

Development Committee

Tuesday, 15th February, 2011

MEETING OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- Members present: Councillor C. Maskey (Chairman);
the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Humphrey); and
Councillors Crozier, Ekin, Garrett, Groves, Hargey,
Kirkpatrick, Kyle, Lavery, Mac Giolla Mhín, McKee, Mallon,
Mullaghan, J. Rodgers, P. Robinson and Rodway.
- In attendance: Mr. J. McGrillen, Director of Development;
Ms. S. McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives;
Ms. C. Taggart, Community Development Manager;
Mr. T. Husbands, Head of City Events and Venues;
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer; and
Mr. B. Flynn, Democratic Services Officer.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 12th and 25th January were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st February.

Music Television European Music Awards (MTV)

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“Relevant Background Information

To update Members on the bid to host Europe’s biggest music awards event, MTV Europe Music Awards (EMA). The original permission to bid was previously presented and agreed by Members in August 2010.

It has been provisionally confirmed that Belfast has won the bidding process to host the 2011 MTV EMAs. The event, if agreed by Council, would be co-funded with NITB (subject to contractual arrangements between MTV and BCC) and take place in the Odyssey Arena, along with satellite events leading up to the EMAs.

The event would take place on Sunday 6th November (Sunday evening is the peak viewing time across the MTV European network) and would be broadcast live across Europe and also be seen by global audiences. The Belfast event would involve a series of activities in the week leading up to the awards culminating with the main event, which would be staged in the Odyssey Arena.

In March 2010 Member's agreed to fund and deliver an MTV Music Week in conjunction with MTV Europe. This event ran from the 13 to 20 September 2010 and culminated with a Mark Ronson concert at the Belfast Waterfront and generated in excess of £1.6m for the Belfast economy.

The proposed 2011 events would have a week long series of events and smaller concerts that will showcase the city and also provide a substantial platform to profile the Belfast music industry. The proposed staging of this major event is inline with the Council's Integrated Strategic Framework for Belfast Tourism (2010-2015) as the document identifies high profile events as a development opportunity that will allow the city to continue to build a strong reputation as a vibrant location with unique and exciting experiences that encourage new and repeat tourism visits.

In addition at the Development Committee in December 2008, Members noted that Visit Britain's research showed that 21% of potential visitors were 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. Due to the work of the Council and partners over the last number of years Belfast's music has received international praise and the latest generation of Belfast musicians are playing a crucial role in revitalising the city. In addition music tourism has also been identified as new product that should be developed, packaged and promoted by cities.

It would be proposed that lead in events for the EMAs would see the Council's Tourism, Culture and Arts and Economic Development Units (along with the Belfast music industry, NITB, ACNI, BBC and Tourism Ireland) creating a number of music related products to 'show-off' the city's cultural music base. These would include, but would not be limited to: the Belfast Music Coach Tour; the Belfast Music Exhibition at the Oh Yeah Centre; the creation of one-off unique gigs; the promotion of Belfast's music listings website, Belfastmusic.org; the promotion of Belfast's music i-phone application; and international showcasing and marketing of Belfast's musicians. All with MTV's endorsement.

Creative Industries – Music Development

The Committee is also reminded that Council'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 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 headlines in the international marketplace and new and innovative music businesses based in Belfast, BCC is playing a significant role for this industry e.g. participation at the prestigious South by Southwest Media Conference and showcase, which has shown returns of over \$500,000 leverage each year for participating artists from the city.

All in all the hosting of the MTV EMAs will underpin all this activity and provide a truly international platform for the city.

Therefore, taking the integral role that BCC now plays in the development and support of music, Members are now being asked to agree to hosting and staging of the most prestigious music event in Europe – the MTV Europe Music Awards (EMAs).

2011 and 2012

The 2011 EMAs event would certainly profile Belfast as a world-class music destination, a place which has a new, modern and exciting future. The week of activities prior to the awards will give a concentrated focus on the promotion of indigenous musicians to show Belfast's rich musical heritage, thriving contemporary musical scene and promote and highlight the city's distinctiveness. These lead events would also involve international music stars which local audiences could attend at low or no cost.

Additionally the event will give a significant platform for Belfast's 2012 activities focused around the opening of the Titanic Signature Building. In fact MTV have made it a condition of hosting the EMAs in 2011 that they want to be part of the 2012 programme. However, this involvement is not free and would come with a price tag of £500,000. Therefore, Members are also asked to provide permission to part fund this event, in the 2012, at a cost of £250,000 to BCC (NITB have provisionally agreed to £250,000). If permitted, Officers would seek to identify funding within Council's existing budgets, and those of external partners, to enable MTV to be included in any planned 2012 events.

Key Issues

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 MTV Music websites. 65% of MTV's adult viewers in Europe are aged 15-34.

The MTV EMAs alone attracts a live television audience of up to 22 million viewers across Europe on the night of the awards and up to 500 million viewers via recorded and edited showings. It has been hosted in cities from Berlin to Stockholm, Barcelona to Rome, Dublin to Munich and Copenhagen to Liverpool. The following table highlights some of the outputs for previous host cities:

Host City	Output
Edinburgh 2003	Economic impact £8.9 million Return on investment £1:£11.9 Viewing figures 12-14 million Total airtime coverage 77 hours Media value of coverage £13 million Web visits - No details available
Copenhagen 2006	Economic impact £6.1million Return on investment £1:£8.13 Viewing figures 465 million Total airtime coverage 55 hours Media value of coverage £4 million Web visits 29 million
Liverpool 2008*	Economic impact £2 million Return on investment £1:£6 Viewing figures - No details available Total airtime coverage – No details available Media value of coverage - No details available Web visits - No details available

* This event was one of 25 signature events as part of Liverpool's European City of Culture year and the superficial nature of the outputs may be a reflection that EMAs was one of many events in Liverpool during this year.

