

Document Pack

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



4th March, 2010

MEETING OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Dear Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room (Room G05), City Hall on Tuesday, 9th March, 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. Lyric Theatre (Pages 1 - 6)
3. Departmental Plan Quarterly Update (Pages 7 - 32)
4. Belfast Employability and Skills Strategy and Action Plan (Pages 33 - 76)
5. Economic Development Unit Funding Requests (Pages 77 - 80)
6. Belfast Welcome Centre (Pages 81 - 84)
7. Bank Square (Pages 85 - 86)
8. Royal Exchange Regeneration Project (Pages 87 - 88)
9. Sprucefield Public Inquiry - Update (Pages 89 - 90)

10. Transfer of the Funding for Local Arts Organisations under the Review of Public Administration (Pages 91 - 102)
11. MTV Belfast Music Week (Pages 103 - 138)
12. Culture Night (Pages 139 - 152)
13. Conference Subvention (Pages 153 - 154)
14. Support for Sport - Event Funding (Pages 155 - 168)
15. Play Resource Warehouse (Pages 169 - 176)
16. Belfast City Council Youth Forum (Pages 177 - 188)
17. Climate Change Conference (Pages 189 - 202)
18. Neighbourhood Renewal - Update (Pages 203 - 228)
19. Bi-Monthly Departmental Briefing Document (Pages 229 - 230)



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Lyric Theatre
Date:	9 February 2010
Reporting Officer:	Peter McNaney Chief Executive ext 6001
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay Head of Economic Initiatives ext 3459

Relevant Background Information

At a meeting of the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee on 14 December 2007 Members agreed to provide £1.25m funding from the City Investment Fund to the Lyric Theatre, subject to "detailed negotiations and final approval by the Council on the schedule of payments, full recognition being given to the Council in respect of its contribution, the Lyric Theatre being requested to consider Council representation on its Board and a commitment from the Lyric Theatre to undertake an outreach programme in the wider Belfast community".

The Development Department has taken forward discussions with the Lyric Theatre on the funding conditions and briefed Legal Services who have completed the draft legal agreements which are now ready for signature.

The purpose of this report is to brief Members on the progress which has been made and to receive a presentation from Ciaran McAuley, the Chief Executive of the Lyric Theatre, on its education and outreach work, the progress with fundraising and the present state of construction work.

The Committee will then be requested to make a recommendation to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee, who will have to be briefed by the Director of Finance & Resources in relation to the schedule of payments and the release of funding.

Currently BCC provides funding to the Lyric through the multi-annual funding scheme to the value of £37,971 for the financial year 2010-2011, to cover programming costs.

Key Issues

The total cost of the Lyric project is £18m. Funding support is coming from a number of sources including :

- Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure £9.4m
- Lottery Funding sourced through the Arts Council £2.4m
- Belfast City Council contribution of £1.25m.

This is 73% of the total funding of the project.

The remaining 27% of funding is being raised by the Lyric themselves.

This 27% amounts to almost £5m. The Lyric have now confirmed that £4.75m of this amount has now been sourced from private donations and philanthropic trusts.

A schedule of payments has been agreed through Legal Services and the Director of Finance and Resources and the first Council payment would be due in April 2010 subject to final Council approval. This money is required to maintain the cash flow required for the construction project.

CONDITIONS – Full recognition for Council contributions

The Lyric Theatre has provided full recognition of the Council's contribution to the project in all its promotional material since the Council funding decision in January 2008. Since that time the Council has been recognised as one of the foundation supporters of the rebuild project and the Council's logo has been prominently displayed on promotional material produced by the Lyric Theatre in relation to the project. The Council was represented by the Lord Mayor at the unveiling of the foundation stone of the new Theatre in September 2009 and the Lord Mayor wrote the foreword to the event programme. The Lyric has committed to giving full credit to the Council as one of the foundation partners and the Council will be so credited at the opening of the new Theatre and in all the promotional material associated with the opening.

CONDITIONS - Representation on the Board of the Lyric Theatre

Following the Council decision to provide funding, Council officers relayed to the Board of the Lyric Theatre the Councils wish to have representation on the Board. In response the Lyric has advised us that since its foundation 50 years ago the Board has never included representatives of any corporation, funder or collective interest. A full scale review of the governance of the Board was conducted 2 years ago which resulted in the drawing up of a new memorandum and articles of association (the legal document which forms a limited company). These memorandum and articles of association for the Lyric expressly forbid corporations to be members of trustees of the Board which is constituted as a charity. As a constituted charity the Lyric will not pay VAT on the construction contract for the new build. It is normal practice in such circumstances for funding bodies not to be represented on a charitable organisation claiming such relief from construction projects. Other funders such as the Arts Council are also not represented on the Board, they operate 'on the arms length principle' which follows good governance advice in not placing representatives of funding organisations on the board of arts organisations to avoid conflicts of interest. The Lyric have indicated that unlike other arts organisations in Northern Ireland they are a producing Theatre which commissions and works with new artists to produce pieces for performance in the Theatre.

The Lyric recognise the Council's need as a funder to be reassured on how the construction of the new building is proceeding. To this end the Council have been offered representation on the Project Board which is overseeing the project which comprises all the investment decision makers, currently the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, DCAL and the Council. The Lyric also recognise the Councils concern on its education and outreach activities and to this end has agreed to set up an Education and Outreach Advisory Committee which will be served by the Lyric Education Officer.

The job of the Sub Committee will be to provide advice on education and outreach activities. The Lyric would be pleased to have 2 Council representatives on this Panel and have further offered to update the Council on an annual basis of its outreach and education activities by attendance at a meeting of the Development Committee.

It should be noted that at the Council meeting on 5 January 2010 it was agreed that the Chief Executive of the Lyric Theatre be advised that the Committee will wish to raise with him during his presentation to the Committee the refusal of the Board to agree to the Council's request to be represented on the Board and that the Council finds this position entirely unacceptable, given the level of financial support which has been provided to the Lyric Theatre.

The Chief Executive has been so advised.

Education and Outreach

As outlined above the Lyric Theatre has recently appointed an Education Officer whose job will be to further develop an education and outreach programme during the time the Theatre is being built and to develop a full programme of activities once the Theatre is in full operation. A copy of the commitment by the present Chairman of the Theatre to its education programme contained on the Lyric's website is attached as Appendix 1 together with details of the recent education programmes such as the Boatyard programme which was an initiative involving 6 local primary schools in North and East Belfast and related the history of Belfast's shipbuilding past. The Theatre is presently developing its Pat and Plane project with 12 primary schools throughout Northern Ireland looking at the development of the linen industry. The Theatre also run schools for aspiring actors in the 18-24 age range and a whole range of individual projects. The Lyric Theatre has recently appointed a new Education Officer from the 1 March 2010 and the Chief Executive of the Theatre Ciaran McAuley will further update the Committee on the education programme. The Theatre has committed, in the legal agreement, to undertake an education and outreach programme in the City.

Recommendations

Committee are requested:

- 1 To note the information provided and receive a presentation from the Chief Executive of the Lyric Theatre.
- 2 To note the proposal by the Lyric Theatre that the Council be represented on the Education and Outreach Advisory Committee and the Construction Project Board.
- 3 To make a recommendation to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee on whether the funding conditions have been satisfied.

Decision Tracking

There is no decision tracking attached to this report as it is for notation only.

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Lyric Theatre Belfast
Box Office 028 9038 5673

APPENDIX 1

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Learning



Education is at the heart of the Lyric Theatre's work. As construction work begins for our new landmark theatre, that education work is even more important to us than before.

Education will, quite rightly, permeate all aspects of the new theatre's operations.

I am delighted to introduce these education projects which have been specially designed for our off-site, transition period. The projects will form a large part of our work over the next eighteen months as we watch our new £18m theatre rise out of the ground on Ridgeway Street.

It is particularly pleasing that the programme covers a broad sweep of the educational spectrum from primary schools, through the secondary sector to young adults who have left the education system or who are embarking on third level education. Even more significantly, the scheme encompasses different levels of engagement on the part of the participants. Some will enjoy the thrill of experiencing professional productions in their own schools while others will be encouraged to step onto a stage themselves for the first time.

It is also very important to the Lyric to be taking this work into every part of the city of Belfast - and beyond. It is our mission as Northern Ireland's only full-time producing theatre to take work 'on the road', visiting communities the length and breadth of the country.

The four parts of our programme have been designed as pilot projects. We are keen to use this current transition period to gauge both audience reaction and teachers' needs. We want to learn how to structure our activities in our new home to make them even better for our future audiences.

We very much **look forward to receiving feedback from all those who participate** in these projects. I am sure that the Lyric has a very large part to play in enriching young people's knowledge and understanding through the experience of live theatre.

Mark Carruthers
Chairman

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**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Quarterly update of the Departmental Plan (Q3)
Date:	9 March 2010
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen Director of Development ext 3470 Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives ext 3459
Contact Officer:	Barbary Cook, Policy and Business Development Manager, ext. 3620

Relevant Background Information

The Development Departmental Plan 2009 -2010 was approved by the Development 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 third quarter of 2009-2010 (for the period 1 October – 31 December 2009).

Key Issues

Service and Unit Managers were 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. 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 additional resource implications.

Recommendations

<p>The Committee is asked to note: The update of Development Department's Plan for the period 1 October – 31 December 2009.</p>

Decision Tracking

<p>There is no decision tracking attached to this report as it is for notation purposes only.</p>

Documents Attached

<p>Appendix 1: Quarterly update of the 2009/10 Departmental Plan for the period 1 October – 31 December 2009</p>
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Departmental Plan Update For the period of 1st October 2009 – 31st December 2009

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

Corporate Objective	Departmental Objective	Key Actions	Lead Officer	Status of initiative	Please provide an updated commentary for each project/initiative or event
Establish our place shaping role by better use and planning of the cities assets.	Lead and influence the development of the city. Promote Belfast’s position as the capital city and an engine of regional growth Develop effective partnerships. Promote and enhance Belfast’s unique proposition and experience.	Develop and review Belfast SOTC process	Barbary Cook	Deferred	State of the City’ programme of events to be repositioned for a relaunch in the Spring of 2010, in the context of the overall BCC Corporate agenda and wider Community Planning process.
		Provide quality research and develop evidence base	Barbary Cook	On target	Research plan for the department being implemented. Flow of capital research is finalised.
		Develop and adopt a city development plan	Barbary Cook	Deferred	Awaiting central process to review Masterplan and City Investment Framework.
		Build key relationships with Neighbourhood Renewal (NR) partnership boards	Siobhan Watson	On target	Work is progressing to implement the council response to the 12 NR action plans. An update report will be presented to committee.
		Further implement a Belfast Brand strategy and Marketing Process	Shirley McCay	On target	Brand Manager is now in place, work ongoing.
		Develop a council’s ‘Children and Young People’ strategy	Catherine Taggart	On target	Preliminary discussions underway (Quarter 4) with both internal and external stakeholders. Formulation of draft strategy anticipated by June.
		Develop and implement a Community Development Action Plan in partnership with key stakeholders	Catherine Taggart	On target	In preparation for the transfer of functions under RPA, DSD have commissioned the development of ‘A Strategy and Policy Framework for Urban Regeneration and

Corporate Objective	Departmental Objective	Key Actions	Lead Officer	Status of initiative	Please provide an updated commentary for each project/initiative or event
					Community Development in NI'. The Service is currently engaging with DSD, the appointed external consultants and other key stakeholders to inform an action plan for the city. Pending these discussions a draft project plan will be tabled with committee for consideration.
		Review and extend the Community Support Plan for a one year period to 2011	Catherine Taggart	Complete	Draft Report tabled for committee consideration Feb 2010 and approved.
		Provision of a capacity building and practical skills programme to community sector organisations	Catherine Taggart	On target	2 Capacity Building pilot projects currently live.
		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
		Work with relevant stakeholders to ensure the efficient transfer of traveller site responsibilities related to RPA	Catherine Taggart	Complete	Following an extensive lobbying process by the Local Government Partnership, the Council's Traveller Liaison Officer and NILGA , the proposed RPA transfer of Traveller Transit Sites from NIHE to local government has been reversed . It is considered the best interests of the Traveller community and all Councils in NI have been served by this decision. BCC in partnership with LGP will continue to assist and support the NIHE in the delivery of their Traveller site programme.
		Ensure BCC understands and meets its statutory obligations in relation to Child Protection Policy and Procedure	Catherine Taggart	On target	Policy review complete and revised policy currently in production. Training programme ongoing

Corporate Objective	Departmental Objective	Key Actions	Lead Officer	Status of initiative	Please provide an updated commentary for each project/initiative or event
		Secure DSD grant leverage	Catherine Taggart	On target	Previously secured DSD grant support for the Community Support Plan in Belfast of £1,584,286 Additional funds of £167,000 secured to support the additional demands on the Advice Sector. Committee to consider a further offer of additional funds (£167k) to support extended services under the CSP. Total potential DSD grant of £1,918,382 for 2009/10
		Secure DSD grant leverage under Integrated Development Fund for Renewing the Routes	Shirley McCay	On target	To date £2.4M in total has been secured.
		Co-ordinate activity in relation to the engagement in the Regional Development Strategy Fundamental 10 Year Review that provides the 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.	Keith Sutherland	Externally Delayed	Engagement with DRD working group completed. Formal consultation delayed by DRD
		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.	Keith Sutherland	Externally Delayed	Final publication of plan still awaited (anticipated late Spring 2010).
		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.	Keith Sutherland	On target	Ongoing

Corporate Objective	Departmental Objective	Key Actions	Lead Officer	Status of initiative	Please provide an updated commentary for each project/initiative or event
		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	Work ongoing
		Review the applicability of the Belfast Masterplan and if appropriate refresh the document to reflect the current economic, social and physical environments within the city.	Shirley McCay	Deferred	Draft TOR being reviewed in light of new corporate planning hierarchy.
		Enhance Belfast Waterfront and re-launch the Ulster Hall as cultural landmarks in the City	Tim Husbands	On target	Work is ongoing to review and monitor programming strategy to ensure that programming at both venues continues to become more co-ordinated, thematic and targeted. Both venues are now contributing to Cultural Tourism/ Sunday in Belfast products.
		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' in the Ulster Hall and offer open rehearsals to the public. Currently working with the Ulster Orchestra management through joint educational initiatives to enhance our partnership arrangement.
		Exceed internal and external client expectations in relation to operational service delivery of Waterfront and Ulster Hall	Tim Husbands	On target	As part of the UK 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, and operational improvements.
		Increase overall external	Tim	On target	A review of the Waterfront's

Corporate Objective	Departmental Objective	Key Actions	Lead Officer	Status of initiative	Please provide an updated commentary for each project/initiative or event
		funding/sponsorship income for the Waterfront and Ulster Halls	Husbands		Corporate club sponsorship has been carried out and the possibility of a number of new commercial opportunities are being explored.
		Maximise participation in EU network Eurocities Contribute annual subscription fee Attendance at AGM Attendance at Economic Development, Social Affairs, Culture, Knowledge Society and Environmental forum as well as the Cooperation Platform	Laura Leonard	On target	Appointed Chair of Eurocities economic migration working group Planning underway for EU small business event 2010 Attendance at all relevant Eurocities fora and AGM
		Manage Belfast QEC Network Contribute annual subscription fee Facilitate 20th Anniversary event in Belfast Attend Executive Bureau and AGM meetings	Laura Leonard	On target	Attended Executive Bureau Meeting and contributed to strategic planning of network Held three local network meetings
		Deliver Irish Sea Partnership	Laura Leonard	On target	Awaiting EU funding decision
		Lead Comet Partnership Contribute to annual Service Level Agreement Provide Secretariat for Comet	Laura Leonard	On target	New five year strategic plan under development
		Showcase Belfast in Europe	Laura Leonard	On target	Planned January Belfast Tourism Showcase in Brussels
		Host 5 inward visits	Laura Leonard	On target	Hosted Manchester inward study visit
		Develop and deliver Diversity EU Week for 2010/2011	Laura Leonard	On target	Planning underway
		Secure and deliver Power of Possibility Project	Laura Leonard	Deferred	The Power of Possibility project was submitted on time for peace funding but unfortunately was rejected this

Corporate Objective	Departmental Objective	Key Actions	Lead Officer	Status of initiative	Please provide an updated commentary for each project/initiative or event
					time around. We are redeveloping it for the next call for bids.

Theme: Economy, Physical and Infrastructure
“Better Opportunities for success across the city”

Corporate Objective	Departmental Objective	Key Actions	Lead Officer	Status of initiative	Please provide an updated commentary for each project/initiative or event
Stimulate growth and competitiveness in key sectors	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	Ongoing meetings taking place – draft plan to be circulated mid-February for endorsement at 22 March meeting of the group.
		Deliver a programme of support for the creative industries sector	Shirley McCay	On target	Programmes still ongoing
		Deliver a programme of support for the environmental industries sector	Shirley McCay	On target	BITES programme launched November 2009: recruitment by January 2010. Management development programme underway – completes April 2010.
		Deliver a programme of support for the advanced manufacturing sector	Shirley McCay	On target	Programme launched Nov 09 – recruitment to complete by end January 2010
		Deliver a programme of support for the independent retail sector	Shirley McCay	On target	Retail Therapy programme out to tender; Committee approval for marketing campaigns expected January 2010; Craft on Concourse now complete; 130 HARTE participants now recruited – 58 into employment and 550 qualifications completed
		Support networking and mentoring initiatives for hi-tech businesses, in collaboration with NI Science Park	Shirley McCay	On target	

Corporate Objective	Departmental Objective	Key Actions	Lead Officer	Status of initiative	Please provide an updated commentary for each project/initiative or event
		Deliver Sales Growth programme	Shirley McCay	On target	Programme commenced December 2010
		Deliver Strategy in Business programme	Shirley McCay	On target	Programme commenced November 2010
		Develop and deliver Franchise programme (in collaboration with Lisburn City Council)	Shirley McCay	On target	Programme underway – 15 businesses participating – programme concludes June 2010
		Develop and deliver membership services and events programme for World Trade Centre Belfast (budget approved by January 09 Development Committee)	Shirley McCay	On target	Buy-Make-Sell Global programme to be launched January 2010 One networking event November 2010: two events planned for February and March 2010
		Develop and deliver initiatives to support enhanced access to public and private procurement opportunities	Shirley McCay	On target	Final post-project report due January 2010
		Engage in and promote access to the NI Rural Development Programme	Shirley McCay	On target	Project progressing – promotional work being undertaken to increase number of Belfast applications
		Maximise opportunities arising from international linkages e.g. USA, China	Shirley McCay	On target	Nashville/Austin visit planned for March 2010; programme of collaboration with local Chinese Chamber of Commerce being developed
		Support delivery of Belfast Business Awards	Shirley McCay	On target	All categories open for awards
		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	All programmes still ongoing
		Develop and deliver HARTE (Hospitality and Retail Training for Employment) project	Shirley McCay	On target	130 HARTE participants now recruited – 58 into employment and 550 qualifications completed
		Market Intelligence	Shirley	On target	Business survey to be completed –

Corporate Objective	Departmental Objective	Key Actions	Lead Officer	Status of initiative	Please provide an updated commentary for each project/initiative or event
		Undertake survey of 500 businesses Commission and produce quarterly research updates on economic conditions and forecasts Include editorial in Business Eye and other appropriate business magazines	McCay		January 2010. Quarterly economic updates to be completed – January 2010
		Carry out feasibility work on key business locations (Giant's Park; Paint Hall; World Trade Centre) and business incubation support	Shirley McCay	On target	Research completed – exploring options for linkages with other council/partner activity and identifying possible funding
		Develop appropriate promotional material to raise the profile of Belfast	Shirley McCay	On target	Guide to be produced January 2010
		Engage in focused external promotional activity by attendance at MIPIM and MAPIC	Shirley McCay	On target	Agreement on collaborative attendance at MIPIM with Derry and Lisburn City Councils
		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.
		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	BCC Corporate Communications Digital Strategy to be completed by the end of February 2010. This will assist the Waterfront and Ulster Halls to support the development of CRM at both venues.
		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	Shirley McCay	On target	Special Development Committee meeting on 8 th February to review. Party Briefings have been undertaken. NITB board ratified in December 2009.

Corporate Objective	Departmental Objective	Key Actions	Lead Officer	Status of initiative	Please provide an updated commentary for each project/initiative or event
		and evaluating the economic impact of tourism; provision of a comprehensive visitor management scheme; community tourism initiatives			
		Continue to provide tourism interpretative signage as part of the Cultural Tourism Visitor Management Plan (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	
		Develop C S Lewis Infrastructure	Shirley McCay	On target	Literacy tourism is on target we have been successful in a £113k application for joint funding from the NITB "Tourism Innovation fund."
		Secure and Deliver Open Cities migrants project	Laura Leonard	On target	Project delivery on target
		Deliver Comet Interreg Including overseeing delivery of at least seven Comet projects Including provision and management of Secretariat (3 staff)	Laura Leonard	On target	Letters of offer received for partnership running costs and three posts Letter of offer received for bio-recorders project Lobby sustained
		Develop and deliver RDP Transnational Programme	Laura Leonard	On target	Await Cluster go ahead to deliver
		Secure Environmental Industries Project	Laura Leonard	On target	Postponed at 2010 at comet
		Develop EU Day of Entrepreneur Initiative	Laura Leonard	On target	Event planned for May 2010
		Develop Titanic tourism product and infrastructure.	Shirley McCay	On target	NITB / BCC have established a working group to assess potential of a Titanic Heritage Trail

Corporate Objective	Departmental Objective	Key Actions	Lead Officer	Status of initiative	Please provide an updated commentary for each project/initiative or event
Developed a strong cultural and tourism experience	Develop a strong cultural experience.	Open Lock Number 1 of the Lagan canal.	Shirley McCay	On target	Economic appraisal completed. Funding options currently being identified.
		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 Commission Barriers to access research Festival action plan Delivery of City Carnival	Shirley McCay	On target	All funding programmes on target for full draw down of funds by end of March 2010
		Create a Public Arts strategy and programme.	Shirley McCay	On target	A public art framework has been written. 'Rise' delayed due to shortfall of funding which was resolved in December 2009. Economic Appraisal has been amended to reflect changes in project and final contract has been drafted with artist. New date for completion is September 2010
		Develop existing city markets	Shirley McCay	On target	St George's Market is continuing to grow and is recognised as one of the 'places to visit' for overseas visitors and local citizens. It was recognised as 6th best market in

Corporate Objective	Departmental Objective	Key Actions	Lead Officer	Status of initiative	Please provide an updated commentary for each project/initiative or event
					the UK and was described as being "as much for entertainment as your five-a-day". We continue to have strong demand for people wanting to trade in St George's on both market days.
		Conference Subvention – continue to implement the conference subvention scheme through supporting national and international conferences	Shirley McCay	On target	Work ongoing.
		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	Funding secured under tourism innovation scheme. Due to delays in Letter of Offer projects have new deadline of completion of 31 st May 2010.
		Retail Gap Study to be undertaken with BCCM	Shirley McCay	Externally Delayed	Not appropriate in the current market
		Prepare an Integrated City Events Strategy for consultation in order to: Identify more customer focused delivery Identify new sources of funding Seek new partners to assist in delivery	Tim Husbands	On target	Following a procurement process to appoint a consultancy to carry out the necessary supporting research, it is hoped to have a draft strategy completed by the year end.
		Develop and deliver and integrated events/festivals programme including Tall Ships and large park events	Tim Husbands	On target	A highly successful Halloween and Christmas Lights events were held in the city and a successful liaison with Parks Department helped to deliver a number of other large outdoor events.
		Evening Economy – continue to develop the evening economy in	Shirley McCay	On target	Funding secured.

Corporate Objective	Departmental Objective	Key Actions	Lead Officer	Status of initiative	Please provide an updated commentary for each project/initiative or event
		Belfast			
		Deliver a vibrant and inclusive programme of events and services in Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall	Tim Husbands	On target	The Waterfront held its most successful pantomime season to date. Additional audience development activities during the quarter included a number of pantomime workshops. The Community Ticketing Scheme is also now operating very successfully at both venues.
		Create sustainable catering and bar offering facilities at the Waterfront Hall.	Tim Husbands	On target	Currently on the fourth year of a five year contract with Mount Charles Catering Ltd. A new tendering process and preparation of associated tender documentation will commence early next year.
		Secure Culture Bid	Laura Leonard	Externally Delayed	The call for applications for funding is not yet open.
		Deliver Opportunity Europe 6	Laura Leonard	On target	Await call opening.
		Develop year 2010 campaign	Laura Leonard	On target	Planning underway for October 2010.
		Develop EU Youth programme	Laura Leonard	Complete	An application was submitted on time. Unfortunately the funding application rejected.
		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;	Shirley McCay	On target	Final completion March 2010.

Corporate Objective	Departmental Objective	Key Actions	Lead Officer	Status of initiative	Please provide an updated commentary for each project/initiative or event
		Public Realm Enhancements; Environmental Improvements; Heritage Property and Tourism Developments.			
		Partnership activity and support with external agencies to develop environmental 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.	Shirley McCay	On target	Committee approval to explore partnership with BRO for NR2012
		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	Complete	Application approved. Development work ongoing.
		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	All artwork complete. Delay to installation due to finalisation of consents and maintenance.
		Development and implementation of additional public realm / local environmental enhancement works for target regeneration areas- in	Shirley McCay	Complete	Ongoing projects to be completed by BRO

Corporate Objective	Departmental Objective	Key Actions	Lead Officer	Status of initiative	Please provide an updated commentary for each project/initiative or event
		partnership with DSD.			
		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	Externally Delayed	A delay to the project has been incurred due to the wait for SEUPB approval. The economic appraisal has now been approved by SEUPB and project development works have commenced. The project is on target for the revised, post SEUPB delays, timescales.
		Continued Council involvement in Sufalnet 4EU Interreg 4C Project to exchange knowledge of developing former landfill sites i.e. North Foreshore	Shirley McCay	On target	EU Funding Application Approved. Partners meeting arranged in April 2010
		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	Funding application is to be revised and resubmitted to EU.
		Complete Phase 1 of the North Foreshore Plan. 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	Shirley McCay	On target	Site Closure works progressing well in north west area of site. Reviewing Master Plan

Corporate Objective	Departmental Objective	Key Actions	Lead Officer	Status of initiative	Please provide an updated commentary for each project/initiative or event
		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			
		Complete Gasworks northern fringe master plan. 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.	Shirley McCay / Pamela Davison	Externally Delayed	Issues with NIEA and contamination legislation still to be resolved.

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

Corporate Objective	Departmental Objective	Key Actions	Lead Officer	Status of initiative	Please provide an updated commentary for each project/initiative or event
Reduced the city’s impact on climate change and improved air quality;	Support and influence the creation of a modern transportation and electronic infrastructure. Reduce departmental carbon footprint.	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	Complete	Reviewed Policy currently being printed.
Protect, promote and	Protect and promote the city's built heritage.	The coordination of Council responses in respect of strategic	Keith Sutherland	Externally Delayed	Consultation delayed by DRD. Other policy work ongoing.

enhance the city's natural & built heritage and open spaces		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.		Rapid transit / Public Transport reform Complete	Others Ongoing
		The development and implement pilot actions identified in the review of the Council Transport Policy and the parallel monitoring of transport initiatives or actions carried out by other agencies.	Keith Sutherland	Delayed	Subject to the resolution of internal plan and resources. Other work ongoing.
		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 Committee for comment.
		Develop a green strategy for the Waterfront and Ulster Hall	Tim Husbands	On target	An Environmental Strategy and associated processes are being prepared to assist the Hall to both minimise operational costs and conserve energy, including the recycling of waste.
		Support environmental projects at neighbourhood level such as recycling, park murals, community clean ups and waste week activities	Catherine Taggart	On target	Environmental Initiatives ongoing or planned at all 22 sites many occurring during summer scheme programmes.
		Continue to implement Environmental Management System in the Department	David Orr	On target	Various initiatives ongoing throughout the year
		Deliver Interreg Carbon Footprint project	Laura Leonard	Externally Delayed	This Interreg application has been delayed as the funders have introduced a second stage application process. The additional application has now been completed and submitted and the

				project is back on track.	
		Deliver Irish Sea Carbon Card project	Laura Leonard	On target	Secured €6 Million Interreg IVB and deliver project
		Continue delivery of Urban Matrix project	Laura Leonard	Complete	Project complete
		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 and is complemented by its contribution as a key cultural tourism product for the city.
		Deliver heritage community programmes. 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 resources Deliver Place, Position and Ownership project with University of Ulster.	Shirley McCay	On target On target On target On target On target	Still awaiting the final letter of offer from NITB who have some minor questions about the application. Community Archive – considerable work been carried out on the website to make it functional. Training been received on uploading material. Second draft of Belfast archaeology book received and undergoing final edit. Training delivered to community groups around community archive process. Work on-going feeding into interpretation for the Titanic Signature project. Supported process round the City Hall architectural history, part funded through P &R and Chief Exec's Dept.

**Theme: Social Inclusion and Social & Cultural
“Better support for people and communities”**

Corporate Objective	Departmental Objective	Key Actions	Lead Officer	Status of initiative	Please provide an updated commentary for each project/initiative or event
People enjoy living in a vibrant, shared and diverse city	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 decisions about their neighbourhoods	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 Period 9 usage figures on course to meet annual targets.
Health and Social	Reduce deprivation and poverty	Implement a support programme for traveller and other ethnic minority communities.	Catherine Taggart	On target	The TLO, in partnership with Community Development staff, is operating a flexible support programme with the Traveller community and the Traveller support network. The TLO has also developed an outreach programme from the BCC Site Office which facilitates direct contact between the Traveller community and key service providers. The service is continuing to receive positive feedback from all stakeholders.
		Review and define the Council's method of community development intervention.	Catherine Taggart	On target	CENI / CFNI are finalising social assets mapping for each of the BCC city places to inform the Area Support Unit Business Plan in 2010/1.
		Deliver premier city wide children and young peoples programme.	Catherine Taggart	Complete	Programmes of activities for children & young people at 28 council sites Plans in development for 2010

Corporate Objective	Departmental Objective	Key Actions	Lead Officer	Status of initiative	Please provide an updated commentary for each project/initiative or event
					programme Service has submitted a bid for thematic funding.
		Support delivery of Neighbourhood Economic Development projects (budget previously approved by Committee)	Shirley McCay	Complete	
		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 work in conjunction with the Council's ASB officer in order to contribute to the work of Belfast's four key ASB Forums.
		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 with £1.77m distributed to 248 groups to date. Secured additional £167k from DSD to support extended services via 5 BCC Advice Consortia. Preparing to implement revised Community Grant Aid programme in line with Dept Grant Aid review.
		The administration of financial support to 5 independently managed centres	Catherine Taggart	On target	Continuing to support and administer independently managed centres. Working with Parks & Leisure Services to oversee Shankill Football Club management of the Hammer Pavilion site. Ongoing project management of capital investment levered at Shaftesbury.
		Develop the Council's poverty policy and implement actions.	Barbary Cook	On target	Engagement with key internal staff and thematic working groups throughout December '09 and January '10.
		Deliver a programme of events and	Tim	On target	Partnerships are being maintained

Corporate Objective	Departmental Objective	Key Actions	Lead Officer	Status of initiative	Please provide an updated commentary for each project/initiative or event
		related activities aimed at children and young people in conjunction with partners and sponsors (e.g. Trans/UAA project).	Husbands		with a number of arts and educational organisations aimed at increasing and improving programming for CYP and with a view to developing future business opportunities.
		Identify innovative ways to promote citizens engagement	Siobhan Watson	Delayed	Engagement mechanisms developed. The programme is aligning itself with the residents survey and it is anticipated that it will roll out later in the year.
		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 Period 9 average usage of centres 61%
		Targeted services for children and young people	Catherine Taggart	On target	Afterschools clubs and youth projects at 22 BCC community centres. Additional 6 sites through play service and development of outreach service. Officer and grant support for all 12 NRP partnerships to deliver 'Ur City 2' projects in local neighbourhoods. (£60k)
		To foster greater civic responsibility	Catherine Taggart	On target	Supporting and developing volunteers to contribute to their local communities. By end of Period 9, over 54,000 volunteer hours supported across the service1.
		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	Catherine Taggart	On target	Planned series of Volunteer area support events.

Corporate Objective	Departmental Objective	Key Actions	Lead Officer	Status of initiative	Please provide an updated commentary for each project/initiative or event
		volunteer celebration events.			
		Continue to improve consultation and involvement with youth Via the BCC Youth Forum and related activity	Catherine Taggart	On target	Current term of Youth Forum scheduled to end in June. Committee to consider proposals to establish new Forum in March 2010. Relationships with emerging NI Youth Assembly being actively nurtured.
		Promote community cohesion and support communities to live and work safely together	Catherine Taggart	On target	Ongoing work in centres and local neighbourhoods

Theme: Better Services

Corporate Objective	Departmental Objective	Key Actions	Lead Officer	Status of initiative	Please provide an updated commentary for each project/initiative or event
Provide a range of services which respond to local needs and are easily accessible by all citizens	Make sure local services can respond to local needs Make sure citizens can easily and effectively access information and services.	Develop forms of citizen intelligence system	Siobhan Watson	Complete	
		Designing services based on citizen requirements	Siobhan Watson	On target	Neighbourhood Intelligence system in place
		Implement a customer services framework	Tim Husbands	On target	Established Departmental Customer Focus Group to audit standards level and quality.
		Increase the participation of communities	Catherine Taggart	On target	Period 9 average % use of centres city wide 61%.
		Review Community Centre Management roles and	Catherine Taggart	On target	New Community Facilities Unit agreed with implementation 2010/11 in conjunction with Service Structural

Corporate Objective	Departmental Objective	Key Actions	Lead Officer	Status of initiative	Please provide an updated commentary for each project/initiative or event
		responsibilities			Review.
		Ensure that the activities provided at the Waterfront and Ulster Hall are fully accessible to all sections of the Community	Tim Husbands	On target	The Halls operate a community access policy which includes community ticketing, venue tours and community usage of space, which is advertised through the Community Arts Forum and Voluntary Arts Ireland websites and other digital media to ensure equality of access. KPIs are currently being developed to measure the impact of these activities.
		Establish EU Regional Forum	Laura Leonard	On target	Belfast in Europe monthly meeting Two projects secured
		Produce 4 EU Bulletins and funding alerts (EU communication plan)	Laura Leonard	On target	Final Bulletin plan
		Hold 1 EU Consul event	Laura Leonard	Complete	Complete

People and Processes

“Better value for money – a can-do, accountable, efficient council”

Corporate Objective	Departmental Objective	Key Actions	Lead Officer	Status of initiative	Please provide an updated commentary for each project/initiative or event
Ensuring resources are fully aligned to corporate priorities Ensuring we deliver value for money services Attracting and developing our people	Use financial and human resources in the most effective way Improve departmental processes and systems Increase departmental efficiencies	Implement the recommendations of the BIS structural review	David Orr	On target Delayed On target	Community Services structure agreed at Committee January 2010. Categorisation and allocation process underway. Business Support implementation held due to VR exercise and supernumerary issues. Operational Review of Tourism Structure and Departmental Grants Team ongoing. Update report to February 2010 Committee.

		Implement and manage the corporate attendance policy in the department	David Orr	On target	New Policy implemented from 1 January 2010 Departmental processes reviewed and amended accordingly. Departmental change plan being implemented
		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. Assessment took place. November 2009. Awaiting feedback report
		Complete and communicate capital and revenue estimates	David Orr	Complete	Preparation complete and action plan agreed. Historic information compiled and distributed. Templates issued to all budget holders. DDMT approval obtained and information input to SAP for deadline 16 October 2009. Continuous review and efficiency programme identified and completed 31 December 2009.
		Implement recommendations from a strategic departmental grant review	Barbary Cook/David Orr	On target	Implementation plan agreed. Application and award criteria being finalised, workshops held on criteria and impacts definition and the Central Grants Team being set up. Report to Committee Feb 2010.
		Develop communications strategy for the department	Barbary Cook	On target	Final version due to be confirmed by DDMT by end of February.
		Implement a new organisation structure for Community Services, that provides for greater integration within the Development Department	Catherine Taggart	Delayed	Community Service Structure agreed by committee Jan 2010. Implementation to September 2010
		Implement a new organisational structure for the Waterfront and Ulster Hall that provides for greater integration across the Development	Tim Husbands	On target	Implementation of the new structure is almost complete.

		Department.			
		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	Working with BCC Asset Management Group to identify and consider all licence or lease arrangements in respect of community premises Gate 5 Review currently underway for Ballymacarrett Recreation centre. Report for presentation to March committee. Currently responding to community sector request to consider options for service delivery in greater village area.
		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 – re-scheduled for January 2010. Corporate and local training being designed. Financial Management training courses in conjunction with Corporate Services and CIPFA carried out mid October 2009.
		Continue to implement improvements by STEPS and prepare department for the next submission	David Orr	On target	Various continuous improvement initiatives ongoing.
		Ensure effective maintenance systems for key mechanical and electrical systems at the Waterfront and Ulster Hall.	Tim Husbands	On target	An extensive planned and preventative maintenance programme is in place and an operational review of all processes is underway.
		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	On target	An upgrade to the Artifax system was successfully completed in December 2009. Consultation is ongoing with staff to improve the use and operational capacity of both systems.



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Belfast Employability and Skills Strategy and Action Plan
Date:	9 March 2010
Reporting Officer:	John Mc Grillen Director of Development ext 3470 Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459
Contact Officer:	Lisa Toland, Economic Development Manager, ext 3427

Relevant Background Information

Members will be aware that, at the December 2008 meeting of the Development Committee, Members were informed of research that had been undertaken on skills and employability issues in Belfast. They agreed that, in order to maximise the impact of the Council's interventions in this field, efforts should be focused on working with key partners on a Belfast Skills and Employment strategy.

Key Issues

The first meeting of the group took place in May 2009. Partners invited to participate included senior representatives from:

- Department for Employment and Learning
- Belfast Metropolitan College
- Alliance of Sector Skills Councils
- Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
- University of Ulster
- Business in the Community
- Federation of Small Business
- Department of Education
- Workforce Development Forum
- Queen's University Belfast
- North Belfast Partnership (on behalf of BAPs)
- Confederation of British Industry
- Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce

Members were asked at the outset to commit to the process for a time-bound period.

At each meeting, papers were presented on issues of interest including skills, worklessness, disadvantaged communities and people and partnership building. Partners inputted into the papers and a structured discussion around the key issues took place at each meeting. Following the discussions, a draft paper has now been collated and is being circulated among all partners for additional input and endorsement.

The draft Belfast Employability and Skills Strategy and Action Plan aims to deliver a significant improvement in the working age employment rate in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods, particularly for specific target groups including long-term unemployed, lone parents and adults with low skills levels. It also aims to enhance employment opportunities for graduates in higher-end jobs in order to improve the Gross Value Added (GVA) levels of the City.

A draft of the Plan is attached in Appendix 1.

Two priority areas for action are identified and an associated list of activities is noted for each area. These are:

Priority 1: Connecting people and jobs

- Linking workless people and vacancies to improve the employment rate
- Tackling barriers to work
- Assisting workless people – particularly those on incapacity benefit – access employment opportunities across Belfast
- Making effective use of social clauses in public procurement
- Supporting social enterprises which address barriers to employment
- Supporting graduates to access employment opportunities in the Belfast economy.

Priority 2: Enhancing the level of skills in the most disadvantaged communities

- Tackling the lack of basic skills and qualifications to improve employability and reduce worklessness
- Meeting the skills needs of sectors and growth opportunities essential to support economic expansion.

