

Document Pack

**Committee and Members' Services Section
Chief Executive's Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**



10th September, 2009

MEETING OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Dear Councillor

The above-named Committee will meet in The Lavery Room (Room G05), City Hall on Wednesday, 16th September, 2009 at 4.30 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully

PETER McNANEY

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. Routine Matters
 - (a) Apologies
 - (b) Minutes
2. Planning and Transport Unit: Update - Belfast Masterplan Review (Pages 1 - 2)

To consider further that portion of the minute of the meeting of 12th August under the heading "Planning and Transport Unit – Update" which referred to the Belfast Masterplan Review which, at the request of Councillor Michael Browne, was referred back to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 1st September.
3. Mosconi Cup 2010 (Pages 3 - 4)

To consider further the minute of the meeting of 12th August under the heading "Mosconi Cup 2010" which, at the request of Councillor David Browne, was referred back to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 1st September.
4. Christmas Lights Switch-on 2009 (Pages 5 - 6)

To consider further the minute of the meeting of 12th August under the heading "Christmas Lights Switch-on 2009" which, at the request of Councillor Smyth, was referred back to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 1st September.

5. Departmental Plan Quarterly Update (Pages 7 - 44)
6. Eurocities Annual General Meeting (Pages 45 - 52)
7. Royal Exchange - Update (Pages 53 - 54)
8. Friends of the Earth - Belfast Cycle City Vision for 2020 (Pages 55 - 60)
9. Gasworks Northern Fringe (Pages 61 - 62)
10. Belfast Welcome Centre Premises (Pages 63 - 64)
11. London 2012 Cultural Olympiad - Live Sites Screen (Pages 65 - 70)
12. Titanic Centenary Programme 2012 (Pages 71 - 74)
13. Community Centres - Conditions of Hire (Pages 75 - 78)
14. Summer Play Scheme Awards 2009 (Pages 79 - 84)
15. Department for Social Development Consultation on Volunteering Strategy (Pages 85 - 92)
16. Sister City Nashville (Pages 93 - 114)
17. Northern Ireland Tourist Board's Tourism Innovation Fund (Pages 115 - 120)
18. Economic Appraisal of the Proposed Lagan Canal Navigation Project (Pages 121 - 144)
19. Culture and Arts Funding - Update (Pages 145 - 152)
20. Economic Development Unit - Update (Pages 153 - 160)
21. World Trade Centre - Update (Pages 161 - 166)
22. United Kingdom City of Culture 2013 (Pages 167 - 172)
23. Markets Unit - Update (Pages 173 - 186)
24. Media Coverage (Pages 187 - 190)
25. Ulster Hall Capital Programme (Pages 191 - 196)
26. Community Festivals Fund (Pages 197 - 198)

Extract from minutes of –

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

12th AUGUST, 2009

“Planning and Transport Unit – Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

‘Relevant Background Information

.....

Belfast Masterplan

In the period since the formulation of the Masterplan in 2003/04 there has been considerable change to the economic, social and environmental context for the development of Belfast and the wider region. In addition, the proposed Review of Public Administration and the transfer of responsibilities, including local land use planning and regeneration functions, have altered the administrative context.

The five years since adoption have also seen the development of a number of new strategies, including the City Centre Masterplans and the Strategic Regeneration Frameworks, which the Department for Social Development commissioned for each of the five Partnership Board areas. This changing context and the emerging strategies for areas of the City have highlighted the need for the Council to have a coherent and up to date vision for the future development of Belfast.

The review of the current Belfast Masterplan offers the opportunity to revisit the strategic vision for the City. This review and updated strategic position would facilitate continued Council engagement with strategies such as the proposed Strategic Regeneration Frameworks and assist in influencing regeneration/development initiatives planned for the City.

The current Departmental budgets include provision for the procurement of the Masterplan review. To initiate the project it is suggested that the Committee approves an allocation of £70,000 towards the review and associated stakeholder consultation.

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Resource Implications

Financial

The review of the Belfast Masterplan will exceed the limit on procurement by quotation and will be subject of a competitive tender process with a budget approval of £70,000 recommended. The current Departmental budgets include provisions for the procurement of the Masterplan Review.

Recommendations

Members are requested to:

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Approve the proposed review of the Belfast Masterplan and the procurement of specialist support through a competitive tender process at a cost of up to £70,000

.....

Decision Tracking

**Results of the proposed procurement process for the Masterplan review to be reported back to committee.
Timeline September 2009 Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay'**

During discussion in the matter, Members made the undernoted comments regarding the proposed review of the Belfast Masterplan referred to within the report:

- (i) it might not be appropriate to undertake the review given that the boundary changes which would come into effect following the Review of Public Administration had not yet been clarified and the economic downturn was continuing;
- (ii) even if it were considered appropriate for the review to proceed it might not be necessary to employ outside consultants given the internal expertise which existed within the Council; and
- (iii) no mention had been made within the review of cycling, which was a significant mode of transport within the City.

In reply, the Director indicated that it might be possible for the review to be undertaken at a cost less than the £70,000 set out in the report. She accepted that there was in-house expertise to undertake such a review but pointed out that it would be necessary to relieve these staff of their current duties in order to permit them to concentrate on such work and, given the existing workload within the Department it was not considered to be a feasible option. She indicated that the Masterplan, which had been first produced in 2004, had helped to shape the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan and had been due for review in 2007. In addition, the Council's own Arterial Routes and Renewing the Routes initiatives, which had been a considerable success, owed much to the original Belfast Masterplan. The Director advised the Committee that the proposed review would allow the Council to put forward its own proposals for the future development of the City and that she would seek to ensure that the review incorporated the cycle routes in the City.

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Extract from minutes of –

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

12th AUGUST, 2009

“Mosconi Cup 2010

(Mr. G. Copeland, Events Manager, attended in connection with this item.)

The Head of City Events and Venues informed the Committee that the promoters of the Mosconi Cup were seeking bids to host the event in 2010. The Cup was an annual nine-ball pool tournament contested between two teams representing Europe and America. It had previously been held in such cities as London, Rotterdam and Las Vegas. He reported that it had been estimated that approximately £100,000 would be required to host the event. However, in the region of £40,000 of this would be ‘in kind’ expenditure. Benefits of the event being held in Belfast would be world-wide television coverage, Council branding at press conferences, venue locations and on the players’ kit and positive coverage in a multitude of publications and websites across the world.

He indicated that it was intended that the event would be held in the Ulster Hall and that the City Events Unit had the necessary funding within its budget to meet the costs of holding the Mosconi Cup in 2010, a proportion of which would have been previously allocated to the Northern Ireland Snooker Trophy which would not be held in 2010 due to the unavailability of a suitable venue for the dates required. He pointed out that other sources of funding would be sought in order to reduce the amount which the Council would be required to provide.

During discussion in the matter, several Members expressed the view that the expenditure which would be involved in bringing the Mosconi Cup to Belfast did not represent good value for money and requested information regarding the costs which had been incurred by the Council in holding the Northern Ireland Snooker Trophy in recent years.

In response, the Events Manager indicated that the Cup was a highly-prized competition and that other cities were intending to submit bids to host the event in 2010. He pointed out that the organisers handled the technical issues involved in organising the Cup and obtained income from selling the television rights. He indicated also that it had been estimated that the Cup would attract 2,000 visitors to Belfast. However, as the game of pool attracted a worldwide audience, whereas snooker did not, it was anticipated that the event would receive considerably more television coverage across the world as it was being covered by Sky TV, compared to the Northern Ireland Snooker Trophy which had been broadcast by Eurosport across Europe only. He informed the Members that the Council had contributed £60,000 towards the costs of hosting the Northern Ireland Snooker Trophy in Belfast and that the Council would pursue funding opportunities, both commercial and within the public sector, in an effort to reduce the £100,000 which would be required to bring the Mosconi Cup to Belfast. He reminded the Members that approximately £40,000 of that amount would be ‘expenditure in kind’ and would not result in direct costs to the Council.

Following a lengthy discussion, the Committee agreed that the Council officers submit a bid for the Mosconi Cup competition to be held in Belfast in 2010 and authorised them to undertake further negotiations with the promoters of the event to ensure that it was held in Belfast during 2010 on the most advantageous basis possible.”

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Christmas Lights Switch-on 2009
Date:	16th September, 2009
Reporting Officer:	Neil Malcolm, Committee Administrator (Extension 6309)
Contact Officer:	Neil Malcolm, Committee Administrator (Extension 6309)

At its meeting on 12th August, the Committee considered a report regarding arrangements for this year's Christmas Lights Switch-on and agreed that for this year only:

- (i) the Christmas Lights Switch-on event be held on Tuesday, 24th November;
- (ii) the "guest area" be located on the Robinson and Cleaver side of Donegall Square North;
- (iii) only the Lord Mayor be on stage to assist with the actual switch-on; and
- (iv) the usual post-event function be replaced by a smaller event for guests prior to the switch-on

I enclose an extract of the minute in this regard.

However at the Council meeting on 1st September, the Chairman of the Committee (Councillor Humphrey) agreed at the request of Councillor Smyth that parts (ii) and (iv) of the decision be taken back to the Committee for further consideration.

The decisions regarding the date of the Christmas Lights Switch-on and Lord Mayor being the only person on the stage to assist with the actual Switch-on were adopted by the Council.

The Committee will therefore have to consider further the location of the "guest area" and whether the usual post-event function be replaced by a smaller event for guests prior to the Switch-on having heard the view of Councillor Smyth.

Extract from minutes of –

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

12th AUGUST, 2009

“Christmas Lights Switch-on 2009

The Head of Civic Events and Venues reminded the Members that the Christmas Lights Switch-on event was attended each year by thousands of people and involved a range of high profile national and local celebrities and, in recent years, the event had been staged at 7.30 p.m. on the third Tuesday in November. However, due to the work which was being undertaken to the pavements and roads in the City centre under the Streets Ahead Programme and the fact that such work in the area of the City Hall was due to be completed not later than 22nd November, he recommended that the Switch-on event be held this year on the fourth Tuesday in November.

He pointed out that, for many years, Councillors, staff and guests had been able to access the event via a ‘guest area’ located adjacent to the stage. However, because health and safety concerns had been raised about the staging projecting into a traffic lane in Donegall Square North, it had become necessary to move the ‘guest area’ to the Robinson and Cleaver side of Donegall Square North. Due to this relocation, he recommended also that only the Lord Mayor go onto the stage to assist with the actual switching-on of the lights. In addition, the Head of City Events and Venues proposed, give the current economic situation and budgetary constraints within the Council, that the normal post-event function in the City Hall be not held this year but be replaced with a smaller function for guests prior to the switch-on.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that for this year only:

- (i) the Christmas Lights Switch-on event be held on Tuesday, 24th November;
- (ii) the ‘guest area’ be located on the Robinson and Cleaver side of Donegall Square North;
- (iii) only the Lord Mayor be on stage to assist with the actual switch-on; and
- (iv) the usual post-event function be replaced by a smaller event for guests prior to the switch-on.”

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Quarterly Update of the Departmental Plan
Date:	16 September 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Barbary Cook, Policy and Business Development Manager ext. 3620

Relevant Background Information

The Development Department's Departmental Plan 2009 -2010 was approved at Committee on the 13 May 2008 with agreement that quarterly update reports would be presented to Committee at later dates. This update is for the first quarter of 2009-2010 (for the period 1 April – 30 June 2009). Members will be aware that the last quarterly update (1 November 2008 to 31 March 2009) was approved at the Committee meeting on the 15 April 2009.

Key Issues

Service and Unit Managers were asked to provide a list of key achievements in the first quarter of 2009/10 which are presented in this report. The Unit Managers were also asked to provide updates on the status of their Unit's projects and initiatives under each of the strategic aims of the Departmental Plan, providing commentary if necessary (Appendix 1). The classifications used to provide updates are outlined below and progress is monitored using the flagging system:

- Complete – the action is complete and targets met;
- On Target – action has begun but is not yet complete;
- Delayed – project is delayed.

Resource Implications

There are no resource implications attached to the update.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note the update of the Development Department's Plan for the period 1 April – 30 June 2009.

Decision Tracking

No decision tracking as the report is for notation only

Documents Attached

Appendix 1: Quarterly update of the 2009/10 Departmental Plan for the period April – June 2009.

APPENDIX 1

Departmental Plan Update

For the period of **April 2009 - June 2009**, could you please provide an update on the status of your unit’s projects/initiatives and events under each of the strategic aims indicating and providing commentary if necessary. The classifications used are as follows:

- **Complete** - the action is complete and targets met;
- **On target** - action has begun but is not yet complete. Please provide new completion date if different from target date and commentary;
- **Delayed** - project is delayed. Please provide commentary.

**Theme : Leadership:-
Corporate Theme: “Better Leadership – Strong Fair together”**

Corporate Objective	Departmental Objective	Key Actions	Lead Officer	Quarterly Update Status Please indicate status of project/initiative or event: • Complete • On target • Delayed	Please provide a more detailed commentary for each project/initiative or event
Established our place shaping role by better use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead and influence the development of the city. • Promote 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and review Belfast SOTC process 	Barbary Cook	On target	Proposal paper is being prepared for a 2 year plan on SOC process – paper will go to

and planning of the cities assets.	<p>Belfast's position as the capital city and an engine of regional growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop effective partnerships. • Promote and enhance Belfast's unique proposition and experience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide quality research and develop evidence base 	Barbary Cook	On target	committee Research plan for the department is being prepared. Research protocol being implemented. Flow of capital research near finalisations
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and adopt a city development plan 	Barbary Cook	delayed	Awaiting on Belfast Masterplan update and City Investment strategy to progress
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build key relationships with NR partnership boards 	Siobhan Watson	On target	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further implement a Belfast Brand strategy and Marketing Process 	Shirley McCay	On target	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a council's 'Children and Young People' strategy 	Catherine Taggart	On target	Additional post agreed to support and coordinate the C& Y People Strategy.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement a Community Development Action Plan in partnership with key stakeholders 	Catherine Taggart	Delayed	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and extend the Community Support Plan for a one year period to 2011 	Catherine Taggart	On target	Review process agreed.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of a capacity building and practical skills programme to community sector organisations 	Catherine Taggart	On target	2 Capacity Building pilot projects currently live.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop network support within and between communities 	Catherine Taggart	On target	Representation on all NRPs, Community Centre Committees and a range of forums throughout the city
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with relevant stakeholders to ensure the efficient transfer of traveller site responsibilities related to RPA 	Catherine Taggart	On target	Arrangements to facilitate the transfer of sites with all stakeholders is ongoing . The challenge to reverse the transfer of sites re RPA is progressing
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure BCC understands and meets its statutory obligations in relation to Child Protection Policy and Procedure 	Catherine Taggart	On target	To be presented for Council ratification Sept 2009 and recommended changes to be implemented
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure DSD grant leverage 	Catherine Taggart	On target	Progress Reports 08/09 completed and Funding 09/10 secured.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure DSD grant leverage under Integrated Development Fund for Renewing the Routes 	Shirley McCay	On target	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-ordinate activity in relation to the engagement in the Regional Development Strategy Fundamental 10 Year Review that provides the 	Shirley McCay	Delayed	DRD have postponed the publication of the consultation document until Autumn 2009

		context for development of the city within the region. The development of the case for the continued development of the city as the driver for the region within the spatial planning context.			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued refinement and development of Council position on the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan in relation to the potential adoption and strategic site developments within Belfast and the city region. 	Shirley McCay	On target	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of policy and responses as the basis for intervention or engagement in strategic sites, private sector development proposals in proposals for the city and Belfast region including Titanic Quarter. 	Shirley McCay	On target	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To co-ordinate responses for the Council on strategic planning and transport policies / issues. The proposed activity to include responses to the review of the Regional Transport Strategy and proposed Planning Policy Statements to be published in 2009/10. 	Shirley McCay	On target	Ministerial announcement on RTS review - scheduled for Autumn 2009
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the applicability of the Belfast Masterplan and if 	Shirley McCay	On target	Review of the Masterplan to be

		appropriate refresh the document to reflect the current economic, social and physical environments within the city.			considered by Committee in August
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance Belfast Waterfront and re-launch the Ulster Hall as cultural landmarks in the City 	Tim Husbands	On target	The Ulster Hall re-opened on schedule with a gala re-opening concert on 6 th March 2009. Programming at both venues is becoming more co-ordinated, thematic and targeted. Both venues now contributing to Cultural Tourism product/Sunday in Belfast.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consolidate the relationship with the Ulster Orchestra as the main tenant within the Ulster Hall 	Tim Husbands	On target	The Ulster Orchestra is now established as 'resident' with the Ulster Hall and often opens its rehearsals to the public. Currently working with the Ulster Orchestra management to build a sound and mutually beneficial working partnership arrangement.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceed internal and external 	Tim	On target	As part of the UK

		client expectations in relation to operational service delivery of Waterfront and Ulster Hall	Husbands		Benchmarking Group and other industry research, against the background of the economic recession, work is ongoing to identify and incorporate new product ranges and services.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase overall external funding/sponsorship income for the Waterfront and Ulster Halls 	Tim Husbands	On target	A review is being carried out of the Halls' current strategy for the generation of sponsorship and funding income.
			Laura Leonard		<p>- 25-28 November 2009</p> <p>Council continues to be active in the Cluster and EU Entrepreneur working groups as well as the 2010 campaign on Anti Poverty and Social Inclusion. For the first time, Council</p>

					via ISB is engaging in the Knowledge Society Forum with a view to identifying funding opportunities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage Belfast QEC Network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contribute annual subscription fee ○ Facilitate 20th Anniversary event in Belfast ○ Attend Executive Bureau and AGM meetings 	Laura Leonard	<p>On target</p> <p>On target</p> <p>Complete</p>	Event planned for 18 September 2009 to celebrate 20 th Anniversary and re-launch as Belfast in Europe with a re-vamped local membership
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver Irish Sea Partnership 	Laura Leonard	On target	Funding bid submitted to Interreg IVB NIWE and decision awaited for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Setting up ISR b. Securing Carbon Card project
			Laura Leonard		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AGM held on 7 August 2009 - Brussels

		Comet			study visit facilitated - Plato project ongoing - Policy influencing - £4.3M Interreg IVA secured for 7 projects
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showcase Belfast in Europe 	Laura Leonard	On target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plans underway to lead joint Interreg partnership promotional visit to Brussels in October 2009 - Participating in Eurocities Task Force on recession
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host 5 inward visits 	Laura Leonard	On target	None hosted in this period but planned for next quarters
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and deliver Diversity EU Week for 2010/2011 	Laura Leonard	On target	Scoping study underway
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure and deliver Power of Possibility Project 	Laura Leonard	On target	Applications submitted and await decision

Theme: Economy, Physical and Infrastructure "Better Opportunities for success across the city"					
Corporate Objective	Departmental Objective	Key Actions	Lead Officer	Quarterly Update Status Please indicate status of project/initiative or event: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete • On target • Delayed 	Please provide a more detailed commentary for each project/initiative or event
Stimulate growth and competitiveness in key sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase innovation and enterprise levels, skill levels and employment levels. • Enhance the physical regeneration of the city. • Grow competitive sectors. 	Engage key partners in development of an agreed employment and skills strategy and associated action plan, including short-term action plan to address economic downturn	Shirley McCay	On target	Meetings scheduled to take place from May 2009-Jan 2010
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver a programme of support for the creative industries sector 	Shirley McCay	On target	Rolling programme of activities match-funded by DETI
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver a programme of support for the environmental industries sector 	Shirley McCay	On target	Rolling programme of activities match-funded by DETI
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver a programme of support for the advanced 	Shirley McCay	On target	Rolling programme of

		manufacturing sector			activities match-funded by DETI
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver a programme of support for the independent retail sector 	Shirley McCay	On target	Last action plan being completed – new plan to be submitted to committee August 2009
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximise opportunities for student placements within business 	Shirley McCay	On target	Collaborate scheme drawing to an end – 5 students employed in placement companies: new initiative to start October 2010
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support networking and mentoring initiatives for hi-tech businesses, in collaboration with NI Science Park 	Shirley McCay	Delayed	NISP currently finalising details of new membership structures – awaiting clarification
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver Sales Growth programme 	Shirley McCay	On target	To be advertised for tender in September 2009
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver Strategy in Business programme 	Shirley McCay	On target	To be advertised for tender in September 2009
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and deliver Franchise programme (in collaboration with Lisburn City Council) 	Shirley McCay	On target	Programme to commence September 2009
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and deliver membership services and events programme for World Trade Centre Belfast (budget approved by January 09) 	Shirley McCay	On target	Events and activities programme underway

		Development Committee)			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and deliver initiatives to support enhanced access to public and private procurement opportunities 	Shirley McCay	On target	Local Sourcing event took place in Waterfront Hall on 4 June
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage in and promote access to the NI Rural Development Programme 	Shirley McCay	On target	Some programme measures currently open for application
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximise opportunities arising from international linkages e.g. USA, China 	Shirley McCay	On target	Two inward visits from US contacts through WTC network
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support delivery of Belfast Business Awards 	Shirley McCay	On target	Planning work underway – event to take place 29 April 2010
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support development and delivery of enterprise plan focusing on pre-start, start-up and new business support (including social economy), in conjunction with partner organisations 	Shirley McCay	On target	Enterprise plan approved by DETI – match-funding agreed
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and deliver HARTE (Hospitality and Retail Training for Employment) project 	Shirley McCay	On target	54 participants completed course by end June – target for full year is 90
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market Intelligence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake survey of 500 businesses Commission and produce quarterly research updates on economic conditions and forecasts Include editorial in Business Eye and other appropriate 	Shirley McCay	On target	Business survey completed January 2009 – to be repeated January 2010 First quarterly report due September 2009

		business magazines			Ongoing coverage in Business Eye
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out feasibility work on key business locations (Giant's Park; Paint Hall; World Trade Centre) and business incubation support 	Shirley McCay	On target	Business incubation report to be completed by August 2009
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop appropriate promotional material to raise the profile of Belfast 	Shirley McCay	On target	New promotional material to be prepared for end 2009
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage in focused external promotional activity by attendance at MIPIM and MAPIC 	Shirley McCay	On target	Confirmation with partners that we will participate in MIPIM 2010
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through outreach support, facilitate programmes which enhance the skills and knowledge of communities in order to improve employment opportunities 	Catherine Taggart	On target	Ongoing support through volunteer development to enhance local skills and knowledge.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop programmes to enhance the skills and knowledge of communities in order to improve employment opportunities 	Catherine Taggart	On target	As above
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance the Waterfront and Ulster Hall position as premier conference and meetings venues by developing a comprehensive business sales and marketing strategy 	Tim Husbands	On target	A CRM and digital marketing strategy is being developed for the Waterfront and Ulster Halls and products and

					services available are being enhanced, where possible.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise Integrated Strategic Tourism Framework for Belfast and commence implementation. Framework including action plan to be approved by Committee. Tourism Product Development - development of an innovative range of special interest and niche products; conference subvention; monitoring and evaluating the economic impact of tourism; provision of a comprehensive visitor management scheme; community tourism initiatives 	Shirley McCay	<p>On target</p> <p>On target</p>	<p>Aim is to finalise plan and Launch in Jan 2010. To go to October or November Committee</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural Tourism Visitor Management Plan – continue to provide tourism interpretative signage as part of the CTVMP Plan which has been approved by committee and procured via European tender and also implement programme of cleaning and maintenance of existing signage 	Shirley McCay	On target	Programme of cleaning and maintenance of signage underway
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop C S Lewis Infrastructure 	Shirley McCay	On target	On target regarding overall literary tours, however further work would be required to assess infrastructure

				requirements
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure and Deliver Open Cities migrants project 	Laura Leonard	On target <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Urbact II funding secured - 2 staff recruited - Project underway
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver Comet Interreg <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Including overseeing delivery of at least seven Comet projects o Including provision and management of Secretariat (3 staff) 	Laura Leonard	On target <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - £4.3M secured and providing final project detail to get to delivery stage - Made further application under environment call <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 staff recruited
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and deliver RDP Transnational Programme 	Laura Leonard	On target <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EU element postponed by Comet council until 2010/2011
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure Environmental Industries Project 	Laura Leonard	Delayed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awaiting suitable EU funding call
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop EU Day of Entrepreneur Initiative 	Laura Leonard	On target <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planning EU Business event on 29 September 2009 in partnership with NI Chamber

					- Planning EU small business week in May 2009
Developed a strong cultural and tourism experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a strong cultural experience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Titanic tourism product and infrastructure. 	Shirley McCay	On target	Draft MOU developed with Titanic Quarter for Signature building. Heritage audit of Titanic Quarter site undertaken.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Lock Number 1 of the Lagan canal. 	Shirley McCay	On target	Completed Economic Appraisal - Report to Council in September
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the Integrated Cultural Strategy. Funding for 5 schemes Multi Annual Funding, Annual Funding, Development & Outreach, Rolling Programme, Community Festivals Fund Provide training in new skills across Culture and Arts Funding Initiatives. Tests drive the arts initiative with Audience N.I. Commission research through Art in the Community Implement communication strategy Networks and partnerships 	Shirley McCay	On target On target On target On target	2009/2010 Multi Annual, Annual and Development Outreach committed. Community Festivals Fund – to be launched again in September 2009 Advice clinics run – high level of interest. Creative Legacies programme underway - key achievements include hosting Create Conference (Aug 09), receipt of 27 applications for support and 10 public art pieces working with

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission Barriers to access research • Festival action plan • Delivery of City Carnival 		<p>Complete</p>	<p>community groups</p> <p>Arts & Business to have been appointed to run training sessions for annually funded cultural organizations covering areas such as fundraising, marketing, finance.</p> <p>Audiences NI commissioned to undertake Test Drive the Arts project. Almost 40 arts organizations attended. Web development company appointed and launch of website planned for Nov '09.</p> <p>Barriers to Access research completed.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a Public Arts strategy and programme. 	Shirley McCay	<p>On target</p>	<p>A public art framework has been written and this is the foundation for the public art strategy Committee approval in June 2008 for a Public Art Officer post and appointment made.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop existing city markets 	Shirley McCay	On target	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conference Subvention – continue to implement the conference subvention scheme through supporting national and international conferences 	Shirley McCay	On target	Committee agreed to award subvention to Lions Conference 2011.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural Tourism – Continue to develop and support the cultural tourism offer and work in partnership with NITB and ACNI, including Belfast Music Tour, Literary tourism and Cathedral Quarter through product development and promotion of the cultural tourism product. 	Shirley McCay	On target	<p>Weekly Music Tours and Literary Tours Launched</p> <p>Late Night Art launched 6-9pm every Thursday.</p> <p>Pilot Summer Sundays Programme launched from May – September</p> <p>Literary tourism Action Plan developed in partnership with NITB and Tourism Ireland.</p> <p>Ongoing support provided to Cathedral Quarter Advisory Group trips and profile</p>
		Retail Gap Study to be undertaken with BCCM	Shirley McCay	Delayed	Considered inappropriate in economic climate
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the Integrated Events Strategy. Identify more customer focused delivery 	Tim Husbands	On target	

		<p>Identify new sources of funding Seek new partners to assist in delivery</p>			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and deliver and integrated events/festivals programme including Tall Ships and large park events 	Tim Husbands	On target	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evening Economy – continue to develop the evening economy in Belfast 	Shirley McCay	On target	<p>Commitment from Castle Court and Victoria Square that they are fully committed to trading to 9pm Wed-Fri. An additional 10 city centre stores trade these extended hours. M&S & Boots will extend hours from the beginning of October.</p> <p>The Belfast Ezine is distributed two times per month to promote events and promotions.</p> <p>The Belfast Shopping Festival was delivered in April 2009 to promote shopping and support the retail sector. Over 200 stores took part.</p> <p>Evening Literary Walking Tours</p>

				<p>have been running from April – September attracting on average 16 customers per tour.</p> <p>The Cathedral Quarter Steering Group will deliver the first Culture Night on 25 September 2009</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver a vibrant and inclusive programme of events and services in Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall 	Tim Husbands	<p>On target</p> <p>Key recent successes include the Waterfront Comedy Club and Pantomime. The success of the Hall's summer Urban Arts Academy/Trans event programme has also raised the profile of the Hall and broadened its audience appeal.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create sustainable catering and bar offering facilities at the Waterfront Hall. 	Tim Husbands	<p>On target</p> <p>Currently on the fourth year of a five year contract with Mount Charles Catering Ltd. A new tendering process will be commenced later this year.</p>
			Laura	<p>On target</p> <p>Preparing</p>

			Leonard		application
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver Opportunity Europe 6 	Laura Leonard	On target	Planned for 20-21 October 2009 in St George's Market
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop year 2010 campaign 	Laura Leonard	On target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan underway to secure funding with OFMDFM and NIAPN Part of Eurocities campaign
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop EU Youth programme 	Laura Leonard	On target	Await call
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Integrated Development Fund local regeneration projects for the £4.1m funding in respect of the agreed local Area action plans developed for Crumlin, Falls, Springfield and Shankill areas (£1,8m IDF for 2009/10). Working with the various partners and communities, to carry out a range of integrated regeneration work under the four broad headings of: Commercial Property Improvements; Public Realm Enhancements; Environmental Improvements; Heritage Property and Tourism Developments. 	Shirley McCay	On target	Revised spend of £2M. First claim slightly under target but overall projection to meet targets within current year.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership activity and support with external agencies to develop environmental 	Shirley McCay	On target	Potential to be reported to Cttee and form part of potential project

		improvement schemes in support of IDF and other renewing the routes local regeneration projects. Develop complementary activity with other local regeneration initiatives e.g. N'ards 2012, SNAP/NR/Enterprise Council.			review
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the development of the Belfast European Brownfield Initiative by securing additional INTERREG IVC resources (€2m) towards the development of the BTeam network project proposal. The BTeam experts network proposal to support the development of local regeneration sites based on the exchange of experience and the development of local expertise. 	Shirley McCay	Delayed	Revised timetable for decision now Autumn 2009
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of the implementation activity associated with the 11 public arts projects across the city as part of the Re-imaging Communities Programme funded by the Arts Council. Completion and / or installation of the completed art pieces in neighbourhoods working in partnership with the local communities. 	Shirley McCay	On target	On target for completion by September 2009
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development and implementation of additional public realm / local environmental enhancement works for target regeneration 	Shirley McCay	Delayed	Potential for further activity to be decided by Cttee. No DSD funding available.