This event would be co-hosted and co-funded by NITB with additional funding being sought from ACNI; DETI and INI with the overall aims of the initiative being:

- To host the world-class music event in partnership with MTV Europe.
- To attract 7,500 Audience to EMAs with 25% out-of-state visitors
- 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 an additional MTV Music week event 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 EMAs event in the Odyssey Arena. The key objective being to put Belfast on everyone's destination wish list, ahead of our competitors and provide a significant level of profile for Belfast. The nature of the MTV EMAs will see the best global pop acts descend on the city creating a vibrancy and media coverage that will surpass any previous large-scale event staged in Belfast or Northern Ireland.

Resource Implications

Finance

The overall estimated budget required to deliver this project, in 2011, would be £750,000. This figure is based on knowledge gained from previous host city bids. It would be recommended that BCC should invest £320,000 into this event, with the proposal that the remaining budget comes from: NITB - £320,000; Tourism Ireland - £50,000; DCAL - £20,000 and £40,000 private sector and others.

BCC's proposed contribution, for 2011, would not be new money or additional to the current budgets. It would be made up of the City Events Unit's £100,000 events bidding finances 2011-2012 and £200,000 from Department's finances. Members should note that usage of these finances would mean that there would be no additional monies available to bid or host other major events in this financial period 2011/12.

The finance for the suggested 2012 MTV input at £500,000 would also be sought from existing finances. Possible sources would be the allocation of BCC's finances from proposed 2012 programme.

Equality and Good Relations Considerations

None

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members agree the following:

- Approval to host the 2011 MTV EMAs
- BCC to contribute £320,000 to the hosting this event
- Officers secure further funding from partners, including DETI, DCAL, NITB, Tourism Ireland, NI Screen and commercial sponsors, in order to further finance MTV EMAs 2011
- To provisionally commit £250,000 to MTV's input to any Council agreed 2012 initiatives based around the Titanic theme, at a total cost of £500,000. Members are asked to note that NITB have agreed in principle to support this initiative to the sum of £250,000 also.

Decision Tracking

Further to any possible BCC ratification, an update will be brought to Committee regarding partner funding and MTV's involvement in any Titanic 2012 initiatives.

Time line: May 2011 Reporting Officer: Tim Husbands

Key to Abbreviations

NITB – Northern Ireland Tourist Board
ACNI – Arts Council of Northern Ireland
DETI – Department for Enterprise, Trade and Investment
DCAL – Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Presentation – Belfast Civic Trust

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 10th November, it had agreed to receive a presentation from representatives of the Belfast Civic Trust in relation to its proposals for the establishment of a Belfast History Centre. It was reported that Messrs W. Dickson, F. Bell and D. Flinn were in attendance and they were admitted to the meeting and welcomed by the Chairman.

Mr. Flinn outlined the aims and objectives of the Belfast Civic Trust and explained that it sought to preserve the Victorian and Edwardian architectural heritage of Belfast. The Committee was advised that the Trust held regular meetings with planning, environmental and cultural groups in respect of the preservation of important buildings and organised lectures on the historical heritage of the City. Mr. Flinn explained that the Trust aimed to establish a Belfast History Centre within which a historical project known as 'The Belfast Story' would be a focal point. He indicated that the Trust was in discussion with a number of bodies, including the Ulster Museum, in respect of acquiring items pertinent to the City's history which could be displayed as part of 'The Belfast Story' and stressed that the Trust wished to work in partnership with the Council in the development of 'The Belfast Story'. Mr. Flinn then thanked the Committee for receiving the deputation.

The representatives of the Civic Trust then answered a number of questions from the Members and retired from the meeting.

After discussion, the Committee noted the information which had been provided and agreed that officers from the Department contact the Trust to outline the various Council funding initiatives which might be relevant to the organisation.

Regional Development Strategy – 10 Year Review

The Committee agreed to hold a special meeting at 12.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 24th March in order to consider a draft response to the Regional Development Strategy Consultation – 10 Year Review. In addition, it was agreed that an invitation to attend this meeting be extended to all Members of the Council.

2012 Events and Titanic Quarter Development

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Relevant Background Information

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek agreement on the membership of steering groups to oversee –

1. The Titanic Centenary, the Olympic celebrations and the associated promotion of the City to the international tourism market;

2. The ongoing development of Titanic Quarter

1.2 The report will also update Members on progress in the development of the NI 2012 business case to the N.I. Executive.

- 1.3 At a meeting of the Development Committee on 5th November 2010 a report was brought forward on Belfast and Northern Ireland 2012. The report highlighted the fact that 2012 would be marked by a number of high profile events, which provided an opportunity to market Northern Ireland and Belfast in the international market place and in doing so create a step change in the contribution which international tourism could make to the economy of Belfast and Northern Ireland.

