

# Document Pack

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



19<sup>th</sup> January, 2010

## **SPECIAL MEETING OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Dear Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room (Room G05), City Hall on Monday, 25th January, 2010 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. Arts Council of Northern Ireland Presentation (Pages 1 - 18)

**Belfast City Council**

<b>Report to:</b>	Special Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Arts Council of Northern Ireland Presentation
<b>Date:</b>	25 January 2010
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Shirley McCay, Acting Director of Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Kerrie Sweeney, Tourism, Culture and Arts Manager, ext 3586

**Relevant Background Information**

Members will recall that they agreed to receive a presentation from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland in order to gain a greater understanding of the Arts Council's contribution to Belfast's Culture and Arts sector, to determine their future priorities for arts development in Belfast, and to progress towards establishing a collaborative and integrated approach towards new opportunities, especially in light of the Review of Public Administration. Rosemary Kelly, Chairman, and Roisin McDonough, Chief Executive, will be in attendance.

Date of presentation

4:30pm Monday 25 January 2010

**Key Issues**

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with current issues relating to the culture and arts sector in Belfast and relevant background on the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure Inquiry into the Funding of the arts in Northern Ireland

DCAL made the decision to hold an inquiry into the funding of the arts on 8 January 2009 and agreed the terms of reference for the inquiry on 29 January 2009. Advertisements requesting submissions by 27 February 2009 were placed in the local newspapers on 3 February 2009. In addition, the Committee agreed to write to 134 individuals and interest groups, to request submissions on a number of areas set out in the terms of reference, and establish how and to what level the arts are funded in Northern Ireland by the public and private sectors, the impact of this funding, and how monies are allocated across the various artforms. Belfast City Council actively

participated in this process.

The Committee came to the conclusion that there was a lack of information regarding how much money the public sector invests in the arts and that research was required to ascertain how much Government Departments, other than the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, spend on the arts.

It also concluded that in order to increase funding for the arts, an inter-departmental approach was required, as the social and economic benefits of the arts met the objectives of a range of Departments. The Committee also concluded that more money should be reallocated to community and voluntary arts, given their impact on regenerating communities and providing people with opportunities for participating in arts activities. There was also a particular concern that arts groups in communities without a history of arts funding should be proactively encouraged to access available monies and to that end recommended that the Start Up programme operated by ACNI continued and be developed. A full list of recommendations is outlined in Appendix 1.

### Culture and Arts Impact in Belfast

According to the recent CAL Committee Inquiry into the funding of the arts in Northern Ireland, Belfast City Council has the highest per capita spend at £28.94 (see Appendix 2 for full breakdown of per capita spend). It should be noted that Belfast City Council's approach differs from many other local authorities in that it provides direct funding to arts organisations as well as managing arts venues.

In 2008/09, Belfast City Council's direct investment in culture and arts organisations resulted in audiences of 6,128, 571 and 177,165 people participating in the arts. It also supported 1,830 jobs – 304 of which were full time as well as 961 cultural volunteer positions.

### Arts Council of Northern Ireland Strategy 2007-2012

The Arts Council is the lead development agency for the arts in Northern Ireland and offers a range of funding opportunities through the Exchequer and National Lottery funds. ACNI is a non-departmental public body of the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure and is governed by a board, 'the Council', which sets the strategic direction for the Arts Council and oversees the work of the Executive (see Appendix 3 for biographical detail on Council Members and Chief Executive, Roisin McDonough).

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland's vision is to place the arts at the heart of Northern Ireland's social, economic and creative life.

The Arts Council's current strategy focuses on the following four themes:

#### Theme 1: Art at the heart: promoting the value of the arts

- improve recognition of the contribution of artists and arts organisations make to society
- influence Government regarding the contribution the arts make to the achievement of a range of policy objectives
- gain broad acceptance of the need for increased funding for the arts in NI
- achieve international recognition for the arts in NI

#### Theme 2: Strengthening the arts

- improve the wellbeing of individual artists
- strengthen and develop arts organisations
- strengthen and develop the arts infrastructure

## Theme 3: Growing audiences and increasing participation

- expand the range of opportunities for people to enjoy the arts
- expand the range of opportunities for people to take part in the arts
- encourage more young people to experience the arts

## Theme 4: Improving our performance

- become a more client focused organisation
- develop structures and processes to achieve business objectives
- develop people in line with business strategy
- strengthen governance and accountability within ACNI

The Arts Council takes an artform specific developmental approach, dedicating resources through staff and action plans in the following areas: drama and literature, visual arts, community and participatory arts, music, dance, traditional arts and youth arts. Further resources are invested through Re-imagining Communities, the Creative Industries Innovation fund, the Cultural Olympiad initiative and Connections, a £1.78 million programme funded by Legacy Trust UK, an independent charity set up to help build a cultural and sporting legacy from the 2012 Olympic Games. The Creative and Cultural Skills Council is also based at ACNI – providing a link between industry, government and education to identify skills gaps and develop solutions.