		areas- in partnership with DSD.			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted, PEACE III funded, schemes complementing the broader Renewing the Routes framework is to bring new energy and renewed focus to producing positive change to interface areas on these routes. The development of four pilot schemes to address the differing local circumstances through distinct individual projects that seek to respond to the unique local physical and perceived environments. Development and initiation of implementation for the enhancement of the public realm along arterial routes. 	Shirley McCay	Delayed	Result of Economic Appraisal awaited from SEUPB. Developmental work ongoing in anticipation of approval.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued Council involvement in Sufalnet 4EU Interreg 4C Project to exchange knowledge of developing former landfill sites ie North Foreshore 	Shirley McCay	On target	Application submitted and awaiting decision from EU
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership involvement in a new Interreg 4C project application, BRAVO – Eco Regions. Opportunity to showcase as best practice, the North Foreshore environmental regeneration initiative 	Shirley McCay	On target	Application being prepared for submission in October 2009
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Phase 1 of the North Foreshore Plan. 	Shirley McCay	On target	Master Plan

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalising the draft integrated North Foreshore master plan and business planning • Promotion, information signs and publication / launch of the North Foreshore Master Plan and regeneration initiative to inform the public and potential investors • Complete North Foreshore Giants Park Landscape and Public Realm / Urban Design Strategies • Commence the technical / planning work for North Foreshore phase 1 access infrastructure projects 			<p>being reviewed.</p> <p>Design Consultant procurement underway.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Complete Gasworks northern fringe master plan.</u> <p>Design team working towards submission of planning application, subject to satisfying NIEA and community payback. Report to Committee will be taken before submission of planning application.</p>	Shirley McCay / Pamela Davison	On target	

Theme: Environmental Sensitivity and Transport & Connectivity
“Better care for Belfast’s environment – a clean green city now and for the future”

Corporate theme and Objective	Departmental Objective	Key Actions	Lead Officer	Quarterly Update Status Please indicate status of project/initiative or event: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete • On target • Delayed 	Please provide a more detailed commentary for each project/initiative or event
Reduced the city's impact on climate change and improved air quality;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and influence the creation of a modern transportation and electronic infrastructure. • Reduce departmental carbon footprint. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of the Transport Policy review incorporating the operational transport aspects for the Council and the relationships to other corporate objectives. Adoption of the reviewed policy as the basis for the Council position in respect of transport policy development for the city and wider region. 	Keith Sutherland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete • On target 	Reviewed Policy adopted. Cttee approval for process to develop draft internal Plan.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The coordination of Council responses in respect of strategic transport policies and issues. Engagement in the processes for the review of the Regional Transport Policy and projects for physical infrastructure projects including the proposals for transport system changes such as Rapid Transit. 	Keith Sutherland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On target 	Timescales identified for process (Autumn) and Reviewed Policy adopted.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development and implement pilot actions identified in the review of the Council Transport Policy and 	Keith Sutherland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delayed 	Subject to the resolution of internal plan and resources.

		the parallel monitoring of transport initiatives or actions carried out by other agencies.			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work in partnership with DRD on the implementation of the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan & other transport initiatives. Participate in the City Centre Change Working Group & other transport groups to ensure the engagement and influence of the Council 	Keith Sutherland	On target	Further reports to be brought before Cttee for comment.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a green strategy for the Waterfront and Ulster Hall 	Tim Husbands	On target	A CHP policy is currently being prepared to assist the Hall to conserve energy where possible. The Hall also tries to recycle as much waste as possible.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support environmental projects at neighbourhood level such as recycling, park murals, community clean ups and waste week activities 	Catherine Taggart	On target	Environmental Initiatives completed at all 22 sites. Others planned during summer scheme programmes.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to implement Environmental Management System in the Department 	David Orr	On target	Various initiatives ongoing throughout the year
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver Interreg Carbon Footprint project 	Laura Leonard	On target	Secured funding and project due to start late 2009
			Laura Leonard	On target	Applications to Interreg IVB NWE

		project			to be submitted October 2009
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue delivery of Urban Matrix project 	Laura Leonard	On target	Project will be complete November 2009
Protect, promote and enhance the city's natural & built heritage and open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and promote the city's built heritage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an 'access to heritage strategy for the Ulster Hall, in order to maximise the education and outreach opportunities available. 	Tim Husbands	On target	The established Community, Education and Outreach programme is ensuring wide access to the Ulster Hall complemented by its contribution as a key cultural tourism product for the city.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Deliver heritage community programmes.</u> Run community archive projects across the city in collaboration with PRONI and Community Archive Network Methodology for community Archive Deliver training in Heritage as a Social and Cultural Developmental Tool Develop awareness and capacity with young people to engage with heritage Provide access to heritage 	Shirley McCay	On target	<p>Currently working with Indian Community Centre, Ledley Hall Youth Club (East Belfast), SHIP (Sailortown area), Lagan Legacy and Ulster Hall</p> <p>Training delivered for arts organisations considering heritage projects. On request training delivered e.g. Conway Mill</p> <p>Working with NIEA</p>

		resources			on publication of an archaeological history of Belfast Pre application submitted to HLF. Informal feedback is favourable.
Theme: Social Inclusion and Social & Cultural "Better support for people and communities"					
Corporate theme and Objective	Departmental Objective	Key Actions	Lead Officer	Quarterly Update Status Please indicate status of project/initiative or event; • Complete • On target • Delayed	Please provide a more detailed commentary for each project/initiative or event
People enjoy living in a vibrant, shared and diverse city	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote good relations and reduce division and polarisation of communities Increase the levels of confidence, participation and engagement of citizens. Increase the capacity of citizens to make informed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and deliver city wide community programmes and services in high quality venues. 	Catherine Taggart	On target	Ongoing programmes, projects and service delivery at all 22 sites including Play Centres
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a support programme for traveller and other ethnic minority communities. 	Catherine Taggart	On target	Traveller community development initiative progressing well
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and define the Council's method of community development intervention. 	Catherine Taggart	On target	4 Workshops planned and 2 delivered with CENI /CFNI ref.

	decisions about their neighbourhoods				developing a social assets model to support community development intervention.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver premier city wide children and young peoples programme. 	Catherine Taggart	On target		Programmes of activities for children & young people at 22 sites. Organising central events for C&Y people.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support delivery of Neighbourhood Economic Development projects (budget previously approved by Committee) 	Shirley McCay	On target		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In conjunction with other public agencies and partners, develop a strategy that addresses anti-social behaviour on Lanyon Place 	Tim Husbands	On target		Waterfront staff liaise with the Council's ASB officer to feed into the work of Belfast's four key ASB Forums.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administer the Grant Aid Support programme to Community and Voluntary organisations across the city. 	Catherine Taggart	On target		On going administration of Grant Aid Programme. Summer Scheme and Project Grants assessed and recommendations agreed.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The administration of financial support to 5 independently managed centres 	Catherine Taggart	On Target		Continuing to support and administer independently

					managed centres. Agreed that Hammer Pavilion will be independently managed by Shankill Football Club.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop the Council's poverty policy and implement actions. 	Barbary Cook	On target	Process being developed and TOR for the strategy will go to Committee
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver a programme of events and related activities aimed at children and young people in conjunction with partners and sponsors (e.g. Trans/UAA project). 	Tim Husbands	On target	The Waterfront recently held its highly successful fourth annual Urban Arts Academy/Trans Festival and third Urban Arts A-kid-emy. The Hall had a successful partnership with the Belfast Children's Festival, extended its entertainment programme for children and held a highly successful opening Fringe Festival at the Ulster Hall.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify innovative ways to promote citizens engagement 	Siobhan Watson	On target	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide venues for people to gather, meet, participate, share information and celebrate 	Catherine Taggart	On target	22 high quality accessible venues provided for local residents to meet and share information
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted services for children and young people 	Catherine Taggart	On target	Afterschools clubs and youth projects at 22 sites. Summer scheme programmes agreed.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To foster greater civic responsibility 	Catherine Taggart	On target	Supporting and developing volunteers to contribute to their local communities.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage, support and recognise voluntary activity including the identification of an appropriate quality standard for volunteering, developing related policy and practice and organising 4 area and 1 thematic volunteer celebration events. 	Catherine Taggart	On target	Ongoing support for volunteers and Section will contribute to the development of volunteer policy & practice.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to improve consultation and involvement with youth Via the BCC Youth Forum and related activity 	Catherine Taggart	On target	Youth Forum continuing to develop. Work started on induction pack and review of governance. Developing citywide and cross border links.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote community cohesion and support communities to live and work safely together 	Catherine Taggart	On target	Ongoing work in centres and local neighbourhoods
Health and Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce deprivation and poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a traveller outreach office & assist the traveller Community 	Catherine Taggart	On target	Positive uptake by Travellers' and service providers
Corporate Objective	Departmental Objective	Key Actions	Lead Officer	Quarterly Update Status Please indicate status of project/initiative or event: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete On target Delayed 	Please provide a more detailed commentary for each project/initiative or event
Provide a range of services which respond to local needs and are easily accessible by all citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure local services can respond to local needs Make sure citizens can easily and effectively access information and services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop forms of citizen intelligence system 	Siobhan Watson	On target	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designing services based on citizen requirements 	Siobhan Watson	On target	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a customer services framework 	Tim Husbands	Delayed	Delay due to ongoing Development Department re-organisation.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the participation of communities 	Catherine Taggart	On target	April to June average % use of centres city wide 63%.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Community Centre Management roles and responsibilities 	Catherine Taggart	On target	New Facilities Unit agreed with implementation in Autumn 2009.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the activities 	Tim	On target	The Halls operate

		provided at the Waterfront and Ulster Hall are fully accessible to all sections of the Community	Husbands		a community access policy which includes community ticketing, community usage of space and development of the Urban Trans programme.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish EU Regional Forum 	Laura Leonard	On target	Launch as "Belfast in Europe" planned for 18 September 2009
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce 4 EU Bulletins and funding alerts (EU communication plan) 	Laura Leonard	Delayed	Delayed to end of September due to officer being re-deployed to a project
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold 1 EU Consul event 	Laura Leonard	On target	Planned for 3 November 2009
People and Processes "Better value for money – a can-do, accountable, efficient council"					
Corporate Objective	Departmental Objective	Key Actions	Lead Officer	Quarterly Update Status Please indicate status of project/initiative or event: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete On target Delayed 	Please provide a more detailed commentary for each project/initiative or event
Ensuring resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use financial and human resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the recommendations of the BIS 	David Orr	On target	Categorisation process ongoing

<p>are fully aligned to corporate priorities</p> <p>Ensuring we deliver value for money services</p> <p>Attracting and developing our people</p>	<p>in the most effective way</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve departmental processes and systems • Increase departmental efficiencies 	structural review			and recruitment initiated where appropriate. Consultation under way re job descriptions in Community Services.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement and manage the corporate attendance policy in the department 	David Orr	On target	New policy is currently under consultation between Trade Unions and Management
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare Department for IIP new standards 	David Orr	On target	Implementation of improvements and best practice throughout the process ongoing. PDP completion in Community Services ongoing. Liaising with CIT re: departmental mock assessment.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete and communicate capital and revenue estimates 	David Orr	On target	Preparation complete and action plan agreed. Historic information compiled and distributed. Templates issued to all budget holders.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement recommendations from a strategic departmental 	Barbary Cook/David	On target	Implementation plan agreed.

		grant review	Orr		Application and award criteria being reviewed, workshops held on criteria and impacts definition and the Central Grants Team being set up.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop communications strategy for the department 	Barbary Cook	On target	Will be developed by January 2010
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a new organisation structure for Community Services, that provides for grater integration within the Development Department 	Catherine Taggart	On target	BIS completed staff information workshops. New draft Job Descriptions allocated to all grades.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a new organisational structure for the Waterfront and Ulster Hall, that provides for greater integration across the Development Department. 	Tim Husbands	On target	Approved at the August Development Committee.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and extend all appropriate licence or lease arrangements in respect of community premises in line with BCC Asset Management Group procedures. 	Catherine Taggart	On Target	Grosvenor Lease extended until 2014.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuously review SAP and train staff in preparation for phase two 	David Orr	On target	Draft implementation plan to move Economic Initiatives and Directorate Units to Phase 2 SAP implementation – awaiting completion of

					Parks roll out. Currently designing training course with Corporate Services and CIPFA.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to implement improvements by STEPS and prepare department for the next submission 	David Orr	On target	Various continuous improvement initiatives ongoing.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure effective maintenance systems for key mechanical and electrical systems at the Waterfront and Ulster Hall. 	Tim Husbands	Delayed	An extensive planned and preventative maintenance programme is in place. Also, waiting the recruitment and appointment of a new Facilities Manager for the Waterfront and Ulster Halls.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish terms of reference for, and carry out a review of, Artifax Event and Contact Management System at the Waterfront and Ulster Hall. 	Tim Husbands	Delayed	Pending approval of the departmental/sectional re-organisation.

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Eurocities AGM
Date:	16 September 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern Director of Development ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Laura Leonard European Manager ext. 3577

Background

At the 12 August Development Committee, Members requested further information regarding the request for approval for representation at the Eurocities AGM in Stockholm from 25 – 28 November 2009 and a breakdown of the related costs.

Key Issues

Belfast City Council has been a member of the Eurocities network since the early 1990's. The network now consists of over 140 large European cities. The headquarters are in Brussels and activity is structured around the following forums:

- Economic Development
- Social Affairs
- Culture
- Mobility
- Knowledge Society
- Environment

Eurocities allows Belfast City Council to develop and strengthen its role in city leadership, reflecting the values and messages contained in the Corporate Plan. This platform has consistently opened avenues of policy development, funding and legislation dissemination, allowing Belfast a stronger voice both regionally and in Europe.

Every year Belfast City Council attends the Eurocities AGM which is hosted in a city within the member state currently holding the presidency of Europe, this year the host is Sweden. The Stockholm AGM programme is attached as appendix 1. The theme this year is 'Urban Challenges and Sustainable Solutions'.

Belfast City Council requires Member attendance at the AGM to participate in the voting process and election of the Executive Bureau of Cities and the chair and deputy chair posts of the various Forums. Belfast City Council Elected Member attendance is traditionally represented by the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Development Committee accompanied by the Director of Development and the European Manager or their nominees. However, over the last 5 years only one Member has travelled every year to the AGM.

The two BCC officers attend the AGM to ensure the interests of Belfast City Council are represented and promoted at the event. Belfast City Council officers host round table speed networking discussions around relevant topics. This year they will take part in two events with a view to promoting the work of the BCC led OPENCities project and also a workshop dedicated to city responses to the recession. Due to the fact that BCC is active in so many projects two officers are required to undertake parallel meetings with Forum chairs and insure input into the agreement of work programmes for the following year.

Belfast City Council is active in the following Forums:

Economic Development Forum

Chair of economic migration working group
 Member of creative clusters working group
 Member of entrepreneurship working group
 Member of employment working group

Social Affairs Forum

Member of social inclusion working group.
 Member of urban security working group
 Member of the health and well being working group.

Environment Forum

Chair of the clean cities working group
 Member of the noise working group
 Member of the greening local economy working group
 Member of the waste working group

Culture Forum

Member of the youth culture working group
 Member of the resources for culture working group

Resource Implications

Estimated cost for attendance:

Registration Fees per person	£245.96
Hotel x 3 nights (£158.55 per room per night)	£475.65
Flight per person	£352.00
Subsistence per person for 3 full days at £75.00 per day	£225.00
Approximate Total per person	£1298.61
Approximate Total for three people	£3895.83
Approximate total for four people	£5194.44

Recommendations

Members are asked to approve the attendance and all associated costs of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, the Director of Development and the European Manager, or their nominees, at the Eurocities AGM in Stockholm in November 2009 at a cost not exceeding £5194.44.

Documents Attached

Appendix 1: Eurocities AGM Agenda

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Theme and programme > Programme

Programme as of 1 September

Wednesday Welcome 25 November

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 13:00-16:00 | Side events |
| 14:00-17:00 | Meet a colleague! An opportunity for delegates to meet a colleague from a City of Stockholm department of their choice |
| 16.00-18:00 | ExCom Meeting |
| 19.00-22:00 | Welcome reception: Get-together with a light dinner at Nalen , a beautifully renovated old dance hall. To start off the conference with a bang, expect some ABBA inspired entertainment! |

Thursday 26 Inspiration November

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 08:00-18:00 | Registration opens |
| 08:30-09:15 | Start of the conference, presentation of the moderator Cecilia Uddén and welcome speeches by Sten Nordin , Mayor of Stockholm and host of EUROCITIES 2009 Stockholm and Jozias van Aartsen , Mayor of The Hague and President of EUROCITIES |
| 09:15-09:50 | Hans Rosling - 'Europe meets the World'. Professor in International Health at Karolinska Institute and co-founder and director of Gapminder Foundation |
| 09:50-10:15 | Coffee break and mingling opportunity |
| 10:15-11:30 | Panel Debate with a representative from the European Commission and a panel of mayors from leading European cities on the theme of |

effective local measures for economic growth and against climate change, including time for Q&A!

11:30-15:30

Sustainable solutions for Business, Science, People and Culture: Nine different deep-dives in nine different locations to showcase projects in the field of economic growth and environment and how these affect all aspects of the city. Lunch and transport included.

- The Hammarby Model
- Heating the city
- Future Suburbia
- Heating the city
- Mobility flows
- Creative cluster
- World-leading ICT cluster
- Telecom for green cities
- Intelligent electricity
- Next generation buses

11:30-15:30

Tailor-made programmes for mayors

16:00-17:30

Mayors' Debate: peer-to-peer discussions between Mayors with introduction by Ulf Kristersson, Vice Mayor of Stockholm and Chair of the EURO CITIES Social Affairs Forum and conclusions by Paul Bevan, Secretary General.

16:00-17:30

Speednetworking: a best-practice networking opportunity serving as a platform for the exchange of knowledge and experience. Around 25 tables will be set up, each led by a city delegation who will present a project inspired by the broad theme "Urban Challenges - Sustainable Solutions". Each session will be run 3 times, lasting 30 minutes and including time for questions and discussions. 9 of the speednetworking sessions will be held by the EURO CITIES Awards nominees.

17:00-18:00

Covenant of Mayors workshop: 'Financial Assistance for Implementing the Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP).'

20:00-23:30

Gala Dinner and EURO CITIES Awards Taking place in the magnificent Blue Hall, famed for hosting the Nobel price banquet, our gala dinner promises to be an event not to be missed. Beautiful archways and fresco windows glow with light from open flames, creating a magical setting full of surprises, reminiscent of the folklore of Scandinavia. A stunning backdrop fit for the EURO CITIES Awards ceremony.

**Friday 27
November**

Decisions

- 08:30-09:40 **Morning plenary** with representatives of the Swedish Presidency of the EU and of the Obama administration, on the importance of reaching a climate deal at COP15.
- 09:40-10:00 **The Stockholm appeal:** the appeal by which the climate protection and sustainability aspirations of the EUROCITIES network and The United States Conference of Mayors combine to provide a powerful statement of intent from Mayors on both sides of the Atlantic to the National Governments in the run-up to COP15. Considering its timing, the Stockholm Appeal has the ability to truly influence where it matters.
- 10:00-10:20 Coffee break and mingling opportunity
- 10:20-11:20 **Forum reports:** showcasing the achievements of the Forums in 2009.
- Culture
 - Economic Development
 - Environment
 - Knowledge Society
 - Mobility
 - Social Affairs
- 11:20-11:30 Reflections on the conference by Sten Nordin, Mayor of Stockholm
- 11:30-14:00 **Lunch**
- EUROCITIES Annual General Meeting for members**
- 14:00-16:00 **Meet a colleague:** An opportunity for delegates to meet a colleague from a City of Stockholm department of their choice

**Saturday 28
November**

Culture

For your final day, we will offer a range of cultural activities in the city. You have the opportunity to join us for a **Millenium Walk**, based on Stieg Larsson's popular trilogy (see website for further details), or to see the famed art exhibitions in the Stockholm Metro; referred to as the world's longest art gallery, amongst many other

things. There will be a wide range of exciting exhibitions and places of interest for you to visit which tie in with the theme of the conference, with a focus on sustainability.

Printed date: 6/3/2009 9:32.
Url: <http://www.eurocities2009.eu/pages.aspx?page=73>



**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Royal Exchange Update
Date:	16 September 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives ext. 3459

Relevant Background Information

Members will recall that at the Development Committee on 27 October 2008 Committee agreed that it was opposed to the Department for Social Development's (DSD) Retail Sequencing Policy and requested that DSD adopt a position whereby if William Ewart Properties Limited failed to submit its planning application for the Royal Exchange scheme within nine months, Westfield Shoppingtowns Limited be permitted to commence its scheme at Castlecourt.

Key Issues

Nine months have passed and to date no planning application has been made by William Ewart Properties Limited. The DSD have been contacted requesting an update on their development agreement with William Ewart Properties Limited.

Resource Implications

The Royal Exchange Scheme is a £360 million development. The Westfield Castlecourt extension is a £200 million development.

Recommendations

Due to William Ewart Properties Limited failing to submit a planning application for the Royal Exchange scheme it is recommended that Council formally seeks an update from Ewarts and Westfield on their proposals.

Decision Tracking

Further to confirmation from Committee, a request be submitted to Westfield and Ewarts for Committee to receive update presentations

Time line: December 2009

Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay

Key Abbreviations

DSD – Department for Social Development
Westfield – Westfield Shoppingtowns Limited

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Friends of the Earth - Belfast Cycle City Vision for 2020
Date:	16 September 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives ext 3459 Keith Sutherland, Planning & Transport Policy Manager ext 3578

Relevant Background Information

Friends of the Earth recently provided the Council with copies of the Belfast Cycle City Vision for 2020 (Appendix 1). The document was written and published by Belfast Friends of the Earth with input from Sustrans and the Northern Ireland Cycling Initiative.

The Council recently adopted a reviewed and updated Transport Policy which included reference to the importance of supporting more sustainable modes of travel including cycling.

Key Issues

The aim of the Belfast Cycle City Vision for 2020, is to bring cycle use in Belfast on par with the top ten cycling cities in the UK and Ireland. The collaborative vision is portrayed as representing the growing number of cyclists by calling for an ambitious target of 10% of all trips by bicycle in the City, increased funding for cycling projects, and the development of a comprehensive Cycling Strategy for the City.

In summary the Belfast Cycle City vision calls for three actions;

- 10% target for cycling in the City by 2020,
- An annual spend on cycling of at least £15 per person per year,
- A new Cycle Strategy for Belfast to be delivered in 2010.

The recently adopted Council Transport Policy supports the development and expansion of more sustainable modes of travel including cycling. The Strategic Objectives of the policy seek to:

- influence the development of transportation policies and proposals which improve connectivity and encourage a shift away from the private car to more sustainable forms of travel, such as walking, cycling and public transport; and
- ensure a higher level of emphasis of capital expenditure on sustainable transportation schemes, ensuring that the priority is allocated to sustainable modes of travel such as walking, cycling and public transport schemes.

The correspondence from the Friends of the Earth also contained a request for the opportunity to address the Committee and outline their vision for the development of cycling within Belfast. The Friends of the Earth may also wish to take the opportunity to explore the potential for the Council to provide political and practical support towards the realisation of the vision set out in the appended Belfast Cycle City Vision for 2020.

Resource Implications

There are no direct resource implications arising from this report.

Recommendations

Members are requested to:

- agree to the request from the Friends of the Earth for an opportunity to address the Committee in respect of the Belfast Cycle City Vision for 2020.

Decision Tracking

Subject to approval the Planning & Transport Policy Manager will liaise with Committee Services to identify the most appropriate opportunity for the presentation to be brought before the Committee.

Timeline: December 2009

Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay

Attachments

Appendix 1 – Belfast Cycle City Vision for 2020

Belfast Cycle City – 2020 Vision



1. Introduction

In recent years there has been a visible increase in the number of cyclists in Belfast, fuelled by their desire to help the environment, avoid rising petrol costs, improve their personal fitness and to travel around the city faster.

However, growth in cycling is being hampered though inadequate quantity and quality of cycle network, insufficient promotion to the public, particularly in schools and business, and a lack of an agreed strategic vision.

The aim of the Belfast Cycle City Vision for 2020, is to bring cycle use in Belfast on par with the top ten cycling cities in the UK and Ireland.

This collaborative vision written by Belfast Friends of the Earth, with input from Sustrans and the Northern Ireland Cycling Initiative, represents the growing number of cyclists calling for an ambitious but realisable target of 10% of all trips by bicycle in the city, increases in funding for cycling projects, and the need for a comprehensive Cycling Strategy for Belfast.

2. Current Situation

Much has been said in Government policies about the benefits high levels of cycling can bring to a city. These benefits include health, environmental, social inclusion for those who cannot afford to, or are too young to drive, economic benefits through easing congestion and promoting tourism.

While cycling participation in Belfast has more than doubled since 2000, there is still much to be done. Apart from the riverside route along the Lagan, the Comber Greenway and some areas of south Belfast, there are not large numbers cycling. The Travel Survey for Northern Ireland indicates that 3% of

people commuted to work by bike in the period 2005-07, up from 1% in 2003-05.

The high quality National Cycle Network route along the river Lagan has seen investment in riverside paths, reallocation of road space, new traffic lights for cyclists and cycle parking at businesses. This has seen a rise in usage of 166% since 2000.

The Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan 2004 identified a proposed cycle network but only short sections have been delivered. Indeed the planned pedestrianisation of the city centre may make cycling more difficult should the introduction of one way streets take place.

Cyclists have benefitted from 20mph zones and traffic calming in certain residential areas.

Cycle shops are reporting very good sales and this is partly due to the Government's tax free cycle purchase scheme.

Due to lack of funding the Belfast Cycle Routes Group, which had coordinated the development of cycling, has not met since 2006. This group brought together, Government departments, local councils, and cycling organisations to encourage a partnership to developing cycling.



3. Vision

Our vision is to create a strong cycling culture in Belfast. Cycling will be a normal way to get about, especially for short trips. Next to walking, cycling will be the most popular means of getting to school. Our universities and colleges will be bustling with bicycles. Business men and women will see the bicycle as the best way to travel for part or all of their daily commute. Shopping by bike will be as normal as it is in many Northern European cycle friendly countries. We will have a healthier population and will gain economically as cycling helps ease congestion, and provides us with a fitter more productive workforce.

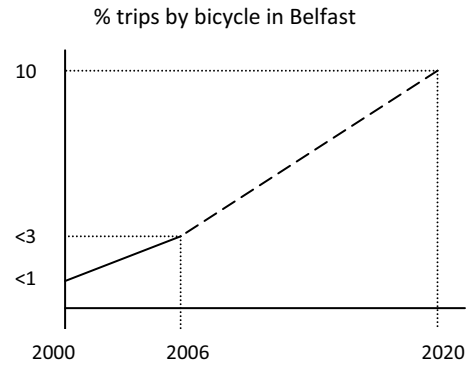
The Belfast Cycle City vision is calling for three actions;

- 10% target for cycling in the city by 2020,
- An annual spend on cycling of at least £15 per person per year,
- A new Cycle Strategy for Belfast to be delivered in 2010.

Amsterdam is one of the leading cycling cities in Europe with 30% of journeys by bicycle. This has been achieved through decades of investment in cycling and promoting a culture of cycling.

Belfast's cycling target should match the 10% target of the Irish National Cycling Policy Framework, and the 10% target set by the Scottish Government.

London is witnessing a massive resurgence in cycling presently driven by its Mayor, Boris Johnson. In the morning peak in Central London the ratio of bikes to private cars is now 1 to 3. The highest rate of cycling in the UK is in Cambridge at 28%.



The amount of money invested in cycling in Amsterdam is £10-£20 per person per year, compared to an estimated £1 person per year in Belfast. The Cycling Demonstration Towns and City initiative in 18 towns and 1 city in England provides funding of £15 per citizen per year, which is a suitable benchmark for Belfast to follow.

No one single action is likely to bring about the sort of increase in cycling we are calling for, so there needs to be a wide package of measures to integrate with wider transportation policies as well as other policy fields such as land-use planning, road safety and health. The production in 2010 of the first Cycling Strategy for Belfast allows a co-ordinated plan of action to be put in place to meet the 2020 cycling targets.



4. Benefits

Every penny counts

The fiscal benefits of cycling include the value to the health service as a result of not having to treat illnesses which result from physical inactivity; as shown in “Towards a Healthier Economy” (Transform Scotland Trust), a cycling mode share of 13% in Scotland would result in savings of between 1 and 2 billion pounds each year.

There are also gains in productivity arising from reduced absenteeism and having a fitter and more alert work force. Increased cycling numbers means less urban congestion, thus benefiting businesses. Cost benefit analyses shows that investment in cycling outweigh the costs to a far greater extent than investment in other modes. For example, Benefit / Cost ratios of up to 38:1 are accepted by the Department for Transport for cycling links to schools.

Through decreasing congestion and improving the health of the population, cycling directly contributes to the aims of both the Road Service and the Health Service.

A cleaner, greener Belfast

More people cycling rather than driving means less pollution, improved air quality, less damage to our old and distinguished buildings, and, critically, less greenhouse gas emissions.

A great place to live and raise a family

Cycle training, traffic speed reductions, and dedicated cycling infrastructure, enables children to be more independent, to cycle to school, to their friends or just to explore their neighbourhood.

A city for everyone

When John Boyd Dunlop invented the first functional pneumatic tyre in Belfast, cycling became practical for women as well as men, for old as well as young. We want to recapture the liberation that cycling offered but to achieve this cycling must both be safe and feel safe.

In countries such as the Netherlands, women account for 55% of trips by bike, and elderly people cycle almost as much as children. Cycling is a truly democratic form of transport, open to almost everyone. It offers personal mobility for those unable to afford a car, and can allow disabled people to get around or exercise on specially adapted cycles.