In order to deliver these priorities, it will be important to secure buy-in from the key partners – particularly the Department for Employment and Learning. To this end, further meetings will be held to tie down responsibility for the actions and to identify and encourage participation by relevant organisations.

In terms of governance, it is proposed that an employability and skills board is established to oversee and steer the direction of the strategy.

Although defined resources have not yet been confirmed for each of the activities, it is proposed that partners try, where possible, to adapt their mainstream budgets and activities to focus on the identified priorities.

Resource Implications

No confirmed resources from Belfast City Council at present. Proposed resources will be included in 2010-2011 Departmental Plan, to be presented to Committee in April 2010.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members note the content of this proposed Strategy and Action Plan and agree the proposed priority actions, as a basis for collaboration with partners across the City.
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Decision Tracking

If recommendation is approved, updates on progress will be presented to a future meeting of the Development Committee.
--

Time frame: October 2010

Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay

Key to Abbreviations

BAPs – Belfast Area Partnerships

Documents Attached

Appendix 1: Draft Belfast Employability and Skills Strategy and Action Plan

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APPENDIX 1

**BELFAST EMPLOYABILITY & SKILLS
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

March 2010

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PREFACE

The purpose of this draft strategy is to inform discussion and negotiation between partners within Belfast in respect to the development of an overarching strategic framework in which to address employability and skills issues. The strategy resulted out of a lengthy development process which was facilitated by Belfast City Council commencing in April 2009. The council brought together key stakeholders to discuss and formulate ideas and plans to develop a 'City Strategy' type initiative for Belfast based upon existing best practice in the United Kingdom.

Belfast City Council invited senior representatives from the following organisations to participate in a Belfast Employment and Skills Board:

- Department for Employment & Learning (DEL)
- Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI)
- Department of Social Development (DSD)
- Department of Education (DE)
- Queen's University Belfast
- University of Ulster
- Belfast Metropolitan College (BMC)
- Business in the Community (BITC)
- North Belfast Partnership (on behalf of Belfast Area Based Partnerships)
- Alliance of Sector Skills Councils
- Workforce Development Forum (WDF)
- Confederation of British Industry
- Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce

DSD, WDF, BCI and the Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce have not participated to date. DE attended the initiation meeting only.

The interim Board met a total of six times. The initial meeting confirmed a support and commitment to consider the opportunities provided through a city strategy approach. The remaining meetings were thematic based, each member being provided with a briefing paper in advance in order to focus on key issues and agreeing recommendations for the way forward. In addition a number of the interim Board attended the 'Welfare to Work Convention' in Liverpool, June 2009 during which a meeting was held with a representative group of the 15 pilot City Strategies currently in the UK. Finally, at one of our meetings presentations were received by two of the City Strategies, namely Rhyl and Glasgow.

The draft strategy presented within this document is an output of the above developmental process. However, it should be recognised as a starting point and not the finishing line! The council are aware of the need to now enter into advanced discussion and stakeholder engagement to consider the attached proposals.

The next stage as agreed with the interim Board is to circulate the draft strategy widely throughout partner organisations for considered and constructive comment. A final meeting of the interim Board has been arranged for Monday 22 March 2010 and we believe that meeting will allow us to gauge initial thoughts and feedback in respect to the draft strategy. At this point, if the consensus remains that this is a worthwhile exercise, council will enter into detailed discussion and negotiation with individual partner organisations. The purpose of these discussions will be threefold:

1. To gain a commitment from individual organisations to fully and actively participate on the new Board at an agreed senior level
2. To consider specific programme proposals within the strategy in order to avoid issues in respect to duplication and competition
3. To consider what resources individual organisations can bring to deliver the strategy.

It is proposed that these negotiations be completed by the end of May 2010.

Our rationale for producing the strategy was to provide an overarching strategic framework which helped address long standing employability and skills needs within the city. We understand there are activities included within the strategy which individual organisations may already be doing or have proposals on the table etc and we wish to make it clear that we do not and will not be replicating what is already being provided. However, we believe there are substantial gains to be made by bringing these initiatives together under the umbrella of the Belfast Employability & Skills Strategy. In addition there may be cost efficiencies to be gained from working in partnership and sourcing additional funding streams to help meet strategic targets.

We believe the employment rate target of 70.8% in Belfast City Council area to be realistic. Again, future discussions and negotiation must focus on how best this can be best achieved, considering policy implications and priorities between benefit groups, for example should young people be a priority group, those on benefits etc. Careful consideration of these

issues at the outset will allow a clear and concise roadmap to be agreed between partners detailing how, who and by what means Belfast will meet its employment rate target.

Finally, we propose establishing a new Board with overall responsibility for the delivery and management of the strategy. Upon advice from DWP and the Centre for Economic & Social Inclusion we propose to call the board the 'Belfast Employability & Skills Board' which helps to align the initiative with existing UK initiatives. In addition we propose to establish three sub-groups which will be programme based and will focus on the delivery of particular elements of the strategy. Belfast City Council will lead and administer the Belfast Employability & Skills programme. Delivery of the programme will primarily be through existing channels, therefore the resources required to manage the programme will be kept to a minimum.

We trust that all our partner organisations consider the proposals and ideas included within the strategy in the spirit in which they have been presented. The strategy is a draft and is open to revision and change throughout the remaining development period. We look forward to receiving your feedback. If there any pressing issues which need to be discussed please feel free to contact:

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Belfast City Council

Belfast City Council is the largest of 26 local authorities in Northern Ireland. It is the local democratic institution for the city with 51 elected councillors representing nine electoral areas across the city.

The Belfast district council area sits at the heart of the growing population of the wider Belfast metropolitan area, which also comprises the surrounding district council areas of Castlereagh, Lisburn, North Down, Newtownabbey and Carrickfergus. 268,323 people live in the city while 650,958 live in the wider metropolitan area.

The Council delivers key services to citizens such as street cleansing, building control, refuse collection, leisure facilities, parks and community development. It also has a remit for some economic and urban regeneration activity in the city. It does not have responsibility for employability and skills. These powers are administered by the devolved administration in Stormont, primarily through the departments of education and employment and learning.

This does not mean that Belfast City Council does not have role to play in respect to the employability and skills agenda. **Belfast City Council's Corporate Plan 2008-2011** articulates a role of civic leadership and partnership building. It advocates the council as providing **city leadership** defined as '*being ambitious and visionary for Belfast and its people*' and building partnerships which '*develop a shared agenda for making Belfast better*'. It also proposes to facilitate **better opportunities for success across the city** as defined by '*creating a city where everyone can benefit from success and employment opportunities*' and '*developing, nurturing and retaining a skilled, flexible workforce and encouraging enterprise and creativity throughout the city*'.

Professor **Michael Parkinson's** report '**Where is Belfast Going?**', **July 2007** stated: '*...that Belfast's governance and decision-making system seems at the limits of its capacity. So many changes are taking place - economically, physically, politically - that the institutions are having to try very hard to keep up. Some of the progress that has taken place in the city in recent years is almost*

despite, rather than because of, the governance arrangements. Belfast faces a window of opportunity, but that opportunity could pass it by if the place, the people and the system do not seize them. To improve decision-making performance, Belfast will need to create deeper levels of trust between institutions, communities, people, places and parties than currently exist. Belfast has further to go in achieving partnership working. It also faces capacity problems, with often not enough people with the right skills and experience in the right institutions to manage change successfully. If Belfast is to flourish further, it will need grown up leadership from a whole range of institutions and organisations. Belfast will need more vision, leadership, trust and partnership'

Belfast City Council's **Belfast: Core City report, April 2005** stated: 'The size, diversity and vibrancy of Belfast mark it out as a dominant element of the economy and life of Northern Ireland and conforms the city's role as a 'driver' for the whole Northern Ireland economy.....Belfast must aspire to achieve an economy typified by higher graduate levels, higher wages and a track record in generating service sector exports'.

Under the current **Review of Public Administration (RPA)** proposals the Department of the Environment propose creating a 'vision for the future of local government in Northern Ireland as one characterized by: **Citizens will receive excellent services** – Councils will collaborate both locally with other service delivery partners and regionally with other councils and public sector bodies to ensure that services are effective and efficient. **Communities will be stronger** – Councils will lead the delivery of public services to local communities ensuring that they benefit from a joined-up and structured approach across local and central government. Councils will work with communities to ensure that public service interventions are designed, against an overarching community plan, to deliver vibrant, sustainable, safe, healthy and prosperous communities.'¹

Under RPA proposals local authorities will be provided with a number of new functions including that of **community planning** and the **power of well-being**. Under Community Planning proposals each of the eleven new local authorities will lead and facilitate a statute-based community planning process: they will act in

¹ Economic Appraisal Local Government Service Delivery, December 2009.

partnership with private, statutory, voluntary and community sector agencies to respond to local needs and aspirations. Legislative proposals will be brought forward to ensure there is a clear statutory requirement placed on other public bodies to participate and support the community planning process. The new local authorities will also have a new statutory power of well-being to assist them in delivering community planning. This new power will allow them to take any action, not already the responsibility of another agency, linked with the community plan that will improve the well-being of the local community of local area.

There is a compelling case to be made for Belfast City Council to lead the development of an employability and skills agenda which attempts to address stubborn issues in respect to worklessness and poor skills levels which impact upon the economic performance of the city economy and indeed the regional economy. Developing an integrated employability and skills plan would be similar to practice already underway in other parts of the UK through the City Strategy model, yet it would be an innovative development for Northern Ireland and only one of its kind.

1.2 Employability & Skills

In 2007/08 Belfast City Council commissioned two separate pieces of research, one which reviewed issues in respect to employability, the second in respect to skills. The following extracts draw together key conclusions from both documents:

- It is Government policy to assist the unemployed or economically inactive into employment. Being 'in-work' is one of the key measures to addressing poverty. The Northern Ireland Programme for Government 2008-2011 included a commitment to increase the employment rate from 70% to 75% by 2020, in addition to working towards the elimination of child poverty in Northern Ireland by 2020 and reducing child poverty by 50% by 2010.

- The employment rate in Belfast has been below that for Northern Ireland almost throughout the period 2000-2008. The 2008 figure of 70.8% is the highest recorded, and above the Northern Ireland figure of 69.7%. For Northern Ireland as a whole, the employment rate continued rising from the 2006 figure of

68.7% (Local Area LFS) to 71.2% in Spring 2008. It fell back to 65.8% in April-June 2009, and has since recovered to 67.3%. The 2008 figures are the peak achieved to date.

- Inactivity remains a very significant problem in Belfast, with the 2008 figures showing 26.9% of the working age population economically inactive. This is very slightly better than the Northern Ireland figure of 27.3%.
- The city centre (Duncairn, Island and Shaftsbury) is predicted to be the 'red hot core' of jobs growth in Belfast creating over three-quarters of Belfast's 13,980 jobs in the next decade. In terms of sectors, over 90% of financial services jobs are expected to be in the city centre and over 70% of business service and hospitality jobs. Outside the city centre South Belfast is forecast to be the second fastest growth area with a number of new jobs assumed in business services, education, health and hotels. Notwithstanding new developments such as IKEA, East Belfast faces perhaps the most challenging future with a high number of manufacturing job losses. If within Belfast commuting patterns remain unchanged, this spatial location of jobs over the next decade would benefit South Belfast most and West Belfast least.
- There is a strong correlation between qualifications of residents and employment rates. Those individuals with no skills or basic skills are more likely to be unemployed or claiming benefits. In Belfast, 19% of the working age population have no qualifications, which is slightly better than the Northern Ireland figure of 22%. For comparison purposes the similar figure for the South East of England is 8.9%, and Liverpool has 19.5% with no qualifications. In Belfast, 33% of the working age population have qualifications at level 4 and above. Again for comparison, London has 38.6% and the South East of England has 31.5%. Belfast has a higher proportion of its population qualified to this level than Liverpool at 21.9%.
- Many areas of Belfast suffer disproportionately from high levels of unemployment, economic inactivity, benefit claimants and educational under achievement resulting in social and economic deprivation. In the 2001 census differences on resident employment rates ranged from 77% in Orangefield to 32% in Falls, while the difference in the graduate share of working age population ranges from 59% in Malone to 2% in

Crumlin. More worryingly by 2015 Oxford Economics forecast that 12 wards will still have a resident employment rate of less than 50%.

- There are much greater numbers claiming benefits as a result of being sick and disabled in Belfast; there are similar numbers of unemployed and lone parents. Current estimates suggest over 64,000 people inactive in Belfast of which over 34,000 are long-term sick or looking after the home. This is more people than are employed in public administration throughout Northern Ireland. The unemployed (measured by Local Labour Force Survey) have been falling as a proportion of the Belfast population since 2002 and in 2008 measured just 2.4% of the population².
- The economically inactive account for 26.9% of the Belfast working age population (in 2008). This is down from a peak in 2004 of 36%. Together with the unemployed, the workless were thus 29.2% of the working age population, before the recession.
- In May 2009, there were 48,140 claimants of 'key benefits' in Belfast, or 29% of the population.
- 59% of all working age claims were for sickness or disability benefits, 17% of the population. There were 28,300 claiming these benefits in May 2009, which was a fall of 7.9% or 2440 since May 2006. However, the proportion of all claimants who claimed sickness and disability benefits had fallen, as claims for other benefits had fallen faster.³
- Over half the change in stock of jobs within Belfast in the decade ahead is expected to require graduate qualifications. This is explained by the high proportion of jobs growth in professional services and higher-grade occupations, 'skills creep' across all sectors in occupations and a decline in the number of people working in less graduate intensive sectors.

² The unemployment rate, as conventionally quoted, would be higher as this is the unemployed as a proportion of the employed plus unemployed (the economically active).

³ In Northern Ireland, sickness and disability benefits include people who claim Disability Living Allowance without claiming other working age benefits, unlike GB practice. These claimants could be dependants of people claiming other benefits, or could be working, while having mobility or care needs. 14% of all sickness and disability claims were from this group. If this were true for Belfast, this would be 2.6% of the population, reducing the sickness and disability group from 17% of the population to 14.4%.

- Less than 1 in 7 of the change in stock of jobs is forecast to require no qualifications. While jobs growth is predicated for typically low sectors (construction, retail and hospitality), this is largely offset by almost 2,500 job losses in manufacturing.
- Belfast suffers as a result of the fragmentation of service delivery. There are many agencies responsible for the delivery of policy and programmes, but not one single agency with the responsibility for coordinating activity.
- There are a number of interesting models of best practice worth benchmarking Belfast to including 'City Strategies' which aim to tackle worklessness in the most disadvantaged communities in Great Britain – many of which are in major cities and other urban areas.

1.3 City Strategies

In its Green Paper, *A new deal for welfare: Empowering people to work*, the Government set out far-reaching proposals for welfare reform aimed at moving towards its national aim of an 80% employment rate for the working age population. A central element of these proposals is a new strategy to tackle the highly localised pockets of worklessness, poverty, low skills and poor health that can be found across the UK, many of them within major towns and cities. A significant proportion of all people on benefits live in these areas, so reducing deprivation and social exclusion within them will be key to the achievement of national employment targets. Ensuring that everyone who can work has the help and support they need to do so will also be critical to the Government's aim of halving child poverty by 2010, and ending it by 2020.

The City Strategy approach is based on the premise that local stakeholders can deliver more if they combine and align their efforts behind shared priorities, and are given more freedom to innovate, and to tailor services in response to local needs. The purpose of the City Strategy initiative is 'to deliver a significant improvement in the working age employment rate, particularly for disadvantaged groups such as benefit claimants, lone parents, disabled people and those with health conditions, older people and people from minority ethnic groups'.

The **Rt Hon James Purnell MP**, the then Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, speaking at the Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion Conference, Birmingham, Wednesday 25 June 2008 stated:

..as the problems of worklessness have become more localised, so the solutions have too. The London Child Poverty Commission identified London's barriers to work. The Greater Manchester councils are pressing us to have targets which focus on long term inactivity, and industrial dislocation. Glasgow are developing a groundbreaking approach guaranteeing all school-leavers an apprenticeship, to make the most of the Commonwealth Games effect in the run up to 2014. Different opportunities. Specific barriers. Which require bespoke solutions".

There are 15 pilot City Strategy pathfinder areas in the UK. During the course of the development of the Belfast Employability & Skills Strategy, presentations were received by two City Strategy organisations, namely Rhyl and Glasgow. Rhyl and Glasgow were chosen after a Belfast led delegation met with approximately 10 of the 15 City Strategy Pathfinders during the Welfare to Work Convention IN Liverpool, June 2009. Rhyl is a small City Strategy Pathfinder area which focuses on specific programme delivery targets. Glasgow is a much larger City Strategy area facing many similar challenges to Belfast City.

What did we learn from City Strategies?

The approaches are slightly different in that Glasgow's approach is based on attempting to exert influence on the principal budget holders re; employability and skills within Glasgow City. Glasgow Works has three fundamental objectives:

1. Improved decisions and processes,
2. Better Employability delivery, and
3. Targeted services for Employers.

Rhyl is one of two Welsh pathfinders and involves a consortium of over 160 members. The City Strategy programme is managed by an Executive Board of 15 members and was incorporated as a community interest company from April 2008. Strong partnership is at the heart of both approaches, with the recognition that by working together they can help address local and regional issues more effectively.

Both City Strategies established ambitious targets. The ability to meet these targets has been impacted upon by the economic recession. However, considerable progress has been made as highlighted in Table 1 below.

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Table 1: Targets V Performance, Rhyl and Glasgow

	Key Targets	Key Outcomes
Glasgow Works	Reduce Claimant Count May 06 - 09 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 617 JSA • 8,748 IB Sick and Disabled • 2,594 IS Lone Parents 11,959 in total	Increased employment focus in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education ▪ Social Work ▪ NHS ▪ Glasgow Housing Association Better linkages to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DWP Contracted Programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 12,918 Active Clients ▪ 1,484 Job Entries ▪ Projecting 2,750 Jobs by Jun '10 ▪ Currently fundraising for
Rhyl	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To halve the gap between the Rhyl employment rate (61.3%) & that of Wales (70%) by 2011. ▪ To reduce levels of worklessness within the most disadvantaged wards in Rhyl. ▪ To address the opposing forces which prevent many people from getting & keeping a job ▪ To contribute to a shared vision of Rhyl which drives co-operation between key stakeholders from the public, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 455 unemployed individuals engaged in work-related activity ▪ 299 individuals gained job-specific skills ▪ 70 into work

Supporting Comments

- Rhyl City Strategy has formed a strong and unified strategic focus to increase the rate of employment in Rhyl"
- *"The programme has developed a focus amongst partner agencies towards a common goal, and allowed there to be more of a push towards action."*
- *"Rhyl City Strategy has acted as a catalyst to generate fresh interest and vigour into the regeneration of Rhyl."*
- *"City Strategy is the 'Hub' for all support in Rhyl -Long Live City Strategy !!!!"*

It was the conclusion of the interim Belfast Employability and Skills Board that Belfast City Council should lead and coordinate the development of a strategy and establish a new employability and skills structure to deliver a City Strategy initiative within Belfast City.

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2 THE CONTEXT

2.1 Belfast City Economic Profile

Belfast is the capital of Northern Ireland. The city, and its wider metropolitan area, is the largest settlement in the region and the second largest city on the island of Ireland. The city lies at the head of Belfast Lough in the lower reaches of the Lagan Valley. The Belfast district council area sits at the heart of the growing population of the wider Belfast Metropolitan Area, which also comprises the surrounding district council areas of Castlereagh, Lisburn, North Down, Newtownabbey and Carrickfergus. 268,323 people live in the city while 650,958 live in the wider metropolitan area. 43.9% of the population is under 30 years of age.

2.2 Demographics

Belfast's population has been in gradual but persistent decline from a historic high of over 400,000 before World War One. According to mid year estimates for 2008, Belfast has a population of 268,323, which represents 15.1% of Northern Ireland's total population of 1,775,003. After a period of sustained population loss Belfast's population has recently begun to stabilise. Between 2004 and 2008 the city lost only 0.6% of its population compared to a loss of almost 12% in the previous 20 years. The population density of Belfast is 2,447 persons per km². The population of the wider Belfast Metropolitan Area (BMA) is 650,958.

Table2: Age Profile for Belfast

Age Group	Belfast Total	Belfast percentage	Northern Ireland Total	Northern Ireland
Under	52,448	19.5%	381,070	21.5%
16-59	162,888	60.7%	1,035,785	59.4%
60 plus	52,987	19.8%	340,148	19.1%
TOTAL	268,323		1,775,003	

Source: Mid-year population estimates 2008. NISRA

2.3 The Economy

Until the recent economic downturn, Belfast was one of the fastest growing regional economies in the UK. The city experienced over a decade of sustained investment and economic growth following the end of thirty years of community conflict and had reduced unemployment to historically low levels. During this period of increased political and social stability, generous European funding support and a favourable global economy both combined to revive Belfast's wealth.

Gross Value Added (GVA) per capita provides a good comparative measure of productivity. GVA is defined by the Office for National Statistics as 'the contribution to the economy of each individual producer, industry or sector in the United Kingdom.' GVA per capita for Belfast is £28,522. Between 2000 and 2006 GVA per capita in Belfast increased by 45.9%. In 2006 £7,626 million GVA was generated in the Belfast council area – 28.5% of Northern Ireland's GVA⁴.

2.4 Employment

Belfast has almost 28% of the total employment in Northern Ireland (this figure rises to almost 46% in the Belfast Metropolitan Area). However, as with many other European industrialised regions, traditional manufacturing industries, that were once the lifeblood of the economy, have now decreased in importance. Reduced employment opportunities in the manufacturing sector have been offset by a considerable increase in those employed in other areas such as the public sector and business services sector. The public sector plays a huge role in Belfast's economy. Almost two out of every five jobs are in public administration, education and the health sector

The total number of jobs in Belfast was 198,796 in 2007. When the economy is broken down, the largest industrial sector in Belfast is 'Real estate, renting and business activities', employing 35,596 employees. Table 2 shows that in most recent years, the biggest increase has been in this sector. 'Health and social work' is the second largest sector in the city with 32,786 employees.

Table 3 *Belfast Industrial Sectors*

⁴ Office for National Statistics, 12 December 2008

Description	2001	2007	Percentage Change
Manufacturing	15,828	10,279	-35.06%
Electricity, gas and water supply	899	1,058	+17.69%
Construction	4,864	5,691	+17.00%
Wholesale and retail trade and repairs	25,401	26,557	+4.55%
Hotels and restaurants	10,617	11,814	+11.27%
Transport, storage and communication	9,331	10,038	+7.58%
Financial intermediaries	9,411	10,510	+11.68%
Real estate, renting and business activities	26,786	35,596	+32.89%
Public administration and defence	27,029	26,854	-0.65%
Education	14,650	16,597	+13.29%
Health and social work	27,381	32,786	+19.74%
Other services	10,199	10,826	+6.15%
TOTAL %	182,576	198,796	+8.88%

Source: DETI Census of Employment, December 2008

2.5 Unemployment

'Belfast's labour market has been experiencing rising levels of unemployment and redundancies since the start of 2008. However, the latest monthly data suggest that the economy may have experienced the worst of the recession. Claimant unemployed peaked in August 2009 at 10,855 before contracting slightly in September and October. Although the recent data shows a marginal rise in November to 10,804, the unemployment rate has remained at 6.4% since August 09.

However the labour market remains weak...

Recruitment agencies reported that the labour market performed 'extremely poorly' in Q3 2009 with permanent placements at an all time low. It was also reported that those in employment were reluctant to seek out and commit to other job opportunities, over fears regarding the stability of new roles and a "last in, first out" attitude.

Youth unemployment down but cyclical....

In 2009 claimant youth unemployment rose from 3,860 in July to 3,950 in August coinciding with young people leaving education. Latest data reveal that claimant youth unemployment fell between August and November 2009 by 375. Regardless of this fall, youth unemployment remains a particular problem. Any recovery in the general economy will take time to translate into better labour market conditions (possibly not until 2011). As a result, many of Belfast's youth face the prospect of unemployment as their first experience of the labour market

Long term unemployment – long term legacy...

Long term unemployment (those unemployed for 12 months or more) in Belfast has increased consistently since July 2008. Indeed the number of long term claimant has risen by 20% between July and November 2009 and is at its highest level since June 2004. Looking forward with the lack of employment opportunities, it is likely that the number of long-term unemployed in Belfast (as in NI) will continue to increase over the short term. In addition, this trend of rising long-term unemployment is likely to be exacerbated as the increased competition for jobs mean that those who have been unemployed for relatively longer periods of time find themselves less attractive against other job candidates. Finally, given the shift in sector activity and associated higher level skills demanded in the economy, without the necessary skills or re-training, it seems long term unemployment is going to be this recession's legacy for many'⁵.

⁵ Quarterly Economic Indicators, Oxford Economics, Winter 09

Table 4: Claimant count unemployment by usual occupation

	Jan-09	Feb-09	Mar-09	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09
Managers & Senior	1.5%	1.6%	1.7%	1.9%	1.9%	1.8%	1.8%	1.9%	1.8%	1.7%	1.6%
Professional Occupations	2.2%	2.1%	2.2%	2.4%	2.4%	2.7%	3.4%	3.8%	3.4%	3.1%	2.8%
Associate Professional & Technical Occupations	5.0%	4.9%	4.8%	4.8%	4.8%	5.0%	5.3%	5.5%	5.5%	5.3%	5.4%
Administrative & Secretarial Occupations	8.2%	8.1%	8.5%	8.5%	8.5%	8.4%	8.8%	8.9%	8.7%	8.5%	8.5%
Skilled Trades Occupations	16.0%	16.1%	16.2%	16.3%	16.7%	16.5%	15.9%	15.2%	15.5%	15.9%	15.9%
Personal Service	3.8%	3.9%	3.8%	3.8%	3.8%	3.8%	3.9%	4.2%	4.3%	4.4%	4.3%
Sales & Customer Service Occupations	12.8%	13.3%	13.5%	13.9%	13.9%	14.0%	14.6%	14.5%	14.5%	14.2%	14.2%
Process, Plant and	11.9%	12.3%	12.5%	12.5%	12.2%	12.2%	11.5%	11.5%	11.6%	11.8%	12.0%
Elementary Occupations	38.2%	37.7%	36.7%	35.9%	35.7%	35.6%	34.6%	34.5%	34.7%	34.9%	35.2%

Source: Quarterly Economic Indicators, Oxford Economics, Winter 09

2.6 Labour Market Structure

Table 5: Labour market structure (seasonally adjusted -% of working age population)

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Economically Active	71%	68%	67%	65%	68%	72%	69%	75%
Employment	65%	62%	61%	60%	65%	67%	67%	73%
Full-time employment	50%	46%	45%	44%	51%	50%	50%	52%
Part-time employment	16%	16%	16%	15%	16%	16%	16%	19%
Unemployment	5%	6%	6%	5%	3%	5%	2%	2%
Inactive	57%	63%	64%	65%	64%	58%	57%	55%
NVQL4	24%	21%	22%	23%	25%	30%	29%	33%
Below NVQL4	49%	49%	49%	48%	51%	45%	46%	45%
No Quals	27%	29%	29%	28%	23%	23%	24%	19%

Source: Quarterly Economic Indicators, Oxford Economics, Winter 09

Employment rates are still fairly low. In 2008, just over two thirds (68.7%) of the city's working age population were employed or self-employed⁶.

2.7 Earnings

The average gross weekly earnings of full time employees in Belfast increased by 3.87% between 2006 and 2008. The average gross weekly earnings of full time employees in Belfast is £525.90 in comparison to £675.20 for Northern Ireland. *Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings: Average Gross weekly earnings by NI Local Government District 2006 - 2008*

2.8 Claimant Count

Claimant count measures those people who are claiming unemployment related benefits known as 'Jobseeker's allowance'. The number of people claiming Jobseeker's allowance in the city increased from 3.4 percent in December 2007 to 6.7 percent in January 2010. The claimant count rate in Belfast in January 2010 was also higher than in all the other councils in the metropolitan area.

Table 6: Claimant count rates January 2010

District Council area	Claimant count rates Dec 2007	Claimant count rates January 2010
Belfast	3.4%	6.7%
Carrickfergus	1.6%	4.4%
North Down	1.5%	3.4%
Lisburn	1.6%	4.2%
Newtownabbey	1.8%	4.0%
Castlereagh	1.0%	3.1%

Source: DETI

2.9 Deprivation

⁶ Official figures count those on Employment and Training Programmes as 'in employment', making the difference between this figure and the employment rate of 70.8%.

According to the Northern Ireland Index of Multiple Deprivation (2005):

- Belfast is the most deprived out of the 26 Local Government Districts (LGDs);
- Belfast has eight of the 10 most deprived wards in Northern Ireland;
- Belfast has nine of the 10 worst wards in the region in relation to health deprivation;
- There are 82,986 people in Belfast experiencing income deprivation and 30,119 people experiencing employment deprivation;
- Belfast has 150 Super Output Areas (SOAs) in total and 34% of these SOAs fall within the most deprived 10% of all SOAs in Northern Ireland;
- 6.5% of the city's population live in 10% of the most deprived SOAs in Northern Ireland.

Belfast has a high level of benefit dependency. In 2006:

- 13.3% of the population were claiming Disability Living Allowance (DLA);
- 7% of the population were claiming incapacity benefit;
- 15.7% of the population were claiming housing benefit;
- 15.5% of the population were claiming income support.⁷

Successive studies of deprivation in Northern Ireland also highlight the extent to which large swaths of Belfast have been categorised as deprived over long periods of time. Mike Morrissey, Queens University Belfast, produced 'Poverty in Belfast', for Belfast City Council in 2009. Morrissey's report includes a list of the most deprived wards in Belfast in four deprivation studies over a fifteen year period. One report was undertaken by a prominent academic, the others were commissioned by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency from units in Manchester and Oxford Universities. Over this period, despite one set of boundary changes and different methodologies for measuring deprivation, the same wards appear over and over again – two wards appear in all four (Falls & Shankill) and eight wards appear in three of the studies (Ardoyne, Crumlin, Duncairn, New Lodge, St Annes, Upper Springfield, Woodvale, Whiterock). If the recent income data in Belfast are similarly ranked,

⁷ Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2005 (NISRA) and Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service

the same wards appear as having the highest percentages of households in relative poverty.

Table 7: Wards of greatest deprivation in Belfast 1991-2005

Townsend 1991	Robson 1991	Noble 2001	Noble 2005
Ardoyne	Ballymacarett	Ardoyne	Ardoyne
Clonard	Clonard	Ballymacarett	Ballymacarett
Crumlin	Duncairn	Crumlin	Crumlin
Duncairn	Falls	Falls	Duncairn
Falls	Island	New Lodge	Falls
Glencollin	New Lodge	Shankill	New Lodge
New Lodge	Shaftesbury	St Annes	Shankill
Shankill	Shankill	The Mount	The Mount
St Annes	St Annes	Upper Springfield	Upper Springfield
Upper Springfield	The Mount	Whiterock	Whiterock
Whiterock	Woodvale	Woodvale	Woodvale

Source Mike Morrissey, QUB 'Poverty in Belfast', 2009.

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2.10 Economic Forecasts

Table 8: Economic Forecasts, Oxford Economics (Belfast)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Demography											
Total Population (000s)	270.0	271.9	273.7	275.6	277.4	279.3	281.2	283.1	285.1	287.1	289.1
Total working age population (000s)	173.3	174.5	176.1	177.1	179.1	180.6	181.9	183.1	184.3	185.5	186.8
Total migration (000s)	0.77	0.91	0.82	0.88	0.82	0.93	0.95	0.95	1.00	1.06	1.13
Natural increase	0.94	0.97	0.99	0.99	0.96	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.95	0.92	0.89
Employment (000s)											
Agriculture	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
Extraction	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.06
Manufacturing	9.65	9.45	9.31	9.13	8.95	8.75	8.57	8.38	8.19	8.00	7.79
Utilities	0.84	0.82	0.80	0.77	0.75	0.73	0.72	0.70	0.69	0.68	0.66
Construction	6.4	5.8	5.8	6.0	6.2	6.4	6.6	6.7	6.9	7.1	7.2
Retail & distribution	27.5	27.6	28.0	28.4	28.7	29.1	29.6	29.9	30.2	20.4	20.6
Hotels & restaurants	11.6	11.9	12.1	12.3	12.5	12.7	13.0	13.2	13.4	13.6	13.8
Transport & comms	10.6	10.7	10.8	10.9	10.9	10.9	11.0	11.1	11.2	11.3	11.4
Financial intermediation	10.7	10.9	10.9	10.9	10.9	11.0	11.2	11.4	11.5	11.7	11.6
Business Services	38.3	38.6	39.3	39.4	39.9	41.2	43.0	44.8	46.3	47.6	48.8
Public Admin	26.8	27.2	26.6	25.6	25.0	24.7	24.5	24.3	24.1	24.0	23.9
Education	18.1	18.4	18.3	18.1	17.9	17.8	17.9	18.0	18.0	18.1	18.2
Health	34.1	34.8	34.9	34.7	34.3	34.3	34.6	35.1	35.5	36.0	36.4
Other personal services	12.0	12.2	12.2	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.1	12.1	12.2	12.3	12.3
Total	208.0	210.1	210.9	209.8	209.8	211.4	214.4	217.4	220.1	222.4	224.7
Economic Activity											
Resident employment (000s)	106.5	107.2	107.4	106.8	106.8	107.5	108.9	110.3	111.5	112.6	113.5
Resident employment rate (%)	63.1	63.1	62.6	61.7	61.2	61.1	61.5	61.8	62.1	62.3	62.4
Unemployment (000s)	10.2	10.9	10.9	11.0	11.2	11.1	10.8	10.5	10.3	10.2	10.0
Unemployment rate (%)	4.7	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.0	4.8	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.3

Source: Quarterly Economic Indicators, Oxford Economics, Winter 09

3 VISION & STRATEGY

3.1 Vision

The vision proposed for the Belfast Employability & Skills Strategy to address economic disadvantage and child poverty is:

To create a vibrant local economy where employment rates are aligned to the Northern Ireland average, where employers can find the skills and aptitudes they need and where work is the route out of family poverty and the way to close the gap between prosperous and disadvantaged communities.

Belfast City faces a five-fold employment challenge in its commitment to achieve economic transformation with social inclusion:

1. To increase the employment rate in Belfast City Council area to return to the 2008 level of 70.8% by 2015⁸
2. To narrow the gap between neighbourhoods and communities with the highest and lowest employment rates
3. To provide high quality support to employers to help them recruit effectively and to train their workforce
4. To increase significantly the employment rates of those residents who lag behind in jobs and skills with a particular focus on the 10 most disadvantaged communities within Belfast
5. To reduce child poverty, particularly through supporting into work lone parents and the partners of employed adults in low-income households

We shall, through the Employability & Skills Strategy, address the constraints that inhibit our partners from being able to make further inroads into these issues. We want to accelerate the process by which we can inspire the most disadvantaged communities with the aspiration and motivation, and equip with the necessary skills to benefit from the opportunities derived from economic growth.

⁸ The Northern Ireland employment rate fell by 3.4 percentage points in the year to December 2009. If this applied to Belfast, a 2009 average would be 67.4%. If (as is possible) the 5.2 percentage point rise to the 70.8% figure in 2008 was exaggerated by statistical survey factors, then a more cautious Belfast 2009 employment rate estimate would be 64.1%. Given these estimates, we feel a return to the 2008 measured figure by 2015 will be challenging. Northern Ireland took eleven years to achieve an increase from 64.1% to 70.7% from 1996, though this was interrupted by periods of downturn.

3.2 Core Purpose

The purpose of the Belfast Employability & Skills Strategy is to deliver a significant improvement in the working age employment rate in our most disadvantaged neighbourhoods, but particularly for disadvantaged groups such as:

- Long-term unemployed;
- Incapacity Benefit claimants, including those with mental health, drug or alcohol problems;
- Lone parents;
- Families with children living in low income households;
- Adults with low skill levels;
- Ex-offenders;
- Recent migrants to the city; and
- Recent graduates attempting to access the labour market.

We need to ensure that more of these people are helped to find and remain in work, and to improve their skills so that they can progress in employment, beginning with areas with the highest concentrations of disadvantage.

3.3 Role of the Board

In brief, Belfast must assemble the relevant “partners” and “stakeholders”, to come together to develop a concerted programme to address these issues with a focus upon results and tangible impact on the ground. The role of the board is to:

- Develop an overarching strategic framework covering the breadth of the worklessness and skills agenda in Belfast, which informs and shapes partner organisation’s business plans
- Mobilise mainstream and discretionary funds to deliver the city employability and skills strategy
- Address gaps in provision and barriers to delivery, that hinder the city’s progress in achieving its strategic priorities
- Provide a means for local partners to respond swiftly to new and emerging government policies e.g. City Strategy
- To develop and manage new Management Information Systems (MIS’s) which support enhanced labour market intelligence

3.4 Strategic Priorities

In Belfast, our two priority areas and associated objectives are as follows: -

Strategic Priority 1: Connecting people and jobs

Objectives:

- ***Linking workless people and vacancies to improve the employment rate***
- ***Tackling barriers to work***
- ***To assist workless people particularly those on incapacity benefit claimants access employment opportunities across Belfast***
- ***Making effective use of social clauses in public procurement***
- ***Supporting Social Enterprises which address barriers to employment***
- ***Supporting graduates access employment opportunities in the Belfast economy***

Strategic Priority 2: Enhancing the level of skills in our most disadvantaged communities

Objectives:

- ***Tackling the lack of basic skills and qualifications to improve employability and reduce worklessness***
- ***Meeting the skills needs of sectors and growth opportunities essential to support economic expansion***

Please note we will give consideration to 'cost' and 'bodies responsible for delivery' when we have reached an agreement on the overarching strategic priorities and objectives of the Board.

4 ACTION PLAN

4.1 Priority 1: Connecting people and jobs

To achieve the vision, Belfast Employability & Skills Strategy will focus on the following objectives:

- ***Linking workless people and vacancies to improve the employment rate***
- ***Tackling barriers to work***
- ***To assist workless people particularly those on incapacity benefit claimants access employment opportunities across Belfast***
- ***Making effective use of social clauses in public procurement***
- ***Supporting Social Enterprises which address barriers to employment***
- ***Supporting graduates access employment opportunities in the Belfast economy***

These objectives are expanded into specific actions in the tables following with key activities essential for their delivery highlighted. These activities will be regularly updated in response to changing need and circumstances.