The events include –

- The centenary of RMS Titanic
- The opening of the Titanic Signature Project
- The opening of the MAC
- The 50th anniversary of the Belfast Festival at Queen's
- The 150th anniversary of the Ulster Hall
- The opening of the SS Nomadic
- The completion of the Giants Causeway Visitor Centre

- 1.4 The report also highlighted that in addition to those events, the staging of the 2012 Olympic Games in London presented significant opportunities for Belfast to become involved in the wider activities relating to the Games including:

- the installation of a 'live screen' in the grounds of City Hall;
- participation in the Legacy Trusts Community Celebrations via the Land of Giants proposal; and
- the staging of the Olympic Torch Relay.

- 1.5 Following discussion, the Committee agreed that:

- an All-Party Steering Group be established to oversee the Council's input into the 2012 Programme and the development of the Titanic Quarter;
- authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Town Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive, to sign a legal agreement in regard to facilitating the Olympic Torch Relay; and
- to allocate, in principle, the sum of £600K to a Land of Legends Programme for Belfast in 2012 subject to a further report providing a more detailed analysis of the Programme and a breakdown of the costs being submitted to the Committee and the allocation of a further £200K be considered by the aforementioned Steering Group.

- 1.6 In the course of the discussion of the report, a number of Members indicated there would be a number of historic centenaries occurring over the period 2012/2022, which the Council would need to consider in addition to those identified in the report.
- 1.7 At the Council meeting of 1 December, 2010 it was decided that an All-Party Steering Group be established to oversee the Council's input into the 2012 Programme and the development of the Titanic Quarter; that the group consider the issue of the decade of centenaries and that a core set of principles should be developed which would apply to all these events.
- 1.8 Subsequent to the Council meeting, a report was tabled at the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee seeking Members' direction on how they would want to take the matter forward and to determine the allocation of responsibilities to the Development Committee and the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.
- 1.9 The Committee decided an All-Party Working Group be established, which would be convened from the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to consider historic centenaries over the next decade and that a further report on the Steering Group being created to deal principally with the Titanic and the Olympic Games celebrations and the marketing of the City related thereto would be submitted to the Development Committee. For the sake of completeness, the Historic Centenaries Working Group, reporting to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee, has now been established and had its initial meeting on Monday 7 February.

The purpose of this report is to deal with the Titanic and Olympic celebrations.

- 1.10 At a special meeting of the Development Committee on 30th November 2010, the Committee considered progress on the Titanic Quarter Memorandum Of Understanding. Following the progress report, the Committee agreed that further consideration should be given to the setting up of an All-Party Steering Group to oversee the development of Titanic Quarter, which would be separate from the All-Party Group established to oversee the 2012 events. That recommendation was accepted by Council at its meeting on 5th January, 2011.

That recommendation now needs to be considered in line with the recommendation of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee set out above.

2 Key Issues

2012 Events

2.1 At the special Development Committee meeting on 5th November, 2010 the Committee was provided with a copy of the draft 2012 Events Programme commissioned by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board.

2.2 The purpose of the above report was to provide the basis for a business case which is to be presented to the Northern Ireland Executive to secure funding for the events outlined with the Programme.

The key objectives of the business case are –

- create a positive and distinct visitor experience for those visiting Belfast and Northern Ireland in 2012;
- showcase Belfast and Northern Ireland on the local, national and international stage as a unique place to live, learn, work and visit;
- explore notable events in Belfast and Northern Ireland's culture and heritage and celebrate its major contribution to the world;
- build an awareness in Belfast and Northern Ireland that will motivate tourists to visit during 2012 and thus create a step change in the number of international visitors in the future;
- develop a volunteer greeters' programme to ensure a warm welcome and a quality visitor experience at events; and
- develop a sense of belonging and pride amongst local people.

2.3 Following the presentation of the draft report in November, a creative team was drawn together from Northern Ireland's cultural community supported by James Waters of Festivals and Events International (FEI). On 31 January, a final NI 2012 programme was presented to the NI 2012 Steering, which was chaired by DETI Permanent Secretary, David Sterling. A copy of the report is attached (Appendix 1).

- 2.4 A large number of potential projects were considered by the creative team from which 7 Tier One signature projects have been identified.

They are –

- Titanic Signature Launch (Belfast)
- Land of Giants (Belfast)
- Clipper (Derry/Londonderry)
- PeaceOne and PeaceCamp (Derry/Londonderry)
- Giants Causeway Visitor Centre Opening
- Belfast Festival at Queen's
- Magic Lantern – Titanic stories (Web presence)

- 2.5 The detail of each of these proposed projects is set out in Appendix 1, however, it should be noted that the Titanic Signature Launch consists of a series of 5 events to be spread over a period of time.

They are –

- A Visionary High – Tech Light Show projected onto to the Titanic Signature building;
- Titanic on Trial – a play commissioned by Belfast Festival at Queen's;
- Choirs and Songs of Belfast, a cross-community choral project celebrating the traditional songs of the City involving over 1,000 people;
- Major Rock event on the Titanic Shipways.

- 2.6 The Land of Giants project has secured funding of £750K from the Cultural Olympiad Legacy Trust and is the subject of a separate report to this meeting of the Development Committee

- 2.7 It is proposed that the Tier One events would be supported by a number of other high quality Tier 2 events, which would contribute to the success of N.I. 2012. It is anticipated this would typically be existing events which could bid for additional funding from the NITB Events budget.