5. Action Required

Belfast Cycling Strategy

In order to ensure there is an agreed vision to develop Belfast as a cycle friendly city we feel a Cycle Strategy for Belfast is needed. Indeed the NI Cycle Strategy recommends that there are local strategies and local targets. To implement the Belfast Cycling Strategy we need a dedicated Cycling Development Unit. The aim of the unit would be to work with strategic partners to see more people cycling more often in Belfast, and to develop and embed the Cycling Strategy for Belfast.

Infrastructure

It is essential that the road network, parks and other public spaces become a comfortable environment for those who cycle.

We ask that the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan routes are delivered in full. Other infrastructural improvements include a city wide 20mph network, exemption of one way systems for cyclists, cycle tracks, greenway networks, signage, cycle stands and links to public transport.

We believe that 20mph should be the default speed limit for streets in Belfast, with only the busiest strategic routes qualifying for higher speed limits

Schools and Further Education

With most school pupils unable to drive, offering independent travel options is crucial. Obesity levels amongst school children are alarmingly high. In Northern Ireland, currently around one in four girls and one in six boys in primary one are overweight or obese.

We would like to see programmes working with every schoolchild in Belfast to motivate and empower young people to cycle to school. These programmes would include on road cycle training and Safe Routes to Schools and Bike It.

The announcement by the University of Ulster that it is significantly expanding its Belfast City Centre Campus undoubtedly provides an opportunity for creating quality cycle routes between Queen's University and the UU Belfast campus/Cathedral Quarter (with potential links to student residential areas).

Sustainable Travel City

Cycling should be considered as part of a wider Sustainable Transport City. There is much that could be done to make buses, trains, taxis and walking easier and more enjoyable. This will require making driving and parking less easy in the city and reallocating road space to sustainable means of travel.

Promotion

Creating a cycling culture within a city is not just about infrastructure improvements but also means working with people and communities to change their travel behaviour. Engagement is required with cycle traders and employers to coordinate a range of events, festivals, bike weeks and bicycle users groups within places of work. The Tax-Free Bicycle Purchase Scheme should also be available to all civil servants.

More information on the Belfast Cycle City 2020 Vision can be found at www.belfastcyclecity.org.uk



This report has been written and published by Belfast Friends of the Earth with invaluable input from Sustrans and the Northern Ireland Cycling Initiative. Belfast Friends of the Earth is a voluntary environmental campaigning group established in 2006, one of nine Friends of the Earth local groups in Northern Ireland. If you are interested in becoming a member call Co-ordinator Andrew McMurray on 079 0990 0883 or for more information on the Belfast Cycle City Campaign, call Campaign Co-ordinator Jonathan Davison on 078 4299 2298 or visit www.belfastcyclecity.org.uk



**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Gasworks Northern Fringe
Date:	16 September 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay Head of Economic Initiatives ext.3459

Relevant Background Information

An integrated design team led by Consarc Design Group has been working since May 2008 on the preparation of an outline planning application for the Northern Fringe site which covers 6.7 acres of gross developable land, the last phase of the Gasworks Estate.

Members will recall that Committee received an interim progress report on 15 October 2008 and since then considerable work has been undertaken to satisfy the requirements of the Planning Service and their statutory consultees, in particular Roads Service and Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

Key Issues

Prior to consultation with the local community and submission of a planning application, Members' approval of the development proposals is sought. The development proposals are now at an advanced stage and it is requested that Members receive a presentation from Consarc Design Group.

Resource Implications

No resource implications attached to recommendation.

Recommendations

Committee are asked to agree to receive a presentation from the lead Consultants, Consarc Design Group, on the development proposals for this significant regeneration site.

Decision Tracking

Following approval by Committee that arrangements be put in place for a presentation by the Consarc Design Group regarding development proposals for the Gasworks Northern Fringe.

Timeline: December 2009

Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Belfast Welcome Centre Premises
Date:	16 September 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay Head of Economic Initiatives ext.3459

Relevant Background Information

Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau Limited have been in occupation of first floor premises at 35-47 Donegall Place, since 1 August 2000. The current lease on the premises terminates on 31 July 2010. The premises are sublet from BCC to BVCB. The premises are used for both office and retail use, with the majority of space given over to the sale of goods and services. The current rent on the premises is £160,000 per annum and, in addition, approximately £110,000 to cover annual occupation costs such as service charge, insurance and rates. In the year 2009/10, BCC will contribute an estimated £477,000 to the BVCB and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board an estimated £148,000. Turnover from merchandise and tickets is estimated at £1.15 million gross (£345,000 net) for 2009/10. Annual expenditure on operation of the BVCB estimated at £1.774 million for 2009/10.

Key Issues

BVCB were not able to secure suitable ground floor premises in 2000 and moved into the current location with an aspiration to move to ground floor premises after a 10 year period. Given the importance of providing visitors with first class access to visitor services, especially information, and the significant need to generate revenue from the sale of goods and services at the BWC, there are concerns that the full potential is not being realised from the current location on the first floor. These concerns have increased recently in the light of growing competition in the City centre from other outlets selling souvenirs and gifts.

BVCB have viewed a number of vacant properties in the Donegall Place/Donegall Square North area. Due to the current economic climate a choice of available properties with ground floor access.

A move to the ground floor will involve an increase in rent and an initial capital cost to fit out the premises.

The BWC currently supports in excess of 300,000 visitors per annum .It is anticipated a ground floor location would grow visitor numbers by a further 25% with a corresponding uplift in turnover. Options are being explored for visitor information/servicing facilities to be placed inside City Hall as part of the new layout.

Resource Implications

BVCB will incur increased rent and other occupation costs with any ground floor tenancy. Estimated rent for suitable accommodation is approximately an initial £275,000 - £300,000 per annum. Capital costs for fit out will depend on the state of repair of the premises and the level of finish required. £1 million was spent on the initial fit out of the existing premises.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the report and agree to continued BCC Officer involvement in the search for new premises for BVCB.

Decision Tracking

Further to agreement there will be continued BCC officer involvement in the search for new BVCB premises.

Timeline: April 2010

Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay

Key Abbreviations

BVCB-Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau

BWC-Belfast Welcome Centre

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	London 2012 Cultural Olympiad - Live Sites Screen
Date:	16 September 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Tim Husbands, Head of City Events and Venues, ext 3459

Relevant Background Information

In May, August and December 2008 the Development Committee received details of plans for the Cultural Olympiad to be staged leading up to and during the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic games. As part of the original ethos, Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Olympic Movement, mirrored the classical Greeks in maintaining that the purpose of the Olympic Games was to celebrate mind, body and spirit. From this a Cultural Olympiad was established to include all cultural events of the Olympic Movement. This Olympiad was a period when artists from around the world showcased their work in the lead up to the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Up until 1948 medals were awarded for sculpture, music, literature and art. The modern Cultural Olympiad, which will be part of the 2012 Games, will focus on the following themes:

- Bringing together culture and sport
- Encouraging audiences to take part
- Animating public spaces – through street theatre, public art, circus skills and live big screen sites
- Using culture and sport to raise issues of environmental sustainability, health and wellbeing
- Honouring and sharing the values of the Olympic and Paralympic Games
- Encouraging collaborations and innovation between communities and cultural sectors
- Enhancing the learning, skills and personal development of young people by linking with education programmes

The key to this process for the 2012 Games has been the development of a series of 'live sites' which involve large LED screens being installed within public performance space across the United Kingdom. In December 2008 the Development Committee received formal details on the costs for such a project. They agreed this information be subsequently referred to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for formal consideration in January 2009. At this point the report was withdrawn due to a lack of financial resources being made available.

Key Issues

London 2012 Cultural Olympiad - 'Live Sites' Public Screen

In August and December the Council received details on the 'Live Sites' public screens from LOCOG 2012. The proposal would see a permanent 25sq m screen, valued by the BBC and LOCOG 2012 at £500,000, positioned in the heart of the City centre. The initial proposal was for the screen to be located in Donegall Place but this has been rejected by LOCOG on the basis that the screen would not be in position until after the 2012 Olympics had been staged. Therefore LOCOG, along with DSD, are proposing that the screen be located within the grounds of City Hall – facing into the lawn from Donegall Square East. The concept would mean that the BBC, LOCOG 2012 and BCC would share broadcasting time on the screen which would operate approximately twelve and sixteen hours a day, 364 days a year. The screen could also be utilised for major events including a number of London 2012 events. After the Council's rejection of the December 2008 report, due to its indicative costs, LOCOG and DCAL have resubmitted new proposed costs, which are stated below.

- Installation - £50k and planning £6k (DSD) one-off fee
- Screen programmer - £20 k (BCC) per year
- Event programming & management - £30k (NITB's event funding) per year for 3 years
- Maintenance - £20k (DCAL) per year for the first three years

In total BCC would have an estimated annual cost of £20,000 for a screen programmer to ensure the management of BCC's screen content. Should the Council agree to support this initiative BCC officers have agreement in principle from DSD, as part of their 'Streets Ahead' programme, to meet the installation costs which includes the cost of a 1 m x 1 m control panel in the basement of City Hall. For the four years period leading up to the 2012 Olympics the screen would be the property of LOCOG with a guaranteed link to the BBC's national public screens programme for BCC. After this period the screen would become the property of BCC with a similar link to the BBC's public broadcast network.

The installation of the screen would be subject to approval by the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee due to the use of the City Hall grounds before it would go to full Council. If passed by Council the project would also be subject to an economic appraisal by DSD, planning approval by the NI Planning Service and full legal agreement with all the relevant bodies and funders.

Resource Implications

Financial

The Council funding would involve £20,000 annual fee for content and programming of the proposed screen and would be reallocated from within the annual events budget. Additional funding from DSD (£56k), NITB (£30k) and DCAL (£20k) would be sourced to deliver the project.

Recommendations

Members are requested to consider the issue of funding for the project as stated above, and if approved, also give:

- Approval for a report to go to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for the use of the City Hall grounds for the project

DECISION TRACKING

No decision tracking with this report as report is for consideration only.

Documents Attached

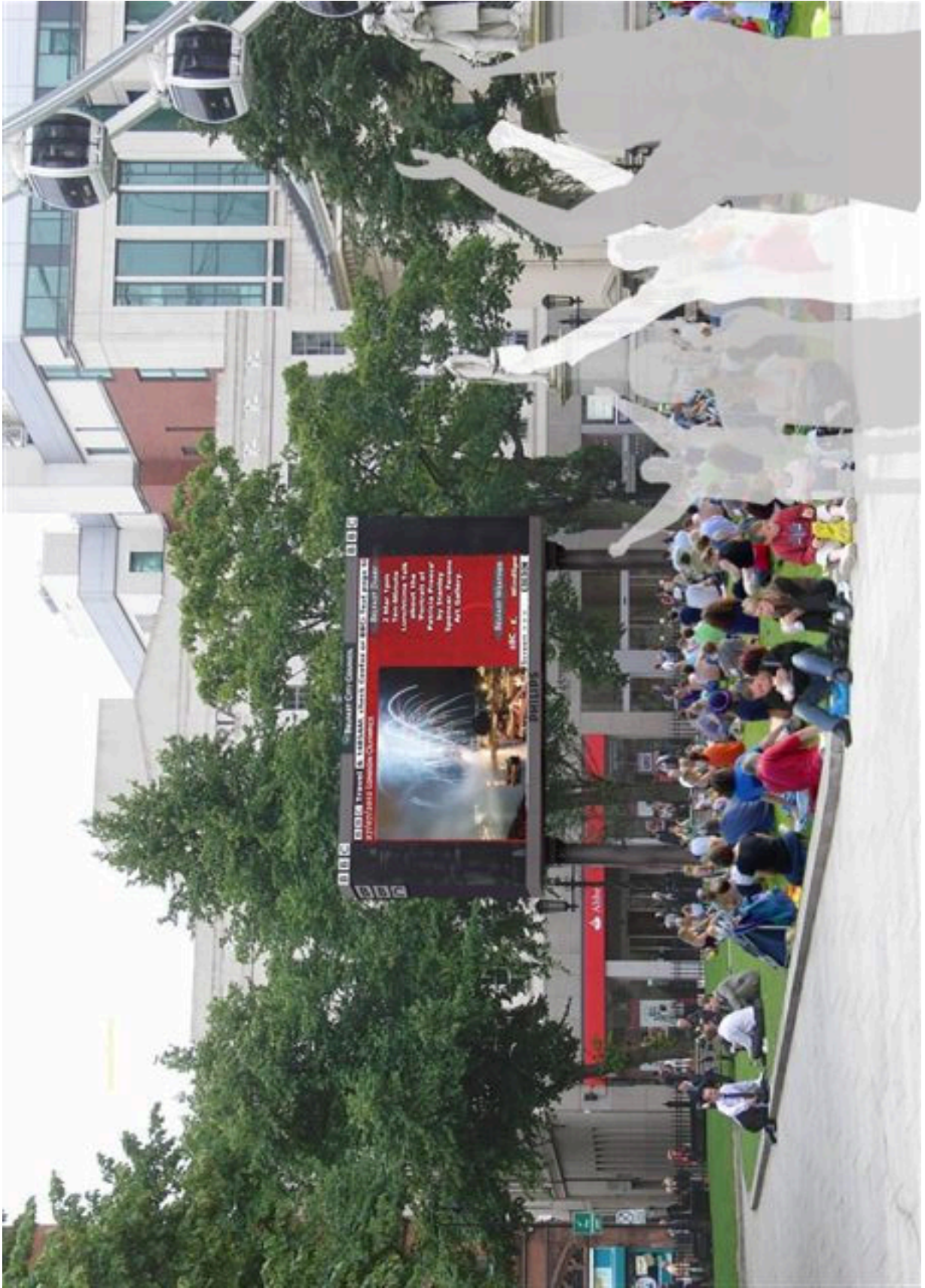
Appendix 1 – CGI image of screen in the grounds of City Hall.

Abbreviations

BCC – Belfast City Council
DCAL – Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure
LOCOG 2012 – London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games 2012
DSD – Department of Social Development
NITB – Northern Ireland Tourist Board

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APPENDIX 1





Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Titanic Centenary Programme 2012
Date:	16 September 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Tim Husbands, Head of City Events and Venues, ext 1401

Relevant Background Information

Over the last ten years BCC has delivered a range of major events, from the World Cross-Country Championships in 1991, the World Amateur Boxing Championships in 1999, the World Amateur Boxing Championships in 2001 and most recently the 2009 Tall Ships Atlantic Challenge. All of the events have brought significant economic benefits to Belfast with the 2009 Tall Ships event having an estimated £15m return to the City's economy. In parallel with these major events, BCC has been at the forefront in developing the Titanic offering in the City. This has included the development of a highly successful Titanic Made in Belfast event and the instigation of other Titanic related tourism products such as tours, trails and the development of a strategy for a 'must see' visitor attraction based around the Titanic story. All this work has received significant support and input from public, private and voluntary organisations, such as NITB, Titanic Quarter Limited and the Belfast Titanic Society.

The next significant step will be the marking of the centenary of the vessel in 2012. In October 2007 Members approved in principle a centenary programme connected to the 100th anniversary of the RMS Titanic over a twelve month period. The purpose of this report is to request Members final approval for this twelve month programme from the end of May 2011 to end of April 2012.

Key Issues

Programme

The proposed schedule of activity is based around the successful tours, talks, exhibitions and creative arts undertaken by Council as part of the Titanic Made in Belfast festival over the last nine years. In addition to these there would be a re-branding of current BCC events to fit with the Titanic theme and the creation of a programme of one-off concerts, plays and other forms of creative arts for the year long programme.

Key Headline Elements

It is recommended that as part of the overall key historical dates in RMS Titanic's story should be marked. The first of these, if the programme is agreed, would be a centenary to mark the launch of the ship. This would be followed by the fitting out of

the vessel in the Thompson Dock; then the leaving of the vessel from Belfast on 3 April 1912 and, of course, the sinking and subsequent disaster. It would be the intention to mark the latter event with a major outdoor concert with a significant international act as the headline performer. It would be the hope to utilise facilities developed as part of the Council supported Titanic Signature Project for this concept.

Creation of a Titanic Memorial Garden at Belfast City Hall

One of the significant proposals as part of the programme would be the physical bringing together of three memorials, which are currently in the grounds of City Hall into some form of 'Titanic Garden'. The three statues being: Titanic Memorial; Edward Harland's Statue & Lord Pirrie's Plinth.

Dates

The start of the proposed twelve month programme would take place on 31 May 2011, which marks the 100th anniversary of the launch of the RMS Titanic. This would involve special screenings of a number of key Titanic movies and programmes from post World War One to the modern day at various locations around the City. The following months would be interspersed with a series of activities reflecting Belfast's elements of the Titanic story culminating with the leaving of the ship from this City to the subsequent disaster of its sinking.

Titanic Cities

As part of the Titanic centenary it would be the recommendation to members to work with UK, Irish, French and North American locations connected to the story. This arrangement is underpinned with a Memorandum of Understanding (agreed by Council in 2008) between Belfast, Liverpool, Southampton, Cobh, Cherbourg and Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Stakeholders and Partners

In order to deliver this project, BCC's City Events Unit will utilise its significant links with local, national and international groups connected to the 'Titanic industry' and within the general events industry. Key to these will be external sources of public funding which would include HLF, DSD, NITB and DCAL. On the private sector front, the City Events Unit will liaise with TQL and other potential private sector organisations to lever additional resources. The City Events Unit will also strongly link to Belfast Titanic Society, the Nomadic Trust and other voluntary and art groups working in this area.

Resource Implications

Financial

The overall estimated costs required to deliver this twelve month programme of activities would be £600,000.

If the Council agreed to the programme, it would be the intention of the City Events Manager to source match funding from organisations such as HLF, DSD, DCAL and NITB to facilitate the delivery of the project. In addition to these BCC would pursue resources from TQL and other private sector groups for additional finance. The delivery of any programme would be tailored to budgetary requirements with BCC input being evaluated at £150,000.

Recommendations

Members are asked to approve, in principle, for a draft programme, costed at £600,000, prepared to mark the Titanic's 100th anniversary, with BCC's financial contribution to be capped at £150,000. If agreed by Committee, subsequent update reports for approval would be brought to Members in relation to the planning and preparation of the

programme.

Decision Tracking

Further to approval for a draft programme, an update report in relation to planning and preparation will be brought to Committee.

Timeline: December 2009 Reporting Officer: Tim Husbands

Key to Abbreviations

DCAL – Dept of Culture, Arts & Leisure

NITB – Northern Ireland Tourism Board

TQL – Titanic Quarter Limited

BCC – Belfast City Council

HLF – Heritage Lottery Fund

DSD – Department of Social Development

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**Belfast City Council**

Report to: Development Committee

Subject: Community Centres – Conditions of Hire

Date: 16 September 2009

Reporting Officer: Marie-Thérèse McGivern Director of Development ext 3470
Contact Officer: Catherine Taggart, Community Development Manager ext. 3525

Relevant Background Information

The current Conditions of Hire in respect of directly managed Community Centres clause 4(a) states 'that the facility will only be used for the purposes stated in the application and shall not be used for party political or religious activities'. This clause would appear to have been based on the prevailing practice in Leisure Services in the mid 1980s.

Key Issues

Following a request from a Member as to whether the above disqualification in regard to use for religious activity can be removed, Officers have taken advice from Legal Services. A copy of the response is attached for information at appendix 1. Essentially this advice indicates that there is nothing within current legislation to prevent use for religious activity as long as there is no breach of Section 76 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

If the disqualification is removed there may be implications for other Council assets in addition to that of Community Centres

Resource Implications

Within the terms of the current Pricing Policy usage for religious activities would result in an income to Council. This income would include staff costs if usage was approved outside of normal working hours.

Recommendations

Members are asked to make a recommendation as to whether the current disqualification on use of Centres for religious activities should be removed.

Decision Tracking

If approved the recommended action will be completed by Catherine Taggart by 30 November 2009

Time line: November 2009

Reporting Officer: Catherine Taggart

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 Memorandum from Legal Services 'Conditions of Hire – BCC Community Centres' dated 28 July 2009.

Our Ref 501-000159-0-DT

APPENDIX 1

Your Ref

28 July 2009

MEMORANDUM

To: Jenny Oliver
Community Services Co-Ordinator North
Community and Recreation Department

Re: Condition of Hire – BCC Community Centres

I refer to your email of 20th July and apologise for the delay in responding to you as I have only returned from leave on 16th July and have been catching up with all mail/emails etc received in my absence.

As I pointed out in my earlier correspondence, the Northern Ireland Constitution Act of 1973 has been entirely repealed and it was Part 3 of that Act when it was still in place which dealt with the discrimination “on the grounds of religious belief or political opinion”.

As previously advised, the closest replacements I can see for this Part 3 are Sections 75 and 76 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 which I previously reiterated to you.

In my view, given what is stated within those Sections, there is nothing within the current legislation to prevent use of BCC community centres as long as such use promotes equality of opportunity and that the usage is open to all religious groupings as long as the use of Council premises are not used in any way to aid or incite another person to discriminate against a person or class of persons on the grounds of religious belief or political opinion (as per Section 76 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998).

I would therefore advise that if any Group seeks to hire Council facilities, that you obtain full details as to use of the facility by the Group so that the Council can be satisfied that there will be no breach of Section 76.

I trust that this assists you.

Dominica Thornton
Principal Solicitor

cc Seoirse Cardwell, Community Services Co-Ordinator West, Community and Recreation Department

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Summer Play Scheme Awards 2009
Date:	16 September 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Catherine Taggart, Community Development Manager ext. 3525

Relevant Background Information

At the Development Committee on 11 March 2009 it was agreed that funding for community organised Summer Play Schemes be allocated to qualifying community groups in the voluntary sector following an assessment based on agreed criteria. The Committee agreed that awards would be in three categories up to a maximum of £3000, £1800 and £1000, with expenditure not to exceed £175,000.

Key Issues

A total of 91 applications were received and funding awards made to 81 groups (see Appendix 1). 10 applications did not meet the criteria (see Appendix 2).

Resource Implications

Financial

A maximum amount of £175,000 was agreed within the revenue estimates 2009/10 in respect of grant aid support for Summer Play Schemes. Following assessment based on agreed criteria the total amount allocated was £163,976.

Recommendations

The Committee is requested to note the information.

Decision Tracking

There is no decision tracking attached as the report is for notation only.
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Documents Attached

Appendix 1 Summer Scheme Awards Appendix 2 Applications not meeting the criteria.
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APPENDIX 1

Summer Scheme Awards

SUMMER SCHEME 2009			
GROUP NAME	APP. NO	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT RECOMMENDED
NORTH			
Artillery Young Mothers Group	1160	£2,000.00	£1,000.00
Ardoyne Fleadh Project	1195	£3,000.00	£1,800.00
Ashton Community Trust	1225	£5,193.00	£1,800.00
Ashton Community Trust (Kinderkids Day Centre)	1234	£4,064.00	£1,800.00
Ballysillan Youth For Christ	1222	£2,000.00	£1,000.00
Body Builders Summer Scheme	1200	£3,000.00	£3,000.00
Carrick Hill Resident Association		£2,500.00	£2,500.00
Corner House Family Centre	1242	£1,500.00	£1,000.00
Club Oige Mhachaire Bothain	1167	£3,900.00	£1,800.00
Donegall Park Avenue Community Association	1326	£2,100.00	£1,800.00
Glenbank Community Association	1241	£4,500.00	£3,000.00
Ligoniel Family Centre	1165	£3,000.00	£1,800.00
Loughside Football Club	1224	£4,017.00	£1,800.00
Lower Oldpark Community Association	1220	£3,000.00	£3,000.00
Manor Street/Cliftonville Community Group	1186	£6,163.00	£1,800.00
Marrowbone Community Association	1166	£5,500.00	£3,000.00
Mount Vernon Community D. Forum	1209	£3,000.00	£1,800.00
Skegoneill Community Group	1213	£2,000.00	£1,800.00
Star Neighbourhood Centre	1198	£5,000.00	£3,000.00
Tar Isteach	1236	£1,926.00	£1,926.00
The Basement Youth Centre	1218	£3,500.00	£1,800.00
Westland Community Group	1250	£2,000.00	£1,800.00
Whitecity Community Development Association	1221	£3,000.00	£3,000.00
Sub Total		£75,863.00	£47,026.00
SOUTH			
An Droichead Ltd	1162	£3,675.00	£1,800.00
Ballynafeigh Community Development	1226	£3,000.00	£1,800.00
Chinese Welfare Association (Afterschool Club)	1231	£1,800.00	£1,000.00
Empire Residents Association	1185	£4,014.00	£3,000.00
Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group	1164	£2,500.00	£2,500.00
N.I. Committee for Refugees and Asylum Seekers	1255	£2,700.00	£1,800.00
Southcity Resource & Development Centre	1184	£4,000.00	£3,000.00
Taughmonagh Community Forum	1223	£6,120.00	£1,000.00
Windsor Womens Centre	1249	£3,300.00	£3,000.00
Sub Total		£31,109.00	£18,900.00

GROUP NAME	APP. NO	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT RECOMMENDED
EAST			
Ardcarn Residents	1207	£2,000.00	£1,800.00
Ballymac Centre	1210	£3,000.00	£1,800.00
Bloomfield Community Association	1240	£3,000.00	£3,000.00
Bridge Community Youth Club	1219	£3,500.00	£3,000.00
Connswater Community and Leisure Services		£2,500.00	£2,500.00
Clarawood Community Association	1206	£3,000.00	£1,800.00
Inner East Youth Project	1211	£2,400.00	£1,800.00
KPC Youth Knock	1239	£3,500.00	£1,800.00
Newtownards Road Womans Group	1248	£3,000.00	£1,800.00
Oasis Caring In Action	1191	£3,000.00	£1,000.00
Short Strand Community Forum	1170	£5,000.00	£3,000.00
Walkway Community Association	1171	£4,000.00	£3,000.00
Wandsworth Community Association	1159	£3,000.00	£3,000.00
Sub Total		£40,900.00	£29,300.00
WEST			
An Munia Tober	1216	£3,000.00	£3,000.00
Ardmonagh Family & Community Group	1247	£3,000.00	£1,800.00
Blackmountain Action Group	1204	£1,700.00	£1,700.00
Blackie Community Groups Association	1193	£4,500.00	£3,000.00
Cairde Naomh Pol	1201	£3,600.00	£3,000.00
Cairde Cheathru na Gaeltachta	1258	£4,000.00	£1,000.00
Clonard Parent Youth Group	1214	£1,500.00	£1,500.00
Conway Youth Centre	1203	£1,500.00	£1,500.00
Cumann Iarscoile na Mona	1197	£3,200.00	£1,800.00
Denmark Street Community Centre	1192	£2,500.00	£2,500.00
Divis Play Project	1243	£2,000.00	£1,800.00
Falls Residents Association	1235	£2,300.00	£1,800.00
Falls Womens Centre	1212	£2,291.00	£1,800.00
Falls Youth Providers	1230	£2,000.00	£1,800.00
Forthspring Community Groups	1246	£2,200.00	£1,000.00
Friends of Careers 'n' Kids	1169	£3,629.00	£1,800.00
Glencairn Residents Group	1229	£3,000.00	£1,800.00
Glencolin Residents Association	1178	£4,409.00	£1,800.00
Glen Parent Youth Group	1163	£3,000.00	£3,000.00
Hannahstown Community Association	1187	£2,500.00	£1,000.00
Ionad Uibh Eachach	1244	£3,000.00	£1,800.00
Horn Drive Drop In	1175	£3,000.00	£1,800.00
Kids Together West Belfast	1196	£2,000.00	£1,000.00
Link Youth & Young Adults Group	1251	£2,000.00	£2,000.00
Living Hope Centre	1168	£2,000.00	£1,800.00
Newhill Youth & Community Centre	1227	£3,000.00	£3,000.00
Roden Street Community Development		£2,500.00	£2,500.00
Shankill Womens Centre	1176	£3,925.00	£1,800.00
Society Of St. Vincent De Paul	1232	£2,750.00	£2,750.00

St. James Community Forum	1194	£1,500.00	£1,500.00
St. Stephens Afterschool Club	1202	£3,920.00	£1,800.00
Upper Andersonstown Community Forum	1208	£3,500.00	£3,000.00
GROUP NAME	APP. NO	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT RECOMMENDED
Upper Donegall Road Social & R.Committee	1252	£3,500.00	£1,000.00
Upper Springfield Action On Disability Project	1233	£3,630.00	£1,000.00
Westrock Parent/Youth Support Group	1188	£3,000.00	£1,800.00
Whiterock/Westrock Residents Association	1189	£3,000.00	£1,800.00
Sub Total		£102,054.00	£68,750.00
TOTAL		£249,926.00	£163,976.00

APPENDIX 2

GRANT REFUSAL

NAME	
NORTH	
Newlodge Youth Centre	Formal Youth Club
Polish Youth Club (Kameleon)	No evidence of AGM & Financial Systems inadequate.
SOUTH	
Belfast Islamic Centre	Incomplete Application
St. John Vianney Youth Centre	Formal Youth Organisation
EAST	
East Belfast Mission	Not open and accountable
Lower Woodstock Community Association	Incomplete Application
West	
Arellian Nursery School	Pre School
Cornerstone Community	Not a broad Programme
Holy Trinity Youth Centre	Formal Youth Organisation
Newhill First Steps	Pre School

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	DSD Volunteering Strategy Consultation Response
Date:	16 September 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development, Ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Barbary Cook, Policy and Business Development Manager, Ext. 3620

Relevant Background Information

The purpose of this report is to bring to the attention of the Development Committee details of a consultation by The Department of Social Development on their new Volunteering Strategy, 'Join In, Get Involved: Build a Better Future'. The purpose of this consultation is to seek the views on a series of proposals to support and develop volunteering in Northern Ireland. The proposals are in response to research on volunteering in NI commissioned by the Department and carried out by the Volunteer Development Agency in 2007. The closing date for responses is 9 October 2009.

The consultation document and a summary document have been sent to policy staff within the Council for comment. Staff from Health and Environmental Services, Parks and Leisure, Corporate Services, CIT and Development (including Community Services) provided comments which have been included in the response document.