ACNI is currently conducting a mid-term evaluation of its 5 year strategy.

## Integrated Cultural Strategy 2007 – 2010

Belfast City Council's Integrated Cultural Strategy was developed following extensive consultation and has been implemented in partnership with the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and the Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure. It has moved culture and arts to a more central position on the urban regeneration agenda.

Key outputs have been:

- the establishment of Multiannual Funding for flagship cultural organisations to introduce greater sustainability
- the development of a public art framework and installation of a series of public art pieces through the Artist in Residence
- the creation and support of a Festivals Forum for the City through delivery of a Festivals Action Plan
- delivery of the 'Test Drive the Arts' initiative in partnership with Audiences NI to remove barriers to accessing the arts for people living in the most deprived areas of Belfast
- Capacity building training with A&B
- Establishment of the Cultural Capital Infrastructure Fund

Belfast City Council has a close working relationship with the Arts Council of Northern Ireland in a number of areas including:

- RISE – the landmark sculpture for Broadway Roundabout by Wolfgang Buttress
- Reimagining Communities and Renewing the Routes Public Art
- Culture Night – ACNI and Belfast City Council each invested £25K in this highly successful pilot festival in September 2009 providing free, family focused arts and cultural events in Cathedral Quarter
- Nashville – since 2009 ACNI has sat on the Belfast Nashville Sister Cities Steering Group

- Test Drive the Arts / Audience Development

And there will be further partnership work taking place in 2010 on Music and Literary Tourism initiatives.

We would now recommend that Belfast City Council agrees a process for engagement with the Arts Council of Northern Ireland in developing the new Integrated Cultural Strategy for Belfast.

Cultural Infrastructure

Three key infrastructure projects are receiving support from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland:

- £1.45m towards the £7.2m refurbishment of the Crescent Arts Centre, which when it reopens in Spring 2010, will have twice the amount of space available previously.
- £5.25m towards the new £17.5 million MAC arts centre in Cathedral Quarter. When it opens in 2011, the six storey high centre will house two theatres, a large visual space, dance and rehearsal studios, café and public access areas. (BCC contribution £550k approximately)
- £2.25m towards the new £18m Lyric Theatre. Scheduled to open in 2011, the new six storey venue will house new auditoria, a flexible performance studio, lobby areas and bars. (BCC contribution £1.25m)

ACNI is also currently lobbying for the creation of a National Gallery for Northern Ireland.

The Arts Council has also worked with Belfast City Council to provide support for the Black Box as a temporary cultural space in Cathedral Quarter in the interim period whilst the new MAC is built.

Some questions/discussion topics attached as Appendix 4.

**Resource Implications**

There are no resource implications.

**Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee seeks to agree a process for engagement with the Arts Council of Northern Ireland in developing the new Integrated Cultural Strategy for Belfast.

**Decision Tracking**

A process for developing the new Integrated Cultural Strategy for Belfast will be developed by March 2010.

Date: March 2010

Officer: Kerrie Sweeney

<b>Key Abbreviations</b>
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A&B – Arts and Business ACNI – Arts Council of Northern Ireland CAL – Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure DCAL – Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure MAC – Metropolitan Arts Centre
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<b>Documents Attached</b>
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Appendix 1 - Recommendations from the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure Inquiry into the Funding of the arts in Northern Ireland Appendix 2 - Breakdown of Local Authority per capita spend on the arts Appendix 3 - Pen Portrait of Roisin McDonough, Chief Executive Arts Council of Northern Ireland & Council Members Appendix 4 - Suggested Questions/Discussion Topics
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## List of recommendations