- 2.8 The total cost of delivering and marketing the programme of Tier One and Tier 2 events is in the region of £6.6m. It is recognised, however, that this is subject to the business case being acceptable to the N.I. Executive and funding being allocated accordingly.

2.9 In recognition that the full funding package may not be realised, the Tier One events have been prioritised as follows;

- Titanic Belfast Launch;
- Belfast Festival at Queens;
- Clipper;
- Land of Giants;
- Giants Causeway;
- Cultural Olympiad Projects;
- Magic Lantern – Titanic Stories.

It is the view of the consultants that at least 4 of the above list would need to proceed if the initiative is to achieve its objectives.

2.10 It is anticipated that the Belfast City Council Events Team would oversee the Titanic Belfast Launch events.

2.11 The DETI Permanent Secretary has agreed to submit a cross-departmental business case to the NI Executive on behalf of all the relevant Government departments who are involved in the funding and delivery of the NI 2012 Programme.

2.12 2012 Olympics

In addition to the Cultural Olympiad Legacy project, Land of Giants referred to above, the Council's main involvement is the 2012 Olympic celebrations will be in the Olympic Torch Relay. The London Olympics Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (LOGOC) have written to the Council confirming receipt of the Council's Letter of Agreement to Belfast becoming a Host Community for the Relay. Under the agreement the Council are bound to a confidentiality clause until the programme is launched.

2.13 The next steps therefore remain confidential at this stage, however, once they become known a further report will be brought to the Committee for its consideration.

2.14 As highlighted in Paragraph 1.9 above, the Development Committee at its meeting on 30th November 2010, asked that consideration be given to setting up a separate All-Party Steering Group to oversee development of the Titanic Quarter, which would be distinct from that proposed to look after the 2012 Titanic and Olympic events programme.

2.15 Having considered the complexity of the issues relating to the development of Titanic Quarter and the delivery of the objectives of the Titanic Memorandum of Understanding and the scale of the 2012 Events Programme, officers would agree that 2 distinct and separate working groups would be the most appropriate way forward.

2.16 A separate report on the development of the Titanic Quarter will be brought to the Committee in due course.

3 Resource Implications

3.1 Financial Resources

The overall projected expenditure associated with the Programme is £6.4m.

At its meeting of 5 November, 2010 the Committee agreed, in principle, the sum of £600K to the Events Programme for Belfast in 2012 subject to a more detailed analysis of the Programme and a breakdown of the costs. It was further agreed that a further £400K be considered by the aforementioned Steering Group.

3.2 Human Resources

The Belfast City Events Team will provide administrative support and expert advice to the company set up to deliver the Land of Giants project. In addition, it is anticipated that it will take the lead in delivering the Titanic Launch element of the NI 2012 Programme and support LOGOG – organising the Olympic Torch run.

The Events Team will be supported by officers across the Council in the form of a cross-departmental 2012 Events Team.

4 Equality and Good Relations Considerations

4.1 The Titanic Belfast projects and the Land of Giants are to be designed to ensure the engagement of all sections of the community across the City. The Council's Good Relations Unit will participate in the cross-departmental 2012 Events Team.

5 Recommendations

5.1 Members are asked to:

1. Agree the memberships of All-Party Working Groups to oversee;
 - The 2012 Events Programme, the associated marketing of the City and the events relating to the 2012 Olympic Games;
 - The development of Titanic Quarter.
2. Endorse the NI 2012 Events Programme set out in Appendix 1.
3. Support the proposal that a cross-departmental business case be submitted to the NI Executive for the allocation of funding for the NI 2012 Programme.
4. Consider how the Council contribute to gaining political support for the proposal.
5. Note that a further report on the development of Titanic Quarter will come to Committee at a future date.

6 Decision Tracking

Regular reports will be brought to the Development Committee via the All-Party Working Groups.”

After discussion, during which the Director of Development outlined how the programme of activities would appeal to local communities throughout Belfast, the Committee adopted the recommendations as set out in the foregoing report.

Legacy Trust and Land of the Giants Proposal

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Relevant Background Information

1.1 Legacy Trust UK

The purpose of this paper is to seek direction from Members on issues of funding and personnel input to the Land of Giants event, which been successful in securing £750,000 from the Legacy Trust (see attached Land of Giants Project Plan in Appendix 1). This event will be a significant part of the 2012 Cultural Olympiad. In February 2010 the Legacy

Trust UK publicly announced the Community Celebrations programme. This programme provided an opportunity for four projects to access up to £4 million of finance and to link with other cities, regions, festivals to create unique celebrations building up to the 2012 Games. The Legacy Trust's vision is to support community celebrations that identify a moment that deserves enhancing – a chance to do something spectacular, extraordinary and innovative connected to the staging of the Olympic Games.

1.2 Belfast Consortium

In September 2010 Council approved that Officers should provide administrative support for the locally based consortium which consists of: Belfast Circus School; the Beat Initiative and Belfast Children's Festival in their bid to secure £750k to stage a large scale community focused cultural event in Belfast in 2012. This bid has now been successfully made, and the Belfast consortium is now in the position to access up to £750,000 from the Legacy Trust, but this is subject to securing both BCC and NITB financial contributions to the project.