The response has also been passed by COMT on 2 September 2009.

The draft consultation response is also attached in Appendix 1. The consultation documents are available at

<http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/consultations/consultations-join-in-get-involved.htm>

Key Issues

The DSD strategy 'Join In, Get Involved: Build a Better Future' describes a high-level strategic direction for the future support and development of volunteering in Northern Ireland. In the main, it concentrates on the ways in which DSD can ensure this future support and development.

No detailed action plan to support the implementation of this strategy has yet been developed and without this, the Council cannot respond in detail as to how it might be expected to support and develop volunteering in the future.

The draft response to the consultation welcomes the proposals and notes that the Council would be interested in early involvement in the future implementation discussions that may follow the confirmation of the strategy.

Resource Implications

None

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the content of the attached consultation response.

Decision Tracking

No decision tracking as the report is for notation only

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 - Consultation response – Department of Social Development on their new Volunteering Strategy, 'Join In, Get Involved: Build a Better Future'

Appendix 1



Belfast City Council

**Belfast City Council Response to the DSD consultation on the new Volunteering Strategy, 'Join In, Get Involved: Build a Better Future'.
August 2009**

Belfast City Council is committed to supporting volunteering. We note that volunteering in various services, for example community services, leverages in considerable resources to the Council and enables extensive and needs-based service provision.

The Council notes and welcomes the proposals as outlined in the consultation document. We note that the proposals relate to, in the main, the ways in which DSD can ensure the future support and development for volunteering across Northern Ireland.

No detailed action plan to support the implementation of this strategy has yet been developed and without this, the Council cannot yet respond in detail as to how it might be expected to support and develop volunteering in the future. The Council would be interested in early involvement in the future implementation discussions that will follow the confirmation of the strategy. We welcome the intention to work with local government in terms of implementing the strategy.

The detailed action/implementation plan needs to be properly resourced and oriented to the communities which volunteering supports, for example funding for organisations and groups to set up the appropriate management and quality assurance systems.

There needs to be a strong connection between local organisations and communities and the local and regional volunteering support infrastructure. Information and resources must flow into the communities that need them.

The volunteering strategy needs to reflect the needs, motivation and values of volunteers. This includes maintaining a sensitive balance between these needs and varying levels of formality both in terms of legislative protections, but also, for example, the developing skills agenda around accreditation which may only be relevant to certain kinds of volunteers.

It should be noted that high levels of bureaucratic barriers may discourage and demotivate volunteers in more marginalised communities.

We would make the following detailed suggestions to a small number of the proposals:

Chapter 1 Key Performance Indicators

The Council would add a key performance indicator to this section. The current KPIs focus on increasing volunteering and improving the infrastructure to support volunteering. We would suggest adding a KPI to measure the degree of positive impact which the volunteering has, not least to ensure that an increase in the quantity of volunteering does not come at the expense of the quality of that volunteering. This would particularly be relevant to Council's service provision to ratepayers.

'An increase in the degree of positive impact which the volunteering has on or for an organisation.'

Chapter 2 Definition

The definition of volunteering is:

the commitment of time and energy, for the benefit of society and the community, the environment or individuals outside (or in addition to) one's immediate family. It is undertaken freely and by choice, without concern for financial gain.

We would suggest the following change:

the commitment of time and energy, for the benefit of society and the community, the environment or individuals outside (or in addition to) one's immediate family. It is undertaken freely and by choice.

We note that 'the environment' includes the physical environment as it relates to the Council's responsibility for parks and leisure services areas, where there is a current and growing role for volunteers.

Objective 1 Volunteering: Recognising the Value and Promoting the Benefits

In general, with regard to these objectives, we would note the importance of consolidating current levels of volunteering and the quality of that volunteering as well as encouraging the further growth of volunteering.

In addition, it would be positive if the strategy confirmed the benefits of volunteering for those who engage in such activity, in terms of increased self esteem and personal and social development.

5. Encourage young people to become involved in volunteering and help them develop skills and gain experience through their voluntary activity.

The Council would support the engagement of young people early on, for example through the Council's Youth Panel.

7. Support the development of a Northern Ireland wide volunteering database and associated website to support new and existing volunteers and volunteer involving

organisations and provide the key information point for volunteering opportunities.

Though the Council supports the promotion of and publicity for volunteering, we think there are serious privacy and data protection issues for volunteers in local communities who may not wish their names or other information about them to be placed on a database.

10. Promote and encourage Employer Supported Volunteering within Government and across the public sector.

We suggest that further engagement with employers is necessary to explore these issues in greater depth.

Objective 2 Volunteering: Enhancing Accessibility and Diversity

17. Review mechanisms to encourage people with disabilities to become involved in volunteering.

Change to ‘Review and ensure mechanisms encourage people with disabilities to become involved in volunteering.’

19. Encourage volunteering among older people and other under represented groups.

We think that this objective could be strengthened in order to ensure the effective encouragement of volunteering among older people in particular. We would recommend that DSD consider appropriate marketing and support, varied recruitment methods (different for 50+, 60+, 70+), covering out of pocket expenses, promotion of benefits of volunteering for older people and flexible levels of commitment (given that a reasonable number of older people are carers or child minders). We note that this may be covered later in the detailed action/implementation plan.

20. While ensuring the protection of children and vulnerable adults, explore ways to mitigate any negative impact of policy/legislation on the recruitment of volunteers.

The Council notes that the protection of children and vulnerable adults in and with volunteer involving organisations should include ongoing education and support that explains protection issues and processes. The protection of children and vulnerable adults must be the primary concern. Though we recognise the need to address any potential negative impact of policy/legislation on the recruitment of volunteers the full obligations of the protection processes must be met. In addition, consideration should be given to supporting organisations in terms of the costs of vetting etc.

In addition, the Council has comprehensive equality and good relations policies and practices in place. Any proposals with regard to enhancing accessibility and diversity should be implemented in line with existing equality and good relations practices.

The Strategy should also give thought to including references to those on benefits and how they might be able to volunteer without affecting this, for example people who are long term unemployed, for whom paid work is not a good option.

Objective 3 Volunteering: Improving the Experience

22. Encourage and support volunteer managers and volunteer involving organisations to improve their volunteer management practice and gain relevant accreditation.

Change to 'Encourage and support volunteer managers and volunteer involving organisations to improve their volunteer management and support practice.'

Organisations need to improve the ways in which they support volunteers and not only manage them. In addition, the Council notes that a strong focus on accreditation is not relevant to smaller community-based organisations and indeed may cause the future development of a two tier system where organisations that neither want nor can support accreditation would be seen to be providing less good volunteer support than those that wanted to and could, with those without accrediting processes in the lower tier.

24. Support volunteers involved in management committees to enhance their skills and knowledge base and improve their volunteer experience.

26. Support significant regional cultural and sporting events to involve and recognise volunteers.

27. Build volunteer management skills in the faith based sector to increase volunteer recruitment and retention.

The Council notes that volunteers in all volunteer involving organisations should be given, if they wish it, the chance to improve their skills and knowledge base, not only those on management committees. We note that in 24, 26 and 27 particular kinds of volunteers and particular sectors are being highlighted and would suggest that these details would be better addressed in a detailed action/implementation plan, rather than choosing one particular area to highlight in the overall strategy.

34. Encourage funders, where appropriate, to ensure the quality of volunteer involvement and management is of an effective standard when considering funding an organisation or awarding a contract where volunteers play a significant part in delivering services.

The Council notes that this should be seen as a support and developmental process rather than a strict condition of receiving funding, especially with regard to smaller community organisations.

The Council notes that it will be important to emphasise the need to improve the volunteer experience in preparation for the 2012 Olympics. In addition, it may be necessary to reference key issues such as tackling anti-social behaviour where public authorities will rely on greater volunteer input to deliver on key targets.

Objective 4 Volunteering: Supporting and Strengthening the Infrastructure

Include an additional objective: *to ensure that there is investment in implementing the strategy directly in local communities and not solely a focus on developing the local and regional infrastructure of volunteer support agencies.*

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Sister City Nashville
Date:	16 September 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459

Relevant Background Information

At a meeting of the Development Committee on 14 May 2008, Members committed to developing the Nashville Sister City relationship by approving the contents of the 2008/ 09 Action Plan and its implementation within budget. The connection with Nashville has a special significance because of the very strong links between Ulster and the Tennessee capital which dates from the Scots-Irish settlement of the area in the eighteenth century. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Mayor of Nashville and the Lord Mayor of Belfast in 1994 and this has resulted in many collaborations.

The Action Plan was delivered by the Belfast Nashville Advisory Group, which includes representatives from the leisure and cultural sector, historical groups, genealogy associations, community development, media and educational organisations. The aim is to explore, agree and implement identified areas of cultural, tourism and economic development and collaboration between the two cities and to co-ordinate and support the activities taking place between both cities and better maximise our relationship with Nashville

Key Issues

Approval is sought from Committee to develop the Nashville Sister City relationship by approving the contents of the 2010 Action Plan and its implementation (see Appendix 2). New partnerships have been formed to deliver the Action Plan, which has been greatly expanded to include not only culture and tourism but education, economic development, genealogy, literary tourism, music tourism, international exhibitions, international marketing, creative industries, film and digital media and communications.

Group membership has been expanded to reflect the new Plan and now includes formal partnerships with the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and Queen's University. The group will meet on a bi-monthly basis in order to achieve economic benefits from the Sister City relationship.

Since May 2008, the relationship between the two cities has been greatly strengthened with a focus on achieving tangible outputs. Highlights include:

Increased Partnerships

A considerable number of partner organisations contributed both financially and in kind to sustaining the relationship, including Tourism Ireland, US Consulate, BBC, Ulster Historical Foundation, Ulster Scots Heritage Society, Queen's University and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. Feedback from Partners is attached as Appendix 1.

Tourism

BCC worked in partnership with Tourism Ireland to utilise the Sister City Linkage to profile Belfast as a cultural tourism destination in the Southern States and increase tourism revenue from this market. Tourism Ireland worked with their offices across the United States to highlight events on 16 and 17 March and promoted the event to travel and music journalists. They invited the Belfast Nashville Songwriters' Festival to attend their travel trade showcase in Atlanta to profile the Sister City Relationship and linkages. They launched and marketed Belfast City Council's new music products including belfastmusic.org to promote Belfast as a vibrant European destination and the gateway to Ireland and Europe:

- PR and media coverage in the States to send out a positive message of Belfast - TV, radio, web, Tennessee news press, specialist trade music magazines, specialist travel press
- Targeted marketing to the Scots-Irish community in the Southern States to increase cultural tourism visitors
- Launched the St Patrick's Heritage Exhibition at Nashville Airport
- Provided a Travel Trade Showcase with staff and literature from the Tourism Ireland New York Office at the Belcourt Theatre Showcase
- Advertisements placed in the Tennessean Travel Section and newspapers from the region, plus Charlotte, Raleigh, Charleston
- Targeted named direct mail of 1500
- 2008 mailing generated above average response
- 1500 Trace your Scots Irish Ancestors offered
- 2000 Northern Ireland CDs distributed
- Prizes / developed tours with tour operators
- Belfast's accreditation by Frommers acknowledged
- Prizes of tour offered
- Tours developed with Tour Operators

Music Tourism

Belfast Nashville Songwriters' Festival and Songwriting Convention held on 18-22 February 2009 increased dramatically in profile and scale and included over 100 songwriters, 30 concerts and 20 seminars. The Festival attracted higher profile artists to Belfast and hence successful local musicians. Visitor numbers increased by 29% in comparison to 2008 and it attracted over 20% of its visitors from outside Northern Ireland, leading to a much greater economic impact. 80% of visitors said they would not have come to Belfast if it had not been for the Festival.

Belfast Nashville Showcases and Concerts - Nashville 16 and 17 March 2009. Delivered by the Belfast Nashville Songwriters' Festival, this featured six of Belfast's best musicians (Ken Haddock, Anthony Toner, Bap Kennedy, Eilidh Patterson, Ben Glover and Foy Vance) who performed alongside multi-million selling Nashville songwriters Guy Clark, Nanci Griffith, Gary Nicholson and Lee Roy Parnell. It was a unique opportunity to launch Belfast's Music Tourism initiatives internationally and was endorsed by Nashville's Mayor Dean.

Arts Council NI committed £15,500 to cover artists and promoters costs for this event. It was compered by Ralph McLean from BBC Northern Ireland and a live recording was broadcast on BBC Radio Ulster. The concert at the Belcourt Theatre was a sell-out success and was attended by Nashville's music industry professionals including publishers, record companies and agents. It was also supported by the Mayor's Office of Economic Development, Sister City Representatives and travel and music journalists.

Creative Industries

Belfast Nashville Songwriters' Showcases and Concert improved the business networks and partnerships between Belfast and Nashville by showcasing Belfast's music talent in the international marketplace:

- Provided networking opportunities for those working in Belfast's music sector and potential buyers and distributors by inviting 200 key figures from the music industry to the Belfast Trade Show and Music Concert
- Produced and distributed 2000 audio visual resources that highlight Belfast, its artists and venues to the widest international audience
- Arranged and co-ordinated meetings with Belfast and US based creative companies
- Increased the number of Belfast musicians doing business internationally by identification of potential new investment and partnerships (see Appendix 1 for details)
- Raised the profile of the Sister City Relationship in Belfast
- Six musicians performed live to an invited audience of music industry figures, press, Mayor of Nashville Karl Dean, Sister Cities contacts and members of the public
- Promoted the 2009 Belfast Nashville Songwriters Festival and Belfast Songwriting Convention to new artists music industry figures.
- Increased knowledge and understanding of the opportunities available in Nashville for musicians by face-to-face meetings and distributing information
- Influential in securing sponsorship support from leading songwriter organisations for 2010.

Economic Initiatives

The influential Sister Cities International held its annual conference at the Belfast Waterfront from 29 July to 1 August. This was the first time in the organisation's 50 year history that the conference has been held outside the United States.

In total, there were over 800 visitors to Northern Ireland as a result of the Conference – many spending their 2 week summer vacation here. Over 20 countries were represented and almost 100 accompanying persons attended the social events at the Conference. Over 200 delegates attended the corresponding Youth Conference which took place in Queen's University.

Among the delegates were elected and appointed city officials, senior business executives – including a number of high powered financiers, venture capitalists, entrepreneurs and investors – and representatives from the education, community and voluntary sectors. The Conference generated the equivalent of 4,500 bed nights for hotels in and around Belfast and was worth at least £2.5 million to the local economy.

Genealogy

The Ulster Historical Foundation accompanied the Civic Visit to Nashville in March 2009 to run workshops in order to promote Scots-Irish genealogy and how to trace family history in order to profile cultural and historical links between the two cities and target the Scots-Irish community in the Southern States as potential holiday visitors.

Education

A formal relationship was established between Queen's University and Vanderbilt University which will result in international research collaborations, student and lecturer exchanges and facilitate connections between schools, departments and offices to promote internationalisation. The first exchange student from Queen's School of English started in September 2009 and will sit on the Nashville Steering Committee and a Vanderbilt student will be placed at Queen's from February 2010.

Outward Civic Visit To Nashville 2010

Approval is sought for an inward Civic Visit from Mayor Dean and delegation and outward Civic Visit by the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Committee or their nominees, plus 3 officers on 11–14 March 2010 (no additional financial commitment is required from Committee). Music tourism events are scheduled for Nashville in March 2010. Delivered by the Belfast Nashville Songwriters' Festival and supported by Arts Council NI, this will feature Belfast musicians who perform with high profile singer-songwriters from Nashville. It is a unique opportunity to launch Belfast's music tourism initiatives internationally and this will be endorsed by the Nashville Mayor's Office of Economic Development and Nashville Sister City Representatives.

The Belfast City Council Delegation would be accompanied by Tourism Ireland, Ulster Historical Foundation, BBC, Songwriters' Festival and musicians. On 11 and 12 March, the Members would attend a programme of civic meetings scheduled by the Nashville Sister Cities Committee in relation to the 2010 Action Plan and also the:

- Media launch of the Belfast Titanic Exhibition
- Media launch of new Belfast Tourism Products
- Media launch of Genealogy Tourism Workshops

The Belfast Nashville Songwriters' Music Industry Showcases will culminate in a high profile public concert with Nashville and Belfast Musicians on Saturday 13 March and broadcast on BBC and Nashville Public Television.

Resource Implications

£51,150 which has been provided within the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit budget for implementation of the action plan.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members

1. Note the contents of this report
2. Commit to developing the Nashville Sister City relationship by approving the contents of the 2010 Action Plan (Appendix 2) and its implementation within budget.
3. Approve an inward Civic Visit from Mayor Dean and outward Civic Visit by the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Development Committee, or their nominees, plus 3 officers on 11–14 March 2010 (no additional financial commitment is required from Committee)

Decision Tracking

Further to approval of inward and outward civic visits, an update report in relation to planning and preparation will be brought to Committee.

Timeframe: December 2009 Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay

Documents Attached

- Appendix 1: Feedback from Sister City Partners
- Appendix 2: Belfast Nashville Sister City Action Plan 2010

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Appendix 1

Feedback from Sister City Partners

Arts Council of Northern Ireland

“The Arts Council is keen to raise the profile of Northern Ireland arts and artists on the international stage. The partnership with Belfast City Council and the Nashville Steering Group has proved to be one effective means of achieving this objective for the benefit of our thriving music sector.”

Queen’s University

“Queen's University welcomes the opportunity to develop its strong ties with Vanderbilt University at Nashville through its growing series of academic partnerships that bring together students and Faculty members across all of the academic disciplines represented in both educational institutions. Our association with the Sisters Cities committees offers an opportunity to expand and diversify such educational opportunities in a manner that can only be of benefit to Belfast as well as Queen's. We welcome the opportunity to work together in creating new international synergies in research and education for the benefit of our local communities.”

Tourism Ireland

“Tourism Ireland is committed to working in partnership with organisations and agencies to raise the number of tourists coming from the US to Northern Ireland. The association of Belfast with Nashville at the level of the mayor’s office and the Sister Cities committees has led to increased attention to Belfast by respected American musicians and broadcasters. These underpin our efforts to promote Belfast and Northern Ireland as a place with a great music tradition and vibrant live entertainment scene that is worth travelling the Atlantic to experience.”

U.S. Consulate

“The United States Consulate is proud to acknowledge and support the unique links established between Belfast and Nashville. The historic connections between these proud Cities epitomize the deep genealogical and cultural bonds that exist between Northern Ireland and the United States. Those behind the Sister City partnership should be applauded for their achievements in building creative, mutually beneficial, and exciting partnerships in areas like music, education, and tourism. Relationships like these improve the quality of life of residents, they foster civic and community pride, and they help improve their respective economies. We wish those involved in the Belfast-Nashville initiative every success in their ongoing efforts”.

Northern Ireland Tourist Board

“A vibrant music scene is a real bonus for any tourist destination and Belfast is one of the most exciting and dynamic in the world today. Our music and diverse range of festivals offer the visitor great reasons to visit Northern Ireland. Our challenge is to make sure that our music and festivals are presented in a way that enables the visitor to experience it.”

Feedback from Musicians

Eilidh Patterson:

I feel so privileged to have been included in this trip to Nashville. It has given me such encouragement to know that Belfast City Council, the Arts Council of NI, the Belfast Nashville Songwriters Festival are actively supporting me, a local musician, through trips such as these. I was able to invite some key players in the Nashville music industry to the gigs in Nashville - from whom I have received positive feedback. To be given a platform such as this under the banner of the Belfast Nashville connection has helped enormously and is continuing to help me progress my career as a songwriter and performer, on both sides of the Atlantic.

This year, I connected with Gary Nicholson (songwriter), Beth Nielsen Chapman (songwriter), Thomm Jutz (writer / producer), and with the Centricity record label. I am also continuing to connect with a host of Nashville songwriters for co-write sessions and advice on the best way forward in the music industry. A song I co-wrote with Lisa Aschmann in Nashville last April is the first track on my debut album, scheduled for release in N.Ireland in Autumn 2009. Producers such as Bil Vorndick and Gary Paczosa have shown an interest in my music and just yesterday I recorded background vocals for Beth N Chapman's new album. These are just some of the many connections I have through the visit Nashville and I will continue to build on these over the next few years.

I think the strong sense of community, in particular between Belfast and Nashville musicians, is what is being established through these trips and it is this which will ensure that the Belfast Nashville connection strengthens in the coming years.

Anthony Toner:

The trip to Nashville proved to be an invaluable experience for me, in many respects. Of course it was dazzling to be part of such a high profile showcase at the Belcourt in Nashville, there was some serious work done – there were a large number of opportunities to make industry connections and find out how the business works, through having the chance to observe it at close quarters. Every songwriter on this trip is hoping for the same thing - we want to do business, we want to work and we want to develop as writers and artists with others who are on the same journey.

- I had a meeting and lunch with one of Nashville's top songwriters (with the potential to generate further contacts in publishing in the city, and the chance of co-writes on a return trip). The contact has promised to spread the word among some of his contacts in the industry. It's impossible to overstate the importance of the face to face element of such meetings.

- I handed out many promotional EPs to figures who attended the concert at the Belcourt Theatre in Nashville. Strengthening of ties with some of the Nashville-based songwriters who attended the show, with the possibility of creative collaboration, co-writes and referrals to other people in the industry. Again, to be face to face with the artists is invaluable.

- Getting to know some of the informal 'rules' which govern how the industry operates in Nashville, and how best to approach a future visit and develop relationships.

- Everyone that we met seemed inspired by what was coming out of Belfast, and keen to visit either as a performing artist or a visitor.

- Many thanks to all the staff and councillors from Belfast City Council who were so supportive and encouraging throughout the trip. I think we all did each other proud, and it was a pleasure to be part of something so positive.

Ben Glover:

The St Patrick's Day concert gave me the opportunity to invite music industry professionals whom I had been in contact with to watch me perform and showcase my songs. Being involved in that show has certainly raised my profile in Nashville and given a great deal of weight and credibility to my CV. The show also introduced me to a number of Nashville songwriters who I hadn't met before and, since March, I have been writing and working with them. By being based in Nashville, I feel I was able to really capitalise on the benefits of the Council's initiative, and so I was able to follow up on the opportunities that resulted from being part of the event...From a civic point of view and from the feedback that I have received here in Nashville I believe that the event helped to promote Belfast as a very proactive and creative city. I would like to thank Belfast City Council and all the sponsors for providing excellent support and the opportunity to be part of this event.

Ken Haddock:

I was very excited and thrilled to be asked to take part in the Belfast Nashville Songwriters Festival, both here in Belfast and in Nashville back in March past. Specifically, the fact that I would be sharing the stage with Nancy Griffith was really something very special for me as a singer-songwriter. This trip had me salivating at the prospect of putting my camera to work on the streets of Nashville during the day, my guitar to work on the stages of Nashville in the evenings.

Panarts, Belfast Nashville Songwriters Festival:

With every visit to Nashville we build on connections and the goodwill we have maintained over six years. It was important to find songwriters who had written quality songs and could perform alongside world-class Nashville hit writers Guy Clark, Nanci Griffith, Gary Nicholson and Lee Roy Parnell. The Belfast Nashville Songwriters Celebration was an excellent event and raised the profile of each songwriter from Belfast. It is very rare to have Guy Clark on stage with Nanci Griffith at any event and both performed as a goodwill gesture to Panarts, waving their fee. In a series of business meetings, we secured our leading song writing teacher for the 6th Song Writing Convention 2010 (Jason Blume has songs recorded on over 50 million CD's), met with leading record companies, confirmed radio coverage in Boston and secured sponsorship support from leading songwriter organisations. Amongst our many meetings, Rounder Records gave us advice and having heard about our annual songwriters festival in Belfast, Chad Paul recommended us to WGBH Radio in Boston. We met with ASCAP's Ralph Murphy and hit-writer Pat Alger to encourage them to continue their support. Our meetings with Burt Stein and Nanci Griffith were important and we have a commitment from Gold Mountain to work in partnership with us once again in February 2010. We collected 1000 promotional CD's and distributed most at the showcase events. Thank you to Belfast City Council and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland for making the visit to Nashville possible.

Mark Selby:

Nashville Singer Songwriter (written more than 10 top-40 singles and 4 No1 hits including Grammy Awarding Winning Dixie Chicks).
I fell in love with Belfast – the people are so wonderful and there is a wealth of musical heritage. This poetic history shines through in your current talented musicians - I'll always come back.

Nanci Griffith:

The songwriters festival in Belfast has become my annual vacation. It's an extraordinary event.

Stuart Fleming Performing Rights Society:

I'm so pleased Belfast Nashville has grown to be such a huge part of the Northern Ireland Music Calendar and I am even more delighted we're involved.

Dr Ian Brick:

The Belfast Nashville relationship has grown from almost nothing to now everyone wants to be part of it and the talent is just incredible. The centre of our relationship is music and the music industry – Nashville is music city USA and I see Belfast as being a music city. We have so much talent that it can only develop. I want to see many more tourists going from Nashville to Belfast as our cities are almost identical, almost same population, same friendliness and we have so much in common that we can share together.

MUSICIANS

NASHVILLE ARTISTS

Guy Clark

Song writing legend and folk icon Guy Clark was inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2004. In 2005 he was honoured with the Americana Music Association's Lifetime Achievement Award for Song writing. His latest CD Workbench Songs (2006), released to universal critical acclaim was nominated for the 2007 Grammy award as Best Contemporary Folk/Americana Album.

Gary Nicholson

Multi-platinum songwriter, accomplished musician and Grammy Award winning producer; Gary Nicholson has had more than 350 of his songs recorded, has won 26 ASCAP song writing awards and is responsible for more than a dozen major hits.

Nanci Griffith

One of the most admired and acclaimed of singer songwriters with her beautiful voice, brilliant song writing and uncommon emotional commitment. Grammy award winning artist Nanci Griffith's musical journey has taken her from folk and country roots, to her own brand of "folkabilly"; from Austin's Hole In The Wall bar to New York's Carnegie Hall, Nashville's Grand Ole Opry and London's Royal Albert Hall.

Lee Roy Parnell

A successful songwriter and performer, Lee Roy Parnell is a 3-time Country Music Association (CMA) award winner with over 145 songs published including 4 #1s and 11 top 10 hits. Over the years he has garnered the respect of fans and industry veterans alike with his soulful vocals and award-winning slide guitar playing.

BELFAST ARTISTS

BAP KENNEDY

Bap Kennedy is a singer/songwriter from [Belfast](#), Bap was in a successful band,

[Energy Orchard](#), for many years and has written and performed songs with artists such as [Steve Earle](#) and [Van Morrison](#). He has also recorded a number of successful solo albums including Domestic Blues, Lonely Street and The Big Picture. Following the release of The Big Picture, he toured the USA with [Mark Knopfler](#) of [Dire Straits](#). At the Belfast Nashville Songwriters' Festival 2007 he played on stage with Colin Hay (Men at Work) and Grammy award winning Nashville artist Gary Nicholson. For video clips of Bap visit www.youtube.com.
www.bapkenedy.com www.myspace.com/bapmusic

BEN GLOVER

Ben is fast building a reputation as one of the most intriguing and captivating artists emerging from Ireland. His subtle acoustic rock is influenced by the likes of Tom waits, Neil Young and Bob Dylan and his instantly recognisable voice makes him and his songs distinctive. Ben and his band the Earls picked up the award for 'Best new Irish Pop Band' at the Big Buzz Awards 2006. In February 2008 Ben and the Earls released their CD 'The Week the Clocks Changed' which he recorded in Nashville. Tracks from Ben's latest CD are played regularly on local radio.

www.benglover.co.uk www.myspace.com/benglovermusic

KEN HADDOCK

A naturally gifted vocalist, Ken Haddock has been a hugely popular professional artist among Belfast audiences since the late '90s. Ken's CDs 'The Sweetest Hour' and the most recent release 'Almost' are collections of beautiful, inspirational original songs. As a successful local performer, Ken has made a number of appearances at the 'Belfast Nashville Songwriters' Festival' where he has appeared on stage with internationally acclaimed artists including Paul Brady and in February 2009 he will appear on stage with Nanci Griffith at the 5th Belfast Nashville Songwriters' Festival. For video clips of Ken visit

www.belfastnashville.com or www.youtube.com
www.kenhaddock.com www.myspace.com/kenhaddock

EILIDH PATTERSON

Eilidh Patterson is a 25 year old singer/songwriter based in Belfast. Her style is influenced by a combination of folk, country, gospel and bluegrass music. In recent months Eilidh's prodigious talent and exquisite aptitude for live performance has seen her supporting such distinguished artists as Bap Kennedy, Gretchen Peters, John Spillane and Kimmie Rhodes or playing 'live' on BBC Radio Ulster. She is currently preparing material for her debut album which follows her first 3-track demo which has had extensive air-play locally, nationally and even as far afield as New York City.

www.eilidhpatterson.com www.myspace.com/eilidhpatterson

ANTHONY TONER

Contemporary singer/songwriter Anthony Toner has been a professional session musician, solo performer and band member for a number of years.