1. We recommend that DCAL undertakes research to ascertain how much money is being spent on the arts by other government departments. This information should be used by DCAL and the Arts Council to gain a wider understanding of where arts funding is currently being targeted and to identify areas which receive little or no funding from any department.
2. We recommend that DCAL works with local councils post-RPA to assist them in reviewing how much they spend on the arts, with a view to ensuring that there is a greater degree of equality in arts provision across the different council areas than exists presently.
3. We recommend that DCAL targets its investment in the arts in such a way as to further embed the arts in people's everyday lives right across Northern Ireland. The Committee is of the view that greater participation and access to the arts will lead to greater support both among the public and within government for increased funding for the arts.
4. We recommend that DCAL sets up an inter-departmental group on funding for the arts.
5. We recommend that the Arts Council pro-actively seeks out arts organisations that may be eligible for EU funding and assists those organisations in making applications for such funding.
6. We recommend DCAL and the Arts Council work together so that budgets for coming years can be finalised in the January ahead of the new financial year in April, so that arts organisations are given as much prior notice as possible of their funding position.
7. We recommend that DCAL and the Arts Council work with Arts & Business NI to ensure that more support is given to community based arts organisations in terms of accessing private sponsorship.
8. We recommend that the Arts Council increases the level of funding which goes to community arts organisations.
9. We recommend that the Arts Council requires professional arts organisations which it funds to increase the amount of outreach/community work they currently deliver.
10. We recommend that the Arts Council sets up a specific funding programme for community arts organisations that deliver participation opportunities to people living in Super Output Areas ranked in the top 20% of areas of deprivation according to the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure.
11. We recommend that the Arts Council increases the current budget for the Start Up programme which will distribute grants to community based groups which have received little or no previous funding from the Arts Council.
12. We recommend that in distributing these funds, the Arts Council pro-actively identifies groups which may be eligible for this funding.
13. We recommend that given its levels of participation, we recommend that the Arts Council increases the level of funding which goes to voluntary arts organisations, such as those involved in amateur drama or the traditional arts.
14. We recommend that in the interests of transparency and fairness, the Arts Council should establish a feedback process for unsuccessful funding applicants to clarify why they did not receive funding.



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The Arts Council provided details of its most recent local authority arts expenditure survey from 2006/2007. The per capita spend per council is set out in the table below:

Council	Per capita spend
Belfast	£28.94
Cookstown	£24.22
Armagh	£23.37
Lisburn	£16.58
Strabane	£14.68
Fermanagh	£11.62
Coleraine	£8.94
Newry and Moume	£8.30
Antrim	£8.17
Moyle	£7.97
Newtownabbey	£7.77
Ballymoney	£7.65
Down	£7.62
Omagh	£6.74
Craigavon	£6.66
Derry	£5.84
North Down	£3.58
Dungannon and South Tyrone	£3.50
Ards	£3.49
Ballymena	£3.44
Banbridge	£3.38
Limavady	£2.11
Carrickfergus	£1.82
Larne	£1.58
Castlereagh	£1.08
Magherafelt	£0.37

Based on the evidence presented the Committee makes the following recommendations:

We recommend that DCAL undertakes research to ascertain how much money is being spent on the arts by other government departments. This information should be used by DCAL and the Arts

*9 Oral evidence, Appendix 2*

*10 Oral evidence, Appendix 2*

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### **APPENDIX 3**

**Roisin McDonough** took up the post as Chief Executive of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland in October 2000.

She has worked in central and local government as well as in the community and voluntary sector throughout her career. Prior to her current appointment, she worked in the field of regeneration.

She is currently a member of Creative & Cultural Skills Board, leading the Northern Ireland Employers' Group and she is Chair of the Women Chief Executives' forum.

January 2010

## **Arts Council Membership**

### **December 2007 to November 2011**

Ms Rosemary Kelly was re-appointed as Chairman of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. This re-appointment came into effect from 1st December 2007 and runs for 4 years.



**The following members of the Council have been reappointed to serve a second term:**

Eithne Benson  
Katherine Bond  
Anthony Kennedy  
William H C Montgomery  
Sharon O'Connor  
Peter Spratt  
Raymond Fullerton

Following open competition, Damien Coyle was appointed as Vice-Chairman and Paul Seawright, Joseph Rice, David Irvine, Brian Sore and Janine Walker have been appointed as Board Members of the Arts Council.

The Council has been appointed for 4 years to the end of November 2011.