- 1.3 The proposed event would combine carnival, circus, music and spectacle with local and international artists, underpinned by a substantial 18 month community engagement and education programme. The proposal has the potential to build the capacity and confidence of the creative industries in Belfast by harnessing indigenous talent for future work on a regional, national and international scale. The Belfast project also has the prospect to create jobs and grow the creative industries in the city. It presents a unique tourism offer, tying in with Northern Ireland's signature projects, the Giant's Causeway and Titanic in 2012, while generating substantial visitor numbers, bed nights, employment and generating a positive international profile for Belfast and contributing to the growth of cultural tourism. The successful project draws its inspiration from the many Giants of our regions shared and diverse history e.g. Jonathon Swift's Gulliver & Cave Hill, Finn MacCool, Cuchulainn, Samson and Goliath, Titanic and Giant's Causeway. The project is designed to capture a vision of the city and its population as being 'giant' in our ideas, our talent and our heritage.

2 Key Issues

2.1 Project/Business Plan

In order to obtain a release of the first tranche of Legacy Trust finances, it is a condition that a definite commitment of financial support from key stakeholders is obtained. BCC has been identified by the consortium as a potential key funder, alongside DCAL/ACNI & DETI/NITB. A full breakdown of costs is contained in the Project Plan attached to this Committee Report as Appendix 1, to which BCC is now being asked to consider a contribution of £80,000 to the project.

2.2 Delivery Vehicle

The consortium has now been formed into a special purpose vehicle limited company. The establishment of this not-for-profit organisation will manage the project, with an oversight body comprising representation from key funders, similar to the model adopted the Tall Ships in 2009. It is requested that there is Councillor representation on the Board of the Land of Giants company in addition to Council officer(s) input, although the proposed limited entity would be separate and have no legal connection to the Council. Details of the management and governance of the project are contained in the appendix to this report.

2.3 Potential Benefits

It is envisaged that the project would engage an estimated 60,000 people; have the potential to generate an estimated £2 million return for the local economy; generate positive international profile and build capacity in the arts and events management to deliver future large-scale events, such as the Derry/Londonderry City of Culture, the World Police and Fire Games, and the Commonwealth Games.

3 Resource Implications

3.1 Financial

There are two financial models being put forward by the group for consideration to deliver the Land of Giants project, one with a minimum required budget of £1.010m and the other requiring a maximum budget of £1.3m. BCC are being asked to consider a contribution of £80,000 in either scenario.

The total funding for the project would consist of the following elements, all of which are subject to confirmation.

3.2 Option One

Maximum – Budget 1

Legacy Trust UK	£750,000 (secured subject to additional funding being sourced)
NI Tourist Board	£400,000 (secured subject DETI funding review)
Belfast City Council	£ 80,000
Arts Council of NI	£ 80,000 (secured subject DCAL funding review)
TOTAL	£1,310,000

3.3 Option Two

Minimum – Budget 2

Legacy Trust UK	£750,000 (secured subject to additional funding being sourced)
NI Tourist Board	£100,000 (secured subject DETI funding review)
Belfast City Council	£ 80,000
Arts Council of NI	£ 80,000 (secured subject DETI funding review)
TOTAL	£1,010,000

As stated, the maximum amount in either case that is being requested from Belfast City Council would be £80,000.

3.4 Given current budgetary constraints it is proposed that this could be sourced from the Council's similar level of current contribution to the annual Belfast Carnival that traditionally introduces the new Lord Mayor to the city. However, if Members were inclined to authorise this use of finance, it would be conditional that the Land of Giants project recognise the Lord Mayor's input into the planning of the project, and integrating the role into the celebrations.

3.5 Personnel

It is requested that Members agree that Officers continue to assist with the project within the various work strands, and that two Councillors be nominated to the Board of the Land of Giants Company.

4 Equality and Good Relations Considerations

There are no equality or good relations considerations attached to this report

5 Recommendations

Members are recommended to give approval that:

1. BCC fund the project to the maximum level of £80,000 on the basis of existing Council finances being sourced for this project, within the context of planned 2012 activity. It is proposed that this finance would come from the Council's existing contribution to the annual Belfast Carnival, that traditionally introduces the new Lord Mayor to Belfast
2. The Committee nominate two Councillors to the Board of the Land of Giants
3. Officers are permitted to continue to provide input and guidance to the Land of Giants project and advise the company within the various work strands created to deliver the event

6 Decision Tracking

Further to approval, officers will monitor funding and evaluate the outcomes of the project and provide post-project details as part of the Department's annual review. These outcomes will be presented to Members as part of the City Events Unit key performance indicators.

Timeline: March 2013 Reporting Officer: Gerry Copeland"

The Committee adopted the recommendations and noted that the nominees to the Board of the Land of the Giants would be appointed under the current d'Hondt system for determining appointments to outside bodies.