In 2008 he featured in the Belfast Nashville Songwriters Festival, sharing the stage with song writing greats like Benny Gallagher, Iain Archer, Pat Alger and Ralph Murphy. His latest album 'A Sky For Every Day' has notched up impressive sales, with the singles 'Sailortown' and 'Marion, That's All Right', being playlisted by the major radio stations in Northern Ireland. The album – and its predecessor 'Eventually' (2002) – have attracted strong reviews.

www.anthonytoner.net

www.myspace.com/anthonytoner

Appendix 2: Sister City Nashville Action Plan, 2009 - 2010

Aim: To promote cultural, tourism and economic development

Project	Lead Organisation & Partners	Output
<p>Capital City Agenda to foster and maintain international alliances</p>	<p>Cllr William Humphrey, <i>BCC, Chair</i> Cllr Michael Browne, <i>BCC, Deputy Chair</i> Deputy Consul General Kevin Roland, <i>US Consulate (& Peter McKittrick)</i> Prof John Thompson, <i>Queen's University</i> Damian Smyth, <i>Arts Council NI</i> Colin Magee, <i>Belfast Nashville Songwriters' Festival</i> Fintan Mullan, <i>Ulster Historical Foundation</i> George Patton, <i>Ulster-Scots Agency</i> Ralph McLean, <i>BBC</i> Jim Heaney, <i>Real Music Club</i> Ross Graham, <i>NIMIC</i> Aubrey Irwin, <i>Tourism Ireland</i> Ian Carlisle, <i>Ulster Scots Community Network</i> BCC Creative Industries, Corp Coms, Economic Initiatives and Tourism Culture & Arts</p>	<p>Bi-monthly meetings with Sister City Advisory Group. Co-ordinate representatives from the leisure and cultural sector, historical groups, genealogy associations, community development, media and educational organisations. A strong desire to work in collaboration to enable the relationship between the two cities to be strengthened and a focus on achieving outputs in order to have tangible benefits for Belfast.</p> <p>- Agree a new action plan outlining projects in relation to cultural, tourism and economic development.</p> <p>Identify and enlist new members to group to reflect extended action plan.</p>
<p>Communications Strategy</p>	<p>David Briley, President Sister Cities Kathryn McDaniel, Chair of Belfast Sister Cities Heather Campbell, Sister Cities Director</p>	<p>Implement communications strategy to ensure co-ordination between Belfast / Nashville products and links between organisations.</p> <p>Regular e-bulletins and updates between Sister City contacts and the Belfast Nashville Advisory Group.</p> <p>Schedule regular updates from the Belfast Nashville Advisory Group.</p> <p>Nashville Sister City Advisory Group to identify key contacts to implement action plan</p>
<p>Mayor's Office of Economic and Community</p>	<p>Nashville: Mayor Karl Dean</p>	<p>Set up formal partnerships and initiatives between the Mayor's Office of Economic and Community Development and Belfast City Council Economic Development Unit to stimulate local economic activity through focusing and coordinating government</p>

Development	<p>Mayor's Office of Economic Development</p> <p>BCC Economic Development Unit</p>	<p>resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works with the Mayor and others to develop plans and incentives for attracting and retaining businesses; • Works as a liaison between new and existing businesses and the city's; permitting and regulatory processes; • Acts as a source of business information and referrals in the Nashville area; • Administers the Nashville Foreign Trade Zone; • Facilitates and/or issues the city's permits for film, special events, and parades; • Works to support and enhance tourism.
Education	<p>Belfast: Queen's University</p> <p>Nashville: Vanderbilt University</p> <p>BELB / BIFHE</p> <p>US Consulate</p> <p>Irish Institute at the Center for Irish Programmes U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs</p>	<p>Develop international research collaborations and exchanges with Queen's University and Vanderbilt University and to facilitate connections between schools, departments, and offices to promote internationalization.</p> <p>Establish one educational project per year between Belfast and Nashville – teacher / lecturer exchange</p> <p>Establish one student exchange per year between Vanderbilt and Queen's through the International Academic Opportunities Programme</p> <p>Academic Programs & Departments with International Fields of Study – set up formal programme between Vanderbilt Blair School of Music and Queen's School of Music & Sonic Arts</p> <p>Education in a diverse society programme: Nashville, Tennessee. Fourteen individuals (seven from Ireland and seven from Northern Ireland) to include government representatives, high level school administrators, school teachers and principals, and those affiliated with non-governmental organisations to participate in a ten-day exchange programme in the U.S. featuring academic seminars and meetings with education policymakers, educators, students, and nonprofits involved in promoting inclusive education in a diverse society. The programme is sponsored by the. All programme-related costs including travel, accommodation, meals, and tuition are</p>

	<p>Scouts Association Belfast Sister Cities Committee</p>	<p>provided.</p> <p>Establish one community project per year between Belfast and Nashville</p>
<p>Genealogy</p>	<p>Belfast City Council Tourism Ireland Ulster Historical Foundation Ulster Scots Agency</p> <p>Ulster Scots Agency Ulster Scots Heritage Council Tourism Ireland</p> <p>Ulster Scots Agency Ulster Scots Heritage Council</p>	<p>The Ulster Historical Foundation is a long-established, highly reputable research and publishing agency. It offers extensive knowledge on the sources available for tracing Irish and Scots-Irish ancestors. Services include online databases of over 2 million records, genealogy and history books, and personal ancestral research.</p> <p>Identify opportunities to promote the Genealogical Guide 'Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors the essential guide to early modern Ulster' and new website n Nashville. <i>The Ulster Historical Foundation has fifty years of experience in dealing with family history enquiries and is widely regarded as the principal genealogical research agency in Ireland providing a comprehensive and professional service.</i></p> <p>Schedule genealogy exhibitions, seminars and workshops to promote Scots Irish linkage. (October 2009 for reopening of City Hall, My Roots: Tracing Your Belfast Ancestors).</p> <p>Identify opportunities for a permanent exhibition at the Andrew Jackson Homestead of historical links to Belfast and Northern Ireland and genealogy promotion</p> <p>Update and promote Belfast Nashville Sister Cities Guide. Short history of Belfast / Nashville connection Travelling to Belfast How to Research Family History Music and Cultural Tourism Belfast as the Gateway to Europe</p> <p>Follow-up campaign with Sister Cities Committee and Mayor's Office to raise profile</p> <p>Scots-Irish Direct Marketing campaign: Direct Marketing campaign featuring personalised communication to the top 20 Scots Irish names, in the top 20 cluster Scots Irish regions of the US. Part of an offline and online campaign.</p>

Partnerships	<p>Nashville Sister Cities Steering Group</p> <p>Belfast Sister Cities Steering Group</p>	<p>Formal linkages and develop initiatives between organisations</p> <p>Oh Yeah Music Centre / Nashville Music Hall of Fame</p> <p>Ulster Hall / Ryman Auditorium</p> <p>Belfast Zoo / Nashville Zoo</p> <p>Botanic Gardens / Cheekwood Botanic Gardens</p>
Literary Tourism	<p>Queen's University</p> <p>Vanderbilt University</p> <p>Tourism Ireland</p>	<p>See Literary Tourism Action Plan for full details – utilise relations between Schools of English to launch BCC's Literary Tourism Action Plan and new literary tourism products. Research funding opportunities for Belfast's writers to visit in order to hold a literary festival with Nashville writers.</p>
Tourism	<p>Belfast City Council</p> <p>Tourism Ireland</p>	<p>Tourism Ireland's role is to grow overseas tourism revenue and visitor numbers to the island of Ireland, and to help Northern Ireland to realise its tourism potential. They will utilise the Belfast Nashville relationship to promote Belfast as a vibrant European destination and the gateway to Ireland and Europe. Targeted marketing by Tourism Ireland to the Scots-Irish community in the Southern States to increase cultural tourism visitors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote the Belfast Nashville Guide and the Belfast Genealogy Guide to Tracing your Family History in order to profile cultural and historical links between the two cities. - PR and media coverage in the States to send out a positive message of Belfast - TV, radio, web, Tennessee news press, specialist trade music magazines, specialist travel press. Potential to attract thousands of new visitors. <p>Launch and market new cultural tourism products – key priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concert Advertising - Titanic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll out a la Communications brief • PR'ing forthcoming centenaries • Revamp Smithsonian exhibit • Secure high profile venue <p>Forward Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted tours to named lists • Music City Belfast • Literary Belfast • Gateway Belfast • Co-op with bmi ; flybe; Aer Lingus etc

	<p>BVCB Nashville Visitor Convention Bureau</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gardens, Parks and Food <p>Inward familiarisation visit from Nashville and Tennessee key media to attend Songwriters' Festival in February 2010</p> <p>Print ads throughout Tennessee Direct mail Prizes / Developing tours with tour operators</p> <p>Tourism Ireland Media Campaign (includes competitions for free flights to Belfast)</p> <p>BBC Radio Belfast Nashville Programme – one radio station per month in run up to Festival</p> <p>Promotion of Luxury Belfast and partner with Nashville Bureau to promote leisure and sport products</p> <p>Profile and increase reciprocal web links</p>
<p>Exhibitions</p>	<p>Tourism Ireland / Nashville Public Library</p> <p>Oh Yeah Music Centre / Nashville Country Music Hall of Fame</p> <p>Cheekwood Gallery</p> <p>Ulster Museum</p> <p>US Consulate</p> <p>British Council</p> <p>MAGNI</p> <p>Ulster Scots Community Network</p>	<p>Nashville Public Library: 'Titanic - Built in Belfast' exhibition features a never before seen image of the Titanic and newsreel footage, from the longest known version of a 1912 nitrate newsreel film. It is from the world-class archive collections of the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum. Titanic – Built in Belfast not only offers a snapshot of Northern Ireland's social and industrial history, but also tells the story of the growing tourism and commercial potential in the city and across the region. It also highlights Northern Ireland's revitalised communities, world-class visitor attractions and museums, business transformation, regeneration and economic opportunity.</p> <p>Nashville Country Music Hall of Fame: The Belfast Music Exhibition at the Oh Yeah Music Centre– see music tourism action plan (in particular the origins of bluegrass, roots, Van Morrison was given Freedom of Nashville)</p> <p>Nashville Andrew Jackson Homestead: Genealogy Exhibition When Ulster Sailed West The Ulster-Scots contribution to the making of the United States An exhibition charting the role of Scotch-Irish influence in education, religion, politics and culture, such as Andrew Jackson, Woodrow Wilson, John Steinbeck, Mark Twain and Neil Armstrong.</p> <p>Research and source funding for exchange of fine art exhibition with Belfast and Nashville Artists</p>

		Northern Ireland Tour of the Belfast Nashville Photography Exhibition by Ken Haddock to raise the profile of the relationship at home.
Belfast Nashville Songwriters' Festival <u>Belfast</u> February 2010	Belfast Nashville Songwriters' Festival Tourism Ireland US Consulate Arts Council NI NITB	The main aim of this festival is to encourage creative song writing between the two Sister Cities with a shared cultural heritage. It is a five day festival with extensive media coverage in UK/Ireland and North America. It includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concerts - Belfast Nashville Photographic Exhibition - Workshops on song writing - Seminars on Scots-Irish and Irish Emigration - Community & Schools Outreach Programme - Cultural Tours for visiting Nashville Artists Develop programme and increase scale and profile of Festival eg: Attract high profile artists Increase the number of concerts and workshops Establish the Belfast Nashville Songwriters' Convention Programme seminars on Scots-Irish Emigration Tourism Unit work with PanArts in order to maximise Tourism potential by assisting and advising on marketing, advertising and public relations. Tourism Ireland to provide relevant media contacts in the States, inviting media to festival and monitor coverage NITB to provide discounted hotels, packs in hotel rooms and tours (eg North Coast) for headline acts
Belfast Nashville Songwriters' Festival <u>Nashville</u> March 2010	Belfast City Council Mayor's Office Sister City Committees Arts Council NI Tourism Ireland	Tourism Ireland providing relevant media contacts in the States, inviting media to festival / travel expenses for their visits Tourism Ireland monitoring coverage in the States and visitor numbers to Belfast NITB providing discounted hotels, packs in hotel rooms and tours (eg North Coast) for headline acts Tourism Unit and BVCB working closely with PanArts in order to maximise Tourism potential. Assisting and advising on marketing, advertising and public relations. Ryman: High profile concert featuring Belfast and Nashville Musicians <i>BBC / Nashville Public Television Live Broadcast</i> Dan McGuinness: Belfast Nashville Showcase / Music Industry

		<p>Genealogy Seminar and Workshops</p> <p>Tourism Ireland Showcase</p> <p>Potential Outcomes: Create a high profile media event to raise the profile of Belfast (including TV, radio, web, specialist trade magazines and Tennessee news press)</p> <p>Showcase Belfast's music talent in the international marketplace</p> <p>Provide networking opportunities for those working in Belfast's music sector and potential buyers and distributors in the world music industry</p> <p>Improve the business networks and partnerships between Belfast and Nashville and showcase Belfast's music talent in the international marketplace</p> <p>Produce and distribute audio visual resources that highlight Belfast, it's artists and venues to the widest international audience</p> <p>Increase the number of Belfast musicians doing business internationally by identification of potential new investment and partnerships</p>
MUSIC EVENTS	<p>NIMIC</p> <p>Oh Yeah Music Centre</p> <p>Ulster Orchestra</p> <p>Nashville Symphony Choir</p> <p>Clearview Gospel Choir Nashville</p>	<p>Investigate opportunities for music promotion and joint creative industries initiatives in order to maintain profile of music tourism throughout the year</p>
Media Broadcasts	<p>BBC</p> <p>Nashville Public Television</p> <p>Nashville Country Music Channel</p>	<p>President of Nashville Public Television to work with BBC to produce documentary on Sister City Link. Documentary on historical links between Belfast Nashville to be broadcast on Nashville Public Television and BBC – joint initiative.</p> <p>Nashville Country Music Television will attend the Belfast Nashville Songwriters Festival to produce series of programmes. Documentaries on Belfast Nashville Songwriters Festival to be broadcast in Nashville.</p> <p>Series of programmes written and produced by Ralph Mclean on Nashville / Belfast.</p>

	Ulster Scots Agency BBC Scotland	Broadcast on Radio 3 and Radio Ulster. Explore opportunity to include Belfast in this initiative.
Music Tourism		See Music Tourism Action Plan for full details. An opportunity to showcase Belfast's music talent in the international marketplace, highlight Belfast and its artists to the widest international audience and identification of potential new investment and partnerships. Tourism Ireland will promote Belfast's music and new products internally by organising a series of media trips familiarisation trips, and externally across the States through presence and activity in Nashville. Music and the shared musical heritage between Belfast and Nashville will be the hook to profile Belfast as a cultural tourism destination in the Southern States and increase tourism revenue from this market. Permanent presence of Belfast Music Exhibition in Nashville telling the story of our rich musical heritage. Launch Belfast Music Mobile Applications for i-phone. Belfastmusic.org will feature details on Belfast's Jazz, Traditional, Folk, Rock and Classical traditions and provide a fully searchable events listings for all gigs and festivals An international marketing campaign including a series of media familiarisation trips, profiling Belfast as a great musical city
Creative Industries	BMI ASCAP SESAC NSAI (Nashville Songwriters Assoc) Arts Council NI Nashville Mayor's Office	Improve the business networks and partnerships between Belfast and Nashville and showcase Belfast's music talent in the international marketplace: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide networking opportunities for those working in Belfast's music sector and potential buyers and distributors by inviting 200 key figures from the music industry to the Belfast Trade Show and Music Concert - Arrange and co-ordinate meetings with Belfast and US based creative companies as part of exhibition and presence at exhibition stand - Increase the number of Belfast musicians doing business internationally by identification of potential new investment and partnerships - Increased knowledge and understanding of the opportunities available in Nashville for musicians by distributing information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arts Council support for Music Festival in Nashville - Music publicist to raise profile Belfast's music industry Liaise with Mayor's Office re Nashville music industry and current studies for business leaders outside the music industry.
Health Sector	Nashville Advisory Group	Create an opportunity for NI to engage with Nashville health care at a high level.

<p>Trade Conference in Nashville</p> <p>Health Sector Trade Mission in Belfast</p>	<p>John Butler Vice President International Business Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>US Embassy in London</p> <p>Friends of Belfast Queen's Ambassadors Programme</p>	<p>Explore potential for attracting an international conference on health care.</p>
<p>Film / Digital Media</p>	<p>Nashville Mayor's Office of Economic Development</p> <p>BCC Economic Development Unit</p>	<p>Nashville is key creative industries centre in States – research potential linkages and set up new initiatives</p>
<p>Communications Strategy</p>	<p>Key Contacts in Nashville as above.</p> <p>Mayor's Office</p> <p>Sister Cities Steering Groups</p>	<p>Implement a communications strategy from Sept 2009 onwards to ensure co-ordination between Belfast / Nashville products and links between organisations.</p> <p>Organise regular e-bulletins and updates between Sister City contacts and the Belfast Nashville Advisory Group.</p> <p>Marketing / PR / Raising Profile Sustained marketing throughout the year BBC Live TV Broadcast – Nashville equivalent Nashville Radio Broadcast of BBC Radio Ulster Belfast Nashville Programme BCC Corporate Communications and equivalent role in Mayor's office Reciprocal website coverage Tennessee / Belfast Telegraph – media partnership</p>
<p>Outward Civic Visit from Lord Mayor & Delegation</p> <p>Chair, Deputy Chair (or their nominees) and 3 Officers</p>	<p>Belfast City Council</p> <p>Tourism Ireland</p> <p>Ulster Historical Foundation</p> <p>Arts Council NI</p> <p>Belfast Nashville Songwriters' Festival</p> <p>Musicians</p>	<p>Purpose of Visit:</p> <p>To explore, agree and implement identified areas of cultural, tourism and economic development and collaboration between the two cities.</p> <p>To strengthen and enhance the partnership between the two cities and cement relationship with the Nashville Mayor and Sister Cities Team</p> <p>To co-ordinate and support the activities taking place between both cities and better maximise our relationship with Nashville</p>

	BBC	<p>Thur 11th March and Fri 12th March 2010</p> <p>Programme of civic meetings scheduled by the Nashville Sister Cities Committee in relation to the Action Plan.</p> <p>Media Launch of the Belfast Titanic Exhibition</p> <p>Media Launch of Belfast Tourism Products</p> <p>Tourism Ireland Travel Showcases</p> <p>Programme of Genealogy Tourism Workshops</p> <p>Sat 13th March</p> <p>Belfast Nashville Songwriters' Showcases re music industry and high profile public concert with Nashville and Belfast Musicians</p> <p>BBC Broadcast of Concert</p>
Inward Civic Visit from Mayor Dean and Delegation	Belfast City Council Belfast Nashville Advisory Group	<p>Develop itinerary of meetings in relation to the Belfast Nashville Action Plan and achieving economic outputs. Include</p> <p>Welcome reception with the Lord Mayor</p> <p>Identify media opportunities with Corporate Communications</p>

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	NITB Tourism Innovation Fund
Date:	16 September 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459

Relevant Background Information

NITB Tourism Innovation Fund aims to enhance the growth, quality, competitiveness and sustainability of tourism in Northern Ireland by stimulating product development and improving the visitor experience. It will provide financial assistance for non-capital projects such as creative interpretation initiatives, innovative presentation and showcasing of Northern Ireland's tourism offerings. The Fund will provide financial assistance to the public sector of up to 75% of eligible project costs, with a minimum grant of £20,000 and up to a maximum grant of £150,000. Approximately £2 million of funding is available for revenue projects which can be delivered before the end of March 2010.

Key Issues

The Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit has submitted six draft applications to Stage 1 of the Tourism Innovation Fund. The deadline for applications was 14 August 2009. The application process has two stages:

1. applications received by 14 August will be assessed against the scheme's criteria;
2. applications which score highly will be shortlisted and asked to submit a detailed business plan.

Specific timescales have not been communicated; however NITB has indicated that they aim to complete the first stage by the end of September 2009 and the second stage by mid November 2009.

A summary of the projects is attached as Appendix 1.

Resource Implications

Any successful application will require 25% match funding from Belfast City Council which has been provided within the 2009/2010 Tourism budget.

Belfast City Council's applications are based on the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit's current priorities and, if successful, the additional funding would support and significantly build on existing initiatives and budgets for the remainder of this financial year.

Recommendations

It is recommended that

- Members note the contents of the above report; and
- Agree shortlisted applications proceed to Stage 2 – preparation of business plans.

Decision Tracking

Further to agreement by Committee that the outcome of Stage 1 (shortlisting of applications) will be reported at the October Development Committee with a full breakdown of budget and resource implications.

Timeframe:

Sept – Outcome of Stage 1 (shortlisting of applications)

Oct – Report to Committee on outcome of Stage 1 (with a full breakdown of budget and resource implications)

Further to agreement by Committee, apply to Stage 2

Nov – Outcome of Stage 2 reported to Committee

Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay

Key to Abbreviations

NITB: Northern Ireland Tourist Board

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 - Belfast City Council's applications to NITB's Tourism Innovation Fund

APPENDIX 1

Tourism Innovation Fund – Belfast City Council Applications to Stage 1

Project Proposal	Fund Project Category	Description	NITB Fund	BCC Budget	Total
Sunday in the City	Visitor Servicing	To support and build on the full Sunday Action Plan approved by Development Committee in June 2008. To increase the Sunday cultural tourism offer and coordinate product development with the cultural tourism sector, particularly between the hours of 9.30am and 1pm, in particular opening of venues, street animation, Art Tourism, Christian Heritage, Creative Tourism, Family Tourism and Music Tourism.	£150,000	£50,000	£200,000
Evening Economy	Visitor Servicing	“Delight in the Twilight” – the umbrella title for a product portfolio of tactical packages, events and promotions to grow the evening and weekend economy and bring raise the prominence of our unique culinary product to improve the visitor experience. The aim is to animate the city centre with small scale indigenous, quality arts and culinary related activities in doorways, entries, streets and public spaces. This would include <i>Creative spectacles</i> of innovative activities, which form the basis of more passive tourist experiences. In addition the project will deliver slightly larger scale time-tabled activities utilizing sites in our public realm, cultural quarters and landmark venues. The programme of animation will be supported by a further drive to extend opening hours of independent retail and key service providers.	£110,000	£40,000	£150,000
Literary Tourism	Visitor Servicing	To support and build on the Literary Tourism Strategy approved by Development Committee in June 2009. The story of our literary heritage will be brought to life, it will create new found self-awareness of people and place and promote our modern culture, characters and writers, poets and playwrights on the world stage. Based on leading Case Studies from the UK’s Centre for Tourism and Cultural Change	£100,000	£58,000	£158,000

		<p>such as 'Developing the Potential of Literary Tourism' this will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Development of Literary Tours and Trails 2. A Literary application for mobile devices 3. Increasing Literary Events and Programming 4. Effective e-marketing of Literary Tourism 			
Music Tourism	Visitor Servicing	<p>To support and build on the Music Tourism Strategy approved by Development Committee in May 2008. 'Take a trip through Belfast's musical history' will bring our musical heritage to life, will create new found self-awareness of people and place and promote our modern culture, characters and artists on the world stage.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research and development to extend the contemporary music exhibition to form a celebration of our greatest artists and serve as a focal point for contemporary music in Northern Ireland. This would include interpretative style and audio content for five themed areas and working with Oh Yeah Music Centre to ensure transference of visual style to other interpretative elements. 2. An immersive and interactive online exhibition, content for Music Mobile Application and development of an online community. Using the model www.britishmusicexperience.com as a case study. Belfastmusic.org will be expanded to create a new online interactive museum of popular music (sourced on the Oh Yeah Music Exhibition). 3. Development of music and animation programmes to bring our musical story to life and invigorate existing visitor experiences. 	£114500	£38500	£153,000
The Belfast Story	Product Planning and Development	<p>Funding for the research and development of a series of innovative tour-associated product developments, with the aim of innovative visitor interpretation, which will bring stories to life and invigorate existing visitor experiences. These will also improve access to, and the dissemination of, visitor information. The projects will add to the variety of tourism products by developing tours, trails and activities that link to existing products and also provide unique products that enhance the visitor experience. These products will link with Belfast City, the river Lagan, the all island canal network, the urban, rural, built and natural environment thereby creating a Unique Selling Proposition for Belfast</p>	£50,000	£20,000	£70,000

		and Northern Ireland. The content will also dovetail with NITBs Titanic Signature Project and the 2012 celebrations by realising all of the tourism benefits.			
Research into Cultural and Creative Product Development Project on Cultural Tourism	Product Planning and Development	To commission research into Belfast City Council's future development of cultural and creative products to order to establish best practice in similar cities, identify product gaps and bring Belfast product development in line with NITB product development. Linked to the Belfast Integrated Tourism Strategy and the Belfast Integrated Cultural Strategy, the results will be adopted by the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit in order to develop an action plan for the Tourism Integrated Framework for the next five years.	£50,000	£20,000	£70,000

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Economic Appraisal of the Proposed Lagan Canal Navigation Project
Date:	16 September 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459

Relevant Background Information

Lagan Canal Navigation Project

Members will be aware of the renewed interest in Belfast's marine and river heritage generated from The Tall Ships Atlantic Challenge 2009. The Lagan Boat Rally held over the same weekend, organised by the Lagan Branch of the IWA and Belfast City Council, also animated the river and raised both the potential of the river and canal as a tourist and recreation attraction and as a potential economic generator for the city.

Members are reminded that funding of £1million has been made available by Ulster Garden Villages Limited towards the reopening of the Lagan Gateway Project Lock 1 at Stranmillis. An action plan which outlined the proposed activities to be developed in relation to the project was approved at the Development Committee meeting held on 12 September 2007 and as a result of the action plan, the Lagan Gateway Project Scoping Study and Economic Appraisals were undertaken.

The Scoping Report, noted at the Development meeting on 13 August 2008, identified a number of restoration and development works that would facilitate the re-opening of the first phase of 9 km of the Lagan river and canal from Belfast Harbour upstream to Lock 3 Shaw's Bridge. These key development sites included Queens Quay (site of the Lagan Weir), Stranmillis (the 'Lagan Gateway'), site of Lock 2 at Moreland's Meadow, river channel works, weir and canoe slalom upstream from Lock 3.

Key Issues

Economic Appraisal

The Economic Appraisal has been completed by FGS McClure Watters Consultants, and an Executive Summary is included in Appendix 1.

The Report states that the project is congruent with key national, regional and local government strategies, relating to economic, social and environmental development and has identified the benefits of opening the Lagan Navigation in terms of;

- Tourism – it will enhance the reputation of Belfast City as a tourism destination.
- Economic Development - arising from the creation and development of a unique tourism and recreational product offering; and the investment and spending that this will generate. It is envisaged that the common links between the Lagan and Belfast City's other tourist amenities, and in particular, the Titanic Signature Project, will represent the development of a significant maritime and industrial heritage themed tourism product for Belfast.
- Economic and Social - the restoration of inland waterways can potentially generate many economic and social benefits such as an increase in direct visitor spend and the creation of full time jobs.
- Heritage – the restored Lagan will provide the community with a connection with the past and will bring a sense of identity and belonging to the area.
- Recreation - the proposed infrastructural development will encourage a higher rate of participation in local water sports activities.
- Public Realm -the works will greatly enhance the public realm of this lower section of the Lagan and will see increased pressure for the improvement of the water quality due to an increased interest in the river and canal for recreation.
- Complementarities with other waterway developments - a fully restored Lagan and the restoration of the Ulster Canal would see the significant creation of an integrated east-west waterway system, create an all island waterway network and the development of a key source of economic activity for the island.
- Local Investment –the project would serve to increase the attractiveness of the recent and current developments in Belfast City as well as existing properties in the lower Lagan Corridor and will help encourage investment upstream, particularly in recreation/leisure related infrastructure and service.

The report states that the restoration of the Lagan will represent an investment which will drive the City's tourism and recreational and hospitality industries. It will result in increased visitor numbers to Belfast, increased visitor spend and the creation of jobs. It will stimulate further development of water-side properties, particularly in the tourism, recreation, hospitality and leisure sectors. The real economic impact of proposals to restore the Lagan navigation will be realised by Belfast's wider tourism, health and wellbeing activities and its recreational and hospitality industries in terms of increased visitor spend, job creation, increased tourism expenditure and the associated multiplier effects. An example of similar investment is the Huddersfield Narrow Canal which brings in £2.5m from visitors annually and in turn has led to £100m worth of investment and the creation of 800 jobs.

The Economic Appraisal recommended that in terms of the combined risk analysis, a phased full delivery of all proposed restoration works including those at Queens Quay, Lock 1, Lock 2, and river channel works up stream of Lock 3 (Shaw's Bridge) is the "preferred option" with an estimated total cost of £8,660,949. As a 'next best' option and in the event where Belfast City Council fails to secure (or at least provisionally secure) funding for the phased delivery option, they should proceed with Option 4 which are the works to Lock 1 Stranmillis Gateway with an estimated cost of £3,261,860.

Consultation

Members are reminded that discussions and meetings have been held with a number of Lagan corridor stakeholders including the DCAL, IWAI, DSD, DETI, TQL and local developers, Northern Ireland Planning Service, UWG, WI, NITB, LVRP and SBPB. Further consultation is required with the potential new key stakeholders to gain support and funding for the proposed project.

Resource Implications

The estimated total cost for the proposed Lagan Canal Navigation Project from the Lagan Weir to upstream from Lock 3 (Shaw's Bridge) is £8,660,949.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members:

- Note the content of the Economic Appraisal of the proposed Lagan Navigation Project. (A copy of the full report is available in the Members Library).
- Agree the development of further work including the assembly of a funding package from a range of sources.

Decision Tracking

An update report on potential financing options will be brought to Committee at a later point.

Timeframe: April 2010

Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay

Key to Abbreviations

IWAI - Inland Waterways Association of Ireland
DCAL - Department of Culture Arts and Leisure
DSD - Department of Social Development
UWG - Ulster Waterways Group
WI - Waterways Ireland
NITB - Northern Ireland Tourist Board
LVRP - Lagan Valley Regional Park
SBPB - South Belfast Partnership Board
DETI – Department of Enterprise Trade and Industry
TQ – Titanic Quarter Ltd

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 - Executive Summary of Economic Appraisal of the proposed Lagan Navigation Project.

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APPENDIX 1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Introduction and Background

Belfast City Council has appointed FGS McClure Watters to undertake an Economic Appraisal of the proposed Lagan navigation project.

The Lagan navigation extends from Ellis's Gut at Lough Neagh to Belfast Lough, and traverses Craigavon, Lisburn, Castlereagh and Belfast City Local Government Districts on its path. The Lagan River runs right through the heart of Belfast City. The 42 kilometres (km) of navigation is comprised of 10 km of river and 32 km of canal. The canal sections were originally constructed in 1756 to facilitate a navigable link with Belfast and coal mines in County Tyrone and to avoid obstacles in the natural river channel. The canal was formally abandoned in 1958 due to a steady decline in its traffic owing to the development of the Ulster railway and roads. (The history and profile of the Lagan is described further in section 2.2.2 of this report).

A number of feasibility and investigative studies into the reopening of the Lagan navigation Canal and the potential of the River Lagan Valley Corridor have been undertaken in earlier years. These studies confirmed that the introduction of recreational boat traffic on to the River Lagan and the re-opening of the Lagan navigation Canal is entirely feasible and would encourage recreation, tourism and regeneration of the Lagan Corridor.