Priority 1: Connecting people and jobs

Action	Rationale	Description of Activities	Costs	Responsibility	
Objective: Linking workless people and vacancies to improve employment rate					
1	Provide a client facing and employer facing intermediary which will assist those furthest from the labour market to access employment opportunities	Targeted support to employers is needed to ensure vacancies are accessible to people from disadvantaged communities. Intensive work with these individuals is needed to ensure they are aware of and have the skills to access those jobs through bespoke training, career guidance and pre-employment training support.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To support / develop a city wide network of community based employment centres which provide access, support and referral services for those furthest from the labour market 2. To provide bespoke training and further support for individuals to assist in their progression towards employment 3. To provide pre employment programmes based on employer engagement and market intelligence gathered at the Belfast Employability & Skills Board 4. To provide a city wide employer facing intermediary to facilitate strategic and operational exchange between 		
2	Develop innovative employment first approaches including intermediate labour market activities, to engage and motivate the long term	Many of those furthest from the labour market require appropriate support to develop their confidence and skills set in order to re-enter the labour market. Successive evaluations have shown 'In work' programmes to be extremely successful in securing employment for the	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a specification for a Belfast ILM programme 2. Promote ILM programme widely assisting both community and private sector organisations develop ideas 3. Procure ILM programme (2 x 2 year cycles) 		

Action	Rationale	Description of Activities	Costs	Responsibility	
Objective: Linking workless people and vacancies to improve employment rate					
3	Enhancing the employment rate in Belfast through innovation and enhancement of mainstream welfare to work provision.	<p>There is already a significant amount of work being carried out throughout Belfast to assist workless people into employment. It is important that this work continues and is supported and enhanced when and where possible. It is also critical that the focus remains on the 10 most deprived wards with the lowest employment rates and steps which could be taken include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring that Steps to Work providers, Pathways to Work providers, Training for Success and the 40 plus ESF projects operating within the city focus their services on the 10 most disadvantaged wards of Belfast. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with Steps to Work, Pathways, Training for Success and other providers to discuss provision and targets for period 2011-2013 Establish a Belfast Employability & Skills Stakeholder Forum comprising main welfare to work providers, ESF providers and others. The role of the Forum will be to review performance and their contribution towards meeting vision and core strategy objectives, identify areas for collaboration and investment, and areas of best practice / knowledge transfer To test and evaluate new approaches / innovation in respect to mainstream provision 		
Objective: Tackling Barriers to Work					
4	Deliver 'better off in work' campaigns	For individuals and families work is the best route out of poverty and to achieve economic independence. We know that work enables family aspiration, fosters greater social inclusion and can improve the health and well being of family members. However, many people remain unaware of the financial support available to them, both in and out of work	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> In conjunction with DSD, Citizens Advice, Credit Unions and local partners develop approaches which increase awareness of people's earning potential through work, which promotes the take up benefit and money/debt advice. 		

Action	Rationale	Description of Activities	Costs	Responsibility
Objective: Tackling Barriers to Work				
5	Review and develop childcare initiatives as appropriate, and raise the importance of childcare with employers	Overcomes childcare as a barrier to employment / training and helps to reduce the gap between the availability of childcare provision in the UK and NI.		
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake a review of availability of childcare in Belfast 2. Consider the use of a Social Enterprise model where necessary to increase the availability of affordable and accessible childcare in Belfast 3. Work with partner organisations to ensure help with up front childcare costs when a lone parent starts work 4. Work with employers to develop 'parent 		
6	Develop a driving license scheme which helps address mobility issues amongst job	Lack of mobility remains a key barrier for job seekers. The provision of driving lessons for job seekers can help address mobility issues in addition to developing confidence and		
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish a driving license scheme which could be managed at the Forum level by key providers within Belfast 2. Promote and evaluate its effectiveness 		
Objective: To assist workless people particularly those on incapacity benefit claimants access employment opportunities across Belfast				
7	Public Sector Employment Partnership	The public sector is one of the largest employers in Belfast and annually recruits people at all levels. In the current economic climate the public sector must provide a lead in respect to working with and supporting those furthest from the labour market into employment. The Belfast Health Trust has recently tested new and innovative approaches to engagement and recruitment through a pilot programme coming to an end in West Belfast and Shankill. There is potential to build on this		
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To initially consult with the Belfast Health Trust in respect to the current pilot 2. To develop a model based on the experiences and outcomes of the West Belfast & Greater Shankill Health Employment Partnership (HEP) pilot 3. To establish a Belfast Public Sector Employment Partnership board based on the HEP model 4. To roll out the programme across the public sector in Belfast 		

Action	Rationale	Description of Activities	Costs	Responsibility
Objective: Supporting graduates access employment in the Belfast economy				
8	Graduates into Employment Programme	Graduates have been particularly hard hit by the current economic recession. According to a study by student-employer matchmaker www.studentgems.com more than a third of NI graduates are considering a move abroad in a bid to beat the lack of jobs for graduates at home. Yet the Belfast Skills & Demand Study identified that over half of the net new jobs in Belfast over the next decade will require graduate qualifications. Graduates need to be retained and integrated into the Belfast	This programme will assist graduates to access employment opportunities through a programme of careers advice, intensive job search and pre-employment support where required. This will be a new programme which will be publicly tendered for delivery throughout Belfast.	
Objective: Making effective use of social clauses in procurement				
9	Develop skills and procurement initiatives, connect jobs with people and influence government policy to embed social clauses in all key public expenditure programmes.	Effective use of 'social clauses' in public and private procurement to enhance community benefit through training and job opportunities for local people (in particular those from disadvantaged neighbourhoods). There are obvious 'quick win' opportunities in respect to planned developments at the Titanic Quarter, North Foreshore, Girdwood, Crumlin Road Gaol, Gaeltacht Quarter.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To develop a 'social clause' initiative based on existing practice in the UK 2. To promote and showcase the 'social clause' across Belfast highlighting the potential benefits for disadvantaged communities 3. To ensure that all new development opportunities coming through Belfast City Council's Planning Committee are encouraged to participate in the 'Social 	

Action	Rationale	Description of Activities	Costs	Responsibility
Objective: Supporting Social Enterprises				
10	Supporting the growth of social enterprises to contribute to job creation and the economic regeneration of Belfast.	Significant evidence already exists to support the role social enterprises play in terms of helping people back into work. Local examples include child care provision at both the Ashton Centre and Shankill Women's Centre – 2 examples of successful social enterprises. The provision of affordable child care facilities is a major barrier for some entrants to the labour market and therefore there is a need to	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To support the development of 1 new childcare facility per annum which primarily service job returners from the 10 most disadvantaged wards in Belfast 2. To provide the resources to develop the skills of child care professionals through training and upskilling programmes 	

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4.2 Priority II: Enhancing the level of skills in our most disadvantaged communities

To achieve the vision, Belfast Employability & Skills Strategy needs to focus on the following objectives:

- ***Tackling the lack of basic skills and qualifications to improve employability and reduce worklessness***
- ***Meeting the skills needs of sectors and growth opportunities essential to support economic expansion***

These objectives are expanded into specific actions in the tables following with key activities essential for their delivery highlighted. These activities will be regularly updated in response to changing need and circumstances.

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Priority II: Enhancing the level of skills in our most disadvantaged communities

Action	Rationale	Description of Activities	Costs	Responsibility	
Objective: Tackling the lack of basic skills and qualifications to improve employability and reduce worklessness					
1	Develop a learning neighbourhood programme in the 5 most deprived wards in Belfast	It is officially recognised that a lack of basic skills is a major impediment to securing employment and thereby moving out of poverty. This inter agency approach will target its intervention on the 5 wards with the lowest employment rates and highest rates of working age population without qualifications or with low qualifications.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish a learning neighbourhood programme team to include DENI, DEL, DSD, BMC and key community interests from the 5 wards 2. Establish the level of basic and vocational level of skill amongst the working age population in the targeted wards 3. Develop bespoke action plans that target improvements in basic and 		
Objective: Meeting the skills needs of sectors and growth opportunities essential to support economic expansion					
2	Deliver the skills required by priority sectors, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retail • Leisure, recreation and hospitality • Health & care • Public Administration • Construction • IT 	Developing appropriate skills for priority sectors is essential to support growth.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Working with employer organisations, sector skill councils, BMC, WDF and others to develop training routes to employment that develop the skills required by employers and which lead to job outcomes 2. Develop training provision to overcome skills disparities experienced by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term unemployed • Lone parents • Disabled people • Older workers 		

5 GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

5.1 Role of the Board

In order to deliver the strategy set out within this document Belfast must assemble the relevant “partners” and “stakeholders”, to come together to develop a concerted programme to address these issues with a focus upon results and tangible impact on the ground.

The role of the board is to:

- Develop an overarching strategic framework covering the breadth of the worklessness and skills agenda in Belfast, which informs and shapes partner organisation's business plans
- Mobilise mainstream and discretionary funds to deliver the city employability and skills strategy
- Address gaps in provision and barriers to delivery, that hinder the city's progress in achieving its strategic priorities
- Provide a means for local partners to respond swiftly to new and emerging government policies e.g. City Strategy
- To develop and manage new Management Information Systems (MIS's) which support enhanced labour market intelligence

The Board aims to meet or exceed the targets set out in this Strategy by delivering:

- Real action on worklessness by increasing the employment rate in Belfast to 70.8% by 2015
- Reductions in child poverty
- High, quality, effective and responsive employability services

Membership of the Board should include senior representatives from key agencies including:

- Funders & Planning Bodies including Belfast City Council, Department for Employment & Learning, Department of Education Northern Ireland, Department of Social Development, Invest Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland Employability & Skills Board, Sector Skills Councils
- Employers including Belfast Health Trust, Federation for Small Business, representative from the Workforce Development Forum

- Education providers including both universities and Belfast Metropolitan College
- A nominated representative from each of the three forums
- Unions – representatives of main unions operating within Belfast

The Board should have an established staff support team, funded through contributions from key partner organisations. The Board should meet at least 8 times a year to review and manage progress.

It is proposed to review the Strategy and Action Plan on a yearly basis through the production of an Annual Report. The Board will appoint an external evaluator to provide concurrent evaluation services throughout the duration of the programme.

In order for the Board to deliver its strategy it is proposed to establish a number of additional sub-structures which will have responsibility for the delivery of particular elements of the programme. Each of the proposed fora will report to the Board as illustrated below.

Belfast Employability & Skills Strategy Organisational Chart 2010



5.2 Stakeholder Forum

The Stakeholder Forum will comprise of delivery bodies with responsibility for the key welfare to work programmes across the city

including Steps to Work, Training for Success, Pathways and Lemis. In addition it is important that ESF project promoters are represented. The stakeholder forum will have a particular role in play in terms of supporting and developing innovation in respect to mainstream delivery in addition to the collection and analysis of data pertaining to programme performance.

5.3 Learning Neighbourhoods Forum

The Learning Neighbourhoods Forum will comprise of government, community and education interests. This will include DENI, DEL, DSD, Belfast Health Trust, Belfast City Council and key community representatives and local education providers (schools, Sure Start etc) from across the five wards targeted by the Learning Neighbourhoods initiative. The Learning Neighbourhoods Forum will be tasked with developing an action plan which addresses the persistent problems of poor educational performance and under achievement, poor skills levels and high levels of worklessness at a neighbourhood level in the 5 most disadvantaged wards in Belfast City Council area.

5.4 Public Sector Employment Forum

It is proposed to develop the Public Sector Employment Forum upon the existing West Belfast & Greater Shankill Health Employment Partnership model which is built upon the following three pillars:

1. Employers (Public Sector Human Resource Departments),
2. Unions, and
3. Community.

It is proposed to focus upon those public sector organisations which employ large numbers of people within Belfast. This will include the Belfast Health Trust, Belfast City Council, DOE, DEL and DSD to commence with. The Forum will be tasked with developing a programme which facilitates access for level entry jobs into participating employer organisations. The second element of the programme will focus on how to provide career progression opportunities for those at level entry bands through training and upskilling interventions.

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5.5 Delivering the Strategy

In order to deliver the strategy the Belfast Employability & Skills Board will seek to:

- ***Establish and develop the Belfast Employability & Skills Board as the recognised forum for dealing with employment and skills related issues in the city of Belfast***
- ***Resource the Belfast Employability & Skills Board as required***
- ***Establish and manage an IT based Management Information System (MIS) which allows the collection and analysis of data pertaining to the delivery of employability and skills programmes across the city***
- ***Diversify and increase Belfast Employability & Skills Strategy funding***
- ***Inform and influence relevant government policy and services***
- ***Regularly consult with the public to ensure effective service delivery***

These tasks are expanded into specific actions in the tables below:

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Task	Rationale	Description
<i>Establish and develop the Belfast Employability & Skills Board as the recognised forum for dealing with employment and skills related issues in the city of Belfast</i>	Michael Parkinson's 2007 'Where is Belfast going?' report identified fragmentation as one of the key factors affecting the ability to deliver regeneration benefits across the city. The Review of Public Administration identifies an enhanced role for local authorities and a lead role in respect to regeneration and urban renewal within the city. The UK City Strategy model has proven successful and worth	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Belfast City Council with external advice to draw up a list of those organisations (and establish at what level) to be invited onto the new Employability & Skills Board. 2. Invites to be extended to those bodies identified and one to one briefings provided clarifying the way forward 3. Interim secretariat structures established 4. Belfast Employability & Skills Board
<i>Resource the Employability & Skills Board as required</i>	Although delivery of the strategy will be primarily through existing channels there is a need to establish a resource to manage and monitor the programme, in addition to servicing the Board and its sub structures.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Belfast City Council to provide an options paper to the Employability & Skills Board on way forward 2. Following agreement recruitment or secondments to Board to commence immediately
<i>Establish and manage an IT based Management Information System (MIS) which allows the collection and analysis of data pertaining to the delivery of employability and skills programmes across the city</i>	Currently there is no single access point to review the performance of employability and skills interventions in the city of Belfast. The Belfast Employability & Skills MIS will connect data between key partner organisations enabling public reporting and interrogation, data capture, transfer and sharing, whilst being auditable and informative.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To review existing systems developed through the UK City Strategy programme 2. To enter into negotiations with partner organisations to ensure commitment to MIS programme 3. To procure new system, install in host organisations, train staff members etc 4. Review on quarterly basis
<i>Diversify and increase Belfast Employability & Skills Strategy funding</i>	Within the current climate of reduced public expenditure it is more important than ever for better coordination of limited resources. The Belfast Employability & Skills programme can help partner organisations meet their commitments through enhanced co-financing arrangements, by sourcing a mixture of government, local authority, EU and private	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To consult widely within partner organisations to identify programmes within the strategy which they already provide or partially support 2. To consider how best to pool resources 3. To consider drawing up a Belfast city wide ESF bid 4. To seek private sector funding for

Task	Rationale	Description
<i>Inform and influence relevant government policy and services</i>	It is important that the Belfast Employability & Skills Board informs the policy debate as it impacts upon the city and the employability and skills agenda. This will be carried out primarily through the presentation of results from the Belfast programme, utilising the learning from a new and innovative approach to service delivery.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regular briefings of ministers and their advisors 2. Regular briefings of city councillors 3. Regular briefings of organisations across the city including other government bodies, private sector organisations and key community / voluntary sector agencies. 4. To publish findings and promote the work of
<i>Regularly consult with the public to ensure effective service delivery</i>	Services delivered to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our communities require a mechanism for taking stock and community feedback. This helps to embed the service within the community, whilst ensuring that services remain relative and responsive to local	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To build in an effective monitoring system to programme delivery 2. To appoint an external evaluator to conduct a concurrent evaluation of the programme 3. To hold area based focus groups with

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	EDU Funding Requests
Date:	9 March 2010
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470 Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459
Contact Officer:	Lisa Toland, Economic Development Manager, ext 3427

Relevant Background Information

This report comprises a request for funding under the following programmes:

1. Smarter Procurement Programme
2. Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme (NIRDP)

1. Smarter Procurement Programme

Members will be aware, at the Development Committee of 13 May 2009, approval was given to develop and deliver initiatives to support enhanced access to public and private sector procurement opportunities. This was to be delivered through a number of activities, including the Smarter Procurement Programme.

Match funding of these initiatives was sought from DETI to deliver 2 waves of the Smarter Procurement Programme over a 2 year period and this was subsequently approved.

In January 2010 wave 1 of the Smarter Procurement Programme was launched targeting 10 small businesses and social enterprises in the Council area which wanted to look at how they could improve their chances of winning new business through tendering opportunities from both the public and private sectors.

2. Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme (NIRDP)

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).

Axis 3 of the NIRDP contains a funding allocation (£1,240,000) for the delivery of a programme of Village Renewal for rural settlements across the eligible cluster area of

Belfast, Castlereagh and Lisburn. The purpose of the measure is to support animation and capacity building within and between villages and their surrounding rural areas.

Key Issues

1. Smarter Procurement Programme

A total of 24 applications were received and, following a selection process, 11 businesses were awarded a place on the Programme with a further 6 businesses placed on a reserve list. An additional 6 businesses have also indicated an interest in participating on a future programme.

A Meet the Buyer event held in the Waterfront Hall in June 2010 has generated £300,000 worth of business to date for participating companies.

The December 2009 Belfast City Council survey of 500 businesses in the Council area highlights the demand for procurement initiatives, with 44% of respondents requesting support to improve their procurement processes. This, coupled with the demand already experienced for wave one of the Smarter Procurement Programme, supports the need to launch a second wave of the programme in May 2010 – earlier than initially planned.

Resource Implications

Each wave of the programme will cost £15,000 to run. The participating companies make a contribution of £100 towards the costs (10 companies = £1000 income) and the remainder is match-funded at a level of 50% by DETI. A contribution of £7,000 from Belfast City Council is therefore required to match fund the second wave of the Smarter Procurement Programme, scheduled to commence in May 2010.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Members approve the additional amount of £7,000 to match fund wave 2 of the Smarter Procurement Programme, scheduled to start in May 2010, money for which is available within the budget.

Decision Tracking

If recommendation is accepted, an update on outputs will be presented to a future meeting of this Committee.

Time frame: December 2010

Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay

2. Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme (NIRDP)

A total of 17 eligible villages/rural settlements exist within the three council areas. Within Belfast, the only eligible village/settlement is Hannahstown. The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) has suggested that it will require potential village renewal projects to produce a village development plan, identifying priority projects which can be resourced from the available funds. This is a compulsory step required before any further funds can be drawn down. However, DARD funding for this activity is up to a maximum of 75% of costs incurred.

It is proposed that Lisburn City Council leads a funding bid (including Belfast and Castlereagh Councils) to DARD to draw down funding for the development of a discrete number of deliverable Village Renewal Plans. Following this process villages/rural settlements will then be able to make further applications for support from NIRDP and other funding sources. Villages can apply for up to £250,000 for agreed activities under this measure from NIRDP.

Resource Implications

It is expected that a village development plan will cost no more than £20,000. It is therefore recommended that Belfast City Council co-funds the village development plan in Belfast, up to a maximum of £5,000. This will allow the village to potentially draw down up to £250,000 towards development and renewal activity.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members agree to a resource allocation of up to £5,000 for match funding of a development plan for the village in Belfast, with the remainder of the match funding (up to £15,000) to be provided by DARD.

Decision Tracking

If recommendation is accepted, an update will be presented to a future meeting of this committee.

Time frame: December 2010

Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay

Key to Abbreviations

NIRDP – Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme
DARD – Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
DETI – Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment
ERDF – European Regional Development Fund

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**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Belfast Welcome Centre
Date:	9 March 2010
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen Director of Development ext 3459 Shirley McCay Head of Economic Initiatives ext 3459
Contact Officer:	Pamela Davison, Estates Surveyor, ext 3506

Relevant Background Information

Belfast Visitor and Connection Bureau occupy premises currently leased to Belfast City Council in Donegall Place, Belfast. BVCB have been approached by Failte Ireland to consider moving their operation into the Belfast Welcome Centre premises in Donegall Place. Failte Ireland requested a meeting with BVCB on 14 January 2010 to discuss the possibility of a shared working space.

Failte Ireland has operated a walk in enquiry office in Belfast for over 42 years, they closed their current premises in Castle Street just after Christmas 2009 as their lease was due to terminate and the building was unfit for purpose and presented significant health and safety issues for staff continuing to work there.

The service Failte Ireland currently operate is purely information provision and accommodation booking for the Republic of Ireland. After 42 years with a base in Belfast they have a loyal local customer base of regular customers who call in to pick up information and book short breaks, with an annual footfall of just over 20,000 visitors. This service is provided Monday – Friday during core office hours by three members of staff, sharing two full time posts.

BVCB have identified a space that could accommodate Failte Ireland. This space was used as an extra card sales point, however a new main counter was installed last year and extra tills and credit card machines behind the new counter mean the space is now redundant.

Key Issues

BVCB point out that the concept of shared space in Tourist Information Centres and visitor attractions is not new. Failte Ireland have shared office space in Derry/Londonderry T.I.C. since it opened and more recently NITB have moved into Dublin Tourism Offices.

BVCB have identified the benefits to this shared space approach:

Financial Benefit:

BVCB have proposed a licence fee of £25,000 per annum plus vat. The only additional payments by Failte Ireland would be for a separate phone and broadband lines. In the current economic climate additional income to BVCB is welcomed when funding is decreasing and generating commercial income is more challenging.

Customer Focused:

The shared space further promotes the “one stop” approach – Belfast Welcome Centre regularly gets enquiries from customers requesting information on the Republic of Ireland and BWC refer them to the Castle Street premises.

New customer base:

In facilitating Failte Ireland customers in the BWC, the BWC can avail of a new market. The current price differential between the euro and the pound means Belfast will benefit with the local customer base attracted by deals in Northern Ireland as opposed to the Republic of Ireland.

The request for shared space was discussed at the BVCB Board. While there was general support for the proposal there was concern from Board members that a Failte Ireland section within the BWC could dissuade visitors from visiting areas in and around Belfast, drawing their attention to the South of Ireland instead.

BCC's lease on the Donegall Place premises terminates on 31 July 2010. The landlord has offered a ten year lease on the existing terms and no decision by BCC has been taken on renewal of the lease due to the ongoing consideration of alternative options. BCC's current lease does permit the possibility of granting of a licence to Failte Ireland to enable them to occupy the premises alongside BVCB. The licence would end either upon expiration of the term of BCC's lease on 31 July 2010, or sooner. If BCC were to renew their existing lease, Failte Ireland's occupation may be continued subject to terms of BCC's lease.

The BVCB Board recommended that, subject to BCC approval, a nine month licence agreement be granted to Failte Ireland. During this period BVCB could monitor the situation to ensure there were no adverse impacts from the shared space to Belfast and the wider region.

Resource Implications

Financial:

BVCB receive a pro-rata contribution of £25,000 p.a. from Failte Ireland towards their operating costs.

Physical:

Failte Ireland would plan to undertake minor works to the service desk in order that it could accommodate two people and to the slat wall area to make it more suitable for brochure racking. They would also install an overhead canopy for internal signage. Work would be required on external signage so both parties could benefit. None of the above costs will be borne by BCC.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Committee agree a licence is granted by BCC to Failte Ireland to occupy the premises of Belfast Welcome Centre alongside BVCB until the lease ends on 31 July 2010.

Decision Tracking

Further to agreement, Legal Services will be instructed to complete the appropriate documentation.

Timeline: March 2010

Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay

Key to Abbreviations

BVCB – Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau

BCC - Belfast City Council

BWC – Belfast Welcome Centre

TIC – Tourist Information Centre

NITB- Northern Ireland Tourist Board

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**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Bank Square
Date:	9 March 2010
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen Director of Development ext 3470 Shirley McCay Head of Economic Initiatives ext 3459
Contact Officer:	Pamela Davison, Estates Surveyor, ext 3506

Relevant Background Information

Members received a presentation from the Forum for Alternative Belfast on 8 February 2010 regarding their proposals for the regeneration of Bank Square, Belfast.

Members were invited to a presentation on 12 February 2010, by RPS, DSD's consultants appointed to produce designs for the redevelopment of Bank Square. DSD's Westside Masterplan identifies the redevelopment of Bank Square as a priority ahead of redevelopment of the North West Quarter.

Key Issues

Members will be aware that key to FAB's proposals for Bank Square was the commitment of Westfield Shoppingtowns Limited (the owners of CastleCourt) to development on their land. RPS's proposals could be a first phase of the regeneration of the square. Committee and Members at the DSD meeting on 12 February 2010 have commented that it would be preferable to secure a solution to Bank Square which complemented the plans of the adjoining landowners and sought at this initial stage to resolve the blight on the area from the CastleCourt service yard.

Members who attended the DSD meeting agreed that a joint meeting between DSD, Westfield, BCC and the Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce should be convened as soon as possible to confirm Westfield's commitments to the regeneration of Bank Square.

DSD's regeneration plan for Bank Square is scheduled to be ready for submission to Planning Service by 31 March 2010.

DSD are willing to enter into a roundtable discussion with Westfield however they have indicated that any meeting convened takes place prior to their next stakeholder meeting on 23rd March 2010 if possible.

Resource Implications

There are no major resource implications regarding this report.

Recommendation

It is recommended that an All-Party deputation from the Development Committee meet with DSD, Westfield and the Chamber of Trade and Commerce to discuss Bank Square regeneration in the context of the proposals prepared by FAB and RPS.

Decision Tracking

Further to agreement, Member Services to arrange the meeting between BCC, DSD, Westfield and the Chamber of Trade and Commerce.

Timeline: March 2010

Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay

Key to Abbreviations

FAB – Forum for Alternative Belfast
DSD – Department for Social Development
Westfield – Westfield Shoppingtowns Limited
BCC-Belfast City Council

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Royal Exchange Regeneration Project
Date:	9 March 2010
Reporting Officer:	John Mcgrillen Director of Development ext 3470 Shirley McCay Head of Economic Initiatives ext 3459
Contact Officer:	Pamela Davison, Estates Surveyor, ext 3506

Relevant Background Information

Members received a presentation from William Ewart Properties Limited on 16 November 2009. On 2 December 2009, Margaret Ritchie MLA, Minister for Social Development announced the timetable for submitting the planning application to take forward the Royal Exchange Regeneration Project. The developer of the project a consortium known as Royal Exchange (Belfast) Ltd comprising William Ewart Properties Ltd, Snoddon's Construction Ltd and ING are to submit a planning application, approved by DSD, to the Department of Environment's Planning Service by 31 October 2010.

Officers met with Nick Reid of William Ewart Properties Ltd on 14 January 2010 who proposed that a site visit for Members be arranged to continue the engagement between Council and the developers for this project.

Key Issues

Members requested a meeting with Minister Ritchie following the December announcement. Two meetings have been cancelled by Minister Ritchie and BCC are currently waiting for a new meeting date. Officers have requested representation on any steering groups DSD organises to take forward this project. However no clarification has been received of BCC's involvement's in any formal way on this major city centre mixed use regeneration project.

Key statistics available on the project include:

- Private Sector Involvement estimated at £360 million.
- Anchor Store – 8300 m².

- Retail commercial units for catering and leisure minimum area of 4083 m².
- 200 residential units minimum, including 40 units for affordable housing, for every 20 units above minimum 200, 1 unit is to be allocated for affordable housing.
- 700 car parking spaces.
- Potentially 2000 construction jobs.
- 1000 jobs in retail and leisure when completed.

Resource Implications

There are no major resource implications regarding this report.

Recommendation

It is recommended that members agree to a site visit to the Royal Exchange Regeneration Project.

Decision Tracking

Further to agreement on a site visit, a date for the visit is to be set by the Chair of the Development Committee and notified to Members.

Timeline: May 2010

Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay

Key to Abbreviations

DSD – Department for Social Development
BCC - Belfast City Council



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Sprucefield Public Inquiry Update
Date:	9 March 2010
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen Director of Development ext 3470 Shirley McCay Acting Director of Development ext 3459
Contact Officer:	Keith Sutherland, Planning & Transport Policy Manager ext 3578

Relevant Background Information

The Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) announced the postponement of the Public Inquiry into the application for the Sprucefield retail development (including John Lewis Partnership) in October 2009. The reason for the postponement was that the applicant, Sprucefield Centre Ltd, had not submitted information on the Environmental Impact Assessment within the 3 month period following registration of the application. The PAC considered the application would be deemed a refusal by Planning Service with the result that it could not be considered at a Public Inquiry.

Sprucefield Centre Ltd resubmitted the application for the significant retail development at Sprucefield on 27 October 2009. The proposed scheme is unchanged from the previous application and will comprise:

- A John Lewis Department Store of 22,300m² (covering four floors);
- 19 individual retail units with a total area of 22,500m² (no more than four of the units to be less than 250m² and the majority more than 500m²);
- 7 food units totalling 1,580m².

The Department has declared the application an Article 31 and has formally written to all objectors and consultees in relation to the resubmitted application. The Council resubmitted the original letter of objection in November 2009.

Key Issues

The Council objection submitted to the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) reiterates the previously articulated position that the application would be considered contrary to both the current (RDS) and the proposed planning policies (BMAP) by virtue of the adverse implications for the existing retail centres and the future regeneration of Belfast and other

adjoining centres.

The Planning Appeals Commission notified objectors on 8 February of the intention to conduct an Article 31 Public Inquiry for the purpose of considering the implications arising from the Sprucefield Centre Ltd application. The Public Inquiry is scheduled to commence on 7 June 2010. In advance of the Public Inquiry, the PAC informed objectors that they would be required to submit a statement of case by the 1 April 2010, outlining the basis of objections. Following the exchange of statements the Council will have the opportunity to comment on the opposing statements through the rebuttal process prior to 7 May 2010.

The Council's previous statement of case and rebuttal statement remain relevant as the details of the application remain unchanged, however minor clarification or updates may be required to take account of any changes to the information provided. The approach to preparation and participation in the Public Inquiry will also remain unaltered with representations coordinated by legal services using internal resources supported by Dr Tony Quinn, the retail planning expert previously commissioned by the Council to provide specialist evidence.

Resource Implications

Financial:

£8,000 for specialist retail planning assistance previously agreed by Committee.

Recommendation

Members are requested to

1. Note the update relating to Sprucefield Public Inquiry and the Council's resubmission of the statement of case in respect of the Sprucefield Centre Ltd application and proposed approach for participation in the public inquiry.

Decision Tracking

There is no decision tracking attached to this report as it is for notation only

Key Abbreviations

DOE – Department of Environment
PAC – Planning Appeals Commission
RDS – Regional Development Strategy
NI – Northern Ireland
BMAP – Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	RPA Transfer of Funding for Local Arts
Date:	9 March 2010
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470 Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459
Contact Officer:	Kerrie Sweeney, Tourism, Culture and Arts Manager, ext 3586

Relevant Background Information

The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure wrote to Belfast City Council on 18 January 2010, regarding the transfer of local arts to the new councils under RPA. This correspondence is attached as Appendix 1. In summary, their proposal is as follows:

- Funding for local arts to be transferred to the new district council by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland
- Allocations for Belfast and Derry to be weighted to take account of their strategic positions; however, it is also the intention to disburse funding for local arts more equitably across the new councils
- A potential requirement from new councils to match allocation of funding for local arts as per the Community Festivals Fund
- ACNI current allocation in 2009–2010 for local arts in Belfast is £628,024 and the proposed allocation under RPA is £322,372 (a 50% reduction). This figure is based on allocation by population with a 10% deprivation weighting to Belfast and Londonderry/Strabane.

DCAL's proposed definitions for local, regional and national arts are as follows:

- Local arts is operating within its own boundary
- Regional is operating beyond its own council boundary but within Northern Ireland
- National is operating within Northern Ireland and touring/offering programmes to the rest of the United Kingdom and/or Republic of Ireland

DCAL is recommending that the Arts Council of Northern Ireland will lead on regional and national arts.

Key Issues

Belfast's unique position is not addressed in this proposal.

Belfast City Council plays a unique role in Northern Ireland's culture and arts infrastructure as many of the regional and national arts are based in the city and are currently supported by both Belfast City Council and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

Belfast City Council invests £1.3 million per annum into approximately 73 culture and arts organisations. This funding sustains 295 full-time jobs; 134 part-time jobs; 1278 freelance; and 553 voluntary posts. The Council's subvention accounts for an average 11.7% of the organisations' annual income which represents a return on investment of 1:7. The total audience and participation figure for funded organisations is 6,184,305. Most other councils across Northern Ireland invest in the arts through purpose-built council owned venues – the majority do not tend to operate culture and arts funding programmes.

Whilst Belfast-based arts organisations run programmes in Belfast, they also extend these across Northern Ireland (in the case of theatre productions and other performances, this means that they often pay other councils for the use of their local arts centre). In many instances, the audience attracted to Belfast-based events are from outside of the Belfast area. This is reflected in the annual audience/participant figures of over 6million. A list of organisations that we support through Annual and Multi-annual Funding is attached as Appendix 2. This highlights which organisations are local, regional or national based on the definitions provided by DCAL.

In relation to local arts, while the move to assign this responsibility to Belfast City Council is welcome, the level of funding should remain consistent with that previously given to the local arts sector in the city, i.e. £628,024, not £322,372. Given the considerable investment that Belfast City Council makes already, we would have no additional funding to address any reductions in support to local arts unless the Arts Council increases its investment in regional/national arts, allowing the Council to redirect its funding.

Belfast City Council is also making considerable investment in capital projects, such as the Lyric (£1.25m) and MAC (£550k) to develop the cultural infrastructure of the city. This is not recognized within this proposal.

Resource Implications

Financial

None

Human Resources

This will be covered within the work programme of the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report and agree that the Outline Response in Appendix 3 be forwarded to DCAL.

Decision Tracking

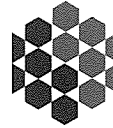
DCAL will receive a response to its proposals by letter following Committee approval.

Timeframe: March 2010

Reporting Officer: Kerrie Sweeney

Documents Attached
Appendix 1 - Copy of letter
Appendix 2 - List of organisations funded by Belfast City Council
Appendix 3 - Outline Response to DCAL

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Department of
**Culture, Arts
and Leisure**

www.dcalni.gov.uk

AN ROINN

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Mr Kevin Heaney
RPA Project Coordination Manager
Belfast City Council
Adelaide Exchange
24-26 Adelaide Street
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18 January 2010

Dear Mr Heaney

RPA – TRANSFER OF FUNDING FOR LOCAL ARTS

The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure has considered a number of options for the transfer of funding and is now seeking views on the proposed way forward on a number of key issues. I should be grateful for your views on the key issues outlined below.

BACKGROUND

In his statement to Parliament on 26 March 2006, Secretary of State Peter Hain announced his intention to transfer some of the funding for local arts to district councils. Following the restoration of devolution in May 2007, Minister Foster carried out a review of RPA proposals and reaffirmed that responsibility for local arts would transfer to district councils. In her statement to the Assembly on 31 March 2008, Minister Foster announced that the ***“new or enhanced functions and responsibilities of local government will include local arts”***.

Under the new arrangements, the Arts Council will continue to have responsibility for funding regional arts venues and other activity. To ensure a consistent approach to arts planning at a strategic level, the Arts Council will liaise with each district council to agree local arts and cultural plans.

KEY ISSUES

1. Definitions

The Department would propose to use the following definitions (currently used by the Arts Council) to categorize organisations as local, regional and national.

Local: operating within its own district council boundary

Regional: operating beyond its own district council boundary but within Northern Ireland

National: operating within Northern Ireland and touring/offering programmes to the rest of the United Kingdom and/or the Republic of Ireland.

2. Amount of Funding to Transfer

The Arts Council has advised the Department that funding on local arts for 2009/10 is in the region of £1.1m. On this basis, it is recommended that £1.1m would be an appropriate amount to transfer to district councils. While the amount of funding allocated to local arts fluctuates on a yearly basis, a firm amount of funding should be agreed to facilitate future planning. To increase this amount would impact adversely on the Arts Council's programmes. It might also be necessary to review the funding allocation after the first few years when councils have their strategies in place and on the basis of outcomes delivered. The level of funding could also be affected by the outcome of the next Comprehensive Spending Review.

3. Funding Transfer Mechanism

The Department's preferred funding transfer mechanism is that funding would be distributed to the new district councils by the Arts Council. The Arts Council has well established procedures and processes in place to manage the allocation of funding to district councils and to support councils as they develop their grant making capacity. There would also be less risk of double funding i.e. organisations obtaining funding from both the Arts Council and district councils for the same activity. The Arts Council would be well placed to assist the new councils to develop and agree their 3-year local arts and cultural plans. Councils will be expected to take account of their new Community Planning role when developing these plans.

4. Allocation of funding

The Department has considered a number of options in relation to how funding should be allocated to the new district councils. The Department's proposed approach is that funding is allocated on a per capita basis with weightings to take account of social (and other types of) deprivation, and other government priorities. Allocations for Belfast and Londonderry/Strabane would also be weighted to take account of their strategic positions in terms of their capacity to generate tourism and to alleviate the adverse impact on arts organisations in those areas which are currently funded by ACNI. This would ensure that funding for local arts could be disbursed more equitably across councils (currently 5 of the new council areas do not have any organisations in receipt of local arts funding from the Arts Council).

However, careful consideration needs to be given to the adverse impact that this could have on arts organisations currently funded by the Arts Council within the boundaries of the new district councils in Belfast and Londonderry/Strabane. As the organisations currently funded by the Arts Council are concentrated in Belfast and Londonderry, the amount of funding being transferred to those district councils would not be sufficient on its own to enable the new councils to continue the same level of support to the organisations which are currently supported by the Arts Council. Mitigating steps, such as a phased approach, may need to be considered to allow for a smooth transition.

Appendix A sets out an estimate of local arts funding which is currently allocated by the Arts Council in the new district council areas and how funding

would be allocated to the new district councils using the Department's proposed approach. This illustrates how local arts funding for the new district councils in Belfast and Londonderry/Strabane would be reduced, even with the various weightings included.

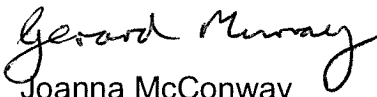
To minimise the risks to arts organisations, mitigating steps might need to be considered e.g. a phased approach using a transitional funding formula to allow time for organisations to make other arrangements. The Department would particularly welcome views on how this could be handled.

5. Match Funding

The allocation of funding to district councils may also include a requirement for district councils to match their allocation of funding for local arts. This arrangement has worked well with the Community Festivals Fund.

I should be grateful for your views on the Department's proposed approach by **31 March 2010**. Please forward your comments to me at the above address or by e-mail to arci@dcalni.gov.uk. Please contact me if you would find it helpful to discuss any of these issues.

Yours sincerely

cc 
Joanna McConway
Head of Arts and Creativity Branch

BREAKDOWN OF LOCAL ARTS FUNDING BY NEW COUNCIL AREA

New District Councils	ACNI current allocations per council area 2009/10	Allocation by population with 10% deprivation weighting. With additional weighting to Belfast and Londonderry/Strabane.
Antrim/Newtownabbey		59,316
Ards/North Down	50,550	66,255
Armagh/Banbridge/Craigavon	51,000	87,019
Ballymena/Carrickfergus/Larne		58,501
Ballymoney/Coleraine/Limavady/Moyle		61,051
Belfast	628,024	322,372
Castlereagh/Lisburn	19,000	77,974
Cookstown/Dungannon/Magherafelt		60,467
Londonderry/Strabane	292,200	180,268
Down/Newry&Mourne	40,000	75,748
Fermanagh/Omagh		51,030
Totals	1,080,774	1,100,000

Notes

Deprivation weighting includes 2% income deprivation, 2% education deprivation, 2% employment deprivation, 2% access to services deprivation, 1.2% health deprivation, 0.4% crime deprivation, 0.4% environment deprivation.

Additional weighting for capacity to generate tourism and to alleviate the adverse impact on arts organisations which are currently funded by the Arts Council. £300k split between Belfast and Londonderry/Strabane based on populations. Belfast allocated £192k (64%) weighting and Londonderry/Strabane allocated £108k weighting (36%).