**Options for Development of
Conference Facilities in Belfast**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

"1 Relevant Background Information

1.1 Northern Ireland Context

The current NITB Business Tourism Plan for 2010 to 2013 includes the objective to increase both volume and value from Business Tourism. In addition, the NITB Business Visitor Attitude Survey in June 2010 highlighted the following:

- 1.2 **'The lack of large scale fully integrated conference facilities conference and exhibition space under one roof, is viewed as the cause of lost conference/meetings/exhibition business. This lack of large scale capacity at conference venues was also highlighted in the earlier 2005/06 survey.'**
- 1.3 **Among suggested improvements, was the need for a new purpose built large, integrated conference and exhibition space that can cater for large conferences and also for large gala dinners.**
- 1.4 **Traditionally many national associations chose the locations of their conferences on a rotation system and increasingly they demand high quality conference venues with state of the art facilities and high levels of service. Their requirements include adequate provision of electronic communications technology, flexible space for syndicate/breakout rooms and there is now a greater need for exhibition space. This is an area in which NI is currently finding difficult to provide as the current facilities offer limited integrated conference and exhibition space. Organisers also look for high quality transport systems to and within a destination, plus venue, accommodation, restaurants and post conference entertainment in close proximity.**
- 1.5 **However, the Association Conference market, both national and international is becoming increasingly competitive, and NI is currently unable to compete for a percentage of this market due to the limited product capacity, in particular conference venues that can house 800-2000 delegates under one roof, including main auditorium, break out spaces, exhibition and dining facilities.**
- 1.6 **Most of the conferences held in NI, in particular in Belfast, currently fall into this sector. For example, in 2009 Belfast welcomed a total of 59 Association conferences, 36 of which were National Associations, generating £17million for the economy. Ambassadors play a big role in the success of bringing these conferences to NI with 70-78% of all wins being connected with an Ambassador. NI's particular strengths lie in attracting Association Conferences with links to the skills and industries associated with specialist fields of academia and medicine. Within the bidding process, NI cities compete with cities such as Glasgow, Edinburgh, Newcastle, Liverpool and Manchester. NI has been successful in this sector due to its high quality product provision, strong Ambassador Programme, compact cities**

and personal services. The Business visitor Attitude Survey 2006, indicated that NI was perceived as a 'new' business tourism destination. However, as the dynamics of the sector have changed, a reliance on subvention and significant exhibition space with integrated conference and break out facilities is apparent. As NI currently has only a modest subvention programme and lacks integrated exhibition facilities, business is being lost and Belfast in particular is experiencing an erosion of its conference market share.

1.7 Belfast Context

In July 2008, Belfast City Council commissioned a feasibility study for new conference and exhibition facilities within the city. The study was initiated as a result of the fact that Belfast was finding it increasingly difficult to compete within the sector where it has been successful in recent years, namely the 'not for profit' or association sector, both nationally and internationally. Evidence of this has been the gradually reducing level of conference business in recent years, at the city's main venue, the Waterfront Hall.

1.8 To retain and increase current market share, there is a need for large clear span exhibition space and additional breakout rooms to support conference facilities, as well as large scale (c1,000 pax) banqueting facilities. Conference organisers require exhibition space to secure sponsors in order to make their events financially viable. The exhibition and breakout space must be close to the other conference facilities in order to encourage delegates to visit exhibition stands and to ensure they are not lost travelling to/from breakout sessions. In terms of banqueting space, although the city is well served by the hotel sector, the current maximum capacity available in the city is 750.

1.9 These needs are recognised and referenced in a number of places within the Belfast Integrated Strategic framework document 2010-14, particularly within the section of 'Visionary Drivers', where it states that :

'There is a need for new or extended integrated conference and exhibition facilities in the city, in response to growing competition and certain current deficiencies (e.g. lack of dedicated exhibition space). Significant work has already been undertaken to identify possible solutions to this product gap. With Dublin's new conference centre opening in 2010, there is now an urgent need to review options and potential delivery with a view to plugging Belfast's infrastructure weaknesses within the next 3-5 years if not before'.

1.10 The framework document recommends that a long term development and feasibility study is carried out.

1.11 Whilst business tourism is a vital element of the city's Tourism Product, contributing annually £6 - £7m to the local economy, Belfast will find it ever more difficult to compete in the future, therefore continuing to experience the erosion of its market share, unless enhanced facilities are provided in the future.

1.12 Hotel and Service Sector

It should also be noted that both the Northern Ireland Hotels Federation and BVCB have also expressed concern over Belfast's current ability to compete effectively in the Business Tourism market, and supports the need for the city to invest in appropriate facilities in order to allow it to do so. The Federation notes that 'the business visitor is critical in Belfast's success as a destination, and that the weekday economy depends heavily on this sector, with the business tourist spending £127/day against the leisure visitor's spend of £37/day'.

2 Key Issues

2.1 The Market Opportunity

The most recent industry estimate of the overall value of the Business Visits and Events in the UK is £24 billion, with the conference market making up approximately £8 billion of this total in terms of value to UK venues, with the exhibition market valued at £9.3 billion. This does not include the indirect spend and economic value of attracting conference delegates to the cities hosting these events, which the UK Events Market Trends Survey 2010 estimates to be in the region of £18.8 billion.

2.2 The greatest opportunity for Belfast is within the 'non-profit' making sector and National (UK) Associations. Research by the British Association of Conference Destinations (BACD) in 2006 identified that 2500 national associations regularly hold events, 1200 hold a conference as their major event, with a further 800 having the AGM as their major event.