Following on from these earlier feasibility studies, Lisburn City Council (then Lisburn Borough Council) made a number of applications for grant aid to support the re-opening of the Lagan navigation Canal, including an application to the Northern Ireland Tourist Board for European Funding, the Millennium Commission (1996) and the Heritage Lottery Fund (1997). The two latter funding applications were formulated as partnership projects between Lisburn City Council, Castlereagh Borough Council, Belfast City Council, Laganside Corporation and Rivers Agency. A subsequent application to the Heritage Lottery Fund was made by DCAL (2001/2002) which sought funding towards the re-opening of the Lagan navigation between Stranmillis and Union Bridge Lisburn.

It has become apparent from earlier funding applications put forward by stakeholders that the restoration of the Lagan navigation will be undertaken on an incremental / staged approach. Belfast City Council and the other major stakeholders are very mindful of this fact and have already implemented a number of initiatives (details are provided in section 2.2.4.2 of this report) including the restoration of the lock 12 and restoration of the lock keepers cottage at Newforge etc. The stakeholders in the restoration of the Lagan will continue to work collaboratively in order to progress the restoration works on a phased basis.

A number of funding opportunities have been identified going forward. In particular, the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland (ISNI) has outlined a indicative baseline fund of £18.93m for Canal Restoration of the Ulster Canal and/or the Lagan Canal over the period 2011/12 – 2017/18. This represents

potential funding which DCAL may bid for to progress the reopening of the Lagan navigation.

1.2 Belfast City Council's Proposed Project

Belfast City Council's Scoping Report undertakes a number of restoration and development works that would facilitate the re-opening of 9 km of the Lagan from Belfast Harbour to Lock 3 (Shaw's Bridge). The key development sites include:

- Queens Quay (site of the Lagan Weir);
- Stranmillis (the 'Lagan Gateway');
- Site of lock 2 at Moreland's Meadow; and
- River channel works, weir and canoe slalom upstream from Lock 3.

These sites are illustrated in Figure 1.1

Figure 1.1
Lagan Navigation from Belfast Harbour – Lock 3 (Shaw's Bridge)



Proposed works are illustrated below:

Delivery of works at **Stranmillis (Lock 1)**. This project proposes the following works:

- Removal of the pen weir and its replacement by a crescent cascade weir;
- Construction of a new lock;
- A new slipway and moorings;
- Channel and dredging works;
- Construction of an iconic foot bridge linking the end of Lockview Road and the Annadale Embankment;

- Development of a pedestrian area, ancillary works and soft landscaping;
- The provision of a commercial use building (it is proposed that this building may be used for hospitality/visitor services i.e. public toilets, café/restaurant, interpretative facilities, conference centre etc.); and
- Development of an access route.

Provision of New Lock at Queen's Quay (site adjacent to the Lagan Weir)

Belfast City Council's Scoping Report proposes the following works:

- Development of a Lock;
- Channel and dredging works;
- Surface Treatment work at the Lock; and
- Development of a pedestrian area.

At present boats have limited windows of opportunity to pass the Lagan Weir and upstream, dependent on the gates being lowered and certain tide conditions. (The layout of the East abutment of the Lagan Weir would allow this to be controlled as indicated in the outline in Appendix 1).

An update on other activities aimed at developing this site is outlined in section 2.5 of this report.

Restoration of Lock 2 at Moreland's Meadow

DCAL has statutory title for Lock 2, which is located within the local authority area of Belfast City Council.

The original pen weir at Corbie Wood has been removed and the lock chamber (Lock No 2) is heavily overgrown and partially in filled with a concrete weir. The works required to re-open this section of the navigation are as follows:

- Construction of a new control weir across the river immediately upstream of the original weir. This weir would also serve as a new gauging station site for the DARD Hydrometric Unit and a fish counting facility;
- Restoration of the lock and provision of upstream and downstream moorings; and
- Clearance of the canal channel from overhanging trees and growths and remove silt to provide adequate depth.

A Progress update on works to this Lock is detailed in section 2.3 of this report.

River channel works. weir and canoe slalom upstream from Lock 3

The river channel upstream of Lock 3 has been partially infilled and is heavily overgrown. A new weir at a lower level has replaced the original pen weir and forms the upstream step of a canoe slalom. The work required at this site is as follows:

- Demolition of the existing structure and construction of a new weir downstream of the canal cut and the construction of a side overflow weir upstream of Lock 3;
- Construct new canoe slalom downstream of the current slalom ;
- Clearance of trees and growths from the channel and excavate infill material as necessary;
- Dredging of the river where necessary; and
- Ancillary works and soft landscaping.

Further details of the restoration of Lock 3 are provided at Appendix 2.

1.3 Business Case Terms of Reference

The Lagan navigation project is the first phase of a Belfast City Council's wider ambition for the restoration of the Lagan navigation which would see the navigation restored as far as the limit of the Belfast Council Boundary. This project would require work at Stranmillis (the 'Lagan Gateway'), Queens Quay (site of the Lagan Weir), site of lock 2 (at Moreland's Meadow); and the river channel works, weir and canoe slalom upstream of Lock 3.

Belfast City Council requires that the Lagan navigation project should be examined by means of an Economic Appraisal which will explore various sustainable options to:

- Determine what is most appropriate level of development in order to meet social and economic need;
- Determine the most appropriate facilities which should be constructed; and
- Confirm that value for money is being achieved.

The Terms of Reference for the appraisal also state that a detailed examination of the content and conclusions of the scoping report prepared by Scott Wilson is required and in particular the following will be addressed:

- Assessment of the full financial implications of the proposal and provide confirmation of the financial viability of the project;
- Confirmation of the validity or other wise of the underlying assumptions and conclusions of the report; and
- Review of the qualitative benefits produced by the report in line with the proposed wider programme of restoration.

1.4 Strategic Context

We are satisfied that this project is congruent with key national, regional and local government strategies, relating to economic, social and environmental development. In particular this project will make a significant contribution to

the development of Belfast City's tourism industry and hence will support the economic regeneration of Belfast City.

The proposed Lagan navigation project represents a unique opportunity to restore an important part of Belfast's local heritage, whilst at the same time developing a key tourism product for Belfast. The development of significant cultural and maritime heritage tourism product will result in improved visitor services which will help attract greater visitor numbers to the City.

Furthermore, the development of linkages between a restored Lagan navigation and other tourism services, amenities and events/festivals will ensure that the benefits from the local tourism industry are fully exploited. The commonality of the water based/maritime history and industrial heritage theme of the Lagan and the Titanic Signature Project projects will ensure that both initiatives will work well together in promoting a strong 'water based /maritime heritage' tourism industry for the City of Belfast. The development of interpretation of this maritime/heritage tourism infrastructure will help to further bolster the City's tourism performance and will ensure a quality visitor experience. The proposal to restore the Lagan will also compliment the wider development of the City's waterside attractions, including: the Laganside Arts Trails, the Lagan Valley Regional Park, sports tourism activities e.g. kayaking, cycling, fishing etc.

A wide variety of sports and activities are already undertaken on the Lagan as well as along its banks on a daily basis. It is envisaged that a navigable Lagan would be a significant attraction for sporting enthusiasts everywhere and would represent an important project in the development of Belfast as an 'activities' holiday destination.

The restoration of the Lagan navigation to the limit of Shaw's Bridge also represents an important first step in the creation of an East-West waterway, a key tourism initiative for the whole island of Ireland. It is further proposed Belfast could be realised as a key marine gateway to this integrated waterway.

In conclusion it is envisaged that the restoration of the Lagan will represent an investment which will drive the City's tourism /recreational and hospitality industries, and will result in increased visitor numbers to Belfast, increased visitor spend and the creation of jobs. It is further proposed that the development of the Lagan will stimulate further development of water-side properties, particularly in the tourism, recreation, hospitality and leisure sectors. The real economic impact of proposals to restore the Lagan navigation will not be captured solely by projected lock receipts and mooring income, but will be realised by Belfast's wider tourism, health and wellbeing activities, recreational and hospitality industries in terms of increased visitor spend, job creation, increased tourism expenditure/associated multiplier effects etc. Belfast City Council expects that the reopened Lagan navigation would have a number of economic benefits, and according to the Scoping Study (2008) the impact of visitor expenditure on the opening of the entire Lagan Navigation (Lagan Weir to Lough Neagh) could be £2.1m per annum which would support approximately 60 full time equivalent jobs. (For information on the potential benefits of canal restoration see 4.5.1.3.)

1.5 Assessment of Need and Potential Benefits of Development

It is envisaged that the delivery of the Lagan navigation project will meet the following identified needs:

- *Tourism Need* - A significant number of Europe's major cities are built around a river/navigation and in most cases the navigation is the hive of activity, the heart of the city. In comparison Belfast's river Lagan is relatively dormant. Belfast City Council's proposals represents a unique opportunity to develop the undeveloped Lagan and its associated amenities as a major visitor attraction in Belfast City;
- *Socio-Economic Need* - According to the Northern Ireland Index of Multiple Deprivation statistics Belfast LGD is the second most deprived LGD out of the 26 LGDs after Strabane. On the Income Scale measure Belfast LGD is ranked the most deprived LGD. There are 82,986 people in Belfast LGD experiencing Income Deprivation;
- *Physical Infrastructural need* – the weir proposed as part of the works for Stranmillis will solve the erosion problem of the bed downstream of the weir; it will eliminate operational and maintenance requirements for the existing pen weir, and will reduce upstream flood levels between Stranmillis and Lagan Meadows;
- *Navigational Need* - The absence of operating lock chambers at Queen's Quay, Stranmillis (Lock 1) and Moreland's Meadow (Lock 2) represents a major infrastructural deficit, one which needs to be addressed if the Lagan is to be re-opened to boats again. At present boats from Belfast Lough can access the lower reaches of the Lagan navigation as far as Stranmillis weir, however passage past the Lagan Weir in the Harbour is subject to favourable tides;
- *Displacement*- The delivery of this project will create an enhanced visitor experience, while also ensuring that the tourism benefits from the Titanic Quarter developments are fully exploited. It is anticipated that it will support /compliment other visitor facilities / attractions rather than displace them. It should be noted that the project includes plans for the development of a commercial use facility at Stranmillis. It is proposed that this building will have a wide range of functions, some of which may include café/restaurant, interpretative facilities, conference centre.
- *Additionality* – It is not expected that this canal development initiative will be facilitated by a private developer. This therefore highlights the need for public funding and grant aid support to ensure that this key project goes ahead. An example of Belfast City's commitment can be witnessed through projects like the development of the city's Gasworks site.

It is envisaged that the delivery of the Lagan navigation project will bestow many benefits on the City of Belfast and the surrounding areas. These benefits can be categorised as follows:

- *Tourism* - A restored and fully operational Lagan navigation would also help to enhance the reputation of Belfast City as a tourism destination. The public realm impact of the proposed works would greatly boost the image of the Laganside area of the City, and in particular the nature of the heritage themed infrastructure proposed. This would boost the attractiveness of Belfast as a tourism and event destination;
- *Heritage Impact* - Belfast City Council's Proposals represents an important step in ensuring that this important part of Belfast history and maritime and industrial heritage is not lost. It is proposed that restored Lagan will provide the community with a connection with the past and will bring a sense of identify and belonging to the area;
- *Recreational Impact* - This Lagan corridor and LVRP supports a wide range of recreational activities, including angling, canoeing/kayaking, rowing, walking cycling. A profile of the popular activities is included at appendix 8. The enhanced public realm and the structural and aesthetic improvements along the Lagan will evoke a renewed sense of interest in this section of the Lagan among the local community leading to people choosing to visit more often and engage in physical activity. It is also proposed that the infrastructural development proposed by the Lagan navigation project will encourage a higher rate of participation in these local water sports activities;
- *Public Realm Benefits* -The delivery of a number of key restoration and development works will greatly enhance the public realm of this lower section of the Lagan. It is also proposed that the development of the Lagan navigation will see increased pressure for the improvement of the water quality in the waterway due to an increased interest in the river and canal for recreation;
- *Complementarity with other waterway developments* - A fully restored Lagan and the restoration of the Ulster Canal would see the significant creation of an integrated east-west waterway system, presenting boat enthusiasts with the opportunity to sail North-South and East West. It is proposed that the creation of all island waterway network, would represent a unique tourism attraction for boating enthusiasts, both domestic and foreign leading to a significant growth in the boating tourism industry in Ireland, North and South, and the development of a key source of economic activity for the island; and
- *Economic and Social Benefits* - The "*Socio Economic Study of the Ulster Canal*" (PricewaterhouseCoopers, 2006) includes a literature review of a range of research reports on the impacts of waterway restoration. The findings from the PricewaterhouseCoopers report confirm that the

restoration of inland waterways can potentially generate many economic and social benefits for example, an increase in direct visitor spend as a result of the proposed works at Stranmillis would create 5-6 full time equivalent jobs. (Further details are included in section 4.5.1 of this report).

- *Economic Development* arising from the creation and development of a unique tourism/recreational product offering, and the investment and spending and that this will generate. It is envisaged that the common links between the Lagan and Belfast City's other tourist amenities and in particular, the Titanic Signature Project, will represent the development of a significant maritime/industrial heritage themed tourism product for Belfast. The synergy created by these unique products will help to strengthen Belfast appeal as a 'must see' visitor/tourist destination at both home and abroad. It is anticipated that the improved navigability of this lower section of the Lagan will also attract boating enthusiasts from Belfast Lough to visit and spend time in the City. For example the Rochdale Canal receives around 3.8m visits a year which in turn generates approximately £4m in the city; (Further details are included in section 4.5.1 of this report).
- *Local Investment* - It is proposed that a restored Lagan navigation would serve to increase the attractiveness of the recent/current developments in Belfast City as well as existing properties in the lower Lagan Corridor. It is further proposed that the programme of restoration and development works proposed by the Lagan navigation project will help to encourage investment upstream of the Laganside area of the City, particularly in recreation/leisure related infrastructure and service. An example of investment is the Huddersfield Narrow Canal which brings in £2.5m from visitors annually, and in turn has led to £100m worth of investment and 800 jobs; (Further details are included in section 4.5.1 of this report).

1.6 Objectives and Constraints

1.6.1 Project Aim

Belfast City Council's main aim is:

"To re-open for navigation the Lagan from the harbour area to Lock 3- a project of national and regional significance forming a key part of the development of a Gateway into an all island waterway network".

The project's secondary aims are:

- To develop a major "natural" tourist attraction.
- To enhance the natural environment along the river corridor
- To maximise tourism and recreation activity on and alongside the Lagan;

- To promote urban regeneration along the waterside; and
- To develop and promote the Lagan navigation as a cultural and historical facility and a heritage asset.

1.6.2 Project Objectives

The SMART objectives¹ emanating from the above aims are:

- To facilitate the re-opening of 9 km of the Lagan from Belfast Harbour to upstream from Lock 3 by end of 2013;
- To generate a capital investment of at least £8.7 million in Belfast's water based tourism/recreational offering by end of 2013; and
- To ensure the conservation of Lock 2 – a scheduled monument, by end of 2013.
- To measure the Return on Investment including the broader Economic Impacts of the project.

1.6.3 Possible Project Constraints

A number of factors may potentially act as constraints on the project in achieving its objectives:

- Availability of capital funding;
- Physical considerations of the navigation; and
- Planning considerations linked to the environment

Further details on potential constraints are included at Section 5.4 of this report.

1.7 Identification of Options

Section 6 of this report identifies that a long list of options were produced by considering the works at different locations of the navigation and potential phasing of works. The long list was then refined to produce the following short list of options:

- **Option 1:** Do Nothing, included as a base case against which all other options will be assessed as per HM Treasury guidance;
- **Option 2:** Works to Queen's Quay & Lock 1;
- **Option 3:** Works to Queen's Quay, Lock 1 & Lock 2;

¹ SMART Objectives are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time bound

- **Option 4:** Works to Lock 1 only;
- **Option 5:** Works to Lock 1 and Lock 2;
- **Option 6:** Works to Lock 1, Lock 2 and river channel works, canoe slalom and weir upstream of Lock 3;
- **Option 7:** Full delivery of all proposed restoration works including those at:
 - Queens Quay
 - Lock 1
 - Lock 2 (inclusive of associated building and bridge works); and
 - River channel works, canoe slalom and weir up stream of Lock 3.
- **Option 8:** Phased full delivery of all proposed restoration works. Scott Wilson (Consulting Engineers) has advised that sequence of works to be delivered as part of this phasing approach, should follow be undertaken in the following order:
 1. Queen's Quay.
 2. Lock 1;
 3. Lock 2;
 4. River channel works, canoe slalom and weir up stream from Lock 3; and

1.8 Monetary Costs and Benefits

1.8.1 Capital Costs

Capital costs are comprised of the construction costs, necessary fittings and equipment and associated professional fees. The capital costs for proposed works at the four sites have been provided by Scott Wilson.

Optimism bias is the demonstrated systematic tendency for people to be over-optimistic about the outcome of planned actions. This includes over-estimating the likelihood of positive events and under-estimating the likelihood of negative events. Appraisers are therefore required to make explicit adjustments to cost estimates, projected benefits and timescales (over which the costs and benefits are assumed to be accrued), so as to address a systematic tendency for project appraisers to be overly optimistic.

Capital Expenditure related Optimism Bias has been calculated at 12%. Appendix 12 provides an overview of how the capital expenditure optimism bias figure was generated for the proposed project. This figure was

developed in consultation with Scott Wilson and is in addition to the identified contingencies.

In addition to OB, contingencies of 8% have been included by Scott Wilson. These contingencies account for the requirement of an Environmental Impact Study, additional legal fees, the requirement of a site investigation and the site characteristics relating to archaeological findings. The combined contingency and Optimism Bias figure is 20%.

Table 1.3 illustrates the impact of Optimism Bias on each of the short listed options:

Table 1.3
Optimism Bias Adjustments Capital Costs

Costs	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6	Option 7	Option 8
Capital Costs	-	4,674,38 9.08	6,352,28 9.49	2,718,21 6.68	4,396,11 7.10	5,261,28 5.43	7,217,45 7.83	7,217,45 7.83
Combined Optimism Bias 20%	-	934,877. 82	1,270,45 7.90	543,643. 34	879,223. 42	1,052,25 7.09	1,44,349 1.57	1,44,349 1.57
Adjusted Capital Cost	-	5,609,26 6.90	7,622,74 7.39	3,261,86 0.02	5,275,34 0.52	6,313,54 2.52	8,660,94 9.40	8,660,94 9.40

Works duration Optimism Bias of 8% has been calculated for each of the project elements which allows for an additional 2.88 months to the timescale for each project element

1.8.2 Opportunity Costs

This relates to “the value of the most valuable of alternative uses” (HMT Green Book). The majority of the access facilities to the development sites at Stranmillis, Moreland’s Meadow, and the river channel are owned by DCAL. These facilities serve the Lagan Valley Regional Park towpath and are for recreational use.

Lagan Lands East (situated on the east of the Lagan across from Lockview Road at Stranmillis) has been earmarked to facilitate a commercial use building and associated access route. Lagan Land’s East is owned by Belfast City Council’s Asset and a £1 community value in accordance with CIPFA Regulations.

1.8.3 Capital Replacement Requirements and Residual Values

Scott Wilson advised that gates, penstocks and ladders within each lock will need to be replaced every 25 years, estimated at approximately £150,000 per lock. Dredging will also need to take place at each of the sites every ten years.

Residual values for each option are based on the 'usable life' of each component of the capital works at the end of year 25. Capital works with a residual value at year 25 includes the lock structures, weirs, slipways and moorings, channel, pedestrian areas, the canoe slalom at Shaw's Bridge and the access route, building and bridge at Stranmillis. Scott Wilson has indicated that these capital works all have a useable life of 50 years and residual values have been calculated on this basis.

1.8.4 Recurrent Costs and Revenue Generation

The projected annual operating costs and income for each of the short listed options in their first year of operation are detailed in the table below: (Full assumptions employed in the calculation of the running cost and income projections are included at Appendices 13 and 14 respectively).

Table 1.4
Summary of Annual Revenue and Costs (Year 1)

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6	Option 7	Option 8
Mooring/Lock Receipts	-	3,293	6,104	1,985	2,740	2,740	6,104	1,985
Lease of Building at Stranmillis	-	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
Overall Revenue		10,293	13,104	8,985	9,740	9,740	13,104	8,985
Staff Cost	-	20,000 (plus £7,000 once off)	20,000 (plus £7,000 once off)	12,500 (plus £7,000 once off)	20,000 (plus £7,000 once off)	20,000 (plus £7,000 once off)	20,000 (plus £7,000 once off)	12,500 (plus £7,000 once off)
Overhead Cost ²	2,000	36,000	52,000	27,000	36,000	45,000	61,000	27,000
YEAR 1 TOTAL OPERATING COST	2,000	63,000	79,000	46,500	63,000	72,000	88,000	46,500
YEAR 1 OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	(2,000)	(52,707)	(65,896)	(37,515)	(53,260)	(62,260)	(74,896)	(37,515)

The above table highlights that each 'do something' option produces a deficit for the first years of operation. However the project's financial projections indicate that these deficits decrease following the first three years of operation, as the number of visitors to the Lagan rise. Marketing will play a significant role in increasing the profile of the Lagan as a tourist destination.

N.B As highlighted in section 4 of this report, the real economic impact of proposals to restore the Lagan navigation will not be captured solely by projected lock receipts and mooring income, but will be realised by Belfast's wider tourism / recreational and hospitality industries in terms of increased visitor spend..

1.9 Calculation of Net Present Costs

The Net Present Cost (NPC) calculations have been undertaken over a 25 year period. In line with the appraisal guidance a discount factor of 3.5% has

² Marketing and promotion costs are expected to fall following year 1

been used in the NPC calculations. Inflation has not been included in the analysis.

Table 1.5
Net Present Cost / Value Calculations

Net Present Cost/Value Calculations		
	NPC £	Ranking
Option 1: Maintain 'status quo'	£8,079	1
Option 2: Works to Lock 1 and Queen's Quay	£4,832,417	5
Option 3: Works to Lock 1, Queen's Quay and Lock 2	£6,595,342	7
Option 4: Works to Lock 1	£2,803,455	2
Option 5: Works to Lock 1 and Lock 2	£4,657,299	4
Option 6: Works to Lock 1, Lock 2 and river channel works upstream from Lock 3	£5,636,008	6
Option 7: Delivery of the full restoration of the Lagan navigation from Belfast Harbour to the village of Lock 3	£7,574,052	8
Option 8: Phased Delivery of the full restoration of the Lagan navigation from Belfast Harbour to upstream from Lock 3	£4,457,287	3

From a quantitative perspective Option 4 emerges as the highest ranked 'Do Something' option having the lowest NPC. A detailed breakdown of the NPC calculations is shown in Appendix 15.

1.10 Non Monetary Costs and Benefits

A qualitative assessment of the identified options has been carried out through a weighted scoring method using the criteria and weightings identified in Table 1.6 below.

Table 1.6
Non Monetary/Qualitative Assessment Criteria and Weightings

Criteria	Weighting
Tourism Development / Regeneration Potential	30
Heritage Impact	25
Leisure/recreational impact	20
Complementarity with the campaign to re-open the entire Lagan Navigation and linkages with other waterways	15
Environmental /Aesthetic Impact	10
Total	100

The scores allocated to the short listed options are identified in Table 1.7 below

Table 1.7
Non-Monetary Criteria Scores by Option

Criteria	Weight	Option 1 Score	Option 2 Score	Option 3 Score	Option 4 Score	Option 5 Score	Option 6 Score	Option 7 Score	Option 8 Score
Tourism Development / Regeneration Potential	30	0	8 (240)	10 (300)	5 (150)	6 (180)	7 (210)	10 (300)	10 (300)
Heritage Impact	25	0	7 (175)	9 (225)	6 (150)	7 (175)	7 (175)	10 (250)	10 (250)
Leisure/recreational impact	20	0	7 (140)	10 (200)	5 (100)	7 (140)	7 (140)	10 (200)	10 (200)
Future Complementarity	15	0	6 (90)	9 (135)	5 (75)	6 (90)	7 (105)	10 (150)	10 (150)
Environmental /Aesthetic Impact	10	0	8 (80)	9 (90)	5 (50)	6 (60)	7 (70)	10 (100)	10 (100)
Total Weighted Score	100	N/A	725	950	525	645	700	1,000	1,000
Ranking		8	4	3	7	6	5	1	1

The rationale behind the scoring of each option is explained in Section 9.4.1 of this report. From a qualitative perspective Options 7 and 8 emerge as the joint highest ranked options having the highest non-monetary score.

1.11 Risk Assessment and Uncertainty

1.11.1 Non monetary Risks

Key areas of risk and uncertainty identified include:

- Availability of Funding;
- A potential overrun in project cost and/or delivery timescale;
- Planning Permission;
- The potential impact of the proposed project on sensitive landscapes;
- The impact of the proposed project on fauna;
- Potential impact of the proposed works on the spread of invasive species;

- Inability to agree an access road route for the site at Stranmillis due to land ownership; issues;
- Inability to facilitate new pedestrian links at Stranmillis due to land ownership issues;
- The inability to manage an increase in visitor numbers and increased boat traffic; and
- Boats restricted from accessing the Lagan due to safety restriction on the movement of visiting pleasure craft in Belfast Harbour.

Further details on the probability and impact for these risks for each of the options considered are included in section 10.2 of this report

1.11.2 Monetary Risk / Sensitised NPC's

The issue of project risk is assessed by the application of a sensitivity analysis to each of the project options. The sensitivity analysis has been applied by introducing the following variations:

- An increase in the operating expenditure by 25%;
- A decrease in revenue by 10%; and
- A combination of both i.e. an increase in the operating expenditure by 25% and a decrease in revenue by 10%.

Results of the sensitivity analysis are detailed in section 10.3.1 of this report.

1.12 Identification of the Preferred Option

The following table summarises the results of our monetary and non-monetary analysis.

Table 1.8
Monetary and Non Monetary Results

	NPC (£000s)	Rank	Non- Monetary Score	Rank	NPC/ Non- Monetary Score	Rank
Option 1: Maintain 'status quo'	£8,079	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Option 2: Works to Lock 1 and Queen's Quay	£4,832,417	5	725	3	6,665	3
Option 3: Works to Lock 1, Queen's Quay and Lock 2	£6,595,342	7	950	2	6,942	4
Option 4: Works to Lock 1	£2,803,455	2	525	6	5,340	2
Option 5: Works to Lock 1 and Lock 2	£4,657,299	4	645	5	7,221	5
Option 6: Works to Lock 1, Lock 2 and river channel works upstream from Lock 3	£5,636,008	6	700	4	8,051	7
Option 7: Delivery of the full restoration of the Lagan navigation from Belfast Harbour to the village of Lock 3	£7,574,052	8	1,000	1	7,574	6
Option 8: Phased Delivery of the full restoration of the Lagan navigation from Belfast Harbour to upstream from Lock 3	£4,457,287	3	1,000	1	4,457	1

1.12.1 Conclusions and Recommendations

Table 1.8 identifies that Option 1 achieves the highest rank in quantitative terms (as measured by Net Present Cost) and the lowest in qualitative terms (as measured by non monetary scores). Of the 'do something' options, Option 7 ranks lowest in quantitative terms and joint highest (with Option 8) in the qualitative assessment.

When the quantitative and qualitative analysis are considered together (as reflected in terms of Net Present Cost per weighted score), Option 8 scores the highest of the 'do something' options, followed closely by Option 4. Option 8 proposes the phased delivery of the programme of restoration and

development works as proposed by Belfast City Council. Option 4 proposes the delivery of works at Lock 1 only.

As discussed in section 10.2 of this report, Option 8, the phased delivery of Belfast City Council's proposals, is open to a greater level of risk compared to Option 4, the delivery of works at Lock 1. In particular the funding risk is significantly higher for Option 8 given its larger capital cost (Option 8 - £8,660,949 vs. Option 4 - £3,261,860) and running cost projections.

We would conclude that in terms of combined qualitative and quantitative analysis (as measured by NPC per non monetary score) as well as the risk analysis, **Option 8: Phased Delivery of the full restoration of the Lagan navigation from Belfast Harbour to the village of Lock 3 is the "preferred option" for delivery subject to all the identified risks being satisfactorily addressed. We would recommend that Option 4 represents a 'next best' option. In the event where Belfast City Council fails to secure (or at least provisionally secure) funding for the phased delivery option, they should proceed with Option 4.**

1.13 Financing, Management, Marketing, Monitoring and Evaluation

1.13.1 Project Financing

The cost of the preferred option is as follows:

Table 1.9
Preferred Option Cost

Cost	£ (excluding VAT)
Option 8	7,217,458
Optimism Bias	1,44,3491
Total Cost (excluding VAT)	8,660,949

The table below outlines the funding secured to date:

Table 1.10
Funding secured toward the restoration of the Lagan navigation from Belfast Harbour to upstream from Lock 3

Funding Source	£ (excluding VAT)	Primary Use
Ulster Garden Villages	1,000,000	Lock 1 at Stranmillis
Landfill Communities Fund distribution programme, Better Belfast	50,000	Provision of one set of Lock doors for Lock2 at Moreland's Meadows
Ulster Waterway Group	8,750	Provision of one set of Lock doors for Lock2 at Moreland's Meadows
Northern Ireland Co-op	1,300	Restoration of Lock 2
Total Funding Secured to	£1,060,050	

date		
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There is a short fall of £7,600,899 between the cost of the preferred option and the funding secured. It should be noted that phase one will be the delivery of the works at Lock 1, costed at £3,261,860 (inclusive of Optimism Bias/Contingencies of 20%). There is a shortfall of £2,261,860 for this first phase. It should also be noted that a commitment to the funding of ongoing capital replacement and maintenance costs is required.

Lagan Valley Regional Park secured funding through the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure and Heritage Lottery Fund for the refurbishment of Lock 3, which lies within the Castlereagh local authority boundary. Castlereagh Borough Council and Heritage Lottery have funded the refurbishment of the Lock Keepers Cottage and the Lock Keepers Visitors Centre has been funded through Castlereagh Borough Council and DETI (Building Sustainable Prosperity programme). Development of the canal link from Lock 3, upstream through to the river, is required for the Lagan navigation project to be realised.