The Arts Council is the statutory body through which public funding for the arts in Northern Ireland, is channelled. The Council was established as a statutory body by the Arts Council (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 on 1 September 1995. It is funded via grant-in-aid by the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) and is managed by a Board which normally consists of 15 members. The terms of office of outgoing members expired on 30 November 2007. Members are appointed by the Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure.

The post of Chairman receives an honorarium of £8378 per annum, the post of Vice-Chair receives an honorarium of £3,500 per annum. The members' positions are unpaid, with members receiving expenses only.

The appointments process was carried out in accordance with the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments Code of Practice. A selection panel, which included an independent assessor, as required under the Commissioner's Code, considered the suitability of all candidates. The final decision on the appointments rested with the Minister.

All appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. However, in accordance with the original Nolan recommendations, there is a requirement for the political activity of appointees (if declared) to be published.

**Ms Rosemary Kelly OBE (Chairman)**, is a former Head of Public Affairs and Company Secretary for BBC Northern Ireland. She is currently a Governor of the Irish Times, a member of the Council of the University of Ulster, a member of the British Council NI Advisory Committee, and a member of the Ireland Chair of Poetry Board. She was formally Chairman of the Ormeau Baths Gallery, Deputy Chair of the Ulster Orchestra, and a founding member of the Irish Film and Television Academy. Rosemary was also Chairman of Help the Aged in Northern Ireland and a Trustee of its International Board in London for many years. She has not declared any political activity during the past five years. Rosemary Kelly was awarded an OBE for Services to the Arts in January 2009.



**Mr Damien Coyle**, (Vice-Chair)

Damien is originally from Tyrone and now lives in Kircubbin, Co. Down, He is Deputy Director of the Stroke Association Northern Ireland and formerly held senior management positions in a number of arts organisations and public bodies which include Old Museum Arts Centre, Arts and Research Exchange, Community Fund and Big Lottery Fund. Damien has been Chairperson of Circa Arts Magazine and Kabosh Theatre Company and a Creative Champion for the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts in NI. His writing on arts and cultural issues has been published in a wide range of publications. Damien led on the development of a number of key arts and education initiatives including Queen's Street Studios and the Cultural Management Training Programme at the University of Ulster and was a Moderator for the Open College Network. Damien has been a visual arts practitioner for over 25 years and has exhibited locally, nationally and internationally.



**Mrs Eithne Benson**, is from Rostrevor and is Head of Music for the Southern Education and Library Board. She has served on Newry and Mourne District Council as an Arts Committee member and was a member of the Northern Ireland Curriculum Council's working group which developed music guidelines and materials. For the last four years she has been the Northern Ireland representative on the executive committee of the Federation of Music Services. She has taught Music and French and has been involved in drama, orchestras and choirs in a private capacity. Until recently, Mrs Benson has been a board member of the Ulster Youth Orchestra and has been actively involved in its development since its formation in 1983. She also holds management qualifications.



**Ms Kate Bond** , is from the city of Derry and is Head of Cultural Development at the University of Ulster. She has a professional background in arts and cultural development in Northern Ireland in the not for profit and public sectors having worked for Field Day Theatre Company, the Lyric Theatre and been Community Relations Officer for Coleraine Borough Council. Prior to taking up post in the University of Ulster, she was Arts Manager for the City and district of Armagh where her main responsibility was to lead the design, build and establishment of the Market Place Theatre and Arts Centre and the strategic development of the arts in the local authority area. She is a Director of An Grianán Theatre and a Creative Champion for the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts in NI.



**Mr Raymond Fullerton** is a consultancy and change management specialist who formerly held senior management positions in the private sector which include Pricewaterhousecoopers and retail investment banks. He currently works for BT and is a senior partner in his own consultancy firm. He was on the boards of Young Enterprise SE area, LIELG (part of the NI Business Education Partnership), and currently on the boards of the British Computer Society and the Ulster Youth Choir. He is interested in a wide spectrum of arts media.



**Mr David Irvine**

David is the Regional Head of Risk Consulting for Marsh Ltd, a leading risk and insurance services firm. He has also been a National Judge for Arts and Business National Awards in London. David is currently the Chair of 'Moving on Music', an organisation which supports music education and promoting local and emerging bands.