Recommendations for Multi-Annual Funding 2010-2011

Organisation	2010-2011 Recommendation	Local/ regional / National
Beat Initiative	£34,330	Regional and National
Belfast Community Circus	£34,330	Regional and National
Belfast Exposed	£31,209	Regional
Belfast Festival at Queen's	£68,920	Regional
Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival	£30,300	National
Cinemagic	£31,209	Regional and National
Crescent Arts Centre	£34,330	Regional
Féile an Phobail	£30,300	National
Grand Opera House	£34,330	Regional
Linen Hall Library	£42,912	Regional
Lyric Theatre	£37,971	Regional and National
New Belfast Community Arts Initiative	£34,070	Regional
Northern Visions	£31,209	Regional
Old Museum Arts Centre	£41,352	Regional
Ulster Orchestra	£149,283	Regional and National
Young at Art	£31,209	National

Recommendations for Annual Funding – 2010-2011

Organisation	2010-2011 Recommendation	Local/Regional/National
Aisling Ghéar Theatre Company	£3,000	National
Andersonstown Traditional and Contemporary Music School	£3,750	Local
Arts and Disability Forum	£3,250	Regional
ArtsEkta	£5,250	Regional
Belfast Film Festival	£28,073	Regional
Belfast Philharmonic Society	£3,000	Local
Belfast Print Workshop	£6,250	Regional
Bruiser Theatre Company	£8,242	Regional
Cahoots NI	£4,681	Regional
Catalyst Arts Ltd	£3,000	Regional
Community Arts Forum	£20,400	Regional
Craft and Design Collective	£3,000	Regional
Creative Exchange	£3,000	Local
Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich	£8,160	Regional
Dance United NI	£3,166	Regional
East Belfast Arts Collective	£5,000	Local
Festival of Fools	£10,560	National
Golden Thread Gallery	£7,469	Local
Greenshoot Productions	£3,000	Regional
Kabosh Productions	£13,650	National
Kids in Control	£13,005	Regional
Maiden Voyage (NI) Ltd	£3,500	Regional
Moving on Music	£18,105	Regional
Music Theatre 4 Youth	£3,060	Regional
New Lodge Arts	£3,000	Local
Oh Yeah Music Centre	£3,000	National
Open House Traditional Arts Festival Ltd	£9,883	National
Ormeau Baths Gallery Ltd	£16,320	Local/regional
Prime Cut Productions	£11,443	Local/Regional
Queen Street Studios	£5,250	Local
Queen's Film Theatre	£11,963	National
Ransom Productions	£4,000	Regional
Replay Productions	£11,220	Regional
Source Magazine/Photo Works North	£3,060	Regional/National
Streetwise Community Circus Workshops	£5,610	Regional
Tinderbox Theatre Company	£16,737	Regional
WheelWorks	£8,415	Regional
YouthAction Northern Ireland's Rainbow	£8,322	Regional

Outline Response to DCAL

Overall, Belfast City Council does not believe that Belfast's unique position is addressed in this proposal.

Belfast City Council plays a unique role in Northern Ireland's culture and arts infrastructure as many of the regional and national arts are based in the city and are currently supported by both Belfast City Council and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. Belfast City Council invests £1.3 million per annum into approximately 73 culture and arts organisations through the following programmes:

Development and Outreach Programme – this fund aims to increase community participation and access to culture and arts activity in Belfast. Grants range from £2,000 to £20,000 and culture and arts applicants must demonstrate a partnership approach with community organisations. Approximately 13 applicants are funded.

Annual/Multi Annual Funding Scheme – This scheme helps arts, culture and heritage organisations in Belfast carry out their work and to create programmes which benefit people that live in and visit Belfast. Grants range from £3,000 to £30,000.

16 organisations receive annual funding on a multi annual basis. These organisations are selected on the basis of their strategic role within the culture and arts sector in Belfast.

Rolling Programme – This fund provides small grants to support innovation in arts and heritage. Grants range from £500 to £3,000.

These funding programmes sustain 295 full-time jobs; 134 part-time jobs; 1278 freelance; and 553 voluntary posts. The Council's subvention represents a return of investment of 1:7. The total audience and participation figure for funded organisations is 6,184,305.

A list of organisations that we support is attached. This highlights which organisations are local, regional or national based on the definitions provided. These definitions do not capture the complexity of Belfast's situation.

We welcome the move to assign the responsibility of local arts to Belfast City Council as this complements our current investment into Culture & Arts and in particular our Development and Outreach Programme. We strongly agree that any allocation of funding should be weighted to take account of Belfast's strategic position. This should ensure that the level of funding remains consistent with, if not increased upon, that previously given to the local arts sector in Belfast, i.e. £628,024, not £322,372. Any review of the funding against outputs should take place within an agreed timescale that allows the new funding processes, monitoring and evaluation systems to be firmly established.

We agree that the Arts Council of Northern Ireland is the preferred funding transfer mechanism, and we have developed a good working relationship with ACNI over the last number of years. In 2007 we launched the *Belfast Integrated Cultural Strategy*, a partnership approach between both organisations. We are now in the process of discussing the development of a new strategy with the Arts Council, to be developed during the course of this year. This fits well with the proposed local arts and cultural plans.

Given the considerable investment that Belfast City Council makes already, we would have no additional funding to address any reductions in support to local arts unless the Arts Council increases its investment in regional/national arts (e.g. Ulster Orchestra), allowing the Council to redirect its funding.

Strategically, Belfast City Council recognises the significant contribution that local, regional and national Belfast based culture and arts organisations make to the social and economic fabric of the city. Any proposal for local arts delivery and funding in Belfast must be developed within the context of, and not in isolation of, a wider Belfast cultural strategy and its impact on the success of the city.



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	MTV Belfast Music Week
Date:	9 March 2010
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470 Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459
Contact Officers:	Kerrie Sweeney, Tourism, Culture and Arts Manager, ext 3586

Relevant Background Information

Tourism, Culture and Arts – Music Tourism

Members will be aware that the final draft Integrated Strategic Framework for Belfast Tourism 2010-2015 identifies high profile events as a development lever to establish a strong reputation as a vibrant capital city with unique and exciting experiences that, once visited and enjoyed, will compel return visits time and time again. The strategy's new product development highlights that music tourism should be developed, packaged and promoted as an authentic experience to ensure that Belfast has a competitive edge.

At a Development Committee Meeting held on 10 December 2008, Members noted that Visit Britain's research shows that 21% of potential visitors are inspired to choose a destination because of the music or bands of that country, and approved a Music Tourism Action Plan in order to celebrate Belfast's rich musical heritage. Belfast's music receives high international praise and our latest generation of musicians are playing a crucial role in revitalising the city. The series of products included the Belfast Music Coach Tour, the Belfast Music Exhibition at the Oh Yeah Centre, a new music listings website Belfastmusic.org, the first ever i-phone application for music, and international showcasing and marketing of Belfast's musicians in Nashville and SxSW (South by South West). The plan has been significantly enhanced through the successful application to NITB's (Northern Ireland Tourist Board) Tourism Innovation Fund which contributed a further £138,750 and new partnerships that have been formed with ACNI (Arts Council of Northern Ireland), BBC and Tourism Ireland.

A recent report 'Exploring the Music Festival Tourism Market', commissioned by NITB using Mintel, highlighted that music is a key part of our cultural offering, and foreign and domestic tourists now spend in excess of £100 million on cultural and recreational events in NI each year.

This includes domestic tourists spend of over £32 million on tickets to concerts and music festivals. Tourism Ireland launched their 2010 Marketing Plans in Belfast in December 2009 and identified Music Tourism as a key driver for Belfast.

Creative Industries – Music Development

Members will be aware that BCC's current Local Economic Development Plan includes the following key themes: Business Competitiveness, Talent and Community Economic Regeneration. The new local economic development plan states that in order for Belfast to stay competitive it must nurture those sectors which can create high value-added products and bring new wealth to the city. The Creative Industries is one of major significance for Belfast as it is one of the most rapidly growing sectors. After extensive consultation from the private sector, BCC identified that there needs to be increased emphasis placed on the key sectors of Film & Television, Digital Media, Music, and Design. Priority areas for BCC include the provision of tailored information, guidance and mentoring with regard to business start up and business development. Other key areas identified include access to finance, sales and international marketing, infrastructure and export development.

The Music sector in Belfast has grown significantly over the past three years and now plays a key role in the overall economic development of the city. With a rise in musicians and bands making waves in the international marketplace and new and innovative music businesses based in Belfast, BCC is playing a supportive role for this industry.

With the demise of the Northern Ireland Music Industry Commission in November 2009, BCC has been playing a crucial supportive role for the music sector in Belfast, specifically with participation at the prestigious South by Southwest Media Conference and showcase. The SxSW project is deemed as one of the most ambitious and successful showcasing events to date in relation to the creative industries and returns of over \$500,000 are leveraged each year for participating artists.

Key Issues

The Tourism, Culture and Arts, Creative Industries and Events Units have been investigating the opportunity to partner with MTV in order to deliver a Belfast Music Week with a final A-List Concert to showcase Belfast's talent on the world stage and promote Belfast as a world-class music destination. MTV is the world's largest television network, the leading multimedia brand for youth and are experts at staging international events. It reaches over 213 million households in Europe through 28 different MTV channels and they receive 8 million unique visitors each month to MTVN Music websites. 65% of MTV's adult viewers in Europe are aged 15-34.

The aims of the initiative are:

- To host a world-class music event in September 2010 in partnership with MTV.
- To attract an audience of 6000, 1500 of which are out-of-state, to generate an overall direct income of £719, 360 to Belfast.
- To gain the equivalent of £9million media coverage for Belfast aimed at actively travelling young adults.
- To showcase and strengthen Belfast's position on the world stage as a primary destination for music, entertainment and culture.

- To increase the profile of Belfast as an exciting weekend break destination to actively travelling young adults across UK, ROI and Europe.
- To establish Belfast on all new media platforms via MTV.
- To increase visitor satisfaction levels of Belfast's cultural offer from 39% to 45%
- To promote and enhance a confident, positive, exciting image of Belfast through delivering world-class events
- To host the MTV EMA's in 2012.
- To bring together all sectors of the community from Belfast and across the region whilst improving community cohesion

Satellite gigs would take place in music venues across Belfast leading up to a free ticketed A list event in the grounds of City Hall. This is the first year of a three year event plan. The key objective is to put Belfast on everyone's destination wish list, ahead of our competitors. MTV's industry knowledge, experience to maximize an event of this nature and their connections will ensure that top level talent can be secured that will garner the most interest and media coverage.

This event will profile Belfast as a world-class music destination, a place which has a new, modern and exciting future. We will concentrate on the promotion of our indigenous musicians to show our rich musical heritage, thriving contemporary musical scene and promote and highlight our distinctiveness.

Through our Creative Industries programme, we will continue to showcase Northern Ireland's music talent in the international marketplace to highlight Belfast and its artists to the widest international audience, and contribute to creative industries by increasing the number of Belfast musicians doing business internationally.

This event offers the opportunity to leverage an internationally recognized brand and build a relationship with MTV. The brand recognition associated with MTV will provide a global marketing reach coupled with a kudos that is taken seriously by the target audience and key consumer groups.

This event and the surrounding programming that will be broadcast on the MTV network will provide the opportunity to show that NI is a modern and young destination that is 'confidently moving on'. Our audience is 'authentic' and planned programming including a rock history of Belfast and vignettes of locals will be broadcast which will demonstrate all of the above and our authenticity. Such programming and vignettes will allow us to uncover our stories and let others experience our awakening.

The prestige associated with the MTV brand means that we can reach demographics both internationally and locally that we have not had the opportunity to reach before. This is key to developing the youth market, especially in terms of Europe and easily reaching an international market with an event of international stand out appeal.

We will focus on the 15 – 34 years market and any consumer across Europe with an interest in contemporary music.

Resource Implications

Finance

The overall budget for this project is £500,000. MTV have confirmed they will secure £250,000 through commercial sponsorship. The remaining budget will be committed from the Events budget (£80,000 was approved at February's Development Committee) and £170,000 has been applied for from DCAL's Major Events Fund. A

decision on this will be made in March 2010.

Recommendations

Subject to DCAL's Major Events Funding being secured, it is recommended that Members note the contents of the report and agree to:

- Endorse the event
- Approach the P & R Committee for use of the City Hall grounds on 18 September 2010
- Officers approaching further partners, including DETI, ACNI, NITB, Tourism Ireland, NI Screen and commercial sponsors, in order to leverage further funding for Belfast Music Week.

Decision Tracking

Further to ratification, an update will be brought to Committee regarding the outcome of the application to DCAL's Major Events Fund.

Time line: April 2010

Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay

Documents Attached

Appendix 1: Economic Analysis of Liverpool's MTV Music Week

Key to Abbreviations

NITB – Northern Ireland Tourist Board
SxSW – South by South West
ACNI – Arts Council of Northern Ireland

Liverpool Capital of Culture Events (2008)



MTV Europe Music Awards Economic Impact Assessment - of Audience

Prepared for

Liverpool Culture Company and Liverpool City Council



by

bdrc[®]

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Event Details

On 6th November, 2008, Liverpool hosted the MTV Europe Music Awards.

1.2 Research Objectives

This study has been commissioned by Liverpool Culture Company and Liverpool City Council to research the origin, behaviour, satisfaction and economic impact of the event, as part of a wider study to assess the economic impact of a range of events held in Liverpool during Liverpool Capital of Culture 08.

The objectives of this research are to:

- identify and quantify the full economic impact of Liverpool's Culture programme in 2008 on Liverpool, Merseyside and North West England, including the number of jobs created and supported
- develop a profile of the audiences for each of the events included in the research, and
- obtain consumer perceptions of the events, from both local residents and visitors.

More specifically the research is using fieldwork and multiplier analysis to gather information on:

- Audience profile;
- Lifestyle characteristics;
- Influence of marketing in the decision to attend;
- Extent of multiple visits between simultaneously occurring events to derive the numbers of attendees at events;
- Length of stay in Liverpool and NW England;
- Modes of transport used to travel to, and within the City;

- Quality of experience including satisfaction with and image of the events and Liverpool, and;
- Visitor expenditure (direct, indirect and induced).

1.3 Methodology and Reporting

56 interviews were completed immediately before the event, using a structured questionnaire. The respondents were a mix of competition winners, MTV invitees, public ballot guests and others. BDRC deployed 20 interviewers on-site. However, security staff failed to recognise the pre-agreed accreditation until immediately before the start of the event and so interviewers attained fewer than the targeted number of interviews. The report contains tables and charts to illustrate the findings of the analysis with explanatory text.

1.4 Confidence Intervals

The confidence interval is the statistical difference between the results returned by the sample and what might reliably be assumed to have been the response had the entire population under study responded to the survey. This is usually expressed as a plus or minus % value. The table below shows the confidence intervals for different % responses, based on our sample of 56 from an estimated population of 4,250 and assuming as standard 95% confidence in our data. This is a relatively small sample and confidence intervals are necessarily wide.

% Response returned	Confidence interval (+/-)
95 or 5	5.71
90 or 10	7.86
85 or 15	9.35
80 or 20	10.48
75 or 25	11.34
70 or 30	12.00
65 or 35	12.49
60 or 40	12.83
55 or 45	13.03
50	13.10

Example:
 assuming that 25% of respondents stated they had visited another Liverpool 08 event; with a confidence interval of (11.34%) we could say that we would expect the entire population to range between (14%) and (36%) to have visited another Liverpool 08 event.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Please note that all results are based on the small sample of interviews achieved and as such the findings should be treated with caution. Results relate to a mix of competition winners, MTV invitees, public ballot guests and others. VIP guests were not included in the sample and have therefore not been included in the weightings.

2.1 Profile and Origin of Visitors

- More females than males were in the audience sample.
- Half of the audience was under 25; a third were 25-34; just 14% were over 35 years old.
- DE backgrounds were under-represented when compared to population figures.
- The majority of the audience was regional (Liverpool 44%; Merseyside 24%; rest of NW 2%). The widespread standing of the MTV brand attracts a wider audience (10% rest of Britain; 20% overseas).

2.2 Residents, Staying Visitors and Day Visitors

- 23% of audience members were on a staying away trip.
- The average length of stay in Liverpool was 2.00 nights. (Caution: tiny sub-sample base).

2.3 Visitor Behaviour

- For 80% of visitors, the event was the sole reason or was very important (16%) in their decision to visit Liverpool that day.

2.4 Marketing

- News coverage was a key influence for attendance, backing up word of mouth.

2.5 Visitor Satisfaction

- Event experience ratings were positive. Signposting and miscellaneous services were not well received.
- The majority of non-residents of Liverpool reported they were at least quite likely to visit the city again (84%), reflecting both high levels of satisfaction and a strong regional concentration.

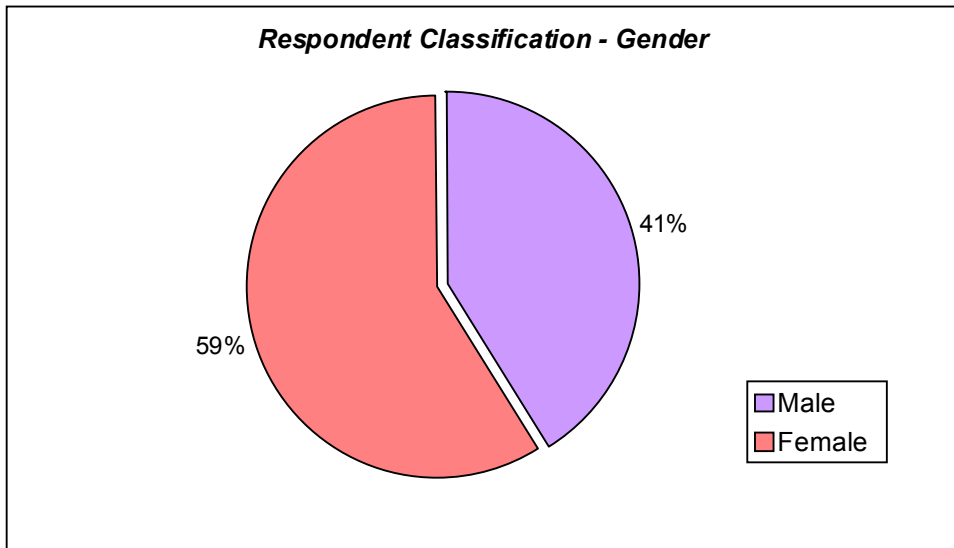
2.6 Economic Impact of Audience Members

- The average visitor spend per person per day was £116.48 excluding accommodation and £132.82 including accommodation. Of all visitors, approximately 23.2% stayed in paid accommodation, for an average of 2 days, and their total spending on accommodation during their stay averaged £70.34 per visitor. This equated to approximately £35.17 per day for their stay of 2 days.
- The total visitor spend generated by the event is estimated as £564,469, of which £69,425 was on accommodation, and £495,044 on all other items. These estimates include all expenditure on accommodation for staying visitors over the duration of their visit.
- The survey responses indicated that 90.17 per cent of this amount was spent in Liverpool itself – a total of £508,969 – with £26,649 spent in the rest of Merseyside and £24,509 in the rest of the North West. £4,342 was spent outside the North West.
- It is estimated that just over 80.4% of the expenditure was additional expenditure related to the event – generating £409,211 (£508,969 x 0.804) for the City, £21,426 for the rest of Merseyside, £19,705 for the rest of the North West and £3,491 for outside the North West.
- Total expenditure generated by the event, including multiplier effects, was £751,762, of which 80.4%, or £604,416, was additional.
- The event spend is estimated to have supported 15.47 jobs – 11.60 directly and 3.87 indirectly – on the basis of an average turnover required per job of £50,000 in the accommodation, catering and retail sectors, and £35,650 in the attractions sector.

3. PROFILE AND ORIGIN

3.1 Visitor/Respondent Profile

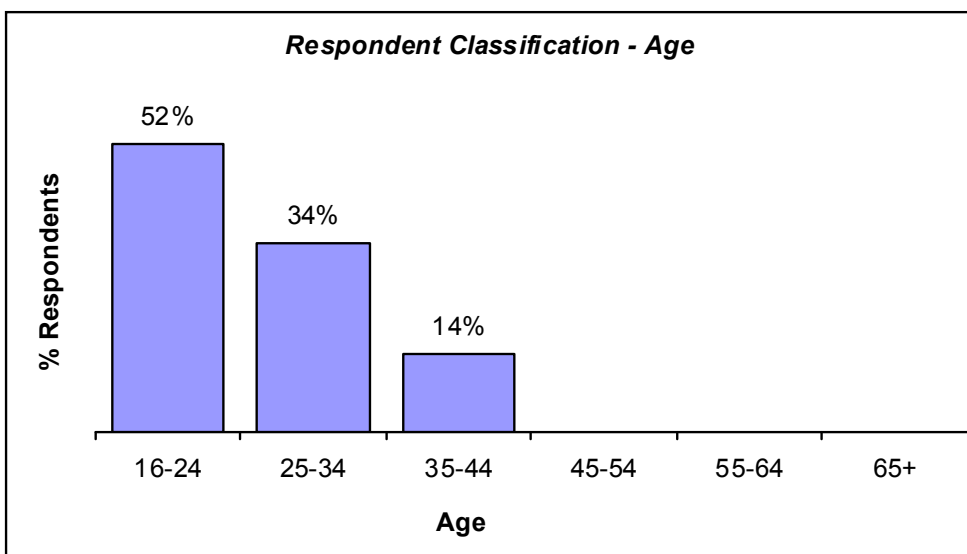
3.1.1 Respondent Gender



Base = All respondents, 56(weighted 4,250)

There was a preponderance of women among the respondents.

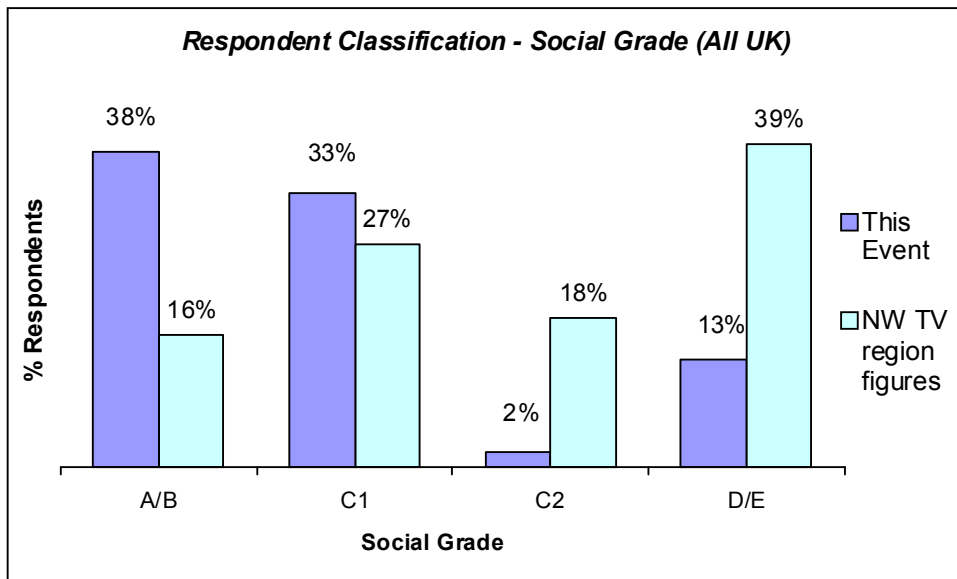
3.1.2 Respondent Age



Base = All respondents, 56 (weighted 4,250)

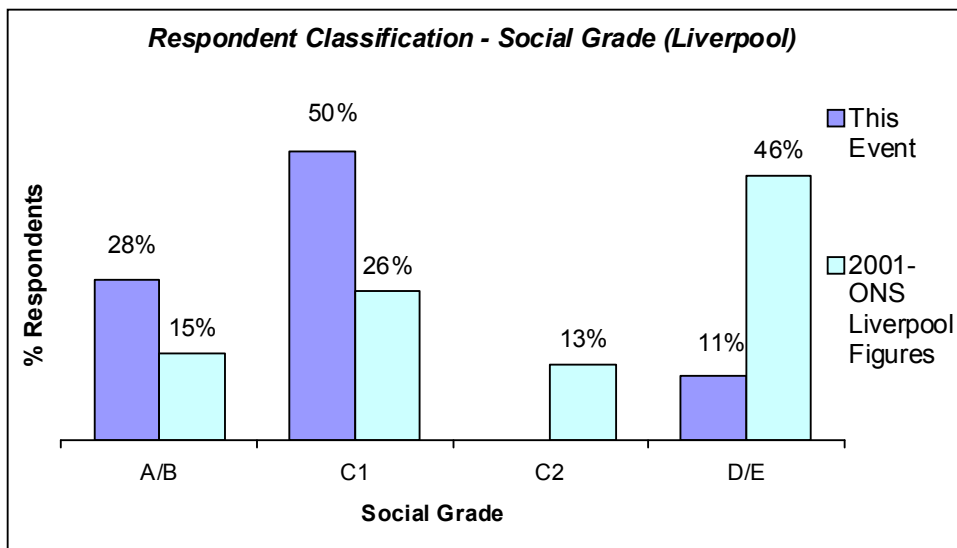
There is a clear skew towards younger adults for this event.

3.1.3 Social Grade



Base = All UK respondents, 48 (weighted 3,643)

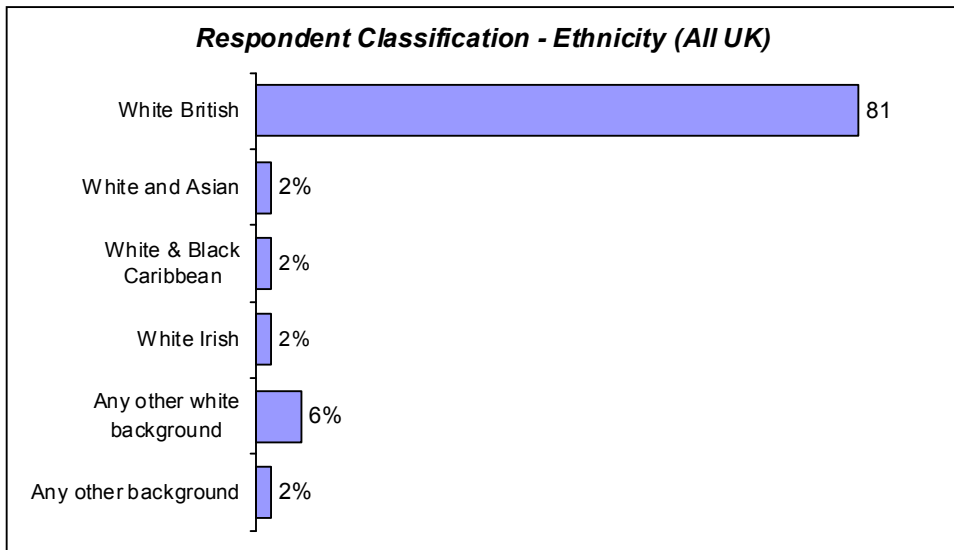
Those from ABC1 social backgrounds accounted for just under three quarters of the audience (71%), over-representing this group compared to the NW TV region population¹. Audience members from DE social grade backgrounds were somewhat under-represented, with only 13% of the audience.



Base = All Liverpool residents, 18 (weighted 1,366)

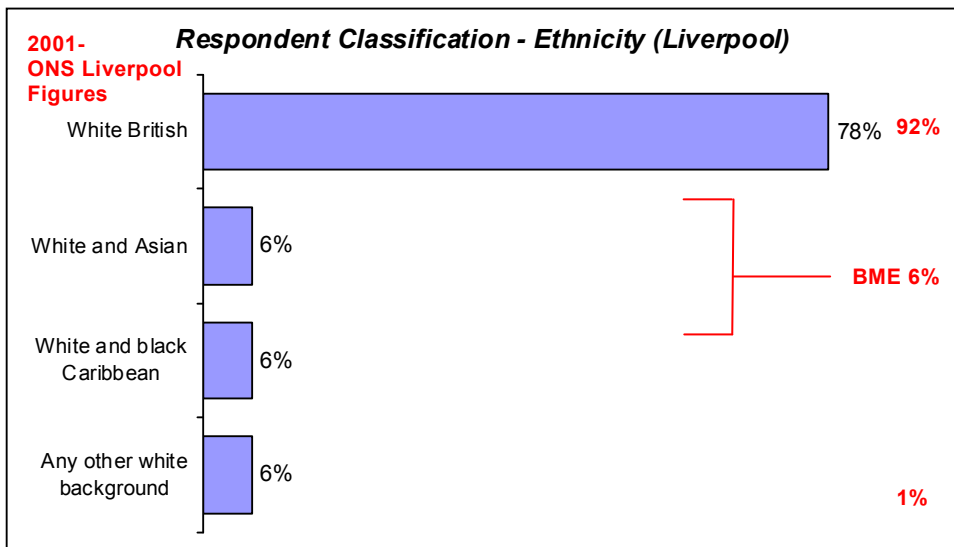
¹ NW TV Region popular profile sources from The Marketing Pocket Guide

3.1.4 Ethnicity



Base = All UK Respondents, 48 (weighted 3,643)

The largest single ethnic group in the sample was White British (81%). Minority groups were diverse though individually small. 5% of the respondents refused to answer.



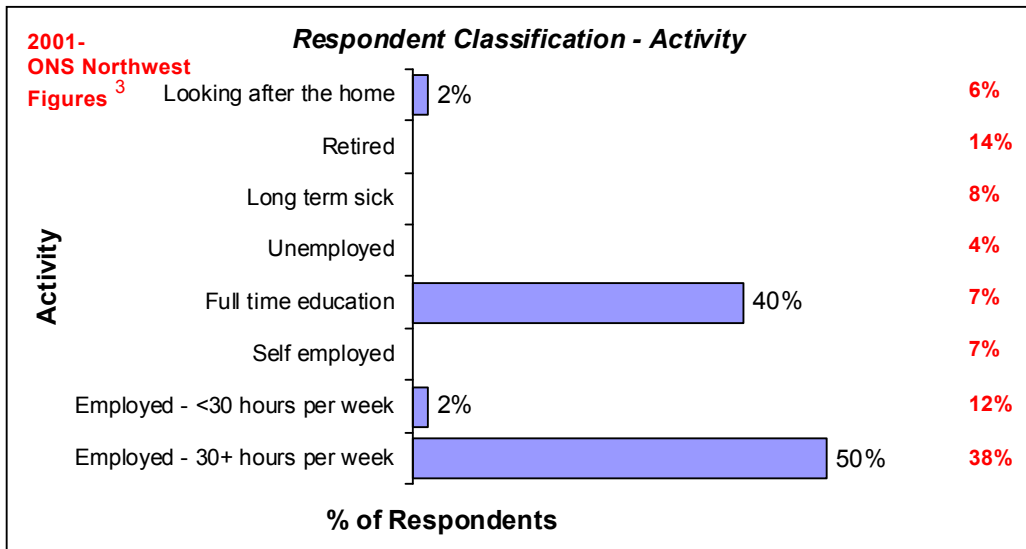
Base = All Liverpool residents, 18 (weighted 1,366)

Representation of audience members who were of BME background was double that of the 2001-ONS Figures for individuals from BME backgrounds in Liverpool.

3.1.5 Disability

None of our sample considered themselves to be Disabled, Deaf or Living with a Long-term illness.

3.1.6 Activity

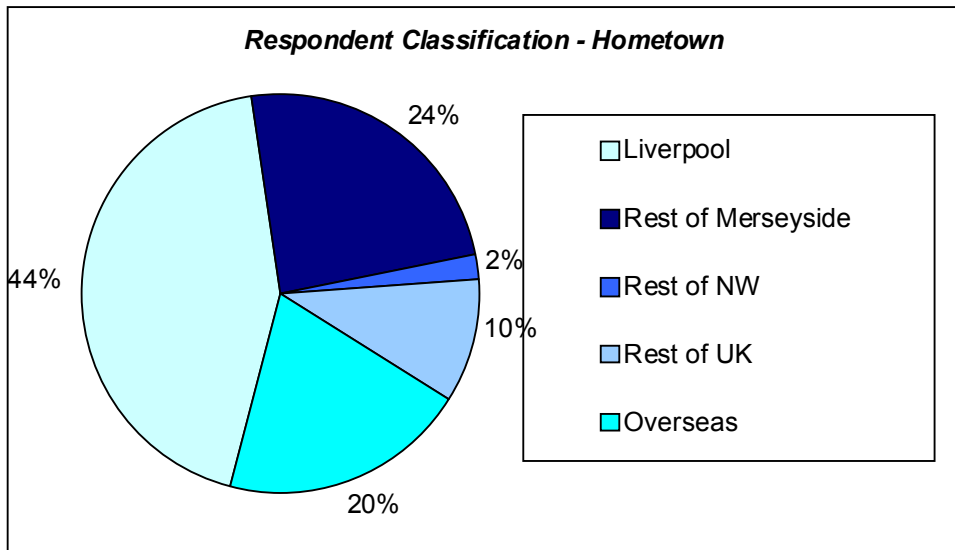


Base = All respondents, 48 (weighted 3,643)

Compared to 2001-ONS figures² there was some over-representation of people in full-time employment (50%) and a much higher number in full time education (40%). Most other groups were somewhat under-represented (though such a small sample may not necessarily contain a perfect cross-section of the population). These results are consistent with the younger adult age profile.

² North West and England populations from 2001 Census: Census Area Statistics: Economic Activity (UV28)p

3.2 Respondent Origin



Base = All respondents, 46 (weighted 4,250)

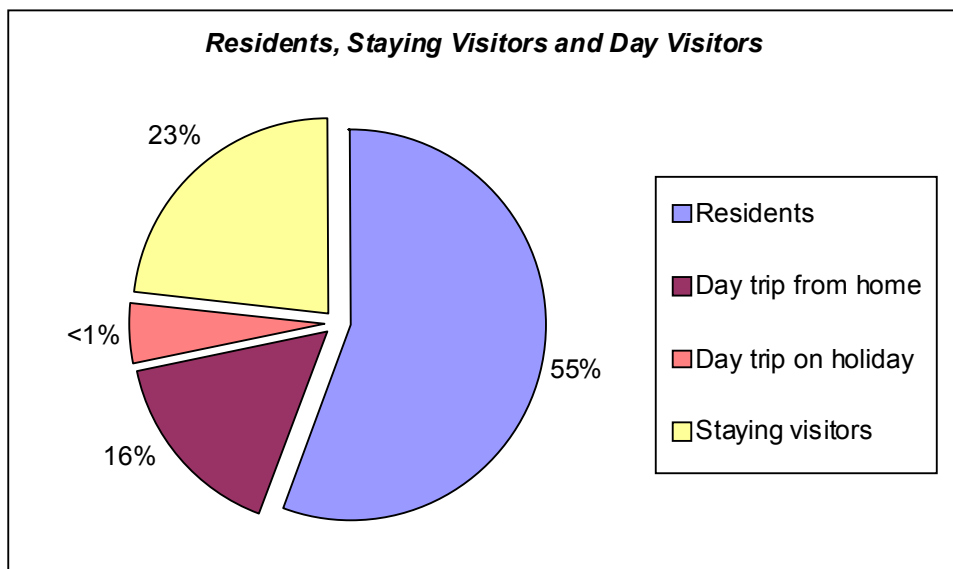
The audience for event was predominantly local, with over two thirds (68%) of respondents from Merseyside: 44% claimed to be Liverpool residents; 24% from the rest of Merseyside. The rest of the North West was underrepresented with only 2%. The 10% from the rest of Britain and 20% from overseas reflect the diverse nature of the event 'MTV Europe Music Awards'

Visitors from the rest of Merseyside originated from:

Area	% of respondents
Wirral	10%
Sefton	7%
St Helens	-%
Knowsley	7%

4. RESIDENTS, STAYING VISITORS AND DAY VISITORS

4.1 Type of Visitor



Base = All respondents, 56 (weighted 4,250)

Reflecting their wider UK and overseas origins, 23% of visitors were on a staying trip. 55% of visitors described themselves as residents of the Liverpool area and 16% were on a day trip from home.

4.2 Accommodation Details

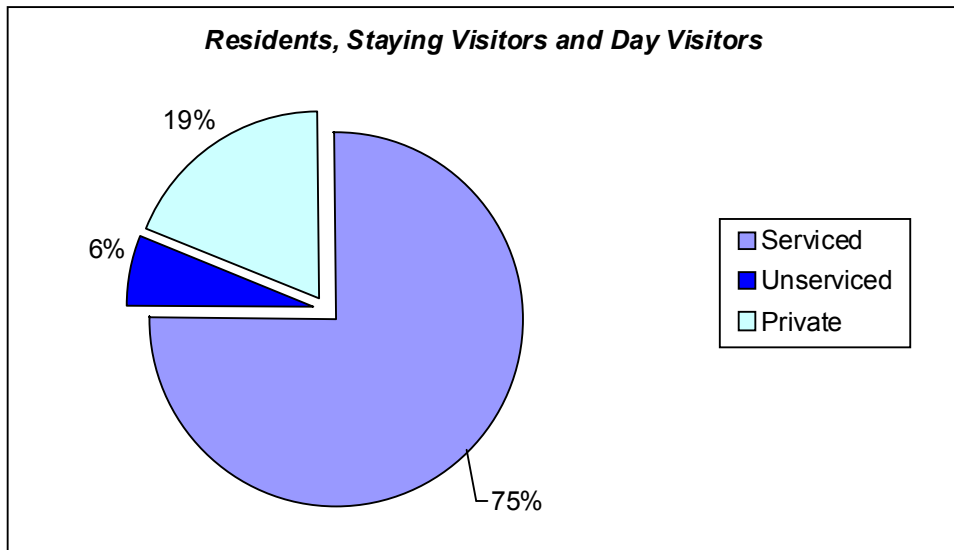
4.2.1 Length of Stay

Statistical Health Warning: be aware that data within this section is based on just 16 respondents staying away from home in the area and hence has a much lower level of associated reliability. (95% confidence limits on a survey result of 50% are $\pm 25\%$)

Respondents were asked for details of their length of stay; great caution is advised when viewing these figures, as they represent a tiny base.

The average length of stay was 3.13 nights

4.2.2 Type of Accommodation

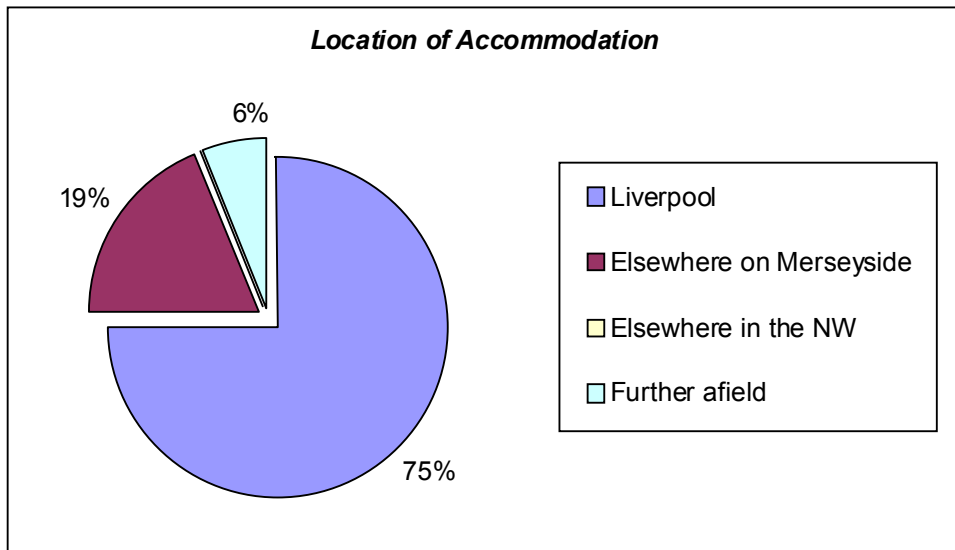


Base = All staying respondents 16 (weighted 1,214)

Staying visitors were also asked for the type of accommodation they were using as part of their visit. Three quarters stayed in serviced commercial accommodation with another 6% in unserviced. Only 19% stayed with friends and relatives.

Type of accommodation	visitors staying (%)
4 / 5-star hotel	25
3 star (Middle Market)	38
1 / 2 star (Budget Lodge)	13
Pub	-
Unlicensed Hotel (incl. Guesthouse, B&B, farmhouse)	-
Cruise Ship	-
Flats let	-
Hostel	6
Home of friend / relative	19

4.2.3 Location of Accommodation



Base = All staying respondents 16 (weighted 1,214)

The majority of staying respondents indicated that they were staying in Liverpool (75%).

On average, visitors were staying **3.13** nights in **total**; **2.00** nights in **Liverpool**.