A number of potential sources of public and private funding have been identified, the details of which are included in Section 12.2 of this report.

1.13.1 *Project Management*

Section 12 of this report provides proposed arrangements for the management, marketing and monitoring/evaluation of the proposed development.

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Culture and Arts Funding
Date:	16 September 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives ext 3459

Relevant Background Information

To provide an update to the Committee on Culture and Arts funding schemes:

Multi Annual Fund

The total value of the Multi Annual Fund 2009/2010 is £690,360. Sixteen organisations receive a Multi Annual Funding package towards carrying out their work and creating programmes of arts or heritage activities which benefit people living, working or visiting Belfast. A breakdown of the organisations receiving support is attached as Appendix 1. The programme is currently in year 2 and the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit are due to conduct a mid term evaluation in October 2009.

Annual Fund

The total value of the Annual Fund 2009/2010 is £298,847. The programme was opened on 10 November and closed on 19 December 2008. 37 organisations received funding. A list is attached as Appendix 2. A mid term evaluation of the programme is due to begin in October 2009. The Annual Fund 2010/2011 is due to be opened for applications on the 9 October and to close on the 20 November 2010.

Community Festivals Fund

The total value for the Community Festivals Fund 2009/2010 is £154,600. The scheme is delivered on a quarterly basis and communities receive grants between £2,500 and £10,000. An external consultant was appointed to manage the assessment and evaluation process. The Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit moderate all applications and the Director has delegated authority for approvals.

The first tranche of the Community Festivals Fund opened on 9 January and closed 20 February 2009 for Festivals taking place between 1 April–30 June 2009. 24 applications were received of which 6 were successful, with £32,000 awarded overall.

The second tranche of the fund opened on 6 March and closed 17 April 2009 for Festivals taking place from 1 July-30 September 2009. 30 applications were received of which 10 were successful, with £45,958 awarded overall.

The third tranche opened on 5 June and closed 17 July 2009 for festivals taking place between 1 October and 31 December 2009. 11 applications were received and are currently being assessed.

The fourth tranche is due to open on Friday 4 September and close 16 October 2009 for festivals taking place between 1 January and 31 March 2010.

An operating budget of 10% i.e. £15,460, has been set aside for the administration of the scheme.

Development and Outreach Initiative

The Development and Outreach Initiative aims to build capacity and boost cultural activity in communities with weak cultural infrastructure through a partnership approach. It is aimed at the top 50% Super Output Areas. The budget for 2009/2010 is £165,000 and the Committee approved 13 partnership projects in April 2009. These are attached as Appendix 3. Partner meetings to review progress are ongoing.

Creative Legacies

Creative Legacies is a £350,000 enhanced Development and Outreach programme that aims to contribute to the development of Belfast as a shared cultural space. Arts and community organisations were invited to establish partnerships and submit proposals for an 18 month Programme of Activity aimed at Super Output Areas and marginalised communities. The deadline for quotations closed on Monday 24 August for programmes taking place from October 2009 to December 2010. 27 proposals were submitted. There will be ten projects awarded funding of £25,000 each. These proposals are being assessed at present and will be presented to the Good Relations Steering Group for approval.

A part time Public Arts and Community Co-ordinator, has been appointed under the Creative Legacies to support implementation of the programme and will be in post from 1 October 2009. Geraldine Wilkins has successfully tendered to be the external evaluator and the Community Arts Forum has been successful in their tender to carryout research.

Rolling Programme

The Rolling Programme supports innovation in Arts and Heritage. Grants are available for individual organisations of £500 to £3000. The Director has delegated authority to approve applications. The total budget for 2009/2010 is £29,000 and £7200 has been awarded. A breakdown of applicants is attached as Appendix 4.

Resource Implications

The Multi Annual Fund, Annual Fund, Community Festivals Fund, Development and Outreach Initiative and Rolling Programme are all included in the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit Business Plan for 2009/2010 and delivered within the approved budget and resources for 2009/2010.

The Creative Legacies Programme is funded through Peace III.

Recommendations

It is recommended that

- Members note the contents of the above report
- Agree to open the Annual Fund 2010/2011 for applications in November 2009.

Decision Tracking

A further update will be provided to the Committee in February 2010 including approval for Annual Fund applicants 2010/2011.

Time line: February 2010 Reporting Officer: Shirley MCay

Documents Attached

- Appendix 1 Multi Annual Fund Organisations 2009/2010
- Appendix 2 Successful Annual Fund organisations 2009/2010
- Appendix 3 Development and Outreach partners
- Appendix 4 Successful Rolling Programme projects 2009/2010 (to date)

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Multi-Annual Funding 2009/10

Organisation
Beat Initiative
Belfast Community Circus School
Belfast Exposed Community Photography
Belfast Festival at Queens
Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival
Cinemagic Ltd
Crescent Arts Centre
Feile an Phobail
Grand Opera House Trust
Linen Hall Library
Lyric Theatre
New Belfast Community Arts Initiative
Northern Visions
Old Museum Arts Centre
Ulster Orchestra Society Limited
Young at Art

Annual Funding 2009/10

Organisation
Andersonstown Traditional and Contemporary Music School
Arts and Disability Forum
Arts Care
ArtsEkta
Belfast Film Festival
Belfast Philharmonic Society
Belfast Print Workshop
Bruiser Theatre Company
Cahoots NI
Catalyst Arts Ltd
Community Arts Forum
Creative Exchange
Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich
Dance United NI
East Belfast Arts Collective
Festival of Fools
Golden Thread Gallery
Greenshoot Productions Ltd
Kabosh Productions
Kids in Control
Maiden Voyage (NI) Ltd
Moving on Music
Music Theatre 4 Youth
New Lodge Arts
Northern Ireland Music Industry Commission
Open House Traditional Arts Festival Ltd
Ormeau Baths Gallery Ltd
Play Resource Warehouse
Prime Cut Productions
Queen Street Studios
Queen's Film Theatre
Replay Productions
Source Magazine / Photo Works North
Streetwise Community Circus Workshops
Tinderbox Theatre Company
WheelWorks
YouthAction Northern Ireland's Rainbow

Development and Outreach 2009/10 Partners

Organisation	Partner 1	Partner 2	Partner 3	Partner 4	Partner 5
ArtsEkta	Concorde Community Centre	Belfast Exposed			
Beat Initiative	Hammer Community Complex Committee	Salisbury Special Olympics			
Belfast Exposed Photography	Arts for All	Conservation Volunteers	Groundwork NI		
Beyond Skin	Elmgrove Community Group & Primary School	The Bridge (Education by Choice)			
Golden Thread Gallery	North Belfast Interface Network	Ardoyne Youth Club	Deanby Youth Club		
Greater Shankill Partnership	Belfast Computer Clubhouse	Spectrum Centre	Artbility		
Lower North Belfast Community Council	Arts for All	Ulster Scots Community Network	Small Steps Adult Education Group		
New Lodge Arts	Holy Family Youth Centre	Artillery Youth Centre			
Northern Visions	East Belfast Historical Society	East Belfast Community Development Agency	Spectrum Centre		
Old Museum Arts Centre	New Lodge Arts	Greater Village Regeneration Trust (GVRT)			
Prime Cut Productions	Westland Community Group	New Lodge Arts	Maiden Voyage Dance Co		
Streetwise Community Circus Workshop	Open Arts	Extending the Choice			
Trans Urban Arts/ Sonic Music	Youthnet	Belfast Exposed	Bruised Fruit	Soundlines	Alternative Ulster
Wheelworks	Concorde Community Centre	Belfast Exposed			
YouthAction Northern Ireland's Rainbow	Ballymacarret Friendship Trust	Ballymurphy Women's Centre			

Rolling Programme 2009/10

Organisation
Belfast Community Circus School
EPIC
Happenstance Theatre Company
St George's Singer
The HUBB Association
Woodvale & Cambria Youth and Community Group

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Economic Development Unit Update
Date:	16 September 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459

Relevant Background Information**1. Shopmobility Belfast – request for financial support**

Members will be aware that, over the last five years, Shopmobility has received financial assistance from Belfast City Council through the Economic Development Unit. Prior to 2007, this support was match funded by EU funds. However this activity is no longer eligible for match-funding from the EU and therefore this request for support relates to Council rates monies only. The organisation also receives some small levels of support from the Parks and Leisure Department for work undertaken in the Parks and Open Spaces.

2. Social Economy Enterprise Strategy Consultation

Members are advised that, in early August 2009, DETI launched a consultation exercise on a proposed Social Economy Enterprise Strategy for the period 2009-2011. The closing date for the consultation is 9 October 2009.

3. Proposal from GEMS NI

Members will be aware that, at the April 2009 Development Committee, a number of employability projects were submitted for co-funding. Following some discussion, Committee agreed to match fund these projects for one more year only and not to accept any further requests for match funding of employability initiatives.

Recently GEMS NI has submitted a proposal to Belfast City Council entitled Belfast Job Search Services. The project is not match funded from other sources. The funding request to Belfast City Council is for £40,000 to support this project.

4. Request for change of representation on Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme management structures

Members will be aware that at the Development Committee of 14 November 2007, approval was given for Belfast City Council to cluster with Lisburn City Council and Castlereagh Borough Council for the delivery of Axis 3 of the Northern Ireland Rural

Development Programme (NIRDP).

Members will also be aware that at the Development Committee of 9 April 2008, approval was given for the Chairman of Development to represent Belfast City Council on the Strategic Joint Committee (SJC) and the Deputy Chairman of Development to represent Belfast City Council on the Local Action Group (LAG).

The SJC is made up of Elected Members from the three Council areas. It meets on a quarterly basis and has lead financial responsibility to accept, reject or defer decisions made by the LAG. The LAG is made up of Elected Members from the three Council areas as well as social partners representatives. It is responsible for assessing applications and makes recommendations for acceptance/deferral or rejection to the SJC.

Applications for a number of the measures have now opened and project promoters from Belfast are currently preparing applications for submission to upcoming calls.

5. Cities of the Isles (COTI)

Members will be aware that, along with Dublin, Liverpool, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Cardiff, Belfast is a member of the Cities of the Isles (COTI) network.

The cities engage in collaborative activity in the field of economic development and regeneration and an annual event on these key themes is organised for key elected members and officers. The next meeting is to take place in Edinburgh in October 2009.

6. Update of Council Local Economic Development (LED) Plan

Members will be aware that the current LED plan "Staying Competitive" runs from 2006-2010. It is proposed that preparatory work on the development of a new plan to run from 2010 gets under way in the coming months with a view to developing a City-wide Integrated Economic/ Business Development Strategy from 2011.

Key Issues

1. Shopmobility Belfast – request for financial support

Shopmobility Belfast provides motorised scooters and manual wheelchairs, free of charge, to enable those with mobility problems to access the city centre and surrounding areas.

The organisation is based at a number of locations in the city and it also provides an outreach service at events such as Rose Week and the Balmoral Show. The organisation also has placed a number of scooters at Belfast Zoo and in Ormeau Park.

Shopmobility Belfast has recently carried out a survey which indicates that a typical member using the service brought two other shoppers with them and spent around £50 in the City.

The organisation's running costs for the year are around £280,000. They have asked Belfast City Council for a contribution of £25,000 towards this budget.

Resource Implications

The request from Shopmobility is for £25,000 for this financial year (2009/2010).

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members agree to the proposed allocation of funding, subject to agreement of a work plan, in conjunction with Belfast City Centre Management (BCCM).

Decision Tracking

No decision tracking required if recommendation is accepted – funding will be allocated, subject to a legal agreement.

2. Social Economy Enterprise Strategy Consultation

The consultation paper issued by the Department for Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) in August 2009 has three key objectives. These are:

- To increase the awareness of the sector and establish its value to the local economy
- To develop the sector and increase its business strength
- To create a supportive and enabling environment.

Members are reminded that, as part of the Review of Public Administration (RPA), responsibility for a range of initiatives – including the Social Entrepreneurship Programme (SEP) will transfer to local authorities. DETI will, however, retain policy responsibility through the social economy strategy.

The draft Belfast City Council response to this consultation is attached as Appendix 1. The key elements of Council's response include:

- Endorsement of further, targeted support for the sector with confirmation of the council's own direct commitment to pre-enterprise support for the social economy (in conjunction with the Local Enterprise Agency (LEA) network)
- Proposal for an increase in the targets of the Social Entrepreneurship Programme in the Belfast City Council area
- Suggestion that Councils (including Belfast City Council) need to be part of the proposed Social Economy Policy Group (SEPG) given our responsibility for delivering actions in this field, particularly post-2011
- Councils should also be involved in the strategy monitoring process, in order to ensure that initiatives undertaken are being targeted at the most appropriate groups.

Resource Implications

No specific resource implications associated with this strategy.

Recommendations

It is proposed that members note and agreed the proposed Belfast City Council response to the consultation on the Social Economy Enterprise Strategy 2009-2011.

Decision Tracking

No decision tracking required if recommendation is accepted – response to be submitted to DETI in advance of the 9 October 2009 deadline.

3. Proposal from GEMS NI

The proposal incorporates a range of support measures for people in the Greater Belfast area who have lost their jobs or are facing redundancy as a result of the economic downturn. In essence the proposal includes 4 key services:

- A marketing campaign to raise awareness of the service
- A dedicated telephone helpline/web portal/community friendly access points and a Job Ops Shop – the latter to be held in GEMS twice a week – all elements of which are aimed at engaging with the newly unemployed
- A menu of employment access support e.g., help with CVs/application forms/interview skills/skills and training opportunities and referrals to other support services
- Engagement with employers/sector skills bodies/SMEs on market needs and opportunities for the newly unemployed.

The duration of the project is 9 months at a cost of £40,000 (£8,000 of which is to cover the costs central admin costs including the helpline).

In discussion with GEMS NI, they indicated that they were aware that Council has not set aside resources to support this activity. It was therefore suggested that officers would discuss the proposal with Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) in order to see whether they might support this proposal.

DEL staff expressed concern that there would be duplication with the services already on offer through the Department and noted that they would therefore not be in a position to financially support this proposal in partnership with Council.

Resource Implications

The budget for this work over a 9 month period would be £40,000.

Recommendations

It is recommended that, given the lack of funding within Council, this proposal is not funded. However it may be pertinent to open discussions with DEL about future activity in this area, in order to ensure a coordinated support plan across the city.

Decision Tracking

No decision tracking required if recommendation is accepted.

4. Request for change of representation on Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme management structures

The political representation on the Strategic Joint Committee and the Local Action Group is weighted across the three Council areas to ensure an appropriate balance.

Given the change of Chairman and Deputy Chairman of Belfast City Council's Development Committee in June this year, this will create an imbalance in the political structures on the two bodies. None of the political affiliations from any of the other Councils have changed.

In light of this situation, a request has been received from the programme secretariat that the Deputy Chairman of the Development Committee be represented on the Strategic Joint Committee and that the Chairman of the Development Committee be represented on the Local Action Group.

Resource Implications

No resource commitments

Recommendations

It is recommended that members agree to the proposal that the Deputy Chairman of the Development Committee be represented on the Strategic Joint Committee and that the Chairman of the Development Committee be represented on the Local Action Group.

Decision Tracking

No decision tracking applicable – decision to be actioned if agreed.

5. Cities of the Isles (COTI)

The 2009 summit event for the Cities of the Isles network will take place in Edinburgh on 8-9 October 2009. The programme for the event is currently being finalised but the theme is the economic downturn and the challenges for funding infrastructure, maintaining investment flows and developing plans for economic resilience at a city level. It will consist of a range of presentations by city representatives as well as site visits

across the city.

Resource Implications

The city of Edinburgh has invited four representatives for each city to attend. It is likely that the travel, accommodation and subsistence costs will not exceed £300 per person.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members approve the attendance at this event of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman (or nominees) along with up to two officers, at a maximum total cost of £1,200.

Decision Tracking

Following approval, that arrangements be put in place for the attendance of Chair, Deputy Chair or nominees at the COTI Summit:

Time frame: December 2009 Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay

6. Update of Council Local Economic Development (LED) Plan

Economic conditions have changed significantly since the development of the current LED plan. Similarly, the funding structure for Council-led local economic development activity has changed with a new Structural Funds programme. In light of these developments, it is proposed that the current LED plan be updated to reflect this situation and in preparation for 2011 when a range of additional LED functions will transfer to councils.

Resource Implications

No specific resources required for the review of the LED plan – work to be carried out by staff resources. Resource commitments for proposed activities within the plan will be met from existing Council and external funding sources. As part of the process, a review of the current staffing structure within the Economic Development Unit may be necessary.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members note the proposal to update the current LED plan in the coming months and that they agree to a review of the staffing structure required to deliver this activity, with a further report to be brought back to a future meeting for approval.

Decision Tracking

Following approval, work will commence on the revision of the plan. A draft of the plan – along with a review of the resources required for delivery, will be brought back to a future committee meeting.

Time frame: January 2010 Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay

Key Abbreviations

DETI – Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
NIRDP – Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme
LAG – Local Action Group
SJC – Strategic Joint Committee
COTI – Cities of the Isles
LED – Local Economic Development
SEPG – Social Economy Policy Group
SEE – Social Economy Enterprise

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Documents Attached

Appendix 1 - Draft Belfast City Council response to Social Economic Enterprise consultation



Social Economy Enterprise Strategy 2009-2011

Draft Belfast City Council response

1. Belfast City Council is pleased to have an opportunity to respond to the consultation on the draft Social Economy Enterprise (SEE) Strategy.
2. Belfast City Council has identified the development and growth of the social economy as a key element of its enterprise support plan for the period 2009-2011 and we are delighted that the potential of the sector has been recognised at regional level, through the current consultation.
3. We note that the SEE strategy is a three year transition strategy in preparation for the “enhanced role envisaged under the Review of Public Administration (RPA) for district councils in the delivery of social economy policy and programmes”.
4. We are somewhat concerned that the strategy is unlikely to be approved and operational until 2010. This limits the amount of time in which activities undertaken within the framework of the new strategy can be implemented. Equally, it lessens the amount of time available for discussion with local authorities with regard to the future management and funding of the social economy, post-2011.
5. In this regard, we are disappointed that no consideration has been given to the involvement of local authorities in the proposed Social Economy Policy Group (SEPG). We would strongly recommend that consideration be given to the representation of local authorities on this group. The rationale for district council engagement is two-fold. Councils are currently engaged in a range of support mechanisms for the social economy sector in their respective areas. In order to maximise the impact of this work and to avoid duplication, it is important that this information is shared with an appropriate grouping of other support agencies.

6. The second reason for justifying local authority input into this SEPG is that, as the document notes, responsibility for this policy area will transfer to councils post-2011. If this is the case, it will be important that councils are involved in shaping the future direction of policy rather than sitting on the sidelines while policy is made by other bodies.
7. The degree of local awareness which councils possess is critical if future policy-making is to be focused on the appropriate areas where there is most need. The nature of this sector is that it is still very much in its infancy and needs significant hands-on support. A centrally-managed, controlled and developed policy will not achieve those objectives.
8. In addition to involvement in the SEPG, we would suggest that local authorities may be involved in the monitoring process to ensure that actions are impacting effectively at a local level. With the responsibility of SEE transferring to councils under RPA it is preferable that local authorities are included in the management and monitoring structure at an early stage in order to engender ownership and ensure consistency of approach.
9. We broadly agree with the proposed approach set out in section 4 of the draft strategy, outlining the key strategic objectives. We have identified a range of direct interventions which we will undertake to improve the quality of business starts in the social economy sector. This is to be delivered by the Local Enterprise Agency (LEA) network in the Belfast City Council area.
10. We agree that there should be a focus on enhancing the business viability of the social economy sector. To that end, we have opened our range of business support initiatives to businesses from the social economy sector and endeavoured to ensure that at least one social economy business participates in each of our business development programmes.

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	World Trade Centre Belfast Update
Date:	16 September 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459

Relevant Background Information

Members will be aware that, in January 2009, an update on the proposed business plan for World Trade Centre Belfast (WTCB) was presented to Committee for endorsement. This business plan identified a range of activities under six headings:

1. Global Gateway Service
2. Global business skills
3. Business development programmes
4. Trade Missions
5. Local networking events
6. Inward investment

Key Issues

Outputs against target for each of the business areas to date are as follows:

1. Global Gateway Service

The Global Gateway Service was set up to connect companies to business opportunities and contacts through the WTC network, as well as offer international trade advice to inexperienced companies.

Target:

Establish WTC Belfast website

Assist 200 companies (to period March 2011)

Outputs:

WTC Belfast website has been established with a mailing list of 1,300 companies that receive information on WTC Belfast activities.

To date 17 companies have availed of the Global Gateway service, with numbers increasing as awareness of this service develops. Enquiries have ranged from identifying new global suppliers, business partners and customers to advising early stage companies on international trade issues. Advantage NI is also using the services of WTC Atlantic Canada to plan a trade mission to Nova Scotia in September 2009. Two local companies have employed WTCs on a consultancy basis to develop business in the US.

2. Global Skills Workshops

These workshops are targeted at companies and individuals who are inexperienced at international trade. The workshop themes are on topics not delivered by other organisations in Northern Ireland, specifically on global supply chain management.

Target:

4 workshops per year

10 participants per workshop

Outputs:

To date 2 workshops have been hosted by WTC Belfast. 10 participants attended one and 8 the other. The feedback from both workshops has been very positive and participants have expressed interested in attending further workshops.

Financial implications

Participants are charged to attend these workshops. A one day workshop is £75 per person and half day workshop is £35 per person. This means that the cost implications to Council are generally very limited.

3. Business Development Programmes

These programmes are targeted at micro and SME companies inexperienced in international trade.

Target:

1 business improvement programme per year: 10 participants

1 channel development clinic per year: 10 participants

Outputs:

A 'Buy/Make/Sell Global' programme will be delivered from October 2009. This programme will help inexperienced companies develop their capacity to trade internationally and find new global business opportunities or partners. The Channel Development Clinic will help companies establish export sales channel strategies and find new sales partners.

Financial implications:

These programmes will be subsidised by Belfast City Council and DETI similar to other business improvement programmes delivered by the Economic Development Unit. The cost for delivery of two programmes will be approximately £50,000.

A registration cost of £150 per company will be charged to participants on the Buy Make Sell Programme. Participants will be charged £75 to attend the Channel Development Clinic.

4. Trade Mission

WTC Belfast hosted a trade mission to Futurallia, an SME international matchmaking event which took place in Qatar. Invest NI co-funded this trade mission.

Target:

1 trade mission per year

10 companies to participate

Outputs:

11 companies participated in this trade mission. As a result of this trade mission, one healthcare diagnostics company has now established a new sales distributor agreement in Qatar, one environmental waste bins manufacturer has had requests for sample products from Qatar, Burkina Faso, Turkey and Iran with a view to purchasing goods. One recruitment company has received two new NI clients because of their contacts and experience in Qatar. Two other companies now plan to visit Qatar again in September to pursue business opportunities.

Financial Implications:

Invest NI co-funded this trade mission and companies also paid for 50% of the trade mission costs. DETI match funded the Belfast City Council costs.

The actual cost to Belfast City Council after income from partners and companies was approximately £2,650.

5. Local Networking Events

Target:

4 local events per year

Target 40 companies attend each event

Outputs:

To date WTC Belfast has hosted 4 networking events.

WTC Qatar and WTC Dulles in Washington have attended two events. 80 companies attended the Qatar event and approximately 40 companies attended the Dulles event. WTC Belfast also organised discussion groups during the WTC Dulles visit with the universities, venture capital companies, trade associations, Invest NI and local companies which were all very well attended. One company is now employing WTC Dulles on a retainer basis to develop business in the US.

Financial implications:

Delivery cost for this year's activities is approximately £10,000, half of which is being funded by DETI.

These events are hosted at no costs to companies.

6. Inward Investment - Investor Gateway Service

WTC Belfast provides this service to potential investors in the city. Companies can receive information on Belfast as well as introductions to key individuals and a property search service.

Target:

40 enquiries per year

Outcomes:

There have been 8 enquiries to date this year. This is not unexpected given the difficult global trading environment. One enquiry presents potential investment opportunities in Belfast with regards to establishing Belfast as a strategic data hub providing outsourced services to larger clients such as financial institutions. WTC Belfast organised meetings for the company's visit to Belfast including meetings with private companies, developers and Invest NI. The investor is following up on a possible location and plans another visit to Belfast to explore this further.

Financial implications:

The service is offered free to potential investors and there are no direct costs for delivering this service to date, apart from staff time.

Future Opportunities

Since the completion of the business plan, a number of additional opportunities have arisen. These include:

- WTC Association Certification: This is the quality standard of the Association, around one third of WTCs have been through the accreditation process. It is considered that this provides a useful benchmark by which the quality of services can be judged. It also provides a template for considering how the services complement the wider business support offering in an area. WTC Belfast will seek to successfully certify its services in 2010.
- Hosting a WTC Regional meeting: The WTC Association holds a regional meeting for Europe, Middle East and Africa on an annual basis. This event is generally attended by over 100 representatives from World Trade Centres in this region. It offers an opportunity to discuss possible collaborative activities and to share information on upcoming events and initiatives. It may be pertinent to propose Belfast as a location for an upcoming event, within the next three years.
- WTC Partnership: WTC Dublin has expressed an interest in partnering WTC Belfast on activities. WTC Dublin has ambitious plans to establish services as well as an online trade portal. They would like to involve Belfast companies in the roll out of the pilot operation for the trade portal. The license for WTC Dublin is held by WTC Boston, which also manages WTC Washington. WTC Dublin has suggested that it would be open to further collaboration with WTC Belfast.

- WTC Belfast Facility: While the focus of the work to date has been on developing the services side of WTC Belfast, Members are reminded that there is also an opportunity to consider the establishment of a World Trade Centre in Belfast. There is now the opportunity to further explore a number of channels including private developments or as part of the debate on Belfast City Council's assets. The WTC proposal is currently being examined as part of the discussion on the future of the Maysfield site.

Resource Implications

£100,000 has been agreed by Council to deliver WTC Belfast services from January 2009 – March 2010. This has been match funded by DETI under the European Sustainable Competitiveness Programme 2007 – 2013. Proposals for future resourcing of WTC services will be incorporated in the Departmental Plan from April 2010.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report.

Decision Tracker

No decision tracking applicable as report is for notation only.

Key to Abbreviations

WTC - World Trade Centre
SME- Small and Medium Sized Enterprise
DETI- Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	UK City of Culture 2013
Date:	16 September 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459

Relevant Background Information

The Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has launched a UK-wide contest for areas to be designated as UK City of Culture 2013. Thereafter the competition will be staged every four years.

The overall aim is to encourage the use of culture as a catalyst for a 'step change'.

The successful city will need to:

- Deliver a high quality cultural programme (similar standard to that delivered by Liverpool Capital of Culture) that spans the course of the year and reaches a wide variety of audiences
- Deliver a programme that uses culture to lead to lasting social regeneration
- Demonstrate economic impact from the programme
- Maximise the legacy of UK City of Culture

Bids must; be distinctive, ambitious, demonstrate cultural and artistic excellence, reflect a broad partnership, reach out to wide range of audiences and participants (especially under representative groups), be realistic and achievable. The assessment criteria have been published as part of the guidance notes and scoring for the initial stage is provided in Appendix 1.

Key Issues

Outline proposals for 2013 can be submitted by 15 October 2009 for initial feedback from expert assessors. This part of the process is optional. An initial bid must then be submitted by 11 December 2009 and, if shortlisted, areas will be asked to submit a second full and final bid by the 28 May 2010.

Belfast has the opportunity to bid for UK City of Culture 2013 either on behalf of the City or a wider area. There has been some discussion that there could be a regional bid from Northern Ireland incorporating Belfast and Derry/Londonderry. Both cities have

registered an initial expression of interest. The guidance notes state that the location bidding should have a clear identity for visitors; a city and its hinterland; or a closely linked set of urban areas; or be a cohesive area capable of sustaining a concentrated programme of cultural activities.

Officers have met with the regional and city stakeholders including Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Department of Culture Arts and Leisure, Department of Social Development, the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, Belfast Chamber of Commerce, Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau and Belfast City Centre Management. The purpose of the meeting was to update stakeholders on the UK City of Culture initiative and gauge support. The initiative was met with a positive response; the general view is that the timing is right for Belfast to submit a bid given the level of investment in culture related infrastructure including the opening of the Titanic Signature Building in 2012.

Regional agencies expressed the desire to see the strongest bid coming from Northern Ireland which may be one collective bid based on a regional approach, including both Belfast and Derry/Londonderry. However if competition arises between areas regional agencies will not support any one bid over another during the competitive process. Belfast based agencies including BVCB and BCCM expressed a desire to submit a bid for Belfast.

On balance, and in order to maximise the benefits that would be returned to Belfast from attaining this title, it is considered that the optimum way forward is for Belfast to participate in a regional bid. Central Government is stressing the benefits of a single bid from the region and without the support of DCAL and ACNI it would not be possible to undertake a successful bidding process. A full assessment of the resource implications along with an analysis of how a regional bid would be constructed will be brought back to the next Development Committee should Members agree to adopt this route.

Resource Implications

There is no Government budget allocated to the bidding process. The two stage process has been designed to keep the costs to bidding areas reasonable, as only those areas that are shortlisted will be required to prepare the detailed elements of the full and final bid.

At a UK level a number of funders including Arts Council England, HLF, English Heritage and Visit Britain have indicated their desire to support the process and winning bidder but cannot make firm or exclusive commitment to any one bidder during the process.

Belfast City Council's Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit alongside the Events Unit would have to allocate resources to prepare the outline proposal followed by an initial bid, however due to the national significance of this potential accolade, it will be important to engage with a range of partners to secure buy-in and maximise resources from other agencies.

If successful, there will be substantial costs involved in delivering a high quality programme of events during 2013. Obvious benefits for the UK City of Culture 2013 will be the economic and social benefits derived from programme delivery. The guidance notes also flag the significant media impact and promotional value of hosting a large scale programme of cultural activities as well as commitment from BBC and Channel 4 to support the winning project to similar level of coverage given to Liverpool Capital of Culture.