**Mr Tony Kennedy** has been Chief Executive of Co-operation Ireland since August 1992. Previously he has held the positions of Chief Housing Officer, Wakefield MDC (1983 –1992), Regional Director (North West), N.I. Housing Executive (1979 – 1983) and Area Housing Manager, Belfast, N.I. Housing Executive (1974 – 1979).Mr Kennedy graduated with at BSc Hon in Social Services and Technology, from Loughborough University, and an MSc in Public Policy, Planning and Administration, from the University of Ulster. He is married with three children. Mr Kennedy also holds the following positions:



- Director: John Hewitt Society
- Deputy Director: Ulidia Housing Association
- Board Member: Civitas
- Board Member: Association of European Border Regions
- Committee Member: Irish Platform for Peace and Reconciliation
- Member: Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy

**Mr William H C Montgomery**, from Grey Abbey, is a Trustee of the National Museums & Galleries of Northern Ireland (MAGNI), and former chair of Opera Northern Ireland. He is also a trustee of the Ulster Historical Foundation and a governor of the Linen Hall Library. His background is in fine arts, especially Irish works and pictures. He has been Sotheby's senior representative in Northern Ireland and Ireland for more than 20 years. He chairs the Weston Park Foundation in Shropshire (an English Heritage charitable body).



**Professor Ian Montgomery**, Professor Montgomery is Dean of the Faculty of Art Design and the Built Environment at the University of Ulster. Prior to this appointment he was Head of the University's School of Art and Design, the largest art and design higher education provider on the island of Ireland (established in 1849). He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, Architecture and Manufacture, a member of the International Society of Typographic Designers and a member of the Design Research Society. Professor Montgomery has declared no significant political activity.



**Ms Sharon Marie O'Connor**, from Lambeg, is Director of Cultural and Economic Development for Down District Council and is a member of the Northern Ireland Museums Council's Board and the BBC Broadcasting Council for Northern Ireland. Her day job involves the development of towns and villages in Down, the development and management of local economic, social and cultural services. She has also been very involved in the development of major events and festivals.



**Mr Joseph Rice**

Joseph is a senior partner in a firm of solicitors which has been in operation since 1986. He was appointed six years ago as a Deputy Resident Magistrate in Northern Ireland. He has previously been Chairman of Red Lead Arts in East Belfast, a member of St Agnes' Choral Society and a member of the Circle Drama Group.



**Professor Paul Seawright**

Paul is Professor of Photography at the University of Ulster and was formerly Dean of Arts and Media at the University of Wales, Newport, where he was awarded a personal chair in 2001. A practising photographer he has exhibited extensively and represented Wales at the 2003 Venice Biennale of Art.



**Mr Brian Sore**

Brian is the Regional Director of the Royal Town Planning Institute. As the former Deputy Chief Executive of Greenpark Health Trust, he is a keen supporter of art in the health care environment and has worked with artists and the voluntary group 'ArtsCare' to support art in patient services and hospitals.





**Mr Peter Spratt**, from Belfast, is Managing Director of AndersonSprattGroup, Northern Ireland's largest marketing services company. He has served on the boards of opera festivals in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, Ormeau Baths Gallery and was a founding member of the Riverside Jazz Foundation. He was Chairman of One Step Beyond (Northern Ireland), a cross-community youth charity majoring on peace and reconciliation. He was a semi-professional musician for over 20 years and his major interests include classical and contemporary music, the fine arts and literature.



**Ms Janine Walker**

Janine is Co-Founder of Belfast based theatre company "Spanner in the Works", founder member & Vice-Chair of Down Arts Forum – a voluntary group that promotes access to the arts in Down District – and former Board Member of ArtsEkta – an Indian and ethnic arts based organisation. She was previously the Arts Manager at Arts & Business Northern Ireland and was a Regional Panel Member for the Theatrical Management Association Awards. Janine currently sits on the Board of Down Community Arts and is undertaking a Masters in Drama & Performance Studies at Queen's University Belfast, whilst taking time out from her career to spend more time with her family.



Mr Montgomery has declared political activity on behalf of the Ulster Unionist Party.

**Suggested Questions/Discussion Topics**

- What progress is being made for a National Art Gallery to be built; how can we ensure that this facility is based in Belfast?
- With the level of investment in capital infrastructure, eg Lyric and MAC, what additional resources has the Arts Council secured to fund ongoing revenue costs?
- What impact has government budget cuts had on the Arts Council budget; what is the impact on the sector?
- The recommendation of the CAL committee is to invest more in community arts – what is the Arts Council view of this? What is their international role to promote Northern Ireland artists? How can we ensure that Belfast gains international recognition from its culture & arts sector?

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