4.2.4 Accommodation Expenditure

The mean spend per person of staying visitors, other than those visiting friends and relatives (VFRs), was £70.34 on accommodation and £377.25 on other goods and services. Given an average stay of 2 days, this would equate to an average spend per person per day of £35.17 on accommodation alone and £188.63 on other goods and services. This is based on a sample of 9 respondents staying in paid accommodation – 8 in serviced accommodation and 1 in non-serviced.

4.2.5 Accommodation Rating

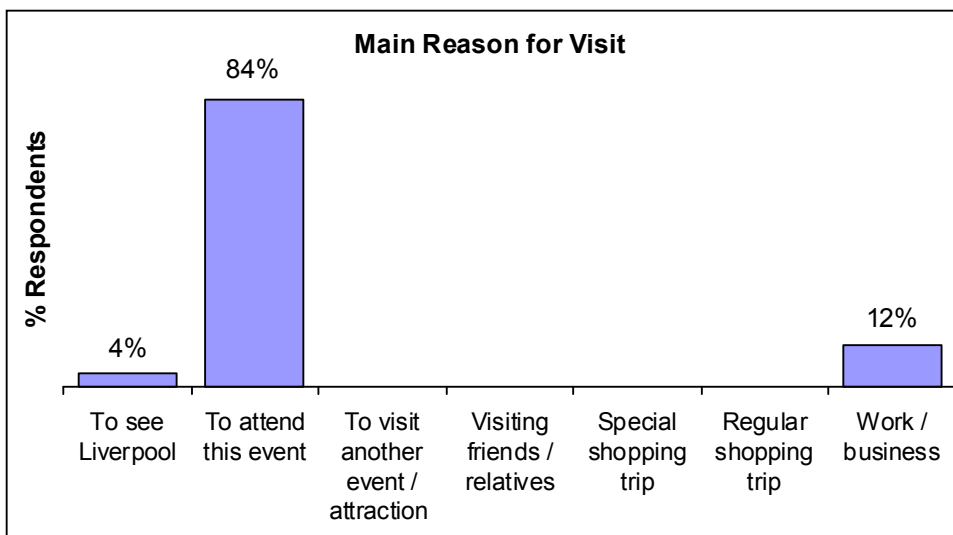
Respondents staying in paid accommodation were asked to rate their accommodation on a scale of 1 to 5 in terms of quality. Ratings were positive, over half rated their accommodation 'very good'.

Rating of accommodation	% of Responses
Very good (5)	38%
Good (4)	38%
Neither (3)	6%
Poor (2)	6%
Very poor (1)	-
<i>Not stated</i>	<i>12%</i>

Converting the above responses to a scale from 1 to 5 gives a mean satisfaction score of 4.21 equating to an overall rating closer to 'good' than to 'very good'.

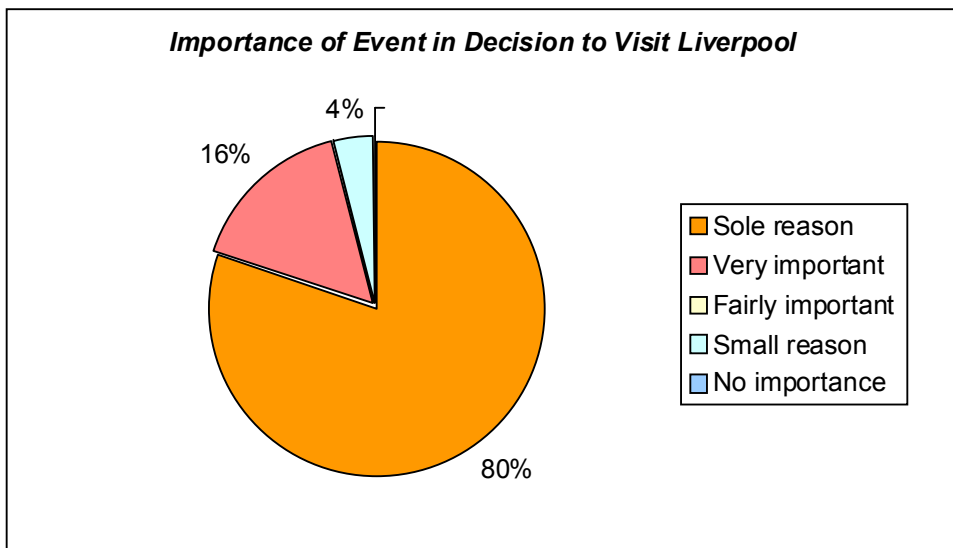
5. VISITOR BEHAVIOUR

5.1 Main Reason for Visiting Liverpool



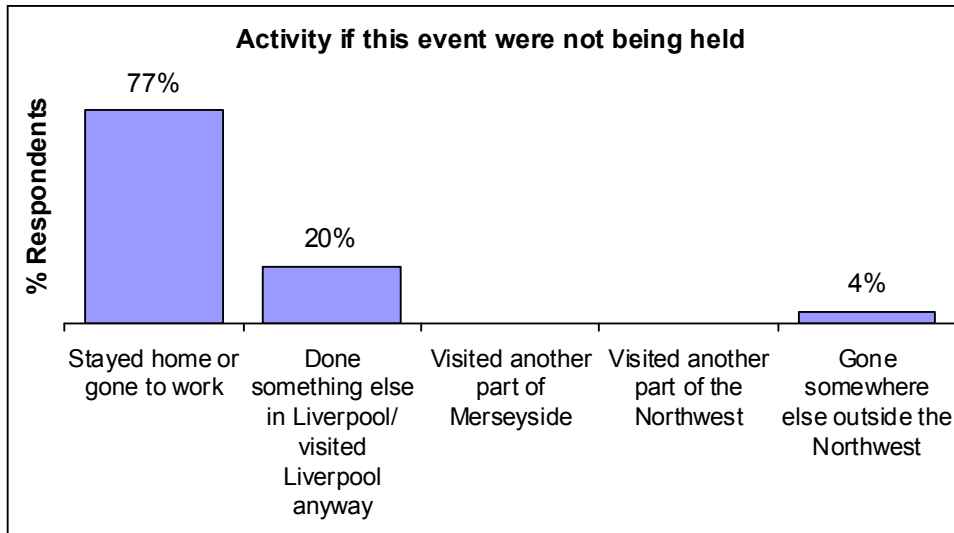
Base = All non-residents, 25 (weighted 1,897)

Non-residents were asked the main reason for their visit to Liverpool. For the great majority, the event itself was the main reason (84%).



Base = non residents, , 25 (weighted 1,897)

In a related question, non residents were asked how important the event was in terms of their decision to visit Liverpool. Over three quarters (80%) of all non-residents reported it was the sole reason for their visit. 4% claimed it was a small reason for their visit and no one stated the event had no importance.



Base = All respondents, 56 (weighted 4,250)

Over three quarters would have stayed at home or gone to work if this event were not being held (77%). 20% would have visited Liverpool anyway whilst 4% would have chosen somewhere else in the UK outside the Northwest.

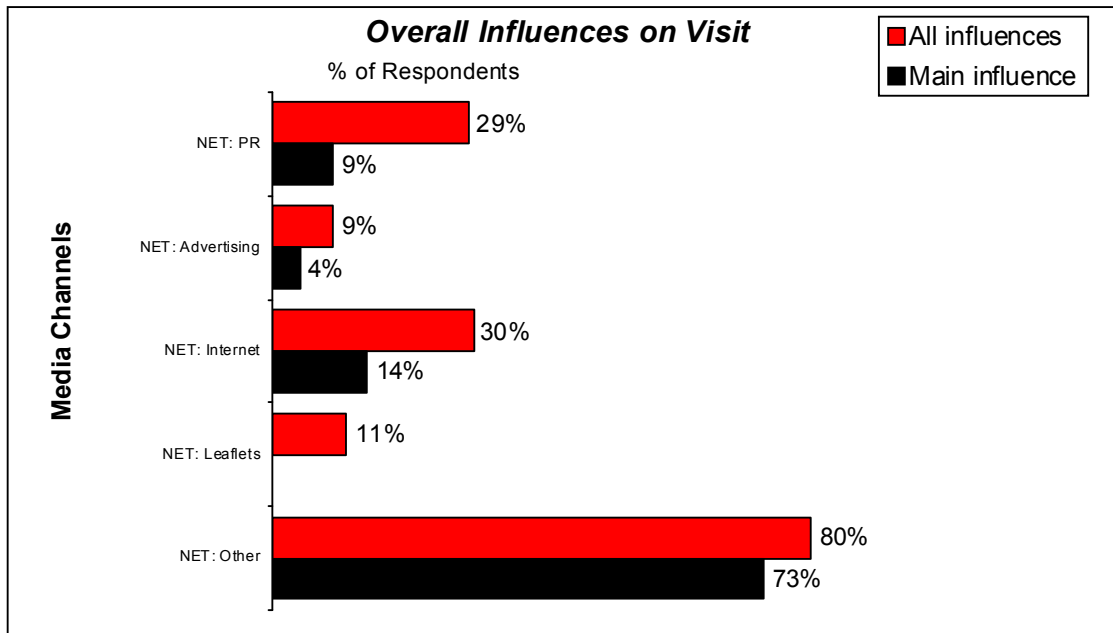
5.2 Attendance at other Liverpool 08 events

50% had been to previous Liverpool events.

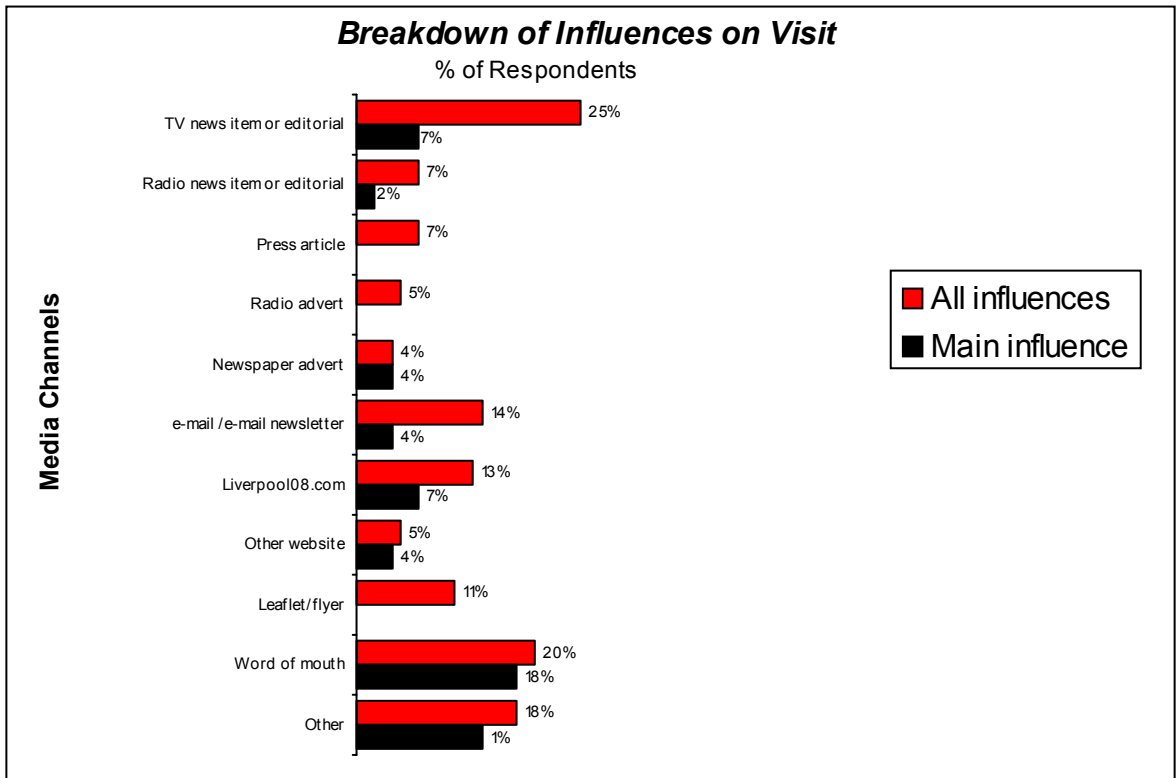
6. MARKETING

6.1 Effectiveness of Marketing Activity

In an attempt to gain a measure of marketing channels used to promote the event, all respondents were asked to detail both all influences on their visit and the main influence.



Base = All respondents, 56(weighted 4,250)



Base All respondents, 56 (weighted 4,250)

News coverage on TV predominated whilst word of mouth and email also proved highly effective. Word of mouth came across as the main influence on people's decision to visit.

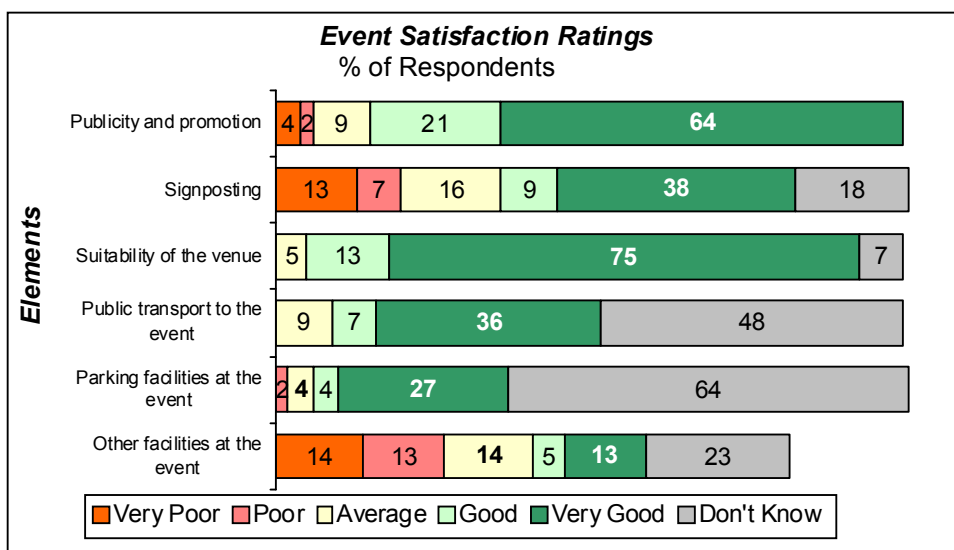
7. VISITOR SATISFACTION

7.1 Visitor Ratings of Satisfaction with Event

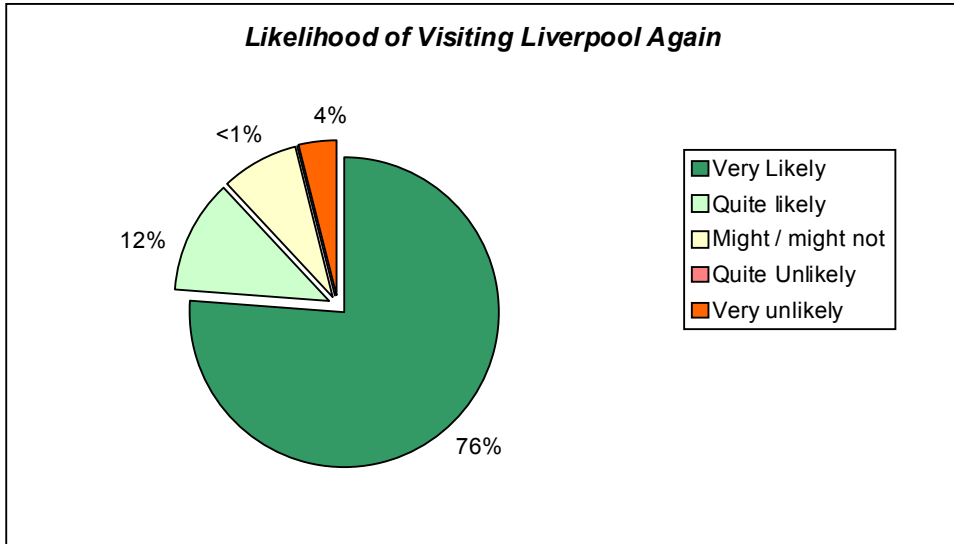
Visitors were asked to rate their levels of satisfaction with various aspects of the event using the Likert scale (where 1=very poor and 5=very good). On this scale, a rating above 3.0 indicates a net satisfaction level, whilst any rating below 3.0 indicates a net level of dissatisfaction. The mean rating score derived for each category is shown below, and the individual satisfaction levels for each aspect detailed in a chart beneath this.

Rating category	Mean score
Publicity and promotion	4.4
Signposting	3.6
Suitability of the venue	4.8
Public transport to the event	4.5
Parking facilities at the event	4.6
Other facilities at the event	3.3
Overall mean score	4.2

The event delivered an overall sample level just above good. Signposting and miscellaneous other facilities were not well-regarded.



Base: All respondents, 56 (weighted 4,250)



Base: All non-residents, 25 (weighted 1,897)

Audience members who were not Liverpool residents were asked how likely they were to visit the city again. Response was overwhelmingly positive.

8. ECONOMIC IMPACT

8.1 Introduction

The economic impact of the MTV Europe Music Awards in Liverpool has been calculated in three steps, as follows:

- In Step 1, the total expenditure of visitors to the event has been calculated, based on the survey returns, to calculate Round 1 expenditure;
- In Step 2, the amount of Round 1 expenditure recycled within Liverpool, Merseyside and the North West was calculated, based on sectoral multipliers derived by Cambridge Econometrics. The number of jobs supported by both Round 1 and multiplied expenditure was also calculated, based on turnover per job figures in each sector derived by Cambridge Econometrics;
- In Step 3, the amount of total Round 1 and multiplied expenditure that was additional expenditure related to the event was calculated by multiplying the estimate for total expenditure calculated under Steps 1 and 2 by the percentage of survey respondents who stated that, had the MTV Europe Music Awards not been held in Liverpool, they would have otherwise stayed at home, gone to work or gone somewhere outside the North West.

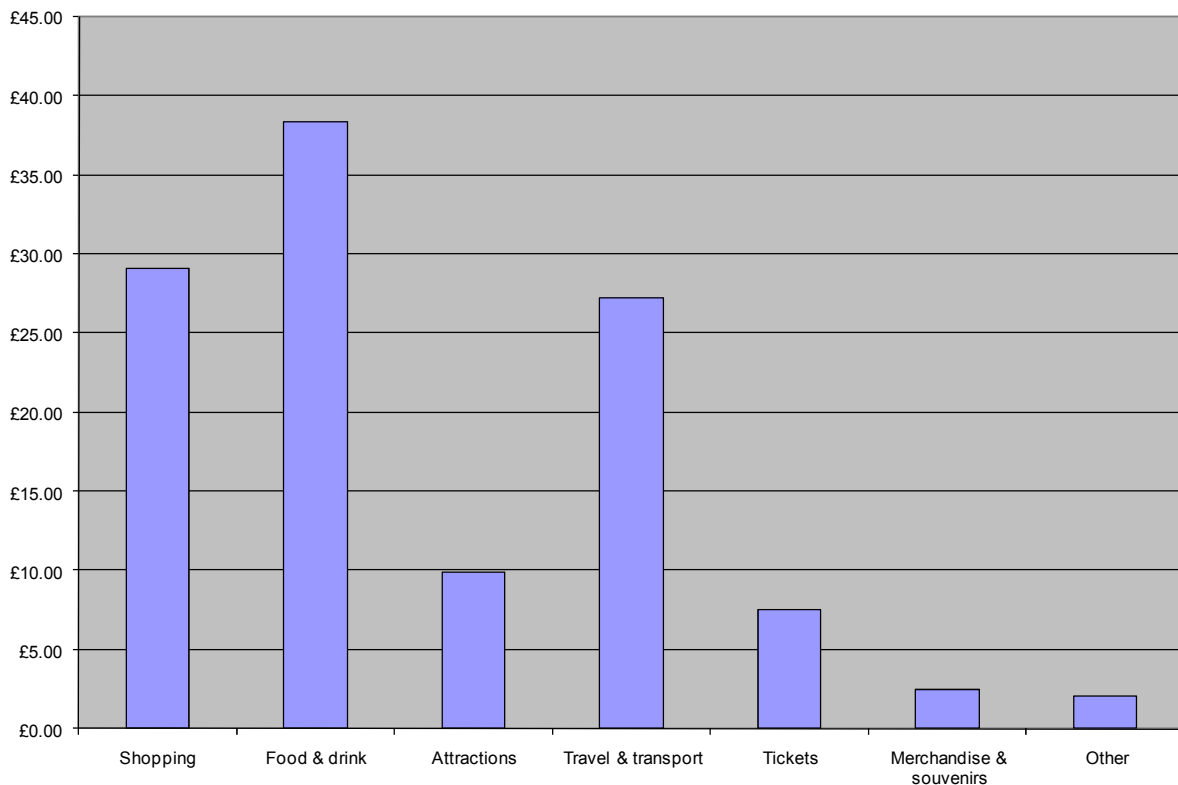
The sequence of calculations, and methodology used to arrive at estimates, is shown in the flowchart overpage. In the remainder of this section, the results of the economic impact assessment are set out.

- 1 Round 1: Total visitor expenditure**
 Computed as:
 Average expenditure per visitor excluding accommodation x Nos of visitors
 Average expenditure of staying visitors on accommodation (Q.7) x Nos of visitors staying in paid accommodation
 Allocated between Liverpool, Merseyside & the rest of the North West
Note that for those staying in paid accommodation, the results were based on a small sample size
- 2 Round 2: Recycled expenditure within Liverpool, Merseyside and the North West**
 Computed as:
 Round 1 expenditure in each sector x % retained in the region
 Based on Cambridge Econometrics' research, the retention rates are as follows in each sector:
 Accommodation : 75%
 Retail : 19%
 Catering : 50%
 Attractions : 37%
 Travel : 7%
- 2a Geographic allocation of total expenditure**
 between Liverpool, Merseyside, the North West and elsewhere
 Computed as being in proportion to the geographic allocation of Round 1 expenditure
- 2b Estimate of jobs supported by visitor expenditure**
 Computed as:
 Round 1 expenditure divided by turnover per job in each sector
 Round 2 (multiplied) expenditure divided by turnover per job in each sector
 Where turnover per job is as follows for each sector:
 Accommodation = £50,000
 Retail = £50,000
 Catering = £50,000
 Attractions = £35,650
 Travel = £50,650
- 3 Additional expenditure related to the event**
 Computed as:
 Total Round 1 & Round 2 expenditure x % who would have stayed at home, gone to work or gone somewhere outside the NW (Q8e)

8.2 Step 1: Average Visitor Expenditure

Average visitor expenditure was calculated by deriving the average spend for the following categories: shopping, food and drink, attractions, travel, merchandise and “other” items, to estimate the total amount spent by visitors to the MTV Europe Music Awards. Note: those who did not spend anything at the event were included when calculating the average figure but those who refused to answer the question were not included. The allocation of expenditure between different items is shown in Figure 8.1 below, excluding expenditure on accommodation by staying visitors.

Figure 8.1
Average expenditure of those attending the MTV Europe Music Awards



Source: Audience Survey. Base = 56 respondents

The average expenditure rate excluding accommodation was £116.48 per person, of which £38.34 was on food and drink (33%), £29.08 on shopping (25%), £27.26 on travel (23%), £9.88 on visits to attractions (8.5%), and £7.47 on tickets (6.4%), with merchandise and other expenditure accounting for the balance.

A further question asked participants where they had spent the money. Approximately 90.2% of the allocation of expenditure (including accommodation) was within Liverpool itself, with 4.7% being elsewhere in Merseyside. Just over 4.3% was spent elsewhere in the North West, and 0.8% outside the North West.

8.3 Step 1: Gross Visitor Spend

In calculating the gross visitor spend, a number of factors need to be taken into account. Firstly, there is the *coarse* total visitor spend, which is calculated by:

- multiplying average expenditure spend per person by the estimated number of visitors to the event, to derive the total level of spending on items other than accommodation; and
- multiplying total expenditure on accommodation by the estimated number of visitors to the event staying in paid accommodation, to derive the total level of spending on accommodation.

The estimated total gross visitor spend for the MTV Europe Music Awards is **£564,469**. This is based on allocating all of the staying visitors' expenditure on accommodation to the event. The estimated geographic allocation of this expenditure, based on survey returns, is shown in Figure 8.2 below.

Figure 8.2:

Allocation of visitor expenditure of visitors to the MTV Europe Music Awards

	Expenditure, £	%	Of which: spent in			
			Liverpool	Merseyside	Elsewhere in NW	Outside NW
Accommodation	69,425	12.3%	52,055	13,028	0	4,342
Shopping	123,581	21.9%	113,410	3,633	6,538	0
Food & drink	162,927	28.9%	149,518	4,790	8,619	0
Attractions	41,997	7.4%	38,541	1,235	2,221	0
Travel	115,849	20.5%	106,315	3,406	6,128	0
Tickets	31,742	5.6%	31,742	0	0	0
Merchandise	10,521	1.9%	9,655	309	557	0
Other	8,427	1.5%	7,733	248	446	0
	564,469	100.0%	508,969	26,649	24,509	4,342
% of total	100.0%		90.2%	4.7%	4.3%	0.8%

The figures indicate that 12.3% of total expenditure was on accommodation. The single largest item of expenditure was food and drink, which comprised 28.9% of total expenditure.

8.4 Step 2: Multiplied Expenditure

The sum of £564,469 represents the immediate impact of visitor expenditure on the UK economy. Some of this expenditure was recycled within the City economy, in additional expenditure on bought-in services and supplies. We have used the estimates of local linkages derived from previous economic research in Liverpool to arrive at estimates for the amount of multiplied expenditure generated by the MTV Europe Music Awards, as set out in Figure 8.3 below.

Figure 8.3:
Multiplier effects of the expenditure of visitors to the MTV Europe Music Awards in Liverpool event

	Round 1	Of which:		%	Multiplied
	Expenditure	Staying	Day	multiplier	Expenditure
	£	visitors	visitors	(to	£
				nearest	
				%)	
Accommodation	69,425	69,425	0	75%	52,069
Shopping	123,581	116,351	7,230	19%	23,480
Food & drink	162,927	117,562	45,365	50%	81,463
Attractions	41,997	41,997	0	37%	15,539
Travel	115,849	94,426	21,423	7%	8,109
Tickets	31,742	7,944	23,798	0%	0
Merchandise	10,521	9,557	964	35%	3,682
Other	8,427	7,944	483	35%	2,949
	564,469	465,206	99,263		187,291
	100.0%	82.4%	17.6%		

The total economic impact including the multiplier is shown in the Figure 8.4 below.

Figure 8.4:**Total economic impact including the multiplier**

	Round 1 Expenditure	Multiplied Expenditure	Total
Accommodation	69,425	52,069	121,494
Shopping	123,581	23,480	147,061
Food & drink	162,927	81,463	244,390
Attractions	41,997	15,539	57,536
Travel	115,849	8,109	123,958
Tickets	31,742	0	31,742
Merchandise	10,521	3,682	14,203
Other	8,427	2,949	11,376
	564,469	187,291	751,760

The geographic allocation of this expenditure is shown in Figure 8.5 below.

Figure 8.5:**Geographic allocation of Round 1 and multiplied expenditure**

	Total	Of which:			
		£	Liverpool	Merseyside	Elsewhere in NW
Accommodation	121,494	91,095	22,799	0	7,600
Shopping	147,061	134,958	4,323	7,780	0
Food & drink	244,390	224,277	7,185	12,928	0
Attractions	57,536	52,800	1,692	3,044	0
Travel	123,958	113,757	3,644	6,557	0
Tickets	31,742	31,742	0	0	0
Merchandise	14,203	13,034	418	751	0
Other	11,376	10,440	334	602	0
	751,760	672,103	40,395	31,662	7,600

To estimate the employment effects of this expenditure, we applied estimates of turnover required per job derived from earlier economic research in Liverpool to calculate the number of jobs – full-time employee (FTE) equivalent – supported by the MTV Europe Music Awards. The turnover per job estimates by sector are as follows:

- Accommodation: £50,000;
- Shopping: £50,000;
- Food & drink: £50,000;
- Attractions: £35,650;
- Travel: £50,650.

Based on these estimates, the employment effects of the MTV Europe Music Awards expenditure is shown in Figure 8.6 below.

Figure 8.6:
Employment effects of Round 1 and multiplied expenditure

	Round 1 Expenditure	Multiplied Expenditure	Total
Accommodation	1.39	1.04	2.43
Shopping	2.47	0.47	2.94
Food & drink	3.26	1.63	4.89
Attractions	1.18	0.44	1.62
Travel	2.29	0.16	2.45
Tickets	0.63	0.00	0.63
Merchandise	0.21	0.07	0.28
Other	0.17	0.06	0.23
	11.60	3.87	15.47

The geographical allocation of these jobs is shown in Figure 8.6 (a) below.

Figure 8.6(a):**Geographical location of jobs supported by Round 1 and multiplied expenditure**

	Round 1 Expenditure	Multiplied Expenditure	Total
Liverpool	10.46	3.38	13.84
Merseyside	0.55	0.28	0.83
Elsewhere in the North West	0.50	0.14	0.64
Outside the North West	0.09	0.07	0.16
	11.60	3.87	15.47

8.5 Step 3: Additional Expenditure related to the Event

The next issue to be addressed is how much of the expenditure was new or additional, as opposed to having been displaced from expenditure which would have occurred anyway. In total, 80.4% of respondents stated that they would otherwise have stayed home or gone to work. The remaining 19.6% of respondents stated that they would have done something else in Liverpool, Merseyside or the North West or did not specify what they would have done.

Based on these survey responses, we can estimate that 80.4% of total expenditure – or approximately £453,833 of Round 1 expenditure and £150,583 of multiplied expenditure – **was additional spend related to the event** by people who would not otherwise have been spending *on the day of the event*, while 19.6% of total expenditure would have been spent doing “something else” in Liverpool or the North West, and so would have occurred anyway within the city and region, and was displaced from other activities.

In summary, additional expenditure related to the MTV Europe Music Awards is as set out in the Figure 8.7 below.

Figure 8.7:
Additional expenditure related to the MTV Europe Music Awards

	£
Gross visitor spend	564,469
Multiplied expenditure	<u>187,291</u>
Total expenditure generated by the MTV Europe Music Awards	751,760
Additional visitor expenditure related to the event	453,833
Additional multiplied expenditure	<u>150,583</u>
	604,416
Geographic allocation:	
Liverpool	540,946
Merseyside	32,273
Elsewhere in the North West	25,087
Outside the North West	<u>6,110</u>
	604,416

The allocation of additional visitor expenditure related to the event by sector, and the total jobs supported by this expenditure by sector, is shown in Figure 8.8 below.

Figure 8.8:
Additional jobs related to the MTV Europe Music Awards

	Additional Expenditure	Additional Jobs
Accommodation	97,682	2.0
Shopping	118,237	2.4
Food & drink	196,489	3.9
Attractions	46,259	1.3
Travel	99,663	2.0
Tickets	25,521	0.5
Merchandise	11,419	0.2
Other	<u>9,146</u>	<u>0.2</u>
	604,416	12.5

The geographic location of the additional expenditure and jobs related to the MTV Europe Music Awards is shown in Figure 8.8 (a) below.

Figure 8.8 (a):

Geographic location of additional expenditure and jobs related to the MTV Europe Music Awards

	Additional Expenditure	Additional Jobs
Liverpool	540,946	11.2
Merseyside	32,273	0.7
Elsewhere in the North West	25,087	0.5
Outside the North West	<u>6,110</u>	<u>0.1</u>
	604,416	12.5

8.6 Total Economic Impact

Figure 8.9 summarises the total economic impact of the MTV Europe Music Awards at the three levels.

Figure 8.9:
Total economic impact of the MTV Europe Music Awards

	Total	Liverpool	Mersey-side	North West	Outside the NW
1. Gross visitor spend	564,469	508,969	26,649	24,509	4,342
2. Multiplied expenditure	<u>187,291</u>	<u>163,134</u>	<u>13,746</u>	<u>7,153</u>	<u>3,258</u>
Sub-total:	751,760	672,103	40,395	31,662	7,600
Total jobs	15.47	13.84	0.83	0.64	0.16
3. Additional expenditure	604,416	540,946	32,273	25,087	6,110
Additional jobs	12.5	11.2	0.7	0.5	0.1

As shown in Figure 8.9:

- the total Round 1 economic impact of the event was £564,469, of which £508,969 was generated for Liverpool, £26,649 for the rest of Merseyside, £24,509 for the rest of the North West, and £4,342 for outside the North West;
- Round 2 or multiplied economic impact of the event was £187,291;
- in total, Round 1 and multiplied expenditure amounted to £751,760, of which £604,416 represented additional expenditure generated by the event (approximately 80.4%), while £147,344 (19.6%) would have been spent in Liverpool whether or not the event had taken place. Of the additional expenditure, £540,946 was spent in Liverpool, £36,273 in the rest of Merseyside, £25,087 in the rest of the North West, and £6,110 outside the North West;
- based on the Cambridge Econometrics' estimates of average turnover per full-time equivalent (FTE) job in each sector, the expenditure generated by the MTV Europe Music Awards was sufficient to support 15.47 jobs – 11.6 directly and 3.87 indirectly – of which 12.5 FTE jobs were additional, with most of them – 11.2 – located within Liverpool.

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Culture Night
Date:	9 March 2010
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470 Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459
Contact Officer:	Kerrie Sweeney, Tourism, Culture and Arts Manager, ext 3586

Relevant Background Information

Members will be aware that at a Development Committee meeting held on 13 May 2009, approval was given to provide match funding of £25,000 to support a pilot Belfast Culture Night in 2009. The aim was to provide a free, city centre based, family focused, arts and cultural event that bringing together arts and cultural providers, the hospitality industry and local businesses.

It was hoped that over 50 organisations would take part on 25 September 2009, coinciding with a series of Culture Nights taking place in other European Cities. If the pilot was successful, it was agreed to expand in 2010 to include other cultural institutions and quarters across Belfast.

Culture Night far surpassed expectations with galleries, artists studios, venues, cultural organisations, historic buildings, churches and creative businesses offered over 100 performances, talks, tours, presentations, films, exhibitions and workshops for audiences of all ages, highlighting the Cathedral Quarter as a thriving cultural hub and giving the public the opportunity to meet the artists and learn about what they have to offer throughout the year.

To complement the core activities programmed by participating organisations and businesses and to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere, the Culture Night organisers animated the streets and public spaces of Cathedral Quarter with live music, walk about performers, exhibitions, circus performances, giant puppets and more. An estimated 15,000 people attended. Please see attached a full evaluation in Appendix 2.

The overall concept of Culture Night fits well within Belfast City Council's current strategies. Under the theme of Good Relations, the one night event promotes a unique opportunity of shared cultural space within the city centre, attracting a broad mix of audiences (in 2009, it is worth noting that the event attracted a large number of families

with young children). The final draft Integrated Strategic Tourism Framework for Belfast 2010 – 2014 identifies culture and arts as the ‘essence of Belfast’ and one of the main priorities is to explore ways in which to engage with the sector and develop greater visitor access to culture and arts activities. Culture Night provides a unique opportunities to showcase Belfast’s culture and arts product to not only local citizens but visitors. The current Integrated Cultural Strategy for Belfast, produced in partnership with the Arts Council for Northern Ireland, identifies that the culture and arts sector can often be fragmented, however key events such as Culture Night develops partnerships across the sector, promotes cross selling and strengthens their overall capacity to deliver. Culture Night also contributes to the general development of the City’s Evening Economy.

Key Issues

The Belfast Culture Night Committee (BCNC) comprising of Sean Kelly (Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival), Kieran Gilmore (Open House Festival) and Patricia Freedman (CQSG) is seeking support to develop a second Belfast Culture Night in 2010. Based on last year’s success this event could support the Council to fulfil the following objectives:

- Promote shared space agenda
- Drive footfall into the city centre
- Attract positive media coverage for Belfast
- Promote greater partnership across the Culture and Arts sector
- Attract visitors to the city

Culture Night has mainly been focused in Cathedral Quarter although also included the Waterfront Hall. This focus on a concentrated area worked well in 2009, as it provided a focus for participants and audiences. There have been initial discussions with the organisers on how this could be extended across the City to include a broader area. Whilst organisers are keen to keep Cathedral Quarter at the heart of the physical location, they have recognised that more organisations from across the city could be invited to participate and are willing to explore satellite events across the city. This would be a further objective of Belfast City Council.

Should the Development Committee agree to the request from Belfast Culture Night Committee to support the event in 2010, the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit will work with the organisers to ensure that the above objectives will be met as conditions of funding.

As in 2009 the Arts Council NI has been approached to match the request to BCC.

Resource Implications

Match funding of £25,000 to be allocated in 2010/2011 from within the existing Departmental budgets

Recommendation

It is recommended that Members agree to provide support for Culture Night 2010 of match funding of no more than £25,000. This has been included and approved within the Departmental estimates 2010/2011.

--

Decision Tracking

Further to ratification payment of no more than £25,000 be made towards the Belfast Culture Night 2010.

Time line: April 2010

Reporting Officer: Kerrie Sweeney

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 - Letter to the Development Committee
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Appendix 2 - Evaluation of Culture Night 2009

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8 December 2009

Councillor William Humphrey, Chair
Development Committee
Belfast City Council
3rd Floor, Adelaide Exchange
24-26 Adelaide Street
Belfast
BT2 8GD

Dear Councillor Humphrey,

The Culture Night Belfast Committee would like to express its' appreciation for the funding received in 2009 to organise Belfast's inaugural Culture Night. Held on the 25th of September, Culture Night attracted 15,000 enthusiastic visitors to the Cathedral Quarter. Participating organisations and businesses contributed 100 interesting and unusual activities, and the Culture Night organisers animated the streets and public squares.

In addition to funding from Belfast City Council and the Arts Council, Culture Night attracted over 7K in sponsorship and advertising from local businesses in the short run-up to the event, and succeeded in bringing a real 'buzz' to the Cathedral Quarter.

"Never before have I seen the area around Cotton Court so vibrant, so full of creative, diverse, enchanting activity...the atmosphere was electric, and in one night our exhibition had audience figures that far exceeded any previous monthly audience figures, a testament indeed to the scale and success of the evening." *Craft NI*

"Best night out in Belfast ever" *Duke of York*

"The owner of the Tivoli Barber Shop, Eddie Mc Glinchey, said he had not seen so many people on the street since he was a little boy." *Forum for Alternative Belfast*

"A night when many citizens of Belfast experienced for the first time the history, music and tranquillity of Belfast Cathedral. The quietness of this holy place in the midst of the CN noise and excitement led many to stay longer and feel the uniqueness of the Cathedral." *Belfast Cathedral*

We are eager to build on the success of the first year and hope to develop Culture Night Belfast to include other areas of the city in years three and beyond. The Culture Night Committee requests £25,000 towards the organisation of Culture Night Belfast 2010. A decision early in 2010 will enable us to take advantage of opportunities for international marketing and improve our overall event planning and management.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sean Kelly, Chair
Culture Night Belfast

15 Church Street • Belfast BT1 1PG • tel: +44 07501469009 • www.culturenightbelfast.com

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End of Project Report

29 September 2009

Culture Night Belfast 2009 End of Project Report

Culture Night Belfast 2009 took place on Friday 25th of September in Cathedral Quarter. Galleries, artists studios, venues, cultural organisations, historic buildings, churches and creative businesses offered over 100 performances, talks, tours, presentations, films, exhibitions and workshops for audiences of all ages, highlighting Cathedral Quarter as a thriving cultural hub and giving the public the opportunity to meet the artists and learn about what they have to offer throughout the year.

To complement the core activities programmed by participating organisations and businesses and to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere, the Culture Night organisers animated the streets and public spaces of Cathedral Quarter with live music, walk about performers, exhibitions, circus performances, giant puppets and more. An estimated 15,000 people attended.

Background

Over the past several years, Kieran Gilmore, Open House Festival and Sean Kelly, Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival had been exploring, with BCC officers and others, the possibility of initiating a Culture Night event in Belfast. In November 2008, the Cathedral Quarter Steering Group, working in partnership with Belfast City Council and the Arts Council, invited arts organisations and local funders to a meeting at Belfast Circus School to hear the Culture Night team from Temple Bar Cultural Trust in Dublin describe their highly successful event. A Culture Night Committee (CNBC) was formed to pursue the matter which includes: Kieran Gilmore, Sean Kelly, and Conor Shields, New Belfast Community Arts Initiative and Patricia Freedman, Cathedral Quarter Development Manager representing the Cathedral Quarter Steering Group.

CNBC's aims were to:

- raise public awareness of the Cathedral Quarter as a thriving cultural hub
- attract positive media coverage
- drive footfall into Cathedral Quarter and Laganside area
- raise the profile of individual arts and cultural organisations, and give them a platform to showcase their work to new audiences
- encourage partnerships between cultural organisations, hospitality sector and other local businesses
- encourage arts organisations to look at new ways of engaging with audiences which could be included in new and on-going tourism initiatives
- generate spin-off economic activity for local businesses.

In May 2009, with agreed funding from Belfast City Council and the Arts Council, CNBC engaged a Culture Night Manager to:

- create a programme of interior and exterior events for 25.09.09
- promote the event to Cathedral Quarter organisations to encourage participation
- broker partnerships between the hospitality industry, businesses and local practitioners – pairing venues with artistic product

- develop and carry out a marketing campaign including an event launch, website, posters, programmes and maps
- execute budgets, calling down income from all external bodies and approving expenditure
- oversee project management (to include health & safety, necessary signage, approval from relevant statutory agencies, contractual issues and legal matters) ensuring the event is within budget, on schedule and achieves the key objectives
- source, coordinate and manage necessary volunteers.

Implementation of the Programme

The CNB Committee and CN Manager met weekly. The Culture Night Manager's key responsibilities included:

- Working closely with the Culture Night Belfast committee to programme the event.
- Liaising with organisations in Cathedral Quarter to coordinate and facilitate participation.
- Liaising with Belfast City Council on the licensing, planning and public safety of the event, including risk assessment and event manual.
- Ensuring council-approved health and safety requirements are met
- Engaging and managing a team of volunteers.
- Liaising with contractors and suppliers
- Finding and booking suitable venues
- Arranging other facilities, e.g. catering, toilets, entertainment, and insurance cover/production
- Developing a marketing strategy for the event
- Securing print material and managing distribution.
- Arranging advertising and other publicity.
- Managing the event budget and ensuring value-for-money
- Preparing financial and artistic reports for the Culture Night Belfast committee
- Dealing with the public and participants in person and by telephone
- Organising additional facilities, e.g. hospitality/press areas, first aid, car parking or police traffic control
- Reporting to key stakeholders post event

Working closely with the Cathedral Quarter Development Manager, the Culture Night Manager re-convened arts organisations to inform them of the plans and processes for Culture Night and encourage participation. CN Manager continued to liaise with organisations and businesses throughout the planning process to assist them with their events.

The CNBC proposal submitted in March 2008 to Belfast City Council projected a minimum of 50 participating organisations and 15,000 attendees. Between June and the August brochure deadline, the CN Manager succeeded in engaging over 100 participating businesses and organisations to programme activities for the 25th of September. It is estimated that 15,000 people attended over the course of the evening in varying densities throughout the Cathedral Quarter - including Custom House Square - and Waterfront Hall areas.

The following businesses, venues and organisations participated in events:

1 Giant Leap	Golden Thread Gallery
Acitore Artezione	Green Shoot Productions
Adapt NI	Homely Planet
Adhoc	Joanna Karolina
Aisling Ghear	John Hewitt
Artery NI	Kabosh
Arts and Disability Forum	Kev Largey
Arts Ekta	Lagan Boat Company
Bbeyond	Live Music Now
The Beat Initiative	M - Productions
Belfast Book Festival	Mac, The
Belfast Cathedral	Maiden Voyage
Belfast Childrens Festival	Marcus Music
Belfast Community Circus	The Merchant Hotel
Belfast Exposed	Motion2Music Ltd / Beyond Skin
Belfast Film Festival	New Belfast Community Arts Initiative
Belfast Pride Festival	New Lodge Arts
Belfast Print Workshop	NI Environment Agency
The Black Box	NI War Memorial
The Black Box Cafe	Nick's Warehouse
Brown and Bri	North Belfast Interface Network
Cahoots NI	Northern Ireland Music Industry Commission
Catalyst Arts	Northern Visions
Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival	Oh Yeah Music Centre
Cathedral Quarter Steering Group	Open House Festival
Celina Balderas Gusman	Open House Festival - Chilli Fest
Clements - Rosemary Street	Opera Theatre Company
Clements - Royal Avenue	Orbit Dance
The Cloth Ear	Paperjam Design Ltd
Committee on the Administration of Justice	Potthouse, The
Community Arts Forum	Premier Inn
Craft NI	Prime Cut Productions
Cusp Ltd, St Anne's Square	PS2 Gallery
Dance Resource Base	Ramada Encore Belfast
Dance United Northern Ireland	Ransom Productions
Deer's Head	RAOB (Head Office)
Duke of York	RBA arts group
ESC	Replay Productions
Factotum	Safehouse Artspace Gallery
Flax Art Studios	SHAC Residence
Forum For Alternative Belfast	Source N.I
Friends Of The Earth	The Spaniard
Gathering Drum	St. Georges Parish Church
GBL Productions	St. Patrick's

Start Together	Ultach Trust
Streetmonkey, Ltd.	Unite Against Hate Campaign
Tinderbox Theatre Company	University of Ulster, Cultural Events & Dev.
Todd Architects & Planners	Waterfront Hall
Trans Festival	Westland Supergirls
Truth Unit	WWF
Ulster Architectural Historical Society	

Programming:

Street animation activities programmed by the CN Manager included:

- The Literary Walking tour, The Late Night Art Tour, Terri Hooley's Music Tour, Historic Monuments Tour, Belfast City of Sin (provided by Open House), Lagan Boat tours with live music culminating in a Guerrilla Lighting Tour highlighting some of the historic and modern buildings in the Cathedral Quarter.
- CNB facilitated a stage in Writer's Square which provided a space for groups to present work, including the Indian Community Centre, Orbit Dance, Boomwhackers Drum Circle and the Beat Carnival band. Compere's Grimes and McKee ensured the smooth running of proceedings and the night culminated with a set from Irish Rock band Breagg (supported by Foras Na Gaeilge)
- 'A Chorus of Choirs' – featured a programme of three unique choirs – Open Arts Community Choir, Feile Women's Choir and Cor Loch Laoi. Each choir performed 30 minute sets in three locations: The Foyer of the University of Ulster, Cotton Court and Lower Garfield Street.
- Rosemary Street was the home of live music and interactive dancing featuring some of the best of the local acoustic musicians including Geoff Gatt, Flamenco Brothers, Louisiana Joyride and participatory dancing including Salsa, African, Flamenco and Swing.
- Cotton Court was alive with the 'Chorus of Choirs', the Barren Carousel Family Slideshow and the Armagh Rhymers.
- From Donegall Quay to Canal Quay and throughout the streets of the Cathedral Quarter stilt walkers, jugglers, hula hoop artists, giant puppets, small puppets, Black King and White Queen and a variety of other walk about performers entertained people as they passed. Note: All street performers work on contracts of two hours. All were engaged and on a rota of two hours. However, on the night they all discarded their contract and performed for the duration of CN. This cannot be guaranteed in future years and it is suggested that an increase in budget for walk about performers would need to be considered.

Event Management

- CN Manager met with and maintained regular communication with PSNI, DRD, BCC Building Control and G4S Security regarding public health and safety and the planning of crowd management of the event. An Event Management plan was prepared in conjunction with BCC Building Control and the PSNI. (See attached)
- CN Manager worked with a volunteer coordinator to recruit and train volunteer CN Guides.

PR and Marketing

- CN Manager oversaw all aspects of marketing and media. The Press and Media were slow at picking up on the breadth and scale of the event to begin with. A series of press releases was

then released highlighting the varied elements and news stories of Culture Night including: cultural and community events; Irish language events; participation of businesses and churches and politicians. The media coverage soon increased. Full media report included in the Marketing report (attached)

- A team of 5 were employed to distribute 50,000 CN programmes and 500 posters throughout Greater Belfast, and in arts, cultural and tourist's organisations throughout Northern Ireland. .
- CN Manager worked closely with BCC Cultural Tourism Officer and representatives of Belfast Welcome Centre and NITB to promote the event through existing tourism information vehicles.

Changes in the Nature and Scale of the Programme

Between March 2008 when application was made to Belfast City Council, and June 2008 when operations began, CNBC realised the need and opportunity for additional revenue from advertising, sponsorship and in-kind services to supplement the marketing and programming lines in the budget. CNBC also felt additional assistance would be required to handle the media and volunteers. Media and volunteer coordination services were contracted on an ad hoc basis.

The following revised budget was submitted to the Arts Council in June 2008:

Item or Activity	Total Cost
Event Manager, fixed price contract, mid-May to mid-October	10,000
Overheads inc. insurance and accountancy costs	2,500
Marketing & Publicity, print costs	20,000
Distribution	2,500
Equipment: lighting, projection	5,000
Programming, outdoor events, street animation	17,500
Materials, volunteer costs	2,500
Totals	60,000

In the course of liaising with businesses in Cathedral Quarter and programming the street animation features CN Manager succeeded in attracting approximately 7K in additional support through sponsorship, in-kind support and advertising from the following:

- Foras Na Gaielge – Irish language events
- Saint Annes Square – sponsors of Culture Night Belfast guides
- Marcus Music – provided backline for Writer's Square and equipment for the press launch
- Univeristy of Ulster provided space, wine, tea and coffee for the press launch
- Ultach supported Cor Loch Laoi (Gaelic Choir)
- Loftsound provided PA, staging and lights for Writer's Square
- Third Source provided screen, projector and PA for Paris Church of St. George

Outputs, Impacts and Expenditures

Figures below represent actual Culture Night spend to date. Remaining invoices will be paid upon final draw-down of funding.

Culture Night Belfast 2009						
	Budget	subtotal	Rev. Sept	subtotal	Actual	subtotal
REVENUE						
Arts Council Development Fund	15,000		15,000		13,500.00	
Arts Council Small Grants Programme	10,000		10,000		10,000.00	
Belfast City Council	25,000		25,000		22,500.00	
Sponsorship and In-Kind Support	10,000		5,250		2,750.00	
Advertising	0		1,650		1,500.00	
Revenue Total		60,000		56,900		50,250.00
EXPENSE						
Project Management						
<i>Event Manager</i>	10,000		10,000.00		9,400.00	
<i>Overheads</i>	2,500		3,445.00		2,393.33	
<i>Materials/signage</i>	500		500.00		100.00	
<i>Security</i>	0		855.00		822.60	
<i>Volunteer costs</i>	2,000		2,433.65		1,388.65	
Project Management Sub Total		15,000		17,234		14,104.58
Marketing						
<i>Print costs</i>	19,500		10,000.00		9,309.50	
<i>Other marketing</i>	0		7,000.00		5,902.85	
<i>Distribution</i>	2,500		3,000.00		2,327.00	
<i>Website</i>	500		800.00		900.00	
Marketing Sub Total		22,500		20,800		18,439.35
Programming	17,500	17,500	13,702.00	13,702	13,490.28	13,490.28
Equipment	5,000	5,000	3,000.00	3,000	1,547.00	1,547.00
Other Costs	0	0	2,000.00	2,000	0.00	0.00
Expense Total		60,000		56,736		47,581.21
Profit/Loss		0		164		2,668.79

- The inaugural Culture Night Belfast event was extremely well-received by both participants and by the attending public. The event demonstrated a tremendous appetite for cultural exploration and experimentation, as well as the potential of Cathedral Quarter to function as a thriving cultural hub.
- The event included over 100 activities programmed by local arts organisations and businesses and attracted 15,000 people.

'For the first time Belfast felt like a European city' Paperjam

- In addition to the core events programmed by participating organisations, the streets and public spaces in Cathedral Quarter were brought to life through extensive programming of outdoor and street activities.

- The profile of Cathedral Quarter as a thriving cultural hub was enhanced through identification with a successful Culture Night.
- Many new and relationships were forged amongst participating organisations and businesses through joint programming and sponsorship.

Evaluation

Two surveys were carried out to evaluate Culture Night, a participant survey and an audience survey (see attached Survey Report). The returns for both surveys demonstrate great enthusiasm for this style of event and the hope that it will be repeated. The participant survey demonstrates a high level of overall satisfaction with this year's event but also flags up the importance of meeting the needs and expectations of contributing partners. Results from the audience survey, which we can compare with similar surveys conducted in Dublin over several years, tell us that Belfast's event succeeded in attracting a higher percentage of families with children and that navigation through signage and volunteers is something that can be improved. A more detailed analysis of the results is contained in the Survey Report.

How will Culture Night be developed in the future?

CNBC proposes a gradual and careful expansion of Culture Night Belfast in years 2 and 3. In initial conversations with BCC Development officers in March 2008, concern was expressed that Cathedral Quarter may not have the capacity to accommodate the large crowds we were projecting. In retrospect, the most successful aspect of this year's event was the density and intensity of activity in and around the narrow back streets of Cathedral Quarter while some of the outlying areas were under-populated.

In order to more fully establish the identity of the event, CNBC proposes that:

- Culture Night 2010 maintain the same geographic footprint as the 2009 event;
- Expanded participation from other organisations and parts of the city be accomplished through imaginative joint-programming in Cathedral Quarter;
- Geographic expansion of Culture Night to areas outside Cathedral Quarter take place in year 3 and beyond.



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Conference Subvention
Date:	10 March 2010
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470 Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459
Contact Officer:	Kerrie Sweeney, Tourism Culture and Arts Manager, ext 3586

Relevant Background Information

Conference Subvention

Members will be aware that Belfast City Council has a Conference Subvention policy which is utilised to secure and support national and international conferences to Belfast and to build the City's profile as a conference destination. A number of requests have been received and the proposals have been assessed against the funding criteria.

Aggression – From Fantasy to Action Conference

This is the second occasion the Centre for Psychotherapy and the Northern Ireland Division of the Royal College of Psychiatrists have brought this conference to Belfast. The conference will be taking place in the City from 5 – 7 May 2010, and organisers have indicated that it would attract approximately 400 delegates, staying for two nights. It is anticipated that the economic impact from this conference will be £165,000 and will create 800 bed nights for BVCB members. Funding of £1000 is recommended towards this conference since the economic impact is substantial and will assist in enhancing the image of Belfast as a conference and leisure destination.

Private Equity Conference 2010

This is the fourth occasion that InterTradelreland has brought this conference to Belfast. The conference will be taking place in the City on the 26 May 2010, and organisers have indicated that it would attract approximately 290 delegates. It is anticipated that the economic impact from this conference will be £114,775 and will create 248 bed nights for BVCB members. Funding of £500 is recommended towards this conference since the economic impact is substantial and will assist in enhancing the image of Belfast as a conference and leisure destination.

The Ulster Society of Magicians 60th Annual IBM Irish Ring Convention

This is the second occasion that the Ulster Society of Magicians has brought this conference to Belfast. It is recommended the conference does not receive funding because of the small number of delegates – the majority of which are from Northern

Ireland.

Members will also be aware that officers have been liaising with NITB and Invest Northern Ireland to develop a new Conference Subvention Scheme for Belfast and Northern Ireland. £70,000 has been ringfenced within the budget estimates 2010/11 and we are now negotiating the contribution from the other agencies. NITB has confirmed that they will match BCC's budget. Once agreement is reached a new Conference Subvention Scheme will be developed and therefore the current scheme will be closed. The proposed timescale for commencement of the new scheme is June 2010. The existing scheme will close on the 31 May 2010 and all current commitments under this scheme will be honoured.

Key Issues

Conference Subvention policy is used to secure and support national and international conferences to Belfast and to build the City's profile as a conference destination.

Funding is available in the current 2009/2010 Tourism Budget.

Resource Implications

Conference Subvention

Aggression – From Fantasy to Action Conference 5-7 May 2010 - £1000
Private Equity Conference 2010, 26 May 2010 - £500

Recommendations

Conference Subvention

Given the substantial economic impact of the conferences and their role in enhancing the image of Belfast as a conference destination, that funding of £1000 is allocated to the Aggression – From Fantasy to Action Conference and £500 is allocated to the Private Equity Conference 2010.

Furthermore, it is recommended The Ulster Society of Magicians 60th Annual IBM Irish Ring Convention does not receive funding because of the small number of delegates – the majority of which are from Northern Ireland.

It is also recommended that the existing Conference Subvention Scheme is closed as of 31 May 2010.

Decision Tracking

Timeline

A New Conference Subvention Scheme is to be presented to Committee in May 2010

Timeframe: May 2010

Reporting Officer: Kerrie Sweeney

Key to Abbreviations

BVCB Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau
NITB Northern Ireland Tourist Board



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Support for Sport – Event Funding
Date:	9 March 2010
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen Director of Development ext 3470 Tim Husbands Head of City Events and Venues ext 1400
Contact Officer:	Gerry Copeland, Manager of City Events and Venues ext 3412

Relevant Background Information

The Support for Sport Scheme has funded clubs and organisations for the past seven years. The scheme has four main elements, Development Grants, Large Development Grants and Hospitality funding, all of which are allocated by the Sports Development Unit through the Parks and Leisure Committee and Events Funding which is allocated by the Events Unit through the Development Committee.

The Support for Sport Scheme (Events Funding) totals £97,500 and is allocated to sports events being organised in Belfast during the 2010-11 financial year.

Key Issues

Support for Sport Scheme

Following a public notice, a large number of Events Funding applications were received. These applications refer to events taking place during the period 1 April 2010–30 September 2010.

These applications have now been assessed, with queries clarified, and are now submitted for approval in March. The applications have been assessed by officers using the assessment criteria agreed by the Development Committee in March 2008 (see Appendix 3).

Due to the unprecedented number of applications, it is recommended that the funding during this period be subject to a 30% reduction after assessment. This reduction will ensure that there is available funding for the next instalment of events between 1st October 2010 and 31 March 2011.

A list of the applications, summary information and officer recommendations (inclusive of 30% reduction) for funding is attached as Appendix 1.

Members are asked to note that three applications referring to events taking place during the month of April were brought forward for approval at February's Committee. It is recommended that on the basis of fairness that these three applications are subject to the same 30% reduction due to the unprecedented demand, and that Committee agrees to rescind their decision of 10 February. Members should note one applicant has withdrawn from the process (see Appendix 2).

Resource Implications

Financial

The total Support for Sport Scheme (Events Funding) for 2010/2011 is £97,500.

The officer recommendation for funding for the first instalment is £66,680.95 leaving a total of £30,819.05 funding for the remainder of the financial year. The amounts recommended are the maximum amount pending post event information which includes invoices and receipts. Payment is not issued until these checks are finalised.

Recommendations

Members are asked to agree the officer recommendations for Event Funding as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 and approve the payments totalling £66,680.95 as detailed.

Decision Tracking

Officers will monitor funding and evaluate outcomes post-project delivery. These outcomes will be presented to Members as part of the City Events Unit key performance indicators.

Time line: March 2011

Reporting Officer: Gerry Copeland

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 – Table of Events Funding applications with officer recommendations
Appendix 2 – Table of Events Funding for applications previously agreed at February Committee with revised officer recommendations
Appendix 3 – Agreed Assessment Criteria

Appendix 1

ORGANISER/EVENT	REF.	EVENT DATE	SUMMARY	TOTAL COST	AMOUNT REQUESTED	RECOMMENDATION (after 30% reduction)	REASON
European Highland Dance Festival/European and Ulster Highland Dance Championships	D10/11/01	9-10 April 2010	This event will attract 320 competitors to the Ulster Hall from Belfast, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Europe.	£15,043.00	£6,000.00	£2,825.90	Score 50
St Galls GAC/St Galls Belfast Centenary Year Inter Club Tournament	G10/11/01	1-2 May 2010	This event is a two day inter club tournament to be held at St Galls club grounds as part of the centenary celebrations for St Galls GAC. The tournament will be played between twelve teams from throughout Ireland both ladies and men's games.	£9,340.00	£4,670.00	£2,615.20	Score 66
Mountaineering Ireland/National Bouldering Championship	M10/11/01	8 May 2010	This event proposed is the first of its kind in Ireland. It will involve 40 competitors from the Province, England, Scotland, Wales and Europe. It will be held at the climbing wall at Ozone Leisure Complex.	£4912.54	£2,170.00	£959.00	Score 50
Peace Players International – Northern Ireland/Spring Jam	B10/11/01	8 May 2010	Spring Jam is the end of term Basketball Tournament that brings primary school children together to play on mixed teams as a cross community exercise to promote good relations. It will be held at Stranmillis College.	£3150.00	£1,150.00	£0	Score 30.5

Appendix 1

ORGANISER/EVENT	REF.	EVENT DATE	SUMMARY	TOTAL COST	AMOUNT REQUESTED	RECOMMENDATION (after 30% reduction)	REASON
Northern Ireland Schools Football Association/British Isles U14 Schools Championships	F10/11/05	20 – 22 May 2010	This is an annual event which brings together champion schools from England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Republic of Ireland. The host country rotates every 5 years with Belfast proposed as the host City for 2010 at Ulidia Playing Fields.	£13,000.00	£5,000.00	£2,450.00	Score 54
City of Belfast Archers/All Ireland Championships	A10/11/01	22 – 23 May 2010	This event will be the first All Ireland Championship and is endorsed by the World Governing Body (FITA). It will comprise an international senior and junior team event and 150 participants are anticipated. It is hoped that the event will be held bi-annually in Belfast.	£12,000.00	£9,500.00	£245.00	Score 56
Zapcat Racing Club/Belfast Maritime Festival Grand Prix	PB/10/11/01	4 – 6 June 2010	A powerboat tournament which plans to feature as part of the Belfast Maritime Festival. The event will enable Irish teams a home Nations and City Championship event as part of the UK National Championships. Past events held at Portrush, Glasgow, Hull and Humber have attracted between 20,000 – 75,000 spectators.	£35,887.00	£10,000.00	£7,000.00	Score 87

Appendix 1

ORGANISER/EVENT	REF.	EVENT DATE	SUMMARY	TOTAL COST	AMOUNT REQUESTED	RECOMMENDATION (after 30% reduction)	REASON
Ulster Ladies Gaelic Football/Year 9 Blitz	G10/11/02	4 June 2010	This event is targeted at year 9 primary school girls and particularly welcomes beginners. A minimum of 400 participants is anticipated from schools throughout the Province to be held at Cherryvale Playing Fields.	£3,325.00	£3,325.00	£0	Score 39.5
Queens University Boat Club/The Irish University Boat Race	R10/11/01	5 June 2010	The Irish University Boat Race is based on the Oxford/Cambridge boat race and involves Queens Belfast competing against Trinity Dublin over 2112 meters along the river Lagan. A total of 72 participants and 500 spectators are anticipated. The finish line and award ceremony will be held at the Boat Club.	£22,160.00	£7,000.00	£3,606.75	Score 61

Appendix 1

ORGANISER/EVENT	REF.	EVENT DATE	SUMMARY	TOTAL COST	AMOUNT REQUESTED	RECOMMENDATION (after 30% reduction)	REASON
Co-operation Ireland/Maracycle	C10/11/02	26 – 27 June 2010	Co-operation Ireland intends to reinstate Maracycle, the two day 200 mile bike ride between Belfast and Dublin starting and finishing at Sport NI grounds in South Belfast. It is hoped that the event will be held annually and attract 1000 cyclists in this first year throughout Ireland.	£116,000.00	£10,000.00	£4,900.00	Score 57.5
National Balmoral Championships/National Balmoral Show jumping Championships	E10/11/01	July 2010	This is the 25 th anniversary of the National Balmoral Show jumping Championships. A total of 200 participants are anticipated along with 5000 spectators bringing 3420 bed nights to the city over the 5 days of the event.	£32,810.00	£10,000.00	£6,300.00	Score 77
George Best Community Cup	F10/11/03	16-18 July 2010	This football tournament builds on a cross-community, cross-boarder tournament delivered in 2009 involving 520 players from across Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Scotland and England. It will be held at various pitches and venues throughout east Belfast.	£58,500.00	£10,000.00	£6,300.00	Score 72

Appendix 1

ORGANISER/EVENT	REF.	EVENT DATE	SUMMARY	TOTAL COST	AMOUNT REQUESTED	RECOMMENDATION (after 30% reduction)	REASON
Left Field/Belfast 24-Hour Race	R10/11/01	30-31 July 2010	This event will be held at the Mary Peters track and will involve 50 international and local entrants. It will involve runners circling the 400 meter track for up to 24 hours. It is hoped that along with supporters and 1000 spectators the event will give the City 800 bed-nights.	£10,300.00	£2,925.00	£1,830.50	Score 60
Crossover Basketball Northern Ireland/Crossover Youth Basketball Tournament	B10/11/02	August 2010	This tournament will be open to young people aged 7-18 years and will be held at Queen's PEC. This is the first year of the event aiming to raise the profile of Basketball and hopes to establish an annual tournament and expand the programme into a youth league.	£8,000.00	£6,000.00	£1,330.00	Score 41
Newmill Football Association/The Christopher Shaw Cup	F10/11/04	20 – 22 August 2010	This is the 7 th year of this football tournament involving 48 male and 8 female teams of all ages from Derry, Donegal, Belfast and Wales. It will be held at Queens Playing Fields.	£9,590.00	£10,000.00	£2,149.00	Score 46

Appendix 1

ORGANISER/EVENT	REF.	EVENT DATE	SUMMARY	TOTAL COST	AMOUNT REQUESTED	RECOMMENDATION (after 30% reduction)	REASON
Belfast Urban Sports/Bridges Action Sports Festival Belfast	U10/11/01	27-29 August 2010	This event will involve skateboarding, BMX and Inline rollerblading competitions at Bridges Skate Park at Little Patrick Street, Belfast. A total of 500 participants and 5000 spectators are anticipated. It is hoped that an annual Urban Sports Festival can be established.	£24,350.00	£9,400.00	£5,267.50	Score 72.5
Newington Football Club/Belfast Youth Cup 2010	F10/11/02	28 August 2010	This soccer tournament will involve 16 teams from North Belfast at Grove Playing Fields. It aims to bring players across all communities together as a finale to a motivational coaching programme.*	£18,150.00	£10,000.00	£3,937.50	Score 42.5
Irish Strength Association/Ultime Strength Challenge Belfast 2010	S10/11/01	28 – 30 August 2010	This event will involve 16 competitors from throughout the UK and Europe. It will receive high media coverage on Sky television profiling key locations in Belfast – Customs House Square, Odyssey Pavilion and Belfast City Centre.	£81,320.00	£10,000.00	£6,300.00	Score 86

Appendix 1

ORGANISER/EVENT	REF.	EVENT DATE	SUMMARY	TOTAL COST	AMOUNT REQUESTED	RECOMMENDATION (after 30% reduction)	REASON
Spokes in Motion/The Belfast 2010 International Wheelchair Tennis Tournament	T10/11/01	17 – 19 September 2010	The proposed tournament would be the 13 th annual tournament with a maximum of 32 participants from England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. It will be held at the Ozone Complex.	£13,175.00	£5,837.50	£2,852.50	Score 61
St Pauls GAC/All Ireland Golden Gloves	H10/11/01	24-26 September 2010	The event is an open competition for handball players throughout Ireland and beyond. It has competitions for seniors and juniors and anticipates 30 participants and 500 spectators. The event will be held at St Paul's GAC in Belfast.	£5,750.00	£2,000.00	£945.00	Score 53.5
SCA Ltd/Race to Embrace	R10/11/02	September 2010	This event will involve volunteers from North and West Belfast, from both Protestant and Catholic communities to organise a race to promote Good Relations in their local area. A total of 150 participants are anticipated attracting 1000 spectators.	£4,000.00	£4,000.00	£0	Score 27
Belfast Tropics Basketball Club/Belfast Tropics Invitational Basketball Tournament	B10/11/03	September 2010	This is the 5 th year of the tournament, held at Queens PEC. It will involve teams from America, Cyprus, France, London and Republic of Ireland and anticipates between 3000 and 4000 spectators	£4,000.00	£4,000.00	£0	Score 37

Previously agreed at February Committee							
ORGANISER/EVENT	REF.	EVENT DATE	SUMMARY	TOTAL COST	AMOUNT REQUESTED	RECOMMENDATION (after 30% reduction)	REASON
Northern Ireland Cycling Federation/P&O Tour of the North Cycle Race	C10/11/01	2 – 5 April 2010	This is an international cycle race which takes place throughout the Province with the Belfast competition launching the event at Stormont on 2 nd April.	£15,000.00	£2,500.00	£1,050.00	Score 43.5
Youth Soccer Tournaments Northern Ireland/Belfast Invitational Cup	S10/11/01	6 – 8 April 2010	This tournament has been organised on the back of the Christopher Shaw Cup with 48 teams competing from England, Wales, Derry, Belfast and Donegal at Queens Playing Fields (the dub).	£11,690.00	£7,790.00	£3,817.00	Score 51
Malone Mini Rugby/Malone U13 International Festival of Rugby	R10/11/01	10-11 April 2010	The inaugural event took place in 2004 with the aim of holding an international festival of rugby for children. The event has grown with 16 teams competing in 2009 from England, Scotland, Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland and Wales. The 2010 event will be held at Malone RFC, Gibson Park in Belfast.	-	-	Application withdrawn	-

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Event

Amount requested

Media Coverage (Weighting 25%)	Score	Description
Live international Tv coverage	100	Inc live broadcasting on Sky Sports, Eurosport, international Television channels.
International TV highlights	80	Highlights on the above channels.
Dedicated TV Coverage	70	Half an hour/1 Hour special on local TV
Local TV dedicated show	60	Short Clip on BBC/UTV news. Season Ticket/UTV Life
National Press	50	National Newspaper Coverage
Local Radio	40	BBC Ulster, Cool Fm, Citybeat
Local Press	30	Local News papers and magazines

Value

Joint Marketing (Weighting 20%)	Score	Description
Level 7	100	Title Sponsor (Belfast in title) and BCC recognised + LEVEL 6
Level 6	80	Logos on clothing (volunteers/athletes+event material e.g.Race Nos) + LEVEL 5
Level 5	60	Use of players prior, during and post event + LEVEL 4
Level 4	50	Prominent Branding at Venue beyond other sponsors + LEVEL 3
Level 3	40	Branding at venue equal to other sponsors, free advert + LEVEL 2
Level 2	30	Logos on Letterheads, Programmes, Posters + LEVEL 1
Level 1	20	Basic PR - Photoshoot stating BCC support

Value

Number of Spectators (Weighting 15%)	Score	Description
10,000+	100	This is the total number of Spectators over the duration of the event!
7500+	90	
5,000+	80	
2500+	70	
1,000+	60	
750+	50	
500+	40	
250+	30	
100+	20	

Value

Economic Benefits (Weighting 10%)	Score	Description
£500,000.00	100	This is only calculated on the event spend (suppliers, services, equipment, venue etc) in Belfast
£200,000.00	80	
£100,000.00	60	
£50,000.00	50	
£25,000.00	40	
£10,000.00	30	
£5,000.00	20	

Value

Total Bednights (Weighting 10%)	Score	Description
2,000	100	The Number of Spectators and Participants who are staying in a Belfast Hotels.
1,000	80	
500	60	
250	40	
100	20	

Value

Event Development (20% includes below)	Score	Description
Event History (5%)	Score	Description
1st Year of Event	100	
2nd Year of Event	80	
3rd Year Of Event	60	
4th Year of Event	40	
Event 5 years or over	20	
Event Sustainability (5%)	Score	Description
41%-50% of event budget from private sector	100	
31%-40% of event budget from private sector	80	
21%-30% of event budget from private sector	60	
11%-20% of event budget from private sector	40	
5%-10% of event budget from private sector	20	
Sports Development (10%)	Score	Description
The sport is one which has a club structure	20	Must be within City Of Belfast
Event organised by a Sports National Gov Body	20	As recognised by Sport NI/BCC or club affiliated to a National Governing Body
The NGB/Club has an active development plan	20	Benefits of event for identified within the plan (a copy of the plan should be provided
There is an opportunity for the young people	10	From Belfast to participate in development activities as part of the event
The sport has a clear competition pathway	10	Opportunities to compete at local, provincial, national and international levels
The event will leave a legacy	10	Providing opportunities for the citizens of Belfast to participate in the sport in the future
Inclusive pricing structure	10	To encourage people to attend
Sports Development Score		Out of 100
Development Value		

Overall Score

% of requested amount available
Recommended amount of support

(80-100 = 100%, 70-79 = 90%, 60- 69 = 80%, 50- 59 = 70%, 40-49 = 60%, no grants awarded for events scoring less than 40)



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Play Resource Warehouse
Date:	9 March 2010
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development ext 3459 Tim Husbands , Head of City Events and Venues ext 1400
Contact Officer:	Catherine Taggart, Community Development Manager, ext 3525

Relevant Background Information

Play Resource Warehouse was set up in 1983 by community workers from Belfast City Council working with other community activists involved in play development throughout the City. An initial grant from the Council, under the Belfast Areas of Need Scheme, enabled them to set up Play Resource's first home in an old warehouse in Tomb Street.

When this grant came to an end in 1986, Belfast City Council entered into a tri-partite agreement with the Department of Education and the DHSS to continue to fund Play Resource on a longer term basis through the Community Services Section. In April 2009, funding moved to a service level agreement which covered initially the period from 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010. It was anticipated that, subject to satisfactory performance on the part of the organisation and with the approval of Council, the service level agreement would be renewed on an annual basis.

The Play Resource Warehouse has grown over the years to the point where it is now the largest and most successful play resource centre of its kind in the UK and Ireland. At the end of its first year of operation Play Resource had approximately 300 community groups as members. Today that figure is over 2,500 groups, with approximately 60% of those being in the Belfast City Council area.

In operating as a successful social economy model, the organisation employs 12 staff (8 full time equivalents) as well as 20 artists on a freelance basis, and meets 50% of its costs through generated income. Other major funders include the Arts Council and the Youth Council.

Key Issues

Play Resource is a unique, city-wide, cross-community, organisation whose core purpose is to improve the quality of life for children and young people, particularly those experiencing disadvantage. It operates a successful social economy model and as such represents an effective organisational role model which is widely associated with the City Council through the latter's support. The organisation's Mission Statement is set out below:

"To create the opportunities to develop the creative potential of children and young people in Northern Ireland and thereby to enhance their quality of life and strengthen their ability to express themselves fully and freely".

In 2008/09 Play Resource had expenditure of £426,000 and income of £380,000. Funding received from BCC in this period was £30,000. This is equal to 7.9% of the total income. Play Resource generated £191,000 income from membership fees, hire of a training room, training and gift aid from the art and play shop. This is just over 50% of the total income.

At a time of recession Play Resource has seen its membership-derived income increase from £66,000 in 07/08 to £80,000 in 08/09. This is an increase of 21% and reflects the demand for Play Resource's services to community and play organisations which are now looking for alternatives to reduce costs. Play Resource also employs 20 artists on a freelance basis, spending approximately £45,000 on artist fees, hence contributing to the local economy.

The model demonstrates excellent value for money in providing a much needed and unique service which is consistent with the Council's development objectives, particularly in regard to play development, recycling, community development and as a flagship social economy organisational model.

Play development:

Already established as a high priority for the Council, Play Resource enhances and supports play development throughout the City. It provides, under one roof, low cost resources, training, ideas and information which will support any future play development strategies. At a time when infant mental health is becoming recognised as a major government priority, the need for good quality play opportunities to support the development of children and young people, has become more relevant than ever.

In this Play Resource will continue to work in partnership with the most relevant play organisations in the City, in particular, Playboard and the Council.

Reduce, re-use, recycle

In line with the Council's ongoing recycling campaign and its 'Waste - it's not rubbish' message, Play Resource has an important role to contribute to raising awareness of recycling and re-using with children and young people and community groups in general. The fact that Play Resource's main function is to supply safe non-toxic waste materials from commerce and industry for use in children's play and art means that this message is a fundamental and genuine part of the ethos of the organisation.

There appear to be opportunities for Play Resource and the Council's Waste Management team to work together on projects promoting the value of recycling and re-using, particularly as Play Resource has access to such a huge community-based

membership.

This has been identified in the Business Plan and is an area of priority for the Development Manager and Waste Team in 2010. Part of this will also be to form stronger links with Bryson House.

Community development

All of Play Resource's services are directed towards the most disadvantaged community groups and the organisation has a long and excellent track record of supporting community development through arts.

Play Resource was developed as a grass roots community organisation by local community workers who identified the need for support services for play and community development. It has worked hard over the years to ensure that that community ethos is continued. The fact that the vast majority of community-based groups have been members of Play Resource for most of its twenty six years is evidence of the value placed on the service by the community. Many community arts events throughout the City rely on Play Resource in some part – whether it is through materials, advice or training.

Flagship for the City

Play Resource is now recognised as the largest and most successful play resource centre in the UK and Ireland. It is seen as the Centre for Arts, Play and Education and as such provides an excellent range of relevant services which together meet the current and expressed needs of communities and children and young people in particular. It now regularly hosts visits from others wishing to set up similar projects elsewhere in the UK and Ireland.

Recent Developments

Since 2002, the organisation has been operating from modern purpose-built premises and during that time its capacity to generate income through membership fees, arts programmes, the rental of art room / training facilities and shop sales has increased by 32%.

The move to new premises enabled a huge shift in the organisation's ability to cope with expansion and development. It also meant that Play Resource took on a new level of challenge to take the service through a second stage of development – the move from that of a community project to that of being taken seriously as a major arts infrastructure organisation.

More recently, Play Resource has looked to its internal structures and processes to place itself in a strong position to plan for the next stage of growth and development. As detailed in the Business Plan 2007-2010, the objectives in terms of governance were to develop an exemplary model of good practice policies; to have a well trained and highly motivated staff team and to review the Board structure –all of which has now largely been achieved. A new staff structure was created with the recruitment of a Deputy Director and the formation of a senior management team. A highly effective system of project management has also been introduced which enables the Senior Management Team to match the operational plans to the aims and objectives of the Business Plan.

Plans for the Future

Play Resource plans to extend its current building, a modern purpose-built centre completed in 2002, to ensure the facilities and the additional space to cope with planned future growth and strategic development.

The aim is to develop Play Resource's wider capacity to expand and deliver services which support the development of creative activities for children and young people throughout Northern Ireland.

In order to ensure that services and programmes remain innovative and forward thinking and that it continues to meet real and current needs of children and young people, the organisation is concentrating its future strategic development in the four key areas of arts, play, education and youth. It is believed this will enable it to develop and deliver play and arts programmes to ensure maximum impact in improving the well being and personal development of children and young people and helping them to achieve their full potential.

The aim will be to work with the most relevant organisations and agencies in each of these areas to contribute to the strategic priorities of those departments and bodies responsible for children and young people.

Summary

For 26 years Play Resource has been at the heart of the community infrastructure - undoubtedly contributing to the sustainability, growth and empowerment of many community groups throughout Belfast. This has been demonstrated by the huge growth in membership, the high frequency of use on a daily basis and the support of a range of funding bodies including central government, trusts and private sector donors. The work of the organisation has been recognized also through various awards bestowed upon the organisation and, notably, being named as Lord Mayor's Charity of the Year 2003.

The organisation's track record has been based on providing creative and innovative activities, free resources, training, advice and support for the development of children and young people. It helps also to develop the skills and abilities of youth, play and community workers thereby contributing to the development of their communities.

The organisation has requested that Council consider the renewal of the service level agreement, at an increased level of £40,000 for the 2010/11 financial year. Monitoring of the organisation has confirmed that it has adhered to the conditions attached to the 2009/10 funding agreement as well as providing a range of developmental support, training and programmes as specified.

Resource Implications

Although the organisation has requested £40,000 for the renewal of the SLA, only £31,000 has been allowed for in the budget for the financial year 2010/11, which is in line with the previous year's allocation.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

1. Agree to the renewal of the service level agreement for the 2010/11 financial year at a level of £31,000.

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Appendix 1

Under the terms of the Funding Agreement for the period 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010 the Play Resource Warehouse were to make a yearly report to Council to include the following information:

1. A description of the Company's activities in the course of the preceding year;
2. A summary of the Company's financial position, with copies of full financial accounts appended;
3. Details of any changes in the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company;
4. A statement detailing how the Company has achieved progress against the Council's strategic objectives during the preceding year;
5. Details of the yearly profile and usage of the Company's community facility per 1,000 population;
6. Details of the Company's geographical focus;
7. Details of any private, community or other public sector resources as levered during the year as a result of Council funding;

In regard to the direct provision of services to Council, the Play Resource Warehouse was to provide:

- a) a programme of support through the Creative Paths Programme to Council Community and Play Centres;
- b) advice in running play and arts projects in the Council's Community and Play Centres as required;
- c) a venue at Duncairn Gardens for training purposes as required;
- d) contact details of tutors and community artists in the form of an information handbook;
- e) three training sessions, the content and timing of which were to be agreed with the Play Development Officer.

The Company will produce an annual report which will be forwarded to Council after the end of the current financial year. However, interim monitoring and reporting confirm satisfactory corporate governance, financial

compliance and management and control of Council funding. Impressively, Council's provision of £30k funding assists in leveraging a further £90k from the Arts and Youth Councils which, combined, provides the foundations upon which the organisation subsequently generates £190k income from membership fees, venue hire and training, and the operation of the art and play shop.

In line with the funding agreement, the following interim developmental outputs also have been achieved to date:

- Ten community / play centres participated in the Creative Paths Programme involving 200 children;
- Advice, guidance and practical intervention from tutors and community artists in running play and arts projects have been provided on a regular and ongoing basis;
- The facility at Duncairn Gardens has been available to groups across the city as a neutral and accessible venue;
- Three sessions led by tutors were provided for summer scheme training in May 2009 for community groups supported through Council's summer scheme programme.

Comprehensive monitoring and reporting is not scheduled to be complete until after the end of the current financial year. Upon completion, a detailed report will be compiled to inform an overall assessment of organisational performance.

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Belfast City Council Youth Forum
Date:	9 March 2010
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen Director of Development ext 3459 Tim Husbands Head of City Events and Venues ext 1400
Contact Officer:	Catherine Taggart, Community Development Manager ext 3525

Relevant Background Information

Belfast City Council Youth Forum was established in March 2006 and sits within the Community Services Section of the Development Department. It was set up as a vehicle whereby Council could consult with young people on their views of Council issues and policies, as well as offering a conduit through which young people could raise issues of importance to them. In turn, each of the Political Parties within Council has a designated "Youth Champion" who engages with the members of the Youth Forum.

The current membership of 36 young people will serve until June 2010. Members are drawn from different areas of the City and reflect the diversity of the City in regard to religions, social backgrounds and cultures. The vision and mission statement, as formulated by the members of the Youth Forum, are set out below.

Youth Forum Vision

'We are a changing City – this is recognised by Belfast City Council Youth Forum as we prioritise our Young Citizens and build a future together.'

Youth Forum Mission Statement

'Belfast City Council's Youth Forum seeks to represent the issues of Young People in Belfast. It will consult young people and all stakeholders who are responsible for the needs of young people in the City. The Youth Forum will seek out opportunities to inform Council policy and improve service provision so that Belfast becomes a better place for Young People to live.'

The Youth Forum is divided into 3 sub-groups: each of these groups consists of members tasked with performing a piece of work and reporting to the political party youth champions and officers within the Community Services section of the Development Department. It is part of the responsibilities of a Children and Young People's Co-ordinator to manage the Forum.

Key Issues

Since being established, the Youth Forum has been involved in a wide range of developmental, participatory and representative activities. In breaking new ground, the operation of the Youth Forum has served as a model of best practice and, as such, has brought significant recognition to the Council as well as attracting widespread interest, including that of the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister, in regard to the setting up of a NI Youth Parliament.

Previously, in 2008, Council endorsed the findings of an independent review of the Youth Forum in regard to the need for such a mechanism, its operation and its value for money. Since then, further political commitment has been given to the positioning of the Youth Forum as an integral aspect of a Children and Young People's Unit within Community Services. Key areas of work and major achievements since January 2009 are summarised as an appendix to this report.

The term of the current Youth Forum expires at the end of June 2010. In planning for the future, several contextual issues should be noted.

1. Belfast remains a young City, with approximately 24% of the population aged 18 and under. The importance of this group has been recognised by Members in regard to consideration of their needs and better engaging with them in the formulation and delivery of a broad range of services. There exists, consequently, strong cross-Party political support for children and young people as a key group of interest.

2. The broad theme of children and young people has emerged as an increasingly important policy area with policy frameworks now cascading from international, European, national and regional levels. It is vital therefore that the Council continues to lead from the front in terms of local authority initiatives, alongside young people, promoting themes of participation, inclusion and citizenship, in offering 'voice and choice' to young people.

3. A shared responsibility to introduce efficiencies across the public sector points to the imperatives of greater integration and better targeting of resources. The principle holds internally, across Council, as well as externally, with a range of key stakeholders. The Youth Forum, in providing a vehicle for engagement and consultation, offers a mechanism that can assist in better formulation and delivery of policies and programmes not only by Council but by other public bodies.

The confluence of political, policy and financial interests points to an area of growing importance and in which Council is recognised as being a leader in the field. It is vital therefore that Council build on the success of the initial phase of the Youth Forum and give impetus to the next phase of development through a planned and comprehensive programme.

From the outset, the role of Young People's Co-ordinator has been pivotal to the success of the Youth Forum. Key achievements have included:

- Raising the profile of the Youth Forum at regional and national levels
- Liaising with OFMDFM in regard to the proposed operation of a NI Youth Parliament
- Promoting improved service delivery with outside bodies such as DOE, NIHE, Council for the Homeless
- Influencing policy development through participative consultation workshops and written responses
- Promoting improved co-ordination and co-operation across City Council departments
- Commissioning and managing independent evaluations of the contribution of the Youth Forum and its effectiveness.

To date, the post has been supported on a fixed term basis. The current post holder is seconded on a temporary basis until March 31 2010. This secondment will be extended to enable a review of the job description in order to ensure alignment within the new Children & Young Persons Unit within Community Services.

The co-ordinator would lead the process beyond the recruitment and induction of new Youth Forum members, and engage at a strategic level to ensure alignment and complementarity with the operation of the NI Youth Parliament. Critically also, the role will explore how to develop and nurture systematic linkages at neighbourhood level through existing structures such as Neighbourhood Renewal and Area Based Partnerships, to ensure that opportunities for engagement and participation are accessible to all young people across the city.

Resource Implications

Excluding salaries, the Youth Forum represents an annual developmental investment of some £50,000 by the City Council. In return, some 3,750 volunteer hours have been derived annually from the participation of young members.

Recommendations

Members are asked to endorse the following recommendations:

1. To approve the operation of the BCC Youth Forum for the period 1st July, 2010 to 30th June, 2012
2. To agree to the ongoing nomination within each political party of a Young People's Champion to act as a key point of contact for Youth Forum members.

Decision Tracking

Further to approval the recommended actions to be completed.

Time line: June 10

Reporting Officer: C Taggart

Key Abbreviations

DOE – Department of Education NIHE – Northern Ireland Housing Executive
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Documents Attached

Appendix 1: Summary report of the activities undertaken by the Youth Forum for the period January 2009 to January 2010.



Belfast City Council Youth Forum (BCCYF)

Outline of Core Work

The three main policies that influence the programme planning and work of the Forum are:

- OFMDFM 10-year Strategy for Children and Young People in Northern Ireland (2006-16)
- BCC Community Support Plan (2008-10) which has identified the creation Of a Children and Young People's Multi-Agency Action Plan. (*Linked to NI 10-yr Strategy for CH&YP*).
- BCC Child Protection Policy – BCC is committed to a delivery of service that promotes good practice and protects children and young people from harm. This policy is regarded as a leader for Councils in Northern Ireland.

Supporting Documents include:

- Good Relations Strategy
- Playwork Code of Practice
- URBACT – Toolkit for youth participation in urban policies

As the Vision and Mission Statements of the Youth Forum indicate it is the Youth Forum's intention to influence Belfast City Council service provision for Children and Young People throughout the City.

Volunteer Hours

The Youth Forum members have completed **4388** hours since October 2008 as they carry out duties, work and projects on behalf of the forum and in service to the community section and wider council.

SUMMARY OF YOUTH FORUM PROJECTS

The work of the Youth Forum has been broken down into internal and external projects and sub-categorised by Developmental, Participation and Representation:

Internal Projects

Internal Projects are sourced from within the 7 Belfast City Council departments.

Developmental

January 2009

BCCYF members (aged over 15) undertake their 3-week Child Protection Keeping Safe training delivered internally by the Community Section and receive their awards certificates from the Belfast Trust.

January 2009

Committee Skills training facilitated by BCC Community Section.

February 2009

Hate Crime Awareness facilitated by BCC Good Relations Unit.

January 2010

The BCCYF undertake a 3-day residential in Gortin, Co. Tyrone to plan and exit strategy for the current Forum and the recruitment of a new forum for 2010-2012.

March 2009

Members of the BCCYF receive their Good Relations training delivered by the Good Relations Section.

Participation

July 2009

BCCYF Party in the Park which is a large annual event and was held in Barnet's Demesne and the theme for this event was 'Natural Highs' the idea being to continue to build on the theme explored in the BCC Youth Forum 2008 DVD (which won the national BT national Seen & Heard award). The overall aim was to give 12–17 year olds from all backgrounds and neighbourhoods within the City an opportunity to come together and try out a vast range of activities.

These included ten different climbing activities delivered through Belfast Activity Centre, art, cultural dance and sport/urban sport workshops. Art

work from the event will be stored and used in the Bridges Skate Park currently in development.

Young people were offered the chance to explore alternatives and nurture interests that would promote future healthy life choices.

The event was free of charge and attracted 450 young people (registration forms recorded the attendance). We used the council Grant Aid Data base to contact groups and offered the event as part of their summer programme. Members of the public were also welcome and were made aware of the event through council websites and the local press.

Event evaluation was drawn from forms given out on the night and verbal feedback. This evidence records a very positive and enthusiastic response from the youth groups along with helpful comments to be considered when planning next year's event.

July/August 2009

BCCYF host the 3-day visit of Donegal Youth Forum to the City and also welcome their attendance at the annual Party in the Park event on 21st July 2009.

January 2010 – March 2010

BCCYF are once again involved in the BCC Community Safety Awards and have sponsored the Group category. The BCCYF members have been working alongside the Community Safety Section regarding category nominations and appointing finalists, they will attend and present at the Awards Ceremony later this year.

Representation

January 2009-Current

The BCCYF continue to work closely with all BCC departments in the planning and eventual launch of the Bridges Urban Sports Park.

February 2009

The BCCYF host a welcome activity and facilitate a consultation session as part of Cardiff City Council Youth Forums visit to Belfast.

October 2009

The BCCYF organised the 'Belfast – How We See It' event as part of the Community Sections contribution celebrating the re-opening of City Hall. One hundred young people aged 16-18 from schools and youth organisations within the City attended the event in the Council Chamber of the City Hall where they took part in a Q&A session. The panel, which included the Lord Mayor & six Youth Champions, was chaired by the presenter William Crawley. The successful event was filmed by the BBC for the Hearts and Minds weekly political programme and aired later that month.

October 2009

The BCCYF Chairperson is provided with an opportunity to 'shadow' the Lord Mayor for one day and writes a blog for the Lord Mayors website.

October 2009

Three BCCYF officers are invited to the Lord Mayors installation dinner; this is a great experience and the first time an opportunity like this had ever been extended to forum members.

November 2009

Ten YF members attend a BBC Children in Need discussion event that focuses on the views of young people on issues affecting their daily lives.

November 2009

Seven YF members attend an OFMDFM Anti- Bullying event at Stormont as part of the Anti-Bullying Awareness Week and the BCCYF Vice-Chair person sits on the debate panel with 3 MLAs.

November 2009

Three YF members attended the OFMDFM 'Be Seen, Be Heard' conference at Queens University. The opportunity was given for the BCCYF to share opinions with NI chief policy makers as part of the 3-year review of the 10-year Strategy for Children and Young People.

External Projects

External Projects are sourced from outside agencies and statutory bodies.

Developmental

March 2009

Self-Harm Awareness Workshop facilitated by Barnardos.

April 2009

2 day sails (Ocean Youth Trust) as part of Tall Ships.

October 2009

The BCCYF Mental Health sub-group attended the Mindwise '*Life goes on Play*' in Black Box Theatre, Belfast. The play raised awareness around the issue of schizophrenia in Young People. The BCCYF participated in a discussion with cast members afterwards.

October 2009

Nine Youth Forum members obtain OCN Level 1 in Outdoor Play through the Terry Enright Foundation. This will enable the BCCYF to support future Children and Young People projects within the community section.

November 2009

Fifteen members of the BCCYF receive their Millennium Youth Bronze Volunteer Awards due to the hours they contribute while in service with the Youth Forum.

December 2009 - current

The BCCYF 'Making it happen' sub-group has undertaken a 10-week education programme with Northern Ireland Youth Forum about project management from the inception of an idea to final project completion. The project idea currently taking shape is that of a 2-hour 'swap-it event' that would take place in the grounds of the City Hall. Young people from the City would come along with an item they no longer need or want and swap it for something else. The idea looks at recycling in an innovative way that reflects the current economic climate.

January 2010 – current

The BCCYF I-Citizen Project sub-group is involved with Scout Link NI in undertaking a 10-week project around citizenship and leadership.

February 2010 - current

The BCCYF Peer Education sub-group is working with the SOLVE Project in Ballysillan. They will undertake a 6-week training course in learning how to become peer educators in the communities they live in.

Participation

January 2009 – July 2009

The BCCYF in the role of peer educators devised a Hate Crime Awareness Session for 8-11 year olds in conjunction with the BCC Good Relations Unit. The sessions were piloted into 4 BCC Community Centres by forum members during the 2009 Summer Scheme with an intent that these sessions could be continued in future BCC summer schemes.

August 2009

The BCCYF participated in the Terry Enright Foundation, Mourne Challenge and successfully complete the 2-day event.

January 2009 – June 2009

The BCCYF Social Housing sub-group was approached by NI Housing Executive (NIHE) to assist with the development of a housing information package. BCCYF created a prototype in the form of a comic book aimed at 16-21 year olds. In 2010/11 this package will be available through NIHE to young people in the City and throughout the Province.

February 2009

BCCYF consult with Belfast City Centre Management and the Challenge for Youth organisation. These consultations centred on young people using the City Centre for shopping, working and socialising with a view to informing future BCCM planning and engagement.

September 2009 – January 2010

The BCCYF Mental Health sub-group followed on from issues that developed from PIPS training in suicide awareness in September 2009. This group wanted to put young people with mental health issues/illness under the spotlight to highlight the difficulties faced in undertaking their daily lives and the support provision available to them. The project was called 'Stand by me'. The group consulted with the following groups: Aware NI, Contact Youth NI, Samaritans and Simon Community.

September 2009

Five members of the BCCYF and the Co-ordinator take part in Simon Community Charity Abseil at the Europa Hotel. They raised £500 in sponsorship money for ongoing projects with homeless young people in the City.

November 2009

The youth forum health sub-group organise a performance of Samaritans Play 'This was your Life' in Olympia Community Centre. The Play raises awareness around the issues of suicide and its affect on Families. Ninety young people from six city wide youth groups attend are invited and attend.

December 2009

BCCYF contribute to an extensive response to a Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) consultation on the NI Youth Assembly.

January 2010

Members of the BCCYF attend two consultations with:

- a) The Institute for Conflict Research on how the history of Northern Ireland over the past 30 years should be taught as part of the history curriculum within secondary schools.
- b) Queens University Sociology Department looking at how the legacy of the Northern Ireland troubles affect young people today

Representation

January 2009 - current

BCCYF members continue the writing of articles as young columnists for BCC City Matters magazine which is distributed into every household in the Belfast metropolitan area.

April 2009

Three BCCYF officers, a Youth Champion (Councillor Bobby Stoker) and the Children and Young People's Co-ordinator represented Belfast City Council when they travelled to Porto in Portugal to attend a 3-day European Conference on Youth Policies in Local Government.

May 2009

Polish Cultural Week and Migrant Workers Festival – Art project involving BCCYF, Polish YP, Golden Thread Gallery and ICTU.

September 2009 – January 2010

Members of the BCCYF have been consulted by the Department of Environment (DOE) Road Safety section in a province-wide campaign as part of the DOE 10-year Road Safety Strategy. These young people also attended the launch of the TV “Crashed Lives” campaign aimed at young men aged 16-21.

October 2009

The BCCYF attended and supported a Young Peoples Health Roadshow in Benview Community Centre, North Belfast. This event was organised by statutory agencies and community groups based in North Belfast.

January 2010 – current

Three young people from BCCYF have been invited and have agreed to sit on the Council for the Homeless NI (CHNI) Charter Panel. This panel will also work closely with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation in creating a Charter that will develop housing options and investigate housing issues facing young people between the ages of 16-30.

January 2010

The Chairperson and Secretary of the BCCYF attend the Stormont launch of the Northern Ireland Youth Assembly proposals.

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**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Climate Change Conference
Date:	09 March 2010
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen Director of Development ext 3470 Shirley McCay Head of Economic Initiatives ext 3459
Contact Officer:	Laura Leonard, European Manager ext 3577

Relevant Background Information

In 2009 The European Union recognised the need to develop a series of seminars reflecting key issues affecting European cities. Climate change was deemed to be one of the most important issues both in terms of the environment and economics affecting cities across Europe.

From an EU Member State perspective, the 2006 Stern Review concluded that the scientific evidence for climate change is now overwhelming and climate change should be regarded as a serious global threat demanding urgent global action. Lord Stern's views have been echoed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) whose Fourth Assessment Report concluded that global atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide have increased markedly as a result of human activities and now far exceed pre-industrial values.

Recognising the Stern Review's call for prompt action, Belfast City Council's 2008-2011 Corporate Plan has identified reducing the City's impact on climate change as a key priority within the strategic theme of 'Better care for Belfast's environment - a clean, green city now and for the future'. Moreover, the Council has as a key performance indicator the tonnage of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emitted from its premises as a key performance indicator.

In terms of indicative actions supporting this key priority, the Council committed to the adoption of a European Declaration on Climate Change for the City and to the subsequent development of a prioritised action plan to address the causes and consequences of climate change within Belfast in collaboration with outside bodies and local communities.

The Council formally subscribed to the Eurocities' Declaration on Climate Change (see Appendix 1) at the Eurocities' Annual General Meeting in Stockholm on 28 November.

2009.

On 22 January 2010, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee endorsed a proposal to establish an inter-agency group working group on climate change for the City. This group will seek to address key climate change issues currently affecting Belfast, via the development of a Climate Change Action Plan.

The Council's anticipated role in the development of a Climate Change Action Plan will be to act initially as a convening body and to then function as a co-ordinating and managing organisation for implementation and monitoring. Accordingly, it is considered that a climate change educational event could serve as a suitable formal launch for the working group and help to prioritise its work programme.

Key Issues

It is proposed that the Council agree to host a Climate Change Conference in Belfast. The conference would address political objectives agreed by the Council around the climate change agenda and inform on the key objectives of the Eurocities Declaration on Climate Change. It is proposed that the conference take place in Autumn 2010, probably September. The programme is yet to be finalised due to the necessity to involve the inter-agency working group on Climate Change. There will however be a European element to the programme as well as central and local government.

It is anticipated that approximately 100 delegates will attend the conference.

Resource Implications

Finance:

The conference will cost approximately £10,000. This is included in the European Unit's 2009-2010 budget.

Human Resources:

The European Officer for Health and Environmental Services – Sarah Jayne Smith and the Sustainable Development Manager – Alastair Curran, will organise the conference.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members agree to host the City Conference on Climate Change at a cost of approximately £10,000.

Decision Tracking

Following approval and subsequent ratification, planning for the proposed conference will proceed.

Timeline: April 2010

Reporting Officer: Laura Leonard

Documents Attached

Appendix 1: Eurocities' Declaration on Climate Change



EUROCITIES
Declaration
on Climate Change



**EURO
CITIES**

EUROCITIES is the network of major European cities. Founded in 1986, the network brings together the local governments over 130 large cities in some 34 European countries. EUROCITIES represents the interests of its members and engages in dialogue with the European institutions across a wide range of policy areas affecting cities. These include: economic development, the environment, transport and mobility, social affairs, culture, the information and knowledge society, and services of general interest.

We are happy to present the EUROCITIES Declaration on Climate Change.

It is the fruit of several months of work by a group of 20 European cities headed by Nantes Metropole. The Executive Committee of EUROCITIES entrusted this responsibility to Nantes Metropole, which has been committed to this issue for many years.

This Declaration demonstrates the cities' commitment to fighting climate change, a critical issues we will be facing in the coming years and whose effects are already being felt.

The role of elected officials is to anticipate and take political decisions, and this is the purpose of the Declaration, which has been signed by mayors and local council presidents on behalf of their cities.

The elected officials who have signed the Declaration believe that only concerted action involving all public policies can provide an effective response to the challenge of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adjusting public policies in light of foreseeable changes. In line with the commitments made via the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable Cities, the goal here is to affirm the relevance of local government when it comes to taking action, both in terms of initiatives in their areas of expertise and building awareness and encouraging positive change among the citizens.

To work toward the targets set by world conferences on climate, the support of the Member States is obviously necessary, but it is no longer sufficient. The States must delegate to the cities the authority to act on a local level to reduce emissions, and undertake with the European Union to provide funding for initiatives supporting public transportation, housing, and energy.

G rard Collomb,
Mayor of Lyon
President of EUROCITIES

Jean-Marc Ayrault,
Mayor of Nantes
Chairman of the EUROCITIES
Working Group on Climate Change
and Energy

This Declaration also helps further the debate on climate change supported on a European level by the Commission through its initiatives such as the Covenant of Mayors, which EUROCITIES is associated with, and the consultation on climate change recently launched by the Environment Commissioner.

Global action is now being taken by major cities throughout Europe. We are awaiting the support of all the institutions of the European Union, including the Council, the Commission and the Parliament.

The Declaration also contributes to the global debate, because although local elected officials are in a better position to act locally, they are well aware that their actions will be in vain if they are not part of a global movement. EUROCITIES is a partner in other networks of European cities and supports the demand of local governments to be heard and participate in world conferences on climate.

In light of the risks and challenges inherent in this issue, Europe must take action and set an example. The major European cities are ready and waiting.



EUROCITIES Declaration on Climate Change

EUROCITIES, the network of major European cities, asserts that, in the perspective of a sustainable future, the fight against climate change is today a priority.

The EUROCIITIES Declaration on Climate Change reiterates that the local level has an essential role to play in the fight against climate change and therefore cities are crucial partners, in coordination with the EU institutions and the Member States.

The Declaration reflects the commitment of EUROCIITIES to fight against climate change.



We, Mayors and Leaders of EUROCITIES,

declare

- that fighting global warming demands the orchestration and harmonisation of public policies at the local level;
- that the local level, due to our proximity to citizens, is in a key position in the fight against global warming, uniting individual and collective efforts;
- that the articulation between the various levels, from local up to European, is a key factor for the success of our actions;
- that over 70% of the European population lives in an urban context, our role as organizing authorities, in charge of the management of urban services and urban planning, is vital in coordinating the mobilisation of civil society in our territories;
- that the public sector has a key role to play in the integration of this issue;

considering

- that the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC's fourth Assessment Report – AR4 - 2007) has confirmed that climate change is a real problem caused by human activities, and it is a major challenge for the future of humanity;
- that the international scientific community asserts that within industrialised countries, i.e. at European level, the minimum amount of effort to stabilise the climate is to divide by four our greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, compared with the figures of 1990;
- that Sir Nicholas Stern's report and the OECD's Environmental Outlook to 2030 point out the immediate necessity for actions to fight against global warming and insist on the disastrous consequences of inaction such as rising oceans, food and health crises, massive migrations of climate refugees and sudden economic changes;
- that climate change will affect the European continent unevenly. Our actions will have to be rooted in solidarity and exchange of know-how, in order to minimise the potential negative impacts of climate change. We are aware that in the future our territories will face important changes and we need to be prepared to address them. We will have to evaluate the coming changes so that our territories can adapt. The conclusions drawn from this evaluation will have to be taken into account in our public policies as soon as possible;
- that many of the actions required to combat climate change fall within the scope of many ambitious, coherent urban policies for which we are responsible. Our responsibility as organizing authorities for urban issues, public transportation, energy and urban services, and our role as territorial leaders, in cooperation with our citizens and the economic and social stakeholders working on local development, are at the heart of our commitment;
- that the Covenant of Mayors on Energy launched by the European Commission is an important initiative, supported by EUROCITIES, which recognises the decisive impact of the actions of local authorities in the fight against climate change, and will strengthen the partnership between the European and local levels. The EUROCITIES Declaration on Climate Change, as a political statement by the network of major European cities, reflecting the commitment of the network and its members to fight against climate change, supports and complements the aims of the Covenant of Mayors on Energy;
- that the response to this challenge cannot be found merely by adopting a new sectoral policy, instead we must refine all of our public policies to consistently address climate change and encourage mobilization of our territories;
- that we will not be able to achieve this objective without incorporating the issues of local government, social cohesion and balance, North/South and East/West exchanges in our urban strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- that actions applied locally will contribute to enhance the general state of our territories and other regions. Climate protection will trigger important benefits for public health, for the protection of biodiversity, for water preservation, for the improvement of air quality;
- that it is essential to organise the sharing of good practices from cities and their dissemination and to act in close cooperation within international and European networks;

We, Mayors and Leaders of EUROCITIES,

believe

- that local policies must be consistent with the European sustainable development strategy adopted in Gothenburg and the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities;
- that because we refuse to pay the price of inaction, we are ready to mobilize our resources and make climate change a priority in our budgeting decisions. We emphasise the need for close cooperation between the various levels of action, both in drafting laws and directives and in funding initiatives, given the diversity of the local public policies involved;
- that the reduction of our territories' carbon imprint is a major challenge we must face by limiting direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions (CO₂, CH₄, N₂O, HFC, PFC, SF₆);
- that technical innovation will play a key role to win the fight against climate change;
- that it is our responsibility to act on this global issue;
- and that, as such, the EUROCITIES Declaration on Climate Change is not a binding agenda but a concrete text covering the diversity of public policies, and providing guidelines that can be used to implement policies on our territories to reach the targeted reductions in greenhouse gases, which are crucial to climate stabilisation;



we therefore undertake:

to implement a strategy to fight against climate change, by:

- **adapting global objectives, defined by international negotiation and the scientific community**, to the level of our territories and through the combination of our efforts;
- **implementing a climate plan in each of our territories**, based on concrete actions, in order to reach a local objective that is consistent with the overall European and international objectives. The creation of this climate plan must begin with a detailed understanding of the territory's emissions and should also include the assessment of its weaknesses so that it can be adapted;
- **regularly measuring and reporting reductions in emissions** of greenhouse gases in order to assess and evaluate the efficiency of the climate plan's actions, using truthful and reliable techniques;

we therefore undertake:

to involve all the actors on our territory, by:

- **involving local actors with our actions, starting with citizens**, in an organized and coherent manner to respond collectively to the challenge of global warming and to promote and support private and public initiatives for climate protection. The mobilisation of business actors is essential and will be actively pursued;
- **developing innovative partnerships in the fields of research and higher education;**
- **informing and heightening the awareness of the public, in an atmosphere of shared responsibility** between individuals and society, in order to promote “carbon-friendly” behaviour. The dissemination of scientific knowledge on global warming is a key element to heighten public awareness;
- **focusing our priority on disadvantaged sectors of society**, following the principles of sustainable development. With the recognition that natural resources, particularly energy, are limited, we will pay particular attention to the people that are most at risk, both in our territories and elsewhere;
- **setting an example with public services** and reducing their carbon imprints by improving professional practices and exploring technological innovations;
- **adopting ambitious sustainable public procurement policies**, which play a key role in the action against climate change, both as an example for citizens and by creating economic demand and supporting this growing economic sector;



to design public policies that withstand the challenge of climate change through:

working on urban planning and the quality of our cities by:

- **limiting urban sprawl and developing compact cities**, which reduce space and energy needs, where a collective lifestyle is also an attractive factor. Urban sprawl devours agricultural and natural spaces, gives rise to additional transportation requirements, and is thus an important factor behind an increase in greenhouse gases. Its limitation is a major urban policy issue. Compact cities need to be designed with a dual objective of urban quality and quality of life, meaning maintaining sufficient green spaces. The management of pollution and other disruptive impacts will be a priority for our cities to become more attractive and appealing;
- **supporting the adaptation of existing buildings**, which represent, due to their large contribution to greenhouse gas emissions, a major challenge in the fight against global warming. This rehabilitation must preserve cultural and social diversity at local level;
- **ensuring the preservation and development of a true, high-quality urban canopy by planting trees** in streets, in public and private gardens, and in new peri-urban forest zones on the outskirts of urban areas, which will play an important role as carbon stocks. New planting schemes will respect landscapes and biodiversity specific to our territories;
- **constructing energy-efficient buildings**, and promoting eco-building in our territories, satisfying high thermal standards and using eco-materials. Eco-building must become a standard for all construction work, both new and rehabilitation. Active support for the evolution of the professional trades in the construction industry also falls under this commitment;

working on transport and urban mobility by:

- **developing public transportation, soft modes (walking and cycling,...) and new forms of mobility**, with reduced carbon emissions and less dependence on fossil fuels. To enable this, we must offer high-quality alternative modes of transportation for people and goods, which respect the environment;
- **linking together territories and interconnecting public transport networks** to secure the most favourable conditions for the movement of people and goods; inventing new types of mobility management with the implementation of road traffic regulations in city centres;
- **encouraging technological innovation for vehicles and the use of new forms of energy in any travel**. Experimentation could take place on our territories, and particularly through technological research on our transportation systems. The creation of specialised research centres will also be facilitated;
- **supporting and developing the use of Information and Communication Technologies**, such as Internet, videoconference, etc., which can help reduce unnecessary travel and as a consequence, emissions;

working on renewable energy and diversifying energy production by:

- **developing the production of renewable energy** and exceeding the current objectives of the European Commission by supporting the development of technical innovations for the use of renewable energy to improve their energy efficiency and market implementation. The production of heat or electricity should be appropriate with the geography of our territories;
- **reducing the energy consumption of urban systems**: transportation, buildings, energy networks, water networks; and researching and promoting the use of more energy-efficient technologies;
- **reducing waste at the source, through sorting and recycling** and recovering energy from non-recyclable wastes (heat, biogas);
- **working together with national and European authorities in order to guarantee the reliability of the energy supply**. Energy security will be at the heart of our action plans for sustainable energy;

implementing adaptation measures by:

- **regulating urban climate** via the enhancement of green and wooded zones within urban areas. The urban heat island effect can be lessened by reducing mineralised surfaces and increasing the density of vegetal spaces;
- **building housing that will be adaptable to the climate in the future and in particular increasing temperatures.** We will ensure that new buildings only use low carbon cooling technologies;
- **preventing flooding** by using permeable surfaces which are adaptable to urban uses. It would also help to expand water drainage systems and to integrate flood prone areas in urban planning;
- **protecting costal cities and areas from the increasing ocean levels and storms** by implementing a protection system adapted to local environments;
- **enhancing the strength and resistance of energy networks to extreme climate changes,** in coordination with energy providers;
- **reducing the vulnerability of certain sectors, such as farming and fishing, towards the potential impacts of climate change,** working together with the professionals and associated organisations;
- **alerting our inhabitants to the potential danger of extreme climate change,** and particularly to more vulnerable people such as the elderly;
- **preparing for the health impacts on human and animal populations of climate change** in working with the professionals of that field. Specific campaigns could also be set up to serve this purpose;

strengthen our international action by:

- **reinforcing, in a framework of international cooperation, partnerships with cities and territories of developing nations,** promoting actions that will allow limitation of greenhouse gases through projects targeting transportation, waste and energy management and reforestation, etc.;
- acting upon de-forestation, which represents 20% of global greenhouse gas emissions, by shifting our practices of public purchases towards eco-certified wood and to help reforestation projects;

And by setting up long term policies:

- **carrying out long-term assessments of public policies related to greenhouse gas emissions** with a view to making adjustments and corrections to the approaches used in our territories. Carbon footprint measurement should allow the measurement of performance with respect to a high standards (high quality of public services);
- **applying the required financial and human resources** to the implementation of our climate plans, through long-term rethinking of our budgets, recognizing the reality of global warming;
- **seeking the most appropriate forms of long-term investments** needed to achieve these actions, in cooperation with financial partners;

recalling

- **that the quantitative objectives** in the fight against the greenhouse effect may differ from one city to another, owing to their historical, geographical, organizational, economic and demographic differences.



**finally, we
recommend**

that the European Union:

- continues to fight global warming as a priority at the international level, with a goal of defining a global agreement worthy of this worldwide challenge. In the framework of the Conferences of the Parties (COP) and the supporting role of local authorities in this domain, the European Commission can count on the support of EUROCITIES and its member cities, who must be associated to this negotiation;
- to incite further our local governments to achieve higher standards through European programmes that reinforce best practices and networking;
- to acknowledge cities' actions against climate change and to directly fund their implementation according to mechanisms commonly agreed;

that the European Union and its Member States:

- provide local authorities with access to precise energy consumption data for their territories, and to require energy operators to report this data. This is the only data that will allow verification of the actual effects of the actions composing our climate plans;
- make it a higher priority to increase the financial resources available to local governments, especially for public transport. In the absence of these resources, local action cannot be sufficient to combat the issues of global warming. More generally, national and European financing must be allocated in priority to actions that are in the context of a global, quantified strategy to fight global warming;
- stimulate research on means of adaptation, in collaboration with non European states, who are highly vulnerable and who will rapidly develop strategies to lessen the impacts of global warming. The exchange of knowledge and good practices will have to be at the centre of transnational research;

That the European Union, the Member States and the European cities:

- provide tools for cities and local authorities in order to limit urban sprawl;

that European cities:

- network European and international local authorities together and continue to share collective reflection, best practices and their dissemination;
- provide the cities that are least advanced in the fight against the greenhouse effect with the methods and tools needed to develop climate plans, in a spirit of subsidiarity and cooperation across all territorial levels.



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Neighbourhood Renewal Update
Date:	9 March 2010
Reporting Officer:	John Mcgrillen Director of Development ext 3470 Shirley McCay Head of Economic Initiatives ext 3459
Contact Officer:	Siobhan Watson SNAP Manager ext 3579

Relevant Background Information

Members will be aware that, in June 2003, the DSD published 'People and Place: A Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal', a document which aims to tackle the complex, multi-dimensional nature of Northern Ireland's most disadvantaged urban neighbourhoods. In order to progress this agenda, DSD progressed the establishment of 12 Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships within the BCC area. Each Partnership was tasked with producing a Vision Framework (7-10 years) and Action Plan (3 years) for the Neighbourhood Renewal area. The 12 Partnerships are:

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

Each Partnership has developed its Action Plan which was submitted to DSD for consideration. These Plans proposed thousands of actions that would need to be delivered by a range of organisations in key areas such as housing, health, education, community safety, good relations, employability, community development, culture, tourism, leisure, children and young people, older people and environmental and physical improvement.

Key Issues

The Council has become a key participant in the neighbourhood renewal process and to date the following support has been provided:

- Overall coordination of the Council's response to Neighbourhood Renewal facilitated through SNAP.
- Neighbourhood Development Officers from the SNAP Team in place to co-ordinate the delivery of actions within each Plan.
- Officer participation provided on all 12 Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships through Community Services.
- Action Plan responses prepared for each of the 12 Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships Action Plans.
- Establishment of a Neighbourhood Renewal Working Group comprising Council Neighbourhood Renewal representatives and representatives from Council Departments.
- Formal presentations and workshops delivered to the Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships.
- Creation of a Neighbourhood Renewal Database detailing all key actions and implications for the Council in the Neighbourhood Renewal process.
- Commitment to deliver on Neighbourhood Renewal is embedded within the new Corporate Plan.
- Provision of SNAP area-based intelligence to support the Neighbourhood Renewal process.
- Development of the Neighbourhood Renewal section of the Council website, creating a central repository for all Action Plans and responses.
- Integration of Neighbourhood Renewal within the Council's SNAP/Local Area Working agenda.
- Neighbourhood Renewal resource directories prepared for the Partnerships detailing Council services and key staff working in the local area.
- On-going work with BRO regarding the development of a pilot partnership approach to the implementation of the Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan in Lenadoon. An update will be presented to Committee in due course.

Next steps

Whilst work is on-going with regard to the implementation of the Council's response to the Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plans there are a number of pieces of work that are on-going that may have implications for future service delivery. These include the following:-

- The NRP's are all currently reviewing and updating their Action Plans. These plans may have implications for BCC services. The Plans will be made available in due course.
- The likely transfer of Neighbourhood Renewal to Councils through the Review of Public Administration.
- BRO is currently working to develop a Service Delivery model in Neighbourhood Renewal Areas which will have implications for how its services are delivered across these areas in future. They completed the first stage in this process which is to map the organisations and services currently funded.
- Finally, DSD has recently appointed consultants to develop a policy framework on Urban Regeneration and Community Development. The role of Neighbourhood Renewal will be considered within this.

Updates will be provided to Members in due course.

Resource Implications

Coordinated by the SNAP Manager

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the content of the report and Appendix One.

Decision Tracking

None

Key Abbreviations

NR	Neighbourhood Renewal
NRPs	Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships
NRA	Neighbourhood Renewal Area
NRAP	Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan
NDO	Neighbourhood Development Officer
SNAP	Strategic Neighbourhood Action Programme
YENI	Young Enterprise Northern Ireland
DSD	Department for Social Development
BRO	Belfast Regeneration Office
LIAG	Local Implementation Action Group
MUGA	Multi-Use Games Area
ASB	Anti Social Behaviour
CC	Community Centre
PACT	Partners and Communities Together
LOTS	Living over the Shops
SRF	Strategic Regeneration Framework
HUB	Hybrid Use Building.
KPI	Key Performance Indicator

Documents Attached

Appendix One - Update of 12 Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships.

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Council progress on implementing the NR action plans

Progress is underway to deliver the key actions linked to Belfast City Council within the Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plans and is detailed as follows:

1. West Belfast

1. Andersonstown
2. Lenadoon
3. Upper Springfield
4. Greater Falls

2. South Belfast

1. Inner South
2. South West Belfast

3. North Belfast

1. Ligoniel
2. Ballysillan/Upper Ardyone
3. Crumlin/Ardoyne
4. Inner North

4. Greater Shankill

1. Greater Shankill

5. East Belfast

1. Inner East

1. West Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships

1. Andersonstown Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership

A review of their action plan was recently completed. Andersonstown and Lenadoon NRPs have recently amalgamated Economic, Education and Health sub-groups and, as a result, some actions have been revised. This activity did not affect any actions relating to the council.