Recommendations

It is recommended that

- Members note the contents of the above report and agree that Belfast should further explore participation in the UK City of Culture Competition as part of a wider regional bid.

Decision Tracking

If the Committee agree to submit a bid, details of the outline proposal along with resource implications will be presented at the October Committee.

Timeframe: October 2009

Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay

Key to Abbreviations

DCMS - Department of Culture, Media and Sport

HLF - Heritage Lottery Fund

BVCB – Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau

BCCM – Belfast City Centre Management

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 - Assessment Criteria and Scoring for Initial Bids.

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APPENDIX 1

Assessment Criteria for Initial Bids

		Scoring Framework
Vision, Programme and Impacts	Area	5
	Vision	15
	Cultural and Artistic Strengths	45
	Social Impacts	20
	Economic and Tourism Impacts	15
Delivery Proposals & Capacity	Bid Organisation / Management etc	15
	Track Record	20
	Partnerships and funding	15
	Risk Assessment	10
	Legacy	25
	Learning and Evaluation	15

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**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Markets Unit Update Report
Date:	16 September 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern Director of Development ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay Head of Economic Initiatives ext 3459

Relevant Background Information

This report covers the following issues:

1. Proposal for Sunday Market at St George's

St George's Market traders and representatives have raised the issue of a Sunday Market in St George's in addition to the current Friday Variety and Saturday City Food and Garden Market.

A copy of their letter is attached as appendix 1.

2. Entertainment licensing hours for St George's

The present Entertainment Licence for St George's Market allows music to be played until 1.00am, 7 days per week, and 3.00am for New Years Eve. Given the proximity of the Market to a residential area, an issue has been raised by BCC Environmental Protection Unit with regard to reviewing the permitted hours for entertainment.

3. Categorisation of goods for Saturday City Food & Garden Market.

St George's Friday Variety Market presently operates a categorisation system for traders. This system ensures a fair and equitable range of goods being sold and was introduced to the Friday Variety Market in 2001 as part of the Duplication of Goods Act enacted in 1999. Markets' Management and Traders' Representatives wish to introduce the same system to the Saturday Market. A copy of categories proposed is attached as appendix 2.

4. Retail Sector Support Plan – Continental Market

At the Committee of 12 August 2009 Members noted the Retail Sector Support Plan 2009/2010, an activity of which is New Market Opportunities for independent traders to showcase their products and services at prime City centre locations, including the Christmas Continental Market.

In order to develop this opportunity further, it is suggested that during the Christmas Continental Market, use could be made of the area immediately in front of the City Hall, as highlighted in Appendix 3. This area could provide a showcase for local and small independent retailers with a wider range of products.

Key Issues

1. Proposal for Sunday Market at St George's

During meetings between Markets' Management and Traders' Representatives, the traders' representatives have asked for consideration to be given to the addition of a weekly Sunday Market to be held in St George's. Whilst this would bring a positive addition to the Sunday offer within the City Centre, there are some issues that would need to be addressed.

1a. Cost

Traders' representatives have been made aware that no additional monies are available at present and any Sunday market would have to be self financing. Suggested opening times are 10.00am to 4.00pm with a 2 hour window either side for set up and clean up. This would necessitate staffing and operational costs. The Friday market currently has 240 stalls and the Saturday market has 140 stalls. To self finance a Sunday Market occupation of an average 130 stalls at the present rent of £12.00 per stall with no discount would be necessary to cover costs or 175 stalls with the 25% discount currently allowed to Saturday market pre-paying traders. As Markets staff working patterns do not include Sunday working, staff costs for a Sunday Market would have to be covered on overtime, this would amount to a weekly increase in the operational and staff costs for the market of £1550.00 per week which is not included in the current budget.

1b. Sunday Annual Events

St George's has a good reputation as a venue for the cultural and other events and they are all very well attended. St George's currently hosts 4 major annual events that are held on a Sunday, these are the Chinese New Year Celebrations, the Indian Holi, the Indian Festival of Colour and the Polish Festival. The Chinese New Year is in its fifth year, the Polish festival is in its second year and the two Indian festivals are new for 2009 but both have indicated they would like to have these as annual events. Another recent event, the Markets Community Boxing Festival (St George's Boxing Club) was recently held in St George's as part of the Markets Annual Community Festival. It was a huge success and the organisers have indicated they would like to hold this as an annual event. St George's also has 3 major events booked between 2010 and 2013 which include a Sunday as part of the required pre-build and set up. It would not be possible for both the events and the market to be held at the same time, although early indications are that traders would forgo Sunday Markets on the dates of any events

Resource Implications

Unless additional resources were made available, the Sunday market would need to be self financing and would incur costs of approx £1550.00 per week for staffing and operational costs that is not included in the current budget.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee agree to further investigation on financing options for the operation of a Sunday Market.

Decision Tracking

Following agreement that further investigation takes place to the feasibility of a Sunday Market

Time Frame: October 2009.

Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay

2. Entertainment Licensing hours for St George's

As St George's Market is not primarily a music venue, noise retention can cause problems, especially late at night. A planned monitoring visit by BCC Environmental Protection Unit was undertaken during a concert on 22 June at 22.20. The test confirmed loud music is audible at the nearest dwellings particularly when road traffic noise levels drop. The Environmental Protection Unit indicated that St George's Market is not suitable for concert type events after 11pm, as traffic levels are likely to be lighter in the evening thus the impact of loud music is likely be greater in residents properties. The 'Electronic Music' events have the added problem of vibration.

Markets' Management, PSNI, Environmental Protection Unit and Building Control Licensing, have all received complaints regarding a late night event affecting residential property including windows and kitchenware vibrating and causing problems with families who have young children.

Most promoters are happy with the 11.00pm music curfew when discussing possible bookings, however a small number of promoters, aware that the present Entertainments License operates until 1.00am, drive for an extended curfew.

The Noise Council 'Code of Practice on Environmental Noise at Pop Concerts' (1995) emphasises the need for strict controls on noise from such events, setting out recommended noise control procedures. In particular the code details guideline noise levels for events. For events which continue after 11.00pm the code clearly states that noise "should not be audible within any noise sensitive premises (e.g. a nearby residents house) with windows open". At St George's Market this is not the case. It is recommended that a reduction of the Entertainments Licence hours from 1.00am to 11.00pm for weekly events and from 3.00am to 1.00am on New Year Eve license be introduced (subject to approval).

Recommendation

It is recommended that Committee approve an application for a reduction of Entertainments Licence hours from 1.00am to 11.00pm for weekly events and from 3.00am to 1.00am on New Year Eve license.

Decision Tracking

Following approval that Markets Development Officer write to Building Control Licensing, requesting reduction of entertain license hours.

Time Frame: October 2009.

Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay

3. Categorisation of goods for Saturday City Food & Garden Market

St George's Friday Variety Market operates a categorisation system for traders at the Friday Variety Market to ensure a fair and equitable range of goods are sold.

Categorisation of goods was introduced to the Friday Variety Market by Belfast City Council in 2001 and was partly due to the Duplication of Goods Act 1999, this Act protects traders and ensures a wide range of goods and services are available.

With the continued success of the Saturday Market and after lengthy discussions between Markets' Management, traders representatives and traders, the introduction of categories to the Saturday Market has been proposed. The adoption of this proposal would help sustain the vibrancy of the market and the traders' livelihoods.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Committee agree to the introduction of categorisation of goods for Saturday City Food & Garden Market Saturday market in line with the Duplication of Goods Act 1999

Decision Tracking

Following agreement that the introduction of categories be introduced to the Saturday Market.

Time frame: October 2009 Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay

4. Retail Sector Support Plan – Continental Market

Members will be aware as part of the Retail Sector Support Plan 2009/2010 adopted in August 2009, independent traders have been given the opportunity to showcase and sell their products and services in prime outlets, open spaces and on Council land, including the Christmas Continental Market. After discussion with the Council contractor, Market Place Europe Ltd, it is proposed to let stalls during the Christmas Continental Market on an area in front of the City Hall, see highlighted area in Appendix 3. The stalls would be let to small and local independent retailers at cost price.

This would contribute to the objective and give opportunities to local and small independent retailers to offer a wider range of products at the Continental Market. Access to the City Hall would still be maintained via the ramps and steps and every effort will be made to limit any obscuring of City Hall windows. The contractor, who has two years remaining on the current contract, has worked closely with BCC Officers and is proposing a significant reduction of the stallage fee for local traders. Continental traders currently pay approx £3000 for a small stall. This is a significant opportunity for new and local retailers to showcase their products and an additional economic opportunity offered by Council to the local and independent retail sector. This highlighted area will provide space for up to 10 stalls. The Council contractor will set the criteria for use of these stalls.

Resource Implications

There are no additional resource implications for the Council

Recommendation

It is recommended that Committee approve the letting of additional stalls by Market Place Europe Ltd for use by small local and independent retailers at the Christmas Continental Market in City Hall, as in line with the Retail Sector Support Plan (see area highlighted in appendix 3).

Decision Tracking

Following Committee approval to introduce the letting of additional stalls in City Hall grounds during the Christmas Continental Market, that BCC officers agree the criteria for letting and selection of traders with the contractor.

Time line: October 2009 Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay

Documents Attached

Appendix 1. Copy of Traders Letter

Appendix 2. Copy of Categories for Saturday Market

Appendix 3: Map of City Hall grounds

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APPENDIX 1

From St. George's Market traders (Friday and Saturday)

To:

Councillor Michael Browne,
(Chair of the Development Committee B.C.C)

Over the past number of months there has been an ongoing discussion around the subject of a Sunday market in St George's. We are now keen to see this discussion widened to include the Development Committee of Belfast City Council.

We sincerely hope that your committee will consider expanding the market so that Belfast might properly be considered a weekend Market City destination for all interested local visitors and tourists.

We are currently collecting signatures and comments from the general public and what seems to be a predominant theme is that many families are busy with sports and children's activities on Saturdays and work nine to five the rest of the week so rarely can avail of the St George's facility. Many have expressed an interest in coming to regular Sunday events.

So far we have collected the names of over 70 traders who would be keen to open their businesses on Sundays, on a regular basis.

Below are some of the reasons why many feel we should be a weekend market destination.

- All visitor/tourist outlets mention St George's Market in their literature yet visitors are unable to avail of the market facility on a Sunday.
- Five million people in the UK will be staying at home this summer and as Belfast is already considered one of the top weekend city destinations many will be coming here expecting a full weekend of activities rather than just two days.
- Every major European city has a market on a Sunday. (There are four in Dublin and nineteen in Berlin to name just a couple.)
- In Ireland itself, free rail travel is available for senior citizens who could take advantage of the close proximity of Central Station to St George's Market and the Victoria Centre on a Sunday outing.
- Over 280,000 visitors per annum pass through the market on a Friday and Saturday. An additional market could vastly increase these figures.

- Potential revenue could be produced up front. A Sunday market could be run at no extra cost to the Council. Currently over 75% of the Saturday traders pay a quarterly rate in advance. The Sunday will need at least six months trial to build up a following. It could also rely heavily on word of mouth from existing traders and customers.
- Being one of two Victorian Markets in original state in the British Isles, St Georges Market is mentioned in countless books and guides worldwide, many visitors who come on weekend trips would like to see it open on Sunday

We would be grateful if these points would be raised at the Development Committee level with a view to proposing the opening of St George's Market on Sundays for trade and tourism.

We would welcome the opportunity to give a presentation to the Development Committee and would be very happy to address any concerns that Committee members might have on this subject.

Meanwhile, however, we will continue to collect the numerous expressions of public and trader support for a Sunday market.

Yours Sincerely,
Belfast Branch of N.M.T.F

For any further correspondence on this subject, please contact the Branch Secretary:

Mr. Sean Kerr,
78, Hill Street,
Lurgan
BT 66 6BG

Or

jdkerr51@btinternet.com

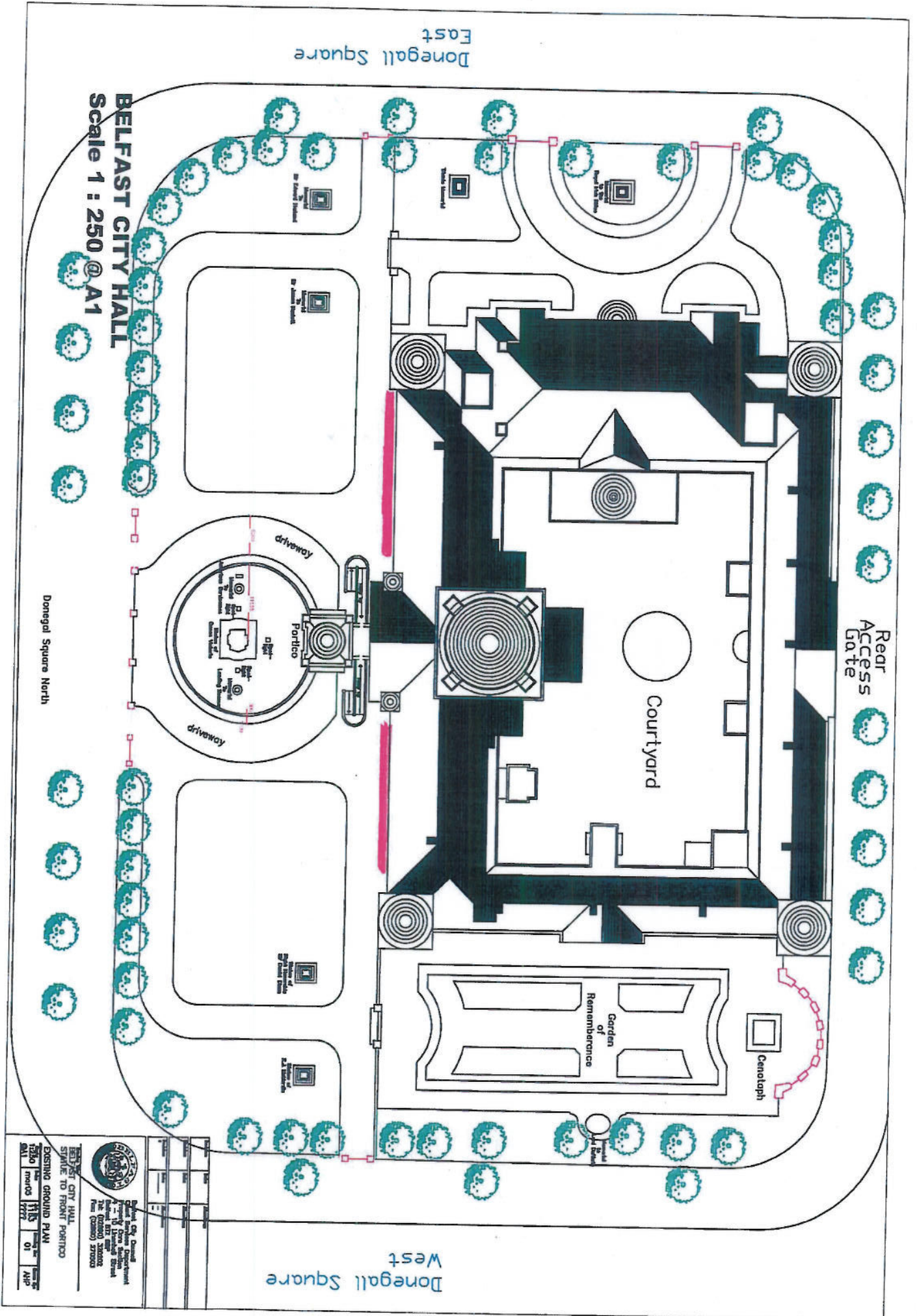
Sean Kerr

Anne Marie Muller
P. Kerr

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APPENDIX 2

APPENDIX 3



BELFAST CITY HALL
Scale 1 : 250 @ A1

Donegall Square North

Donegall Square East

Donegall Square West

Rear Access Gate

Courtyard

Garden of Remembrance

Cenotaph

driveway

driveway

Portico



BELFAST CITY HALL
 STATE TO FRONT PORTICO
 DESIGNING GROUND PLAN
 1750 11/03 01 1/11
 1750 11/03 01 1/11

DATE	BY	REVISION
1750	11/03	01
1750	11/03	01

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Media Coverage for March 2009 – August 2009
Date:	16 September 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Mark Ashby, Media Relations Officer (ext 6273)

Relevant Background Information

Members agreed that a regular report on media coverage would be brought to committee to keep members up to date on current issues.

Key Issues

A report on media coverage for the period March 2009 – August 2009 is attached.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the report.

Decision Tracking

No decision tracking as the report is for notation only

Documents Attached

Appendix 1: Media Coverage report

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Media coverage

From March 2009 – August 2009, 132 press releases were issued in relation to the work of the Department. Copies of all press releases are available on the council website, at www.belfastcity.gov.uk/news, and a full file of all releases also will be available at the meeting for members' reference.

A summary of some of the coverage generated is outlined below.

Economic development initiatives were highly profiled, with positive publicity generated for the ongoing work in relation to the World Trade Centre; the Belfast Entrepreneurs Network; initiatives in response to the current recession, including an employability fair, the Retail Therapy Programme, a 'Meet The Buyer' event, the HARTE programme and a series of workshops for small businesses; the 'Business Blitz', 'Dare To Be Digital' and 'Creativity Thirst' programmes

The Committee's concerns about delays in the Royal Exchange project also were highlighted in a press release, and in a number of interviews with the chairman.

The 'Renewing the Routes' programme continues to benefit from positive coverage, with the shopfront improvements along the Crumlin Road and public realm improvements on the Springfield Road a focus during this period. The council's quick response to vandalism at Clifton Street Orange Hall also was praised in the media: however, there was some criticism of the new public artwork at Carlisle Circus.

The 'Re-imagining Communities' initiative was a major focus over the summer months, with a number of projects completed and highlighted during the period. The murals project in the lower Shankill received much media attention, including at national level, and there has been much debate about the merits of such projects, in both the media and online as a result. The projects at Short Strand, Conway Street, Donegall pass, Glenbryn and in the lower Ormeau also received media coverage, although to a lesser extent.

The council's events programme continued to attract major media attention. The St Patrick's Day carnival and concert, the 'Titanic Made in Belfast' festival, the Belfast City Carnival and 'Ballet in Botanic' all received significant coverage, while the Corporate Communications Unit, in conjunction with the Events Unit, loaned considerable logistical and technical support to the highly successful Tall Ships visit.

The council's support for major sporting events in the city also generated much positive coverage, especially in relation to the Deep RiverRock Belfast City Marathon, which enjoyed another record-breaking year. The council's support for the Junior and Cadet Fencing World Championships, the Titanic 10K and the Dwarf World Games also received substantial recognition in the media.

The reopening of the Ulster Hall attracted a great deal of media coverage, especially around the time of the opening night concert. The Corporate Communications Unit has continued to work closely with the Ulster Hall management to maximise positive publicity for the venue, highlighting programming launches and individual events where appropriate to lend support.

In relation to culture, arts and tourism initiatives, activity remains consistent, with new products and initiatives highlighted on a regular basis. These have included the

Belfast Shopping Festival, the Late Night Art, Hidden History, literary and music tours developed as part of the council's cultural tourism strategy, the Summer Craft Fair at Victoria Square and the 'Summer Sundays' programme. Considerable media attention was given to the release of the Belfast Tourism Monitor, to the council's support for 'OrangeFest' initiatives and to the Belfast-Nashville Sister Cities programme. The council's ongoing support for the city's various festivals and cultural events, such as the Belfast Children's Festival, Festival of Fools and Belfast Film Festival, was also positively profiled in the local media.

The Corporate Communications Unit continues to work closely with officers from the Markets Unit, to generate positive publicity for both St George's Market and Smithfield Market. Activity in the past six months has included profiling individual traders and their success stories, the 'Urban Edge' fashion show, the visits by celebrity chefs The Hairy Bikers and the President of the National Market Traders Federation and support for the ongoing events programme, including the forthcoming 'Food Month' promotions.

Media enquiries

In the period March 2009 – August 2009, 335 media enquiries relating to the work of the Development Committee were received by the Corporate Communications Unit. This represented 33.6 per cent of the total number of enquiries received by Corporate Communications in the same period.

More than 91 per cent of all enquiries were responded to within the corporate objective response time of less than one working day, with around 83 per cent responded to within one hour.

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Ulster Hall Capital Works Programme
Date:	16 September 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Tim Husbands, Head of City Events and Venues ext. 1400

Relevant Background Information

The second phase of refurbishment of the Ulster Hall began in June 2007 with the Grand Hall reopening on the 6 March 2009 with a month long festival of performances including a Civic Gala performance with the Ulster Orchestra. Since the opening concert and up to the end of June the Grand Hall has hosted over eighty concerts and other events. The café and other areas of the building have also been heavily used. The Ulster Orchestra moved into their new administration offices on the 1st June and has expressed satisfaction with the new accommodation. The key stakeholders in the project have also intimated that they are very pleased with the use made of the building since it opened, including the education and community access programme.

Subsequent to this report first being considered by the Development Committee on 12 August 2009, it was agreed that a site visit for Members be made to the Ulster Hall to inspect and assess the key issues first hand and to hear from Mr Dawson Stelfox of Consarc, the consultant architect to the project. The site visit took place on Tuesday, 8 September 2009.

Building Work

Building works, particularly in refurbishment and conservation projects, carry the risk of unforeseen but necessary works arising during construction. While contingency allowances are made in the programme for such eventualities this can only be notional and the Ulster Hall building works were actually completed later than programmed.

The original expected date for practical completion was set for the end of December 2008. This allowed a two month period for finishing and completing other elements of work and enabled a scheduled move back into the building, so that the management team could become familiar with the new systems in the building.

Some unforeseen work became necessary and practical completion of the auditorium and front of house areas did not take place until 6 March 2009 (the actual day for re-opening to the public) and the new five storey administration office block at the rear of the building was not formally handed over until 23 May 2009. The delay was caused by the following main issues:

- Problems with piled foundations for the new build areas resulted in the cracking of the old walls and work scheduled had to be stopped while remedial repairs were carried out. Additional structural work was also required at high level to strengthen walls;
- When the old roof was removed wet rot was discovered in some of the timber trusses and the rotten timber had to be replaced, with additional temporary supports;
- An issue arose around the design of the ventilation and grills for the main auditorium. This work was subcontracted to a specialist supplier, and it took some time for the ductwork and grills to be designed, manufactured and tested to ensure that not only the correct room temperatures were achievable but also that the noise levels created by air flowing through the grills conformed to strict criteria – necessary for both recording purposes and the enjoyment of the music. This caused delays in the work in the roof space and on the heating and ventilation system.

The overall result of the delays in these works was that the building was handed over later than scheduled and this had a major knock on impact on remaining completion work. The management team worked closely with the main contractor over the last few months of the project in order to ensure the opening date was achieved. However, the item which suffered most as a result of the project delays and restricted access was the Mulholland Organ, with the result that the dates scheduled for testing and commissioning the Organ were lost and have been subsequently planned for a later date.

Key Issues

Issues Arising

A number of issues have been raised by Committee

Dampness:

Prior to the recent refurbishment works some of the walls of the building were historically extremely damp for the following reasons:

- The previous use of inappropriate cement pointing on the external face trapped moisture in the walls, leading to deterioration of the brickwork and further damp penetration
- Defective roof coverings and guttering lead to significant water ingress at high level

As part of the current works, the external walls were repaired. Brick replacement was carried out as necessary and all the walls were re-pointed using an appropriate lime mortar.

In addition, the roof was re-configured to provide an accessible working platform for maintenance from the flat parapet gutter and the roof covering was renewed. The rainwater goods have been replaced and the new rainwater drainage system is working well.

Having completed the above repairs, all of the inherent design and maintenance problems have now been addressed. However, as the walls of the building have been absorbing water for many years, they will require considerable time to dry out, possibly up to a year in some areas due to their thickness. In the meantime the dampness will exhibit as patches. The building team has made allowances for periodic minor redecoration as required, until the final decoration takes place when the walls have fully dried out. In addition, a number of notices have now been installed throughout the building explaining the situation to members of the public.

Side Aisles/Length of rows

In relation to the removal of the side aisles at ground floor level of the Main Hall. The previous seating layout in this space did incorporate a very narrow, unapproved access space at each side of the room. The space was not technically an aisle and existed only because the previous seats had traditional legs which could not be placed on top of the existing floor grilles at the edge of the hall. The new seating arrangement consists of a removable, stackable 'Matrix' system comprising groups of 2 or 3 seating banks on detachable legs. This provides great flexibility for the wide variety of events held within this space. The option to remove a bank of 2 seats on each row at each side of the Hall to provide side aisles would result in a total loss of 108 seats on the ground floor, thereby reducing the capacity at this level from 786 to 678 – which would in turn cause a significant reduction in potential revenue, a concern which has been voiced by the orchestra and other commercial promoters.

In addition, the row widths and lengths of the new seating arrangement are designed to comply with current legislative standards and best practice guidelines and have all been approved by Building Control.

The Mulholland Organ

During the almost two year phase of building work, the Mulholland Organ remained in the building, protected by two layers of polythene sheet and a horizontal timber screen to prevent damage. A maintenance contract, separate from the main building contract, was entered into with an independent specialist organ contractor who carried out some repair work deemed necessary following an earlier inspection. The building contract required the main works contractor to employ the specialist organ contractor to protect the Organ and to allow him to be on site when any electrical work was undertaken inside the Organ. This procedure appeared to work satisfactorily until near completion of the project, when the organ maintenance contractor discovered water lying in some sections of the Organ. It has not been possible to establish the source of the water but in order to allay fears of any permanent damage to the instrument, a further independent inspection was commissioned. This inspection was carried out by an independent specialist organ adviser from England, recommended by Mr Colm Carey, the City Organist. The adviser concluded that while some minor damage had been incurred it could easily be remedied at minor expense. He did however highlight that it has been over 30 years since the Organ has had a major overhaul and so made a further recommendation that such works should be considered for the near future, as it would take time to plan and execute.

The current position is that the remedial work required, as identified by the adviser, to reinstate the Organ to its pre-building work condition and concert performance standard, will be scheduled in the months ahead. It is estimated that it will take a minimum of five consecutive days to fine tune the instrument and the Ulster Hall management team are presently trying to create diary space to allow this to take place. The additional cost is expected to be minimal and will be funded from the existing capital contingency budget allocated to the project.

Site Visit

A site visit for Committee to inspect the work was held on Tuesday, 8 September 2009. The Committee was given a tour of the key areas affected by damp and viewed the Grand Hall's seating configuration and the Mulholland Organ. The tour was hosted by Mr Dawson Stelfox of Consarc, the consultant architect to the project, supported by relevant Council officers from the Waterfront and Ulster Halls, and the Director of Improvement representing the Project Management Unit. Also present to provide technical information in relation to the Mulholland Organ was Mr Colm Carey, the City Organist.

Members received further supporting technical information from Mr Stelfox in relation to the dampness, and heard that the drying out process, although estimated at twelve months, depending on the inherent environmental conditions, could take up to twenty-four months. However, Members were reassured that evidence of the drying out process were already being seen in various areas of the Hall. Members were also assured that any costs in relation to the future making good and redecoration of the areas affected were included within the overall capital cost of the project and were contractual obligations of the project contractor.

In relation to the Mulholland Organ, Mr Colm Carey, the City Organist, informed Members that with the necessary minor remedial works due to be scheduled for completion in March of next year (due to the limited nature of available dates with the Ulster Hall's events diary), the Organ would be ready for concert performances from April 2010. Members were also assured by the Consultant Architect that any costs in relation to returning the instrument back to the original concert performance quality would be met as part of the overall project capital cost. It was agreed by Members that any further discussion in relation to the Organ should be deferred until these works had been completed, and the organ ready for concert performances.

Awards

To date the Ulster Hall project has been nominated for the following awards:

1. The Construction News Quality Awards 2009 – achieved a top seven position but did not win overall.
2. CEF Construction Excellence Awards 2009 – to be assessed on 28 July 2009.

Resource ImplicationsFinancial

The project is currently within the amount approved in the Capital Programme as follows:

FUNDER	AMOUNT RECEIVED TO DATE	AMOUNT OUTSTANDING	TOTAL EXPECTED
DCAL	£2,000,000.00	NIL	£2,000,000
ACNI	£ 666,747.93	£ 20,621.07	£ 687,369
EHS	£ 192,998.00	£ 44,372.00	£ 237,370
HLF	£ 486,621.53	£508,378.47	£ 995,000
BCC Contribution			£4,655,261
TOTALS	£3,346,367.46	£573,371.54	£8,575,000
		Total project cost	£8,575,000

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the contents of the report.

Decision Tracking

There is no decision tracking as this report is for notation only

Key to Abbreviations

DCAL	Department of Culture Arts and Leisure
ACNI	Arts Council of Northern Ireland
HLF	Heritage Lottery Fund
NIEA	Northern Ireland Environment Agency

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**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Community Festivals Fund
Date:	16 September 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459

Relevant Background Information

The total value for the Community Festivals Fund 2009/2010 is £154,600. The scheme is delivered in four tranches and communities receive grants between £2500 and £10,000. The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) provide 50% of the funding which is matched by Belfast City Council.

The fourth tranche is due to open on Friday 4 September 2009 and close 16 October 2009 for festivals taking place between 1 January and 31 March 2010. To date, each tranche has been oversubscribed.

An operating budget of 10% £15,460 has been set aside for the administration of the scheme.

Key Issues

Due to a number of Councils accepting less funding than originally offered in 2009/2010 period, DCAL currently has a small surplus to reallocate and have requested Councils to submit an expression of interest.

Expressions of interest must be submitted by 17 September 2009.

Resource Implications

Any additional funding from DCAL requires match funding from the Councils.

Recommendations

Members agree to submit an expression of interest seeking a maximum fund of £80,000 (£40,000 from DCAL, £40,000 from BCC) to support festivals taking place between January 2010 and March 2010.

Decision Tracking

Following approval, an expression of interest will be submitted to DCAL for a maximum grant of £80,000.

Time frame: 17 September 2009 Reporting Officer: Marie-Thérèse McGivern

Key Abbreviations

DCAL – Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure