm. Waiting will be limited to 1 hour with no return within 1 hour. It is considered this proposal will provide a turnover of parking spaces for customers to access businesses.</p>
2.14	<p>It is suggested that the Council would support the introduction of the parking bays to provide better access for customers to the local businesses in the area.</p>
2.15	<p><u>20 mph proposal for Belfast City Centre</u> It is suggested that the Council would, in principle, support the proposal to introduce a 20 mph speed limit in the city centre of Belfast. It is considered that the introduction of a reduced speed limit could help to make the city centre a more pedestrian-friendly and pleasant environment thereby supporting the uptake of more sustainable modes of transport including, for example, walking and cycling. Moreover, the introduction of a reduced city centre speed limit has the potential to coincide with and support the introduction of the Council led Belfast Public Bike Share Scheme.</p>
2.16	<p>As part of the initial stage of the speed restriction scheme, it is suggested that the Council would request that the impact of the proposal upon ambient air quality is evaluated and, in particular, that the Council is kept informed regarding how the proposal is anticipated to impact on levels of nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter in both the proposed city centre area and its environs.</p>
2.17	<p>The Council would request clarification of how the speed limit will be enforced in the city centre. A proposed response and map is attached in Appendix 2.</p>
2.18	<p><u>Translink proposals</u> Translink wish to inform elected members of the following changes they are planning from 1 September to the bus system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New fleet - Translink are currently taking delivery of 52 new buses (42 double Decker and 10 single Decker), representing around 20% of the Metro fleet. It is proposed that these new vehicles will replace older vehicles within the fleet on the following routes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ormeau Road – Metro 7;</li> <li>- Malone Road Metro 8;</li> <li>- Newtownards Road – Metro 4;</li> <li>- City Express 13/14; and</li> <li>- P&amp;R Services.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- The following timetable changes within East and North Belfast will</li> </ul>

2.19	<p>commence from the 1 September 2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Service 18 &amp; Service 19 – increased frequency</li> <li>- Metro 5 Castlereagh Road: Metro 5 Services – adjusted to every 15 minutes off peak in line with demand (from 10 minutes)</li> <li>- Metro 3, Holywood Road: enhanced links between east Belfast and Holywood Exchange / Airport Road (orbital route)</li> <li>- Service 26 City Centre to Odyssey and Belfast Met will be every 15 minutes (from every 20 minutes)</li> <li>- Metro 27 and Metro 28 services have also been retimed to offer better connections between services 26, 27 and 28 at Ikea</li> <li>- Newtownabbey Town Service 367 - to be extended</li> </ul> <p>More detail on the changes is outlined in Appendix 3. The changes are to reflect the changes in passenger usage and the potential growth in demand. In addition, they will also help to prepare for the introduction of the Park &amp; Ride at Dundonald in line with the new Bus Rapid Transit. Translink have made the information available to the public from the Metro Kiosk, visit Belfast and on the Translink website <a href="http://www.translink.co.uk">www.translink.co.uk</a>.</p>
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<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	No resource implications have been identified.

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
4.1	None.

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	<p>It is recommended that Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consider the assessment of BOTM measures and agree any comments as part of the Councils response;</li> <li>- To consider the proposals on access to Royal Ave, extension to taxi rank, introduction of parking bays at Short Strand and the 20mph speed limit and agree response to by submitted to Transport NI; and</li> <li>- Note the information provided by Translink on changes to bus services.</li> </ul>

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
There is no decision tracking attached to this report.	

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
DRD Department for Regional Development BOTM – Belfast on the Move DSD – Department of Social Development	

<b>8</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
Appendix 1 – List of parking & servicing arrangements - Belfast On the move Appendix 2 – Draft Response to 20 mph proposal for Belfast City Centre and map Appendix 3 – List of Translink changes	



## Appendix 1

### List of parking & servicing arrangements - Belfast On The Move

#### Disabled Bays

Unlimited waiting

- Chichester Street – 9 bays, 4 locations
- College Square East – 3 bays
- Great Victoria Street – 3 bays
- Montgomery Street – 2 bays
- Queen Street – 5 bays, 2 locations
- Upper Arthur Street – 1 bay
- Upper Queen Street – 2 bays
- Wellington Place – 5 bays

Waiting limited to 3 hours Monday – Saturday between 9am and 6pm

- Bedford Street – 2 bays
- Chichester Street – 2 bays
- Wellington Place – 7 bays

Waiting limited to 3 hours on all days (Monday to Sunday) between 11am and 6 pm

- Castle Place – 8 bays in locations

#### Loading Bays

All hours (24 hour) All days (Monday to Sunday)

- Bedford Street – 1 bay – 13m in length
- Chichester Street – 3 bays – 13m, 18m and 21m in length
- Castle Street – 2 bays – 15m and 11m in length
- College Square East – 1 bay – 24m in length
- Great Victoria Street – 1 bay – 20m in length
- Linenhall Street – 1 bay – 12m in length
- Queen Street – 3 bays – 12m, 12m and 19m in length
- Upper Queen Street – 1 bay – 23m in length
- Wellington Place – 2 bays – 21m, 22m and 23m in length

Loading limited to between 6pm to 11am – all days (Monday to Sunday)

- Castle Place – 2 bays – 36m and 12m in length

#### Coach parking

All days (Monday to Sunday) waiting limited to 20 minutes

- Donegall Square West – 1 bay – 72 m in length

Waiting only between 9.30am to 7pm Monday to Saturday limited to 4 hours

- College Square North – 2 bays – 55m and 56m in length

Waiting only between 8am to 6pm Monday to Saturday limited to 20 minutes

- High Street – 1 bay – 30 m in length

**Appendix 2**  
**Draft Response to 20 mph Speed limit proposal for Belfast City Centre**

The Council would, in principle, support the proposal to introduce a 20 mph speed limit in the city centre of Belfast. It is considered that the introduction of a reduced speed limit could help to make the city centre a more pedestrian-friendly and pleasant environment thereby supporting the uptake of more sustainable modes of transport including, for example, walking and cycling. Moreover, successful introduction of a reduced city centre speed limit has the potential to coincide with and support the introduction of the Council led Belfast Public Bike Share Scheme.

As part of the initial stage of the speed restriction scheme, it is suggested that the Council would request that the impact of the proposal upon ambient air quality is evaluated and, in particular, that the Council is kept informed regarding how the proposal is anticipated to impact on levels of nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter in both the proposed city centre area and its environs. The Department for Regional Development will be aware that the Air Quality Standards Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010 place a duty upon government Departments to ensure that levels of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, benzene, carbon monoxide, lead and particulate matter do not exceed the limit values established by the European Commission. Moreover, the Regulations require that in those locations where levels of the above-mentioned pollutants are below the limit values, government Departments shall ensure that the levels are maintained below the limit values and they shall endeavour to maintain the best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development. The Department for Regional Development will be aware also that the council has already designated four regions of the city as Air Quality Management Areas as a result of transport related nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter concentrations exceeding both national and European air quality standards.

By way of clarity, the most recent Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) vehicle emission factors toolkit indicates an appreciable increase in tailpipe emissions of nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter as vehicle speeds are reduced below 30 mph. The Council acknowledges, however, that despite a posted speed limit of 30 mph throughout the city centre region, the present road and junction configurations are likely to result in typical vehicle speeds of around 20 mph. Accordingly, it is considered that the introduction of a reduced speed limit may not have an appreciable adverse impact on city centre air quality. Nonetheless, the Council would request that the impact be quantified as part of any feasibility study into the proposal. In addition, the Council would highlight that it is opposed to the introduction of physical speed reduction measures as these could result in a stop / start nature to traffic movement in the city centre thereby increasing congestion and ambient pollution levels.





### Appendix 3

#### List of Translink changes

- City Centre to Ballyhackamore (combined 18 and 19 services) – frequency enhanced to every 10 minutes making this a new high frequency corridor in the East of the city. Enhanced service Ballyhackamore to Dundonald via:
  - Service 18 via Clarawood./ Knock Road to Gilnahirk now every 20 minutes (from every 30 minutes) (Enhanced service to Upper Braniel Estate – Farmhouse Green/ Woodview area)
  - Service 19 via Kings Road / Tullycarnet / Ice Bowl now every 20 minutes (from every 30 mins)
- Metro 5 Castlereagh Road: Metro 5 Services – adjusted to every 15 minutes off peak in line with demand (from 10 minutes); peak services maintained at every 10 minutes (peak period extended – up to 0930 and start from 1630) due to low patronage off peak. While there is a small reduction in 5a services off peak, serving lower Braniel, Wincroft Way area, Upper Braniel estate will benefit from an enhanced 18 service.
- Metro 3, Holywood Road: enhanced links between east Belfast and Holywood Exchange / Airport Road (orbital route) Translink have reviewed how best to link the East of the city to the increasingly popular retail, leisure and tourism facilities and employment opportunities in the Titanic Quarter.
- Service 26 City Centre to Odyssey and Belfast Met will be every 15 minutes (from every 20 minutes) Monday to Friday during the day. Metro 27 and Metro 28 services have also been retimed to offer better connections between services 26, 27 and 28 at Ikea. This provides a half hourly connection Monday to Friday between inner East Belfast // Connswater / Holywood Rd and Airport Road / Odyssey / Belfast Met / Titanic Quarter.

The changes are to reflect the changes in passenger usage and the potential growth in demand. In addition, they will also help to prepare for the introduction of the P&R at Dundonald in line with the new BRT.

#### Newtownabbey Town Service 367

The town Service is to be extended to include Glenvarna Estate, Ballyclare Road and Ballyhenry Road (currently not serviced). This will offer links to Abbeycentre/Northcott/Shore Road/Whiteabbey train station/ Glengormley as well as feed into other regular Metro Services.

Translink will also be operating a special summer Metro timetable during July and August catering for the reduced passenger numbers during the summer months.

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**Belfast City Council**

<b>Report to</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Renewing the Routes Programme
<b>Date:</b>	19 August 2014
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Keith Sutherland, Urban Development Manager, ext 3578

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	The ongoing Renewing the Routes (RTR) Programme has delivered local regeneration projects at targeted locations across the arterial routes of Belfast since 2004. The Programme has facilitated the investment of approximately £7,210,000 across these key routes and neighbourhoods with the completion of 692 commercial units and 124 environmental improvement schemes.
1.2	The Committee agreed a four year rolling programme for the continuation of local regeneration across the target areas of the city in February 2012 (Appendix 1).
1.3	The purpose of this report is to seek approval for additional works using the underspend to maximise Council's investment on Stewartstown Road and Oldpark Road.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	Integrated Regeneration Plans for Stewartstown Road and Oldpark Road were approved by Committee in August 2013.
2.2	The initial priority initiatives in the agreed Action Plans have been achieved within the agreed allocations and underspends have been identified on both Stewartstown Road (£29,000) and Oldpark Road (£24,000) allowing the consideration of additional projects.
2.3	The new project opportunities being presented for Stewartstown Road and Oldpark Road include commercial and environmental improvements such as painting of frontages, strip lighting, new signage and landscaping. These are outlined in Table 1.

2.4	<b>Table 1: Additional Project Opportunities</b>												
	<p><i>Stewartstown Road</i> £29,000</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="328 371 544 405">Area</th> <th data-bbox="544 371 1075 405">Works</th> <th data-bbox="1075 371 1382 405">Indicative Cost</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="328 405 544 472">Woodbourne Shops</td> <td data-bbox="544 405 1075 472">Additional commercial improvement units</td> <td data-bbox="1075 405 1382 472">£18,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="328 472 544 539">Woodbourne Crescent</td> <td data-bbox="544 472 1075 539">Environmental improvements to adjacent residential properties</td> <td data-bbox="1075 472 1382 539">£6,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="328 539 544 611">Woodbourne</td> <td data-bbox="544 539 1075 611">Environmental Improvements/landscaping</td> <td data-bbox="1075 539 1382 611">£5,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Area	Works	Indicative Cost	Woodbourne Shops	Additional commercial improvement units	£18,000	Woodbourne Crescent	Environmental improvements to adjacent residential properties	£6,000	Woodbourne	Environmental Improvements/landscaping	£5,000
Area	Works	Indicative Cost											
Woodbourne Shops	Additional commercial improvement units	£18,000											
Woodbourne Crescent	Environmental improvements to adjacent residential properties	£6,000											
Woodbourne	Environmental Improvements/landscaping	£5,000											
2.5	<p><i>Oldpark Road</i> £24,000</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="328 685 544 719">Area</th> <th data-bbox="544 685 1075 719">Works</th> <th data-bbox="1075 685 1382 719">Indicative Cost</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="328 719 544 786">Rosapenna St/Oldpark Rd</td> <td data-bbox="544 719 1075 786">Additional commercial improvement units</td> <td data-bbox="1075 719 1382 786">£24,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Area	Works	Indicative Cost	Rosapenna St/Oldpark Rd	Additional commercial improvement units	£24,000						
Area	Works	Indicative Cost											
Rosapenna St/Oldpark Rd	Additional commercial improvement units	£24,000											
2.6	<p><i>Stewartstown Road</i> The current programme of work involves enhancement of 15 commercial units as well as a number of environmental and heritage improvements, along the 1km node from Hillhead Crescent to Suffolk Road.</p>												
2.7	<p>All of the shortlisted projects have been incorporated into the current scheme of works with the exception of a proposed environmental project at Hillhead Crescent and improvements to the railings on Stewartstown Road which are no longer viable due to proposals for the Belfast Rapid Transit (BRT) Scheme.</p>												
2.8	<p>To utilise the projected underspend, it is proposed to include the adjacent Woodbourne Crescent area as a commercial/environmental improvement scheme. Despite being well used, the commercial units at Woodbourne Crescent are in poor condition. There is a pedestrian link from Woodbourne Crescent to the existing units on Stewartstown Road which have been enhanced as part of the current programme. It is considered that to include the commercial units at Woodbourne Crescent would create a wider environmental impact in the locale.</p>												
2.9	<p><i>Oldpark Road</i> Members will recall that the Oldpark Road node boundary was extended from Torrens Avenue to Oldpark Avenue in order to address adjacent commercial units. The current programme of work involves improvements to 26 businesses as well as environmental and heritage enhancements.</p>												
2.10	<p>During the consultation for the Oldpark Road Integrated Regeneration Plan the cluster of businesses at the junction of Oldpark Road and Rosapenna Street were highlighted as in need of improvement but it was anticipated they would have been addressed by another project.</p>												
2.11	<p>With the programme underway it is now clear that there will be an element of underspend. The shops located at the junction of Oldpark Road and Rosapenna Street still need improvement and there is no short term scheme to address this.</p>												
2.12	<p>The underspend of approximately £24,000 presents an opportunity to further maximise the overall environmental improvements by prioritising properties that</p>												

	would benefit most from investment within the commercial node between Oldpark Avenue and Rosapenna Street. The project estimates indicate that the additional work would be accommodated within the current budget.
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<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	There are no additional resource implications.

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b>
4.1	There are no relevant equality and good relations implications attached to this report.

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	Committee are requested to endorse the proposals for additional projects at Stewartstown Road and Oldpark Road utilising projected underspend from the current programme as detailed in paragraphs 2.4 and 2.5.

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	There is no decision tracking attached to this report.

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	BRT - Belfast Rapid Transit

<b>8</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 – Renewing the Routes Programme Areas 2012-2016

**Appendix 1: Approved Renewing the Routes Programme Areas 2012-2016**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Road</b>	<b>Location</b>
2012/13	South	Ormeau Rd £150,000	Ormeau Embankment to roundabout at Ravenhill Rd
	East	Newtownards Rd £150,000	Bridge End to Witham Street
2013/14	North	Oldpark Rd £150,000	Extended area from Oldpark Avenue to Cliftondene Crescent
	West	Stewartstown Rd £150,000	Hillhead Crescent to Suffolk Rd
2014/15	South	Lisburn Rd £150,000	Bradbury Place to Tates Avenue
	East	Castlereagh Rd £150,000	Beersbridge Rd to Grand Parade
2015/16	North	York Rd £150,000	Fife Street to York Street
	West	Shankill Rd £150,000	Peters Hill to Agnes Street