In early 2009 the partnership held a planning day to review the NR action plan and to look at the delivery of NR across the partnership area. The partnership has recently recruited to their post of Neighbourhood Renewal Officer who will be dedicated to ensuring the delivery of their action plan.

Priority areas: Based on the current Action Plan the priority areas are: community safety, young people, older people, physical environment, cleansing and waste management, jobs and training, children and families, health and wellbeing, public realm projects, community facilities, information and advice services, culture, arts and tourism.

Council involvement to date: In addition to the statutory functions that the council carries out in the NRA, a number of specific actions have contributed to the delivery of NR:

- A formal response has been made to the action plan and a proposed plan to deliver council actions has been drafted for council.
- A council officer is currently represented on the Partnership.
- A Neighbourhood Development Officer in the SNAP Team has been appointed to work with the NR representative and the Partnership to help co-ordinate delivery of NR actions pertaining to council.
- All NR actions have been coded on our database and categorised by relevant council theme and aligned with relevant council services
- A resource directory has been produced for the Partnership, which provides a breakdown of council services, local staff and initiatives.
- A detailed statistical breakdown and audit of services within the area has been completed. This information will contribute directly to the Partnership's action in relation to the audit of service provision in the area
- Via our Services for Young People group and Community Services the partnership received a grant of approximately £5,000 to deliver a programme of activities for young people between August and October 2009. With the funding received via "URCity2" the partnership provided the following: training in mental health; a health awareness day; portable gym training sessions; a youth conference; sports coaching; a sports and fun day for young children; a community facelift project; a community garden project; and a community relations project.
- The award of £310.00 funding from council's Health and Wellbeing Thematic Working Group towards the delivery of Andersonstown Health Day and specifically the hire of interactive sports equipment for young people activities.
- A short term action plan setting out a series of proposed BCC 'quick wins' has been presented to and agreed by the Partnership. In late 2009 was circulated around the Working Groups for progression.
- Specific actions from the plan that have been delivered include:
 - Joint organisation and delivery of a Health Day Andersonstown Leisure Centre in January 2010 by council and Andersonstown NRP. The event aimed to help local people improve their health and wellbeing and successfully brought health professionals, holistic therapists, as well as representatives an range of local organisations (including a number of council services) on hand to offer expert advice and support to local people. The Health Day was split into three sessions focusing on advice and activities for seniors; mothers and pre-school children; and young people.
 - The March 2010 completion of the cosmetic enhancement of over 65 shop frontages on the Andersonstown Road from Casement Park down to Finaghy Road North, in addition to a number of other shop identified units in the area, as part of a

commercial improvement scheme under the Renewing the Routes initiative.

- Officers from the council's Dog Warden team attended an Environmental subgroup meeting in June 2009.
- A hanging basket project developed with Riverdale Residents Association.
- The Partnership has been provided with technical information on council initiatives and maps of the NRP area.
- Security barriers have been fitted at the car park of Andersonstown leisure centre. The car park is now secured at night to help reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour.
- The provision of resources for a community clean-up.
- An environmental walkabout targeting hotspots in the area took place with officers from Cleansing Services.
- As part of our 'Renewing the Routes' programme in partnership with our Cleansing Team, Andersonstown has benefited from a pilot 'zero tolerance' graffiti removal programme has been completed.
- The Environmental sub-group have been provided with supplies of leaflets on dog fouling and waste bags.
- Schools in the NRA have participated in the council's Young Enterprise economic development programme

2. Lenadoon Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership

Lenadoon NRP is currently working with the council and BRO on the delivery of a pilot project to explore joint-working between statutory agencies in the delivery of the action plan. The Partnership continues to work well and is making good progress on the delivery of its overall action plan. It has a close working relationship with the Andersonstown Partnership with which they have recently amalgamated their Economic subgroups and Health sub-groups.

Priority areas: The NRP's five priorities for 2010/2011 as identified through their recent review process are: the development of a Glencolin Community Facility; the development of a multi purpose sports facility; Suffolk Community plan in relation to Suffolk PS site's development into a multi sports facility; the funding of a major environmental improvement scheme at Woodbourne cottages; and securing a guarantee of funding to support BRO funded posts beyond 2011.

Council involvement to date: In addition to the statutory functions that the council carries out in the NRA, a number of specific actions have contributed to the delivery of NR:

- A formal response has been made to the action plan and a proposed plan to deliver council actions has been drafted for council.
- A council officer is currently represented on the Partnership.

- A Neighbourhood Development Officer in the SNAP Team has been appointed to work with the NR representative and the Partnership to help co-ordinate delivery of NR actions pertaining to council.
- All NR actions have been coded on our database and categorised by relevant council theme and aligned with relevant council services
- A resource directory has been produced for the Partnership, which provides a breakdown of council services, local staff and initiatives.
- A detailed statistical breakdown and audit of services within the area has been completed. This information will contribute directly to the Partnership's action in relation to the audit of service provision in the area.
- Via our Services for Young People group and Community Services the partnership received a grant of approximately £5,000 to deliver a programme of activities for young people between August and October 2009. With the funding received via "URCity2" the partnership provided the following: a youth achievement awards and celebration event; a 'Glencolin' residential; mental health training; highland and cultural dancing; the purchase of sports equipment; an anti-sectarian and anti-community behaviour course; and a youth providers planning and development day.
- Council officers are currently represented on the Partnership and on the Housing, Environment and Community Safety subgroups
- Ongoing work by council's Good Relations Unit regarding the planned Spring 2010 delivery of a public consultation exercise on the future use of the Suffolk school site.
- Through the 'Re-imagining Communities Project' BCC has been working with the Suffolk Community on the proposed removal of flags.
- An officer from the Department of Parks and Leisure is engaged on a steering committee focusing on an obesity related physical activity and health programmes for young people within the NRA.
- Specific actions from the plan that have been delivered include:
 - BCC Community Safety Wardens were deployed in February 2010 to work throughout the NRA for a number of months following a comprehensive public and community consultation and engagement process with local people.
 - Assistant Area Cleansing Manager has recently undertaken a number of environmental walkabouts of area.
 - Throughout 2009 resources were provided for a series of six community clean-ups and environmental schemes.
 - The Partnership has reported increased community usage of council-owned community facilities. The community centres host community-wide events including events for older people.
 - New recycling facilities have been installed.
 - The ASB officer for west Belfast has been in contact with the Partnership and with local vintners to discuss issues around underage drinking.
 - Schools in the area participated in the council's Young Enterprise programme.

- Council officers are represented on a number of local forums.
- Council officers are represented on a newly established working group set up to help regenerate Woodbourne Village.
- In Spring 2009 Horn Drive community centre facilitated an information event for older people. Council officers from different departments attended the event and hosted information stands.

Pilot with BRO in the Lenadoon NRA

At the Development Committee meeting of 10th December 2008, approval was given to work with BRO in an exploratory partnership project in the Lenadoon Neighbourhood Renewal area in which both organisations could deliver on their commitment to the action plan in a more integrated manner and then apply the lessons learned to other neighbourhood action plans.

Council involvement to date:

- BCC SNAP Team's participation in the Pilot Partnership Scheme's Steering Group along with representatives from BRO and community representatives from Lenadoon NRP.
- Development of an action plan based on the deliver of five short-term community-led projects into which a number of BCC departments will contribute their existing key services. These include an Environmental Project which focuses on the delivery of an environment awareness event, environmental cleanups, and a targeted dog warden initiative; a Community Safety Project involving the deployment of Roaming Wardens into the area, a Community Safety Information Day, and the training of local youth workers; a Men Only Project focusing on an the delivery of an advice seminar on BCC sports grants, a Men Only Health Day, and a mapping exercise of service provision in the area; an Older Persons Project focusing on the delivery of an information and advice day; and finally an intergenerational initiative.
- The coordination of BCC services' contribution to the delivery of each of the project actions through a process of 'cross departmental working' with key Council officers from the Development Department, the Department of Health and Environmental Services, and the Department of Parks and Leisure; and the drafting of their collated information into five internal project plans.
- The preparation of cost estimations of the existing resources that council services would potentially be delivering through the projects (estimated at £20,000). This exercise was completed at the request of BRO to inform their decision making regarding their contribution to the overall initiative.
- Development of objectives and performance indicators to both measure the impact of the projects, and the 'added value' of the BCC/ BRO partnership approach to the delivery of Neighbourhood Renewal at a local level. The purpose of this is to ensure that both good practice and lessons learned can be applied in the delivery of other neighbourhood renewal action plans in the future.

At the moment discussions are ongoing between BCC and BRO on the nature of the relationship between the two organisations within the joint partnership initiative. This has come about after BRO's request that BCC submit a funding application, and take lead responsibility for its administration, as the means for the NRP receiving any BRO funding for the five community-led projects. BCC services continue to be committed to the delivery of their various elements of the projects within the Greater Lenadoon area.

The SNAP Team continue to work interdepartmentally within the council to coordinate the contribution of services into the five projects; as well as alongside council officers from these services within individual project groups established by the NRP to take forward the community-led projects.

A number of the projects' initiatives and events have already been delivered including the a BCC Sports Grants Advice Seminar facilitated by officers from Leisure Services in January 2010 as part of the Men Only Project; and the delivery of a Community Safety Event at Horn Drive Community Centre on Monday 8th March. In addition the deployment of BCC Community Safety Wardens to into the NRA for a number of months has been ongoing since February 2010.

Furthermore this month our council services will contribute to the delivery of two events in the Greater Lenadoon area, including an Environmental Education Day on Monday 15th March at Suffolk Community Centre; and a Seniors Event on Tuesday 23rd March at Glen Community Centre.

The 'added value' of this partnership working approach, and the success of the individual projects, will be evaluated at the end of the process.

3. Upper Springfield and Whiterock Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership

Upper Springfield NRP revised their action plan in 2008. In November 2009 the NRP held an action plan review day and held discussions about their governance structure and specifically the role of their subgroups. The NRP have recently employed a new Neighbourhood Renewal Officer who will be dedicated to ensuring the delivery of their action plan. The partnership continues to work to deliver NR actions.

Priority areas: The current action plan's priorities for 2010/2011 as identified in their Jan recent review process are: Community Development and Community Safety - through support of Federation of Residents Associations and Upper Springfield Community Safety Forum and sponsoring of training opportunities for local residents; Economic /Physical renewal – development of Capital build project and specifically tendering an initial feasibility study and providing subsequent support; Social Renewal – Mol an Oig subgroup's continued development to promote joined up work of area Youth Providers.

Council involvement to date: In addition to the statutory functions that the council carries out in the NRA, a number of specific actions have contributed to the delivery of NR:

- A formal response has been made to the action plan and a proposed plan to deliver council actions has been drafted for council.
- A council officer is currently represented on the Partnership.
- A Neighbourhood Development Officer in the SNAP Team has been appointed to work with the NR representative and the Partnership to help co-ordinate delivery of NR actions pertaining to council.
- All NR actions have been coded on our database and categorised by relevant council theme and aligned with relevant council services
- A resource directory has been produced for the Partnership, which provides a breakdown of council services, local staff and initiatives.
- A detailed statistical breakdown and audit of services within the area has been completed. This information will contribute directly to the Partnership's action in relation to the audit of service provision in the area.
- A short term BCC action plan setting out a series of BCC 'quick wins' has been presented to the Partnership and has in Winter 2009 was circulated for consideration.
- Via our Services for Young People group and Community Services the partnership received a grant of approximately £5,000 to deliver a programme of activities for young people between August and October 2009. With the funding received via "URCity2" the partnership provided the following: a cleanup of senior citizens property; the creation of a mosaic based on the history of turf lodge; and health and wellbeing seminar evenings.
- A BCC Community Safety Officer has recently engaged with the Community Safety subgroup.
- Council have invested in the refurbishment of a local playground
- Schools in the area participated in the council's Young Enterprise programme
- Council manage and maintain the new playground and Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) at Britton's Parade - the Pat O'Haire playground.
- Specific actions from the plan that have been delivered include:
 - A number of projects have been completed under the Greencare III programme and the Renewing the Routes scheme. In 2009 new improvement schemes implemented as part of the Renewing the Routes Scheme include a colourful new mosaic at the entrance to the Sliabh Dubh estate, a new garden of reflection at Springfield Park which has transformed an anti-social behaviour hotspot; and the recent approval for the installation of a large art piece at the green area at the top of the Whiterock/Springfield Road junction with the theme of the

'protection of the Black Mountain'. In the past area has also benefited from a range of environmental improvement schemes, public art projects, commercial improvement schemes, tree planting and public realm projects.

- In September 2009 Work West started delivery of new BCC programme for groups/individual at pre start stage of development of social enterprise ideas.
- The delivery of anti-litter workshops in schools, youth groups, community groups by Cleansing Services' Community Awareness Team.
- The council's local community centre continues to host events linked to Partnership.
- The Partnership has developed strong links with officers from the Community Safety team.
- The Partnership worked with the council's Dog Warden team on the co-ordination of targeted services in the area.
- BCC Assistant Area Cleansing Manager participated in an ASB focused environmental walkabout of the area.
- Provision of additional promotional information on blue bin collections for area by BCC Waste Management and Promotions Team.

4. Greater Falls Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership

Consultants were appointed by the Partnership to carry out a review of their action plan in January 2010. The Economic subgroup reviewed and revised NR actions earlier this year under 'Training, job creation and economic development' and prioritised eight actions. The Partnership continues to meet monthly to progress their action plan.

Priority areas: The existing action plans priorities are: Education, training, job creation and economic development, environmental improvements, children and family support, young people, health and well-being, culture, sport and leisure and community planning.

Council involvement to date: In addition to the statutory functions that the council carries out in the NRA, a number of specific actions have contributed to the delivery of NR.

- A formal response has been made to the action plan and a proposed plan to deliver council actions has been drafted for council.
- A council officer is currently represented on the Partnership.
- A Neighbourhood Development Officer in the SNAP Team has been appointed to work with the NR representative and the Partnership to help co-ordinate delivery of NR actions pertaining to council.
- All NR actions have been coded on our database and categorised by relevant council theme and aligned with relevant council services

- A resource directory has been produced for the Partnership, which provides a breakdown of council services, local staff and initiatives.
- A detailed statistical breakdown and audit of services within the area has been completed. This information will contribute directly to the Partnership's action in relation to the audit of service provision in the area.
- A short term action plan of proposed BCC 'quick wins' has been drafted and presented to the Partnership for their consideration.
- Via our Services for Young People group and Community Services the partnership received a grant of approximately £5,000 to deliver a programme of activities for young people between August and October 2009. With the funding received via "URCity2" the partnership provided the following: a 12 week health and wellbeing project; a drama and DVD project; and a programme for 8-13 year olds looking at a variety of issues including drug and alcohol misuse, physical activity and sexual health.
- Specific actions from the plan that have been delivered include:
 - The February 2010 commencement of work to cosmetically enhance 32 shop frontages at Donegal Road Junction, as the final phase of a commercial improvement scheme under the Renewing the Routes initiative which has seen more than 200 properties on the Falls Road get new shop fronts since 2008. The NR area has benefited from a number projects completed under the Greencare III programme and the Renewing the Routes scheme including:
 - environmental improvement schemes
 - public realm projects
 - extensive commercial improvement schemes
 - graffiti removal projects
 - exterior lighting to local landmarks
 - installation of alley gates
 - public art projects
 - In 2009 a new 'third generation' floodlit pitch at Grosvenor recreation centre was developed and opened in which Council have been instrumental in the provision of support and funding.
 - As part of council's involvement in the re-development of Dunville Park an economic appraisal was completed in early 2010. An internal BCC Risk/ Benefit workshop regarding the refurbishment and future development of the Woodvale and Dunville parks took place on the 4th of March. (Discussion regarding the building of a new playground at Site A are ongoing).
 - In Summer 2009 officer from BCC Community Services engaged with Falls Youth Providers regarding youth issues in the area.
 - BCC is represented through Leisure Services on the Partnership's recently established leisure and Sports Subgroup.
 - In early 2009 officers from Cleansing Services' Community Awareness Team worked with traders from the Clonard area to

organise a community clean-up event. The council provided resources for the event. At the meeting local traders were also encouraged to sign up to the council's 'No Smoke without Litter' campaign. Working with Clonard Residents Association, over 30 local businesses signed up and received a free information pack.

- Council officers from various BCC services have presented at NRP meetings.
- Dunville Park was included in the council's ASB pilot in 2008.
- Installation of new public art piece at Broadway roundabout.
- Beechmount neighbourhood, in the NRP area, was included in the council's pilot 'Alley-gates' project, benefiting from the installation of 39 alley gates.
- Local schools participated in the council's YENI programme.
- Grosvenor recreation centre has been leased from council to Roden Street Community Development Groups under a facilities management lease agreement.
- Willowbank multi-sport facility has been leased by the council under a facilities management agreement.
- The council's Roaming Wardens carried patrols in the Beechmount area from September 2008 from November 2008.

2. South Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships

1. Inner South Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership

The Partnership have a new chairperson and have recently undergone a process of reviewing the existing action plan and revising their actions. It is envisaged that these will be the focus of new sub groups in the future (Previously there were no subgroups operating under the NRP). The Partnership has not met very regularly within the last six months due to the recent absence of the Partnership's Neighbourhood Renewal Coordinator. The date for the publication of the outcomes of their review process is yet to be confirmed.

Priority areas: The current action plan's priorities are: Housing, community safety, family support, economic development and employment services, community engagement, children and young people, education & children's services, health & well being, promoting good relations.

Council involvement to date: In addition to the statutory functions that the council carries out in the NRA, a number of specific actions have contributed to the delivery of NR:

- A formal response has been made to the action plan and a proposed plan to deliver council actions has been drafted for council.
- A council officer is currently represented on the Partnership.
- A Neighbourhood Development Officer in the SNAP Team has been appointed to work with the NR representative and the

Partnership to help co-ordinate delivery of NR actions pertaining to council.

- All NR actions have been coded on our database and categorised by relevant council theme and aligned with relevant council services
- A resource directory has been produced for the Partnership, which provides a breakdown of council services, local staff and initiatives.
- A detailed statistical breakdown and audit of services within the area has been completed. This information will contribute directly to the Partnership's action in relation to the audit of service provision in the area.
- In autumn 2009 a short term action plan setting out a series of proposed BCC 'quick wins' in relation to their overall action plan has been drafted and presented to the Partnership for their consideration. It was advised by the NRP that this could be revisited after the outworkings of their 09/10 review process were known.
- Via our Services for Young People group and Community Services the partnership received a grant of approximately £5,000 to deliver a programme of activities for young people between August and October 2009. With the funding received via "URCity2" the partnership provided the following: an urban art forms and civic involvement project based on learning through skills workshops; a capacity development programme based on detached youth work; and an Inner South's Got Talent programme to develop performance, music, skills in children and young people.
- The area has benefited from a number of projects completed under the Renewing the Routes schemes including a mural project, an alleygates scheme, an environmental improvement scheme, and an amenity lighting project.
- The completion of extension works to the 'council leased' Shaftesbury Recreation Centre in December 2009. The £2.3 million upgrade includes an outdoor synthetic pitch, a fitness suite, a hall that can be used for social activities and changing rooms and showers that cater for people with disabilities.

2. South West Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership

The NRP held their action plan review day in January 2010, however, the date for the publication of the outcomes of the process are yet to be confirmed. The NRP are planning to establish new subgroups in the coming months. (There are currently no sub groups operating under the NRP). The Partnership continues to meet regularly to progress their action plan.

Priority areas: Based on its existing action plan identified priorities are: public space and the environment, community safety, cleansing and waste management, economic development, community engagement, children and young people, good relations and cultural diversity, health & well being, advice and support services, older people, leisure and recreation provision.

Council involvement to date: In addition to the statutory functions that the council carries out in the NRA, a number of specific actions have contributed to the delivery of NR:

- A formal response has been made to the action plan and a proposed plan to deliver council actions has been drafted for council.
- A council officer is currently represented on the Partnership.
- A Neighbourhood Development Officer in the SNAP Team has been appointed to work with the NR representative and the Partnership to help co-ordinate delivery of NR actions pertaining to council.
- All NR actions have been coded on our database and categorised by relevant council theme and aligned with relevant council services
- A resource directory has been produced for the Partnership, which provides a breakdown of council services, local staff and initiatives.
- A detailed statistical breakdown and audit of services within the area has been completed. This information will contribute directly to the Partnership's action in relation to the audit of service provision in the area.
- A short term action plan setting out a series of BCC 'quick wins' has been agreed with the Partnership and is being progressed.
- Via our Services for Young People group and Community Services the partnership received a grant of approximately £5,000 to deliver a programme of activities for young people between August and October 2009. With the funding received via "URCity2" the partnership provided the following: an urban art forms and civic involvement project based on learning through skills workshops; a youth outreach and civic involvement programme based on community based activities and a capacity development programme; a youth performing arts development programme focusing on acting, drama and verse; and a youth football programme to build community relations with the wider multi-cultural community.
- Specific actions from the plan that have been delivered include:
 - The area has benefited from the Greencare III programme.
 - The project management of the recently opened MUGA and playground at Nubia Street which the council will be responsible for maintaining.
 - The council invested in Blythefield playground which benefited from a complete refurbishment programme in 2007/2008 with additional investment again 2008/2009).
 - Council officers from Cleansing Services responded to complaints about illegal fly-tipping at the back of shops on Sandy Row resolved the problem.
 - A number of community cleanups in the Greater Village and Sandy Row areas were organised by BCC Cleansing Services in Autumn 2009 as well as in January 2010. BCC Cleansing

staff also participated in an environmental walkabout of the Greater Village area in early November 2009.

- Cleansing Services has also carried out additional duties throughout the year upon request.
- The engagement of BCC Good Relations Unit regarding a community relations strategy is ongoing.
- In 2009 Community Safety Roaming Wardens carried out patrols over three months in the Greater Village area and before that in the Sandy Row area.
- Council officers from a number of services have attended and presented at NRP meetings.
- A council officer from Building Control was nominated as a point of contact for matters concerning the LOTS (Living Over The Shops) initiative. Agreement was granted for the officer's details to be published in marketing material related to the LOTS scheme.
- BCC's Economic Development Unit's engagement with the community and local businesses has been ongoing through a number of programmes such as the HARTE project.
- BCC Heritage Officer has met with a local youth group in the area.
- Additional information has been provided to the Partnership including Good Relations Welcome Guides, the council's A-Z directories and map of the NR area.

3. North Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships

1. Ligoniel Village Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership

- Following a seven month deferral of its functions as a Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership, LVNRP resumed meetings in May 2009.
- The partnership is in the process of creating a new short term action plan which will focus its work until June 2011. A consultancy firm has recently been appointed to assist the partnership with the production of the new action plan. Date for the publication of the action plan has yet to be confirmed.

Priority areas: The current action plan has identified the following priority areas: open space and environmental improvements, capacity building, volunteer development, young and older people, interface tension, community safety, housing development, open space and environmental improvements.

Council involvement to date: In addition to the statutory functions that the council carries out in the NRA, a number of specific actions have contributed to the delivery of NR:

- A council officer is currently represented on the Partnership.

- A formal response has been made to the action plan and a proposed plan to deliver council actions has been drafted for council.
- A Neighbourhood Development Officer has been appointed to work with the NR representative and the Partnership to help co-ordinate delivery of NR actions pertaining to council. The NDO has met with and continues to meet with members of the Partnership to deliver the action plan.
- A resource directory has been produced for the Partnership, which provides a breakdown of council services, local staff and initiatives.
- All NR actions have been coded on our database and categorised by relevant council theme and aligned with relevant council services.
- A detailed statistical breakdown and audit of services within the area has been completed.
- Council officers from parks, tourism and culture are working closely with the partnership's environmental sub-group in relation to the proposed development of an urban greenway which links Glenbank park, Ligoniel park, land owned by Ligoniel Improvement Association and land secured from private owners to the Belfast Hills. A detailed plan has been produced and launched detailing the greenway proposal.
- Via our Services for Young People group and Community Services the partnership received a grant of approximately £5,000 to deliver a programme of activities for young people between August and October 2009. With the funding received via "URCity2" the partnership provided the following: sporting and health/well being activities, healthy eating campaign and education programme, 'grow your own and eat it' horticultural project, activities for young people on preventing anti-social behaviour and a good relations programme
- The council has been instrumental in promoting volunteering opportunities via centre-based activities, involvement in user-groups and via the centre management committee.
- The Parks and Cemeteries section's Outreach Manager is working with groups in the Glenbank and Ligoniel areas to develop a community garden.
- The Ballysillan / Upper Ardoyne and Ligoniel Village Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships have re-established their Joint Forum
- Officers from Parks have been working with the partnership in relation to the open space landscaping and the Growing Together project in Glenbank park.
- Inter-generational activities are planned for the Community Centre, including a 'Make Do and Mend' talk between older people and local mothers during Waste Week, and a new digital media project involving older people working with local youth.
- A new Community Education Forum has been established (with Council representation) to coordinate / improve / promote educational opportunities within the community. Ligoniel Community Centre was the venue for education classes.

2. Ballysillan Upper Ardoyne Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership

The Partnership reviewed and updated its action plan in April 2009 . The Neighbourhood Development Officer continues to work with a partnership sub-group to explore how the council might contribute to the actions to which it has been linked.

Priority areas: educational under achievement, young people, community safety, capacity building, older people, development of open space and environmental improvements, interface tension, dog fouling,

Council involvement to date: In addition to the statutory functions that the council carries out in the NRA, a number of specific actions have contributed to the delivery of NR:

- A council officer is currently represented on the Partnership. The representative is also a member of the Youth sub-group.
- A formal response has been made to the action plan and a proposed plan to deliver council actions has been drafted for council.
- A Neighbourhood Development Officer has been appointed to work with the NR representative and the Partnership to help co-ordinate delivery of NR actions pertaining to council. All NR actions have been coded on our database and categorised by relevant council theme and aligned with relevant council services
- A resource directory has been produced for the Partnership, which provides a breakdown of council services, local staff and initiatives.
- A detailed statistical breakdown and audit of services within the area has been completed. This information will contribute directly to the Partnership's action in relation to the audit of service provision in the area
- A summer programme for People aged 50+ was organised via Concorde Community Centre: this involved a range of social and recreational activities, workshops and taster sessions, discussions and talks.. A winter activity programme is currently being delivered providing range of social, recreational and educational activities, focusing on health and well-being
- Via our Services for Young People group and Community Services the partnership received a grant of approximately £5,000 to deliver a programme of activities for young people between August and October 2009. With the funding received via "URCity2" the partnership provided the following: Health awareness roadshows, production of health education materials and publications.
- After school, youth activities, summer schemes and other seasonal events are provided for young people in Concorde community centre.
- Ballysillan playing fields and leisure centre are part of the Anti-social Behaviour programme. An action plan was produced for the area in consultation with the local community.
- A week-long community clean-up and environmental education programme was organised for the Ballysillan area called the 'Embrace

Project' in August 2009 which included participation from Community Services, SNAP, Cleansing Services, Waste Management, the Dog Warden service, Community Safety, and Parks and Leisure working in partnership with local organisations, churches and young people.

- The Dog Warden service held information sessions in Ballysillan leisure centre.

3. Crumlin Ardoyne Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership

The Partnership is presently developing its new action plan. Date of its publication has yet to be confirmed.

Priority areas: Based on its current plan the partnership has identified the following priority areas: capacity building, engaging advice services, increase young people, educational achievement, older people, alley-gating, interface areas, improved street lighting, community cleanups.

Council involvement to date: In addition to the statutory functions that the council carries out in the NRA, a number of specific actions have contributed to the delivery of NR:

- A council officer is currently represented on the Partnership.
- A formal response has been made to the action plan and a proposed plan to deliver council actions has been drafted for council.
- A Neighbourhood Development Officer has been appointed to work with the NR representative and the Partnership to help co-ordinate delivery of NR actions pertaining to council.
- All NR actions have been coded on our database and categorised by relevant council theme and aligned with relevant council services
- A resource directory has been produced for the Partnership, which provides a breakdown of council services, local staff and initiatives.
- A detailed statistical breakdown and audit of services within the area has been completed. This information will contribute directly to the Partnership's action in relation to the audit of service provision in the area
- Via our Services for Young People group and Community Services the partnership received a grant of approximately £5,000 to deliver a programme of activities for young people between August and October 2009. With the funding received via "URCity2" the partnership provided the following: A youth governance and participation programme for 72 young people; development and teambuilding residential for young people.
- Ardoyne Community Centre hosted a council information road-shows, with stalls and information from a range the council service providers
- Groups in the Partnership area received grant aid support from Community Services and Economic Development.
- Thirty-seven alley gates have been installed in the 'Little Americas' and Cavehill areas.

- Staff at Ardoyne community centre delivered a summer intervention programme in the greater Ardoyne area in partnership with fellow youth providers.
- Cleansing Services and Community Services staff took part in a graffiti removal project at Cliftonpark Avenue and on the Crumlin road.
- The Renewing the Routes programme has contributed to the revitalisation of the Crumlin Road with work such as: the refurbishment of the shop frontage at Ardoyne and the landscaping of green space and general planting.
- The community safety wardens have been deployed in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area since November 2009.

4. Inner North Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership:

The Inner North Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership produced a revised short term (to June 2011) action plan in October 2009. The action plan has 52 actions 33 of which have been linked to council services. The council's Neighbourhood Renewal Representative and Neighbourhood Development Officer have produced a list of quick win actions which could be completed by existing services. The partnership has taken several meetings to discuss its governance and the formation of sub groups. The neighbourhood Development officer will be meeting with the relevant Partnership sub-groups starting in March 2010 to agree a timeframe for the delivery of actions and resource requirements.

Priority areas: physical and economic development, health and wellbeing, children and young people, community infrastructure and capacity building, educational attainment, arterial routes, graffiti and vandalism, , creating shared space, high level of antisocial behaviour.

Council involvement to date: In addition to the statutory functions that the council carries out in the NRA, a number of specific actions have contributed to the delivery of NR:

- A council officer is currently represented on the Partnership.
- A formal response has been made to the action plan and a proposed plan to deliver council actions has been drafted for council.
- A Neighbourhood Development Officer has been appointed to work with the NR representative and the Partnership to help co-ordinate delivery of NR actions pertaining to council.
- All NR actions have been coded on our database and categorised by relevant council theme and aligned with relevant council services
- A resource directory has been produced for the Partnership, which provides a breakdown of council services, local staff and initiatives.
- A detailed statistical breakdown and audit of services within the area has been completed. This information will contribute directly to the Partnership's action in relation to the audit of service provision in the area
- Via our Services for Young People group and Community Services the partnership received a grant of approximately £5,000 to deliver a

programme of activities for young people between August and October 2009. With the funding received via “URCity2” the partnership provided a range of art workshops and joint activities which promoted good relations within the area. The artwork produced by the children and young people was showcased in St. Kevin’s Hall.

- Community Services has delivered and is currently evaluating a pilot capacity building programme which was delivered in Carrick Hill. This pilot programme has been discussed as a possible model to roll out capacity building in other areas in the NRA.
- The Renewing the Routes programme has contributed to the revitalisation of Clifton Street, Carlisle Circus and Antrim Roads. Shop frontage has been refurbished, churches, schools and an Orange hall have had extensive exterior work carried out, and there have been improvements to the landscaping and street furniture.
- The Art for Arterial Routes programme has created public pieces in the Carlisle Circus area.
- The Waterworks is part of the Anti-social Behaviour programme. An ASB action plan was produced for the area in consultation with the local community.
- Cleansing Services have responded to a number of requests for graffiti removal from local organisations in the area
- Several community clean-ups have been organised in the NRA
- Organisations in the area have received funding through Peace III to develop shared space projects.
- The community safety wardens have been deployed in the Neighbourhood Renewal Area since November 2009.

4. Greater Shankill Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships

1. Greater Shankill Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership:

The Greater Shankill Partnership is responsible for the development of the Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan. A sub group has been established to coordinate the work of nine task groups which have the responsibility of developing the action plan based on nine interrelated themes. The partnership held its second Community Convention in May 2009 which was used as an initial platform to gather views and opinions on the needs of the Shankill neighbourhood and current action plan. The nine task groups have been meeting since May to prepare the action plan. A draft action plan was due to be circulated within the partnership in December for comment and feedback before it is presented to the Shankill community at a convention, the date of which has yet to be confirmed. Once agreed by the partnership and the community it will be presented to statutory and public sector partners.

Priority areas: Based on the current plan the priority areas include: educational attainment, early years provision, youth provision, volunteer recruitment and development, develop tourism, health related services,

older and vulnerable people, the legacy of the Shankill feud, drug and alcohol misuse, antisocial behaviour, development of cultural tourism, strategic regeneration, and development of the arterial routes.

Council involvement to date: In addition to the statutory functions that the council carries out in the NRA, a number of specific actions have contributed to the delivery of NR:

- In November 2008 a council representative was selected onto the Partnership and attends meetings regularly.
- A formal response has been made to the action plan and a proposed plan to deliver council actions has been drafted for council.
- A Neighbourhood Development Officer has been appointed to work with the NR representative and the Partnership to help co-ordinate delivery of NR actions pertaining to council.
- All NR actions have been coded on our database and categorised by relevant council theme and aligned with relevant council services
- A resource directory has been produced for the Partnership, which provides a breakdown of council services, local staff and initiatives.
- A detailed statistical breakdown and audit of services within the area has been completed. This information will contribute directly to the Partnership's action in relation to the audit of service provision in the area
- Via our Services for Young People group and Community Services the partnership received a grant of approximately £5,000 to deliver a programme of activities for young people between August and October 2009. With the funding received via "URCity2" the partnership provided an art and environmental project 'Buzz of the Shankill' using photography to highlight issues relevant to children and young people. The photographs and work of the young people were showcased.
- The community centres provide facilities to support early years development.
- The Renewing the Routes programme has contributed to the revitalisation of business premises along the Lower Shankill, Shankill and Woodvale Roads.
- The Renewing the Routes programmes has also contributed to the development of the area's tourism potential through the production and placing of signage and via public realm improvement works at four key junctions on the route: Agnes Street, Lanark Way, Woodvale Park and Peter's Hill, The work included resurfacing, emphasising pedestrian-priority areas, planting and street furniture. Associated work includes hanging baskets and street lighting embellishments at the main junctions.
- The Renewing the Routes programme has contributed significantly to the physical regeneration of the greater Shankill area including: Shankill Road Gateways, West Belfast Orange Hall, Woodvale Presbyterian Church, West Kirk Presbyterian Church, Shankill Rest Garden, and Shankill Library.
- A 'Family Tree' sculpture has been erected in Woodvale Park.

- A bronze sculpture has been erected In Brown Square.
- A Community Safety network was established as one of the task groups of the Greater Shankill Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership.
- Woodvale Park was selected as part of the Safer Neighbourhood Antisocial Behaviour Pilot programme. The council worked with community groups and members of the public to create an action plan for the park.
- Plans have been progressing steadily on the development of the Woodvale Park. The Neighbourhood Development Officer has been working closely with Stephen Walker, Principal Parks and Cemeteries Development Manager, to gather relevant statistical data about the park's catchment area and explore neighbourhood development and engagement opportunities. The Neighbourhood Development Officer is also participating in the Thematic Co-ordinators Group in relation to the refurbishment of both the Woodvale and Dunville Parks. An internal BCC Risk/ Benefit workshop regarding the refurbishment and future development of the Woodvale and Dunville parks took place on the 4th of March.

4. East Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships

1. Inner East Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership

The Partnership carried out a review of its action plan in January 2009. At its meeting in March 2009, the Partnership decided that it would meet once every two months instead of monthly.

Priority areas: development of Templemore Avenue, Holywood Arches, Newtownards Road, link with Titanic Quarter, transportation, housing, Connswater Community Greenway, educational achievement, lack of youth facilities, weak and ad hoc community infrastructure, interface tension and crime.

Council involvement to date: In addition to the statutory functions that the council carries out in the area, a number of specific actions have contributed to the delivery of NR:

- A formal response has been made to the NR action plan
- A formal response has been made to the action plan and a proposed plan to deliver council actions has been drafted for council.
- A council officer is currently represented on the Partnership.
- A Neighbourhood Development Officer has been appointed to work with the NR representative and the Partnership to help co-ordinate delivery of NR actions pertaining to council.
- All NR actions have been coded on our database and categorised by relevant council theme and aligned with relevant council services
- A resource directory has been produced for the Partnership, which provides a breakdown of council services, local staff and initiatives.

- A detailed statistical breakdown and audit of services within the area has been completed. This information will contribute directly to the Partnership's action in relation to the audit of service provision in the area
- Via our Services for Young People group and Community Services the partnership received a grant of approximately £5,000 to deliver a programme of activities for young people between August and October 2009. With the funding received via "URCity2" the partnership provided: Connecting cultures through music and radio project, creativity and arts activities, youth diversionary activities, gardening and environmental workshops/activities, drama workshops, health and well-being workshops and activities and programmes to explore and share cultures.
- It was agreed by the partnership that the seven actions relating to physical regeneration and transportation would be best placed in the East Belfast Strategic Regeneration Framework.
- The council has been an active partner in the planning of the Connswater Greenway Project and will contribute over £3 million to its development.
- The Community Safety roaming warden scheme has worked in east Belfast areas over the past year in The Mount, Newtownards Road and Short Strand.
- Avoniel Park, Avoniel Leisure Centre, Orangefield Park and Dixon Playing Fields are part of the Safer Neighbourhood Antisocial Behaviour Programme.

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Bi-monthly Departmental Briefing Document
Date:	10 March 2010
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development ext 3470 Shirley McCay Head of Economic Initiatives ext 3459
Contact Officer:	Barbary Cook, Policy and Business Development Manager, ext. 3620

Relevant Background Information

Members will be aware that in January the Committee agreed the format for a regular bi-monthly Development briefing update. This update was introduced in response to an ongoing issue identified by Members Services - that the Development Committee agenda had become quite large in recent times. The aim of the update is to allow the Department to keep Members informed on the progress of initiatives and projects within the Department, while reducing the number of items appearing on Development Committee agendas.

Key Issues

The Policy and Business Development Unit has produced and will distribute the first bi-monthly update to all Members in March 2010. This update covers the following items:

- Economic Development's programme update - Current events and programmes managed by Economic Development to increase business start-ups and help companies become more competitive.
- Business survey 2010 - Summary of research into business confidence and areas identified where support is needed. This will help shape the development of the new Local Economic Development (LED) Plan.
- B-Team - Update on new European project called the B-Team. Belfast is the lead partner in the project which will focus on improving regional policies on Brownfield redevelopment
- St George's Market recognition – Update on St George's recently being ranked 6th best overall market in the UK in a survey carried out by The Guardian newspaper.
- Poverty strategy - Progress on the development of a poverty strategy for Belfast

City Council to coincide with the European Year of Social Exclusion.

- Green electricity at the North Foreshore - Update on the North Foreshore green electricity generation facility which has been operational since September 2009.
- Renewing the Routes - Information on the final stages of the current phase of the Renewing the Routes programme.
- NILGA award for Ulster Hall - Ulster Hall picked up the 'Best Improvement Project' award at the 2009 Northern Ireland Local Government Association annual awards.
- Tourism Innovation Fund - £462,000 of NITB and European Regional Development Funds have been awarded to develop Belfast's tourism offering and stimulate product development

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members:

Note the contents of the first Members' update.

Decision Tracking

Next Members' update to be produced and distributed in April 2010.

Time frame: March 2010

Reporting Officer: Barbary Cook