2.3 The Competition

The British Meetings and Events Industry Survey (BMEIS) 2009 reveals that the most popular destinations for the 'not-for-profit' sector as follows:

<u>Destination</u>	<u>Percentage of organisers preferring destination</u>
London	59%
Birmingham	31%
Manchester	21%
Leeds	16%
Edinburgh	15%
Glasgow	11%
Cardiff	10%
Nottingham	10%
Newcastle	10%
Coventry	8%
Liverpool	8%
Harrowgate	6%
Belfast	5%

2.4 Factors influencing destination and venue

The key factors influencing destination and venue are:

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Key Factors</u>
1	Location
2	Price / Value for Money
3	Access (road/rail/air)
4	Capacity of Conference Facilities
5	Availability
6	Quality of Service
7	Quality of Facilities

2.5 Conference with Exhibitor Market Characteristics

The 'EIA (Exhibition Industry Association) Facts 2009' survey provided the following breakdown of space requirements for events held in the UK in 2008:

<u>Square Metres</u>	<u>Percentage of Events</u>
Up to 5000	48.5%
5001 – 10000	21.8%
10001 – 20000	14.9%
20001 – 60000	9.9%
Over 60000	5.0%
Total	100%

The median of all exhibitors was 5,132 sq metres.

2.6 Market Supply

While demand has flattened due to the economic climate in the last two years, cities are continuing to expand facilities to capture or retain market share within this sector of the business tourism market. The following cities are currently considering new centres or extending existing facilities:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Status</u>
Aberdeen	Redevelopment of the Arena being explored, which would also add exhibition space
Blackpool	Council have bought the Winter Gardens and are looking at maximising the building's use as conference facilities
Brighton	Planning underway for redevelopment of existing centre
Cardiff	Developers being sought for new convention centre
Coventry	Expansion of available facilities at RICOH Arena underway
Dublin	Convention Centre, Dublin opened September 2010
Edinburgh	Extension to EICC has started on site (c £86m)
Glasgow	12,500-seat Arena development to SECC, due to open in 2013, increases capacity for conferences
Leeds	Despite setback from CPRG re funding the Council are continuing to explore new Arena development with conference capacity
London	London ICC opened Spring 2010. New Olympia ICC and Battersea Power Station events facilities submitted for planning applications
Manchester	£20m refurbishment and reconfiguration to Manchester Central Convention Complex now complete redefining the entrance areas and adding a large banqueting space accommodating 1,000
Newcastle Gateshead	Funding being sought for new conference and exhibition facilities adjacent to The Sage Gateshead

Nottingham	The city revisits feasibility of a new city centre location regularly. Most recently considered expansion of the Ice Centre and new facilities at the football club
Telford	Changes to Telford International Centre commencing Winter 2010 add new entrances and 3,000 sq m. Planning applications for hotel adjacent
Torquay	OJEU process has been carried out with potential developers for site alongside the Riviera Centre. This includes options for redevelopment of the centre

Clearly the opening of the Convention Centre in Dublin will also impact on the level of business taking place in Belfast, as many of the Associations being targeted will have membership in UK and Ireland.

2.7 Existing Conference and Meetings Business in the Waterfront Hall

The revenue from conferences in the Waterfront Hall over the last few years is as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Turnover</u>
March 2007	£690k
March 2008	£668k
March 2009	£589k
March 2010	£549k

Conference Business Revenue at the Waterfront has reduced by 19% since 2007. Whilst the decline in income is in no doubt partly due to the economic climate of the past five years, the Waterfront's Business Sales Team and the Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau repeatedly find that the venue is rejected at enquiry stage due to the lack of integrated exhibition space and inadequate breakout rooms and banqueting facilities. Many repeat and new business opportunities have been abandoned. Since 2008, over 100 conference bids have been lost because the requested special requirements cannot be met.

In addition, in the last year alone, BVCB have identified at least 30 conferences that the city was unable to facilitate due to a number of factors – delegate numbers and the lack of integrated exhibition space and break-out facilities. The lost economic benefit of not being able to service these 30 conferences is estimated to be in the region of £100m.

Belfast's ability to attract conference business will continue to be challenged by increased venue supply and competition on price. Without investment in the required conference and exhibition facilities, its market share for national and international conference business will continue to decline.

Current Options within the City

2.8 A number of options have been considered for the provision of enhanced conference and exhibition facilities within the city. These are as follows:

2.9 Redevelopment of Sirocco Works Site & Shatterzone

Over the past two years, the Carvill Group have been examining the potential redevelopment of the Sirocco Works site and have drawn up preliminary proposals for a purpose built facility opposite the Waterfront Hall on the East side of the River Lagan. Initial projections suggest a build cost of £125m with an annual operating deficit of circa £2m. Any proposal by Carvill will probably envisage an annual subvention from the public sector to cover the cost of the deficit.

2.10 Redevelopment of the Odyssey

The Odyssey Trust has given some consideration to the reconfiguration of the Odyssey building as a potential exhibition and conference facility. Preliminary work would suggest that this would require the relocation of W5 and substantial capital works. It would also require the construction of a hotel adjacent to the Odyssey building to make the option viable financially. The Trust has reported that they do not see this being a feasible option in the current financial climate and have decided not to pursue this further.

2.11 Conference Facility at Titanic Quarter

Titanic Quarter Ltd had for some time been in contact with a New York based entrepreneur who has expressed a desire to construct a conference and exhibition centre alongside an International Standard Museum and Multi-Media Campus adjacent to the Northern Ireland Science Park. To date, they have not received any business case for this proposal although they remain in contact with the project promoter. At this point there is no evidence to suggest that this proposal will develop into a realistic project in the short to medium term.

2.12 Belfast Waterfront Hall

In the absence of any viable alternative, Belfast City Council recently requested a report by Right Solution Ltd, as a follow up to their 2008 market report, to examine a number of options for extending the facilities at the Waterfront Hall, including the potential purchase and redevelopment of currently vacant buildings adjacent to the Waterfront Hall on Lanyon Quay, which currently house restaurant units (now vacant), and car parking facilities on the low ground floor.

The options and estimated associated costs in relation to this potential project are as follows:

Option	Additional Usable Space Achieved (sqm)	Total Space including existing capacity (sqm)	Total Estimated project cost (£million)
Redevelopment of two floors at Lanyon Quay with extension to river side of building. Additional extensions on 3 levels to the Waterfront Hall, link between buildings	4820	7470	£22.2m
Redevelopment of one floor of Lanyon Quay, link between buildings, and extensions to Waterfront Hall	3152	5820	£17.2m
Waterfront extension only (bar level areas) on three levels	1692	4193	£8m+ (£3m for temporary structure)
Two floors Lanyon Quay building and link bridge only	3110	6300	£14m

In addition to the Lanyon Quay building, the site opposite the 'Hilton' car park on Lanyon Place is also vacant called Lanyon Plaza, which may also provide a development opportunity to add conferences and exhibition facilities to those provided at the Waterfront. This option has not been considered in detail at this time, as it has only just become available on the open market. The potential accommodation provided within this option would be over four floors, providing additional floor space of over 8,000m². This opportunity is only available on a lease basis.

The economic impact of each of the above options is still under assessment. This data will be essential to conclude upon which option gives the greatest return on investment.

3 Resource Implications

There are no resource implications attached to this report

4 Equality and Good Relations Considerations

None

5 Recommendations

1. It is recommended that the five options identified are subjected to more detailed financial and operational appraisal, and funding options further explored, in addition to a 'Do Nothing' option.
2. That an application is made for support funding for the project, through the European Union Sustainable Competitiveness Programme.

6 Decision Tracking

There is no decision tracking attached to this report"

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

European Sustainable Competitiveness Programme

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

"1. Relevant Background Information

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members on the current position with EU funds to support development activity and to advise of the ongoing discussions with DETI and Invest NI to maximise the drawdown of funding from the European Sustainable Competitiveness Programme.
- 1.2 The main EU Structural Funds programme in Northern Ireland for the period 2007-2013 – the European Sustainable Competitiveness Programme – includes a measure which is nominally ring-fenced to support Council-led local economic development (LED) activity. This measure has a budget of around €25million from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). It is expected to be match-funded by a similar amount from councils (or by councils in conjunction with other match-funders). The programme is managed by DETI (Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment) through its European Programmes Branch.

- 1.3 To date, 14 councils are in receipt of letters of offer totalling around €3.3million. Of this amount, Belfast City Council has 13 letters of offer totalling £1.4million ERDF, operating over a number of financial years. This support is match-funded by council resources to deliver a range of enterprise development support initiatives.
- 1.4 DETI and Invest NI have been engaging with councils in recent months to highlight the potential underspend in the programme and to identify how the commitment might be delivered through a range of capital and revenue expenditure at both individual council level and also through collaborative initiatives at a sub-regional/regional level.
- Both DETI and Invest NI have suggested that they would welcome a number of capital schemes, in keeping with the overall programme objectives. These are attached as Appendix 1.
- 1.5 There is also considerable interest in developing collaborative revenue projects, principally those which will support micro and small businesses not currently being supported by Invest NI. There is an opportunity to draw in additional match funding from Invest NI for projects which they deem compatible with their objectives. This means that an investment of £1 from the council can lever match funding of £3 from other public sources for these types of initiatives. Councils are also being encouraged to look at collaborative schemes e.g. with neighbouring councils and other partners.
- 1.6 There is a rolling deadline for the submission of applications. However the funding has to be allocated by December 2013 and spent by June 2015.
- 1.7 In order to get a perspective as to what levels of funding councils will draw down to support development activity in their area, DETI have asked all councils to consider a financial profiling exercise. This exercise will identify a range of scenarios from realistic/confirmed commitments to potential funding available, pending further political endorsements and other approvals.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Invest NI has been engaging consistently with councils in recent months to explore opportunities for collaborative projects at a council or sub-regional level which they could match-fund, in addition to attracting European funding through DETI for these initiatives. This match funding commitment from Invest NI could potentially lessen the

amount of funding required by councils. For example, if a project was to cost £100,000, councils could make an application to DETI for up to £50,000 and could seek match funding up to £25,000 from Invest NI. This would mean that, where a project might previously have cost the council £50,000 to run, it may now only cost the council £25,000, with the remaining amount coming from Invest NI.

- 2.2 At present, around £600,000 in external funding from DETI is drawn down each year by Belfast City Council. This work is used to resource a range of enterprise and business growth initiatives. Last year, around 1400 local businesses engaged with us through these programmes. Early evaluations suggest that every £1 that we invest in our business development initiatives generates £5 in additional income for the company through new sales or by creating efficiencies within the business.
- 2.3 In the current climate, it is suggested that focus is maintained on the small business development work at a similar level to the commitment presented in previous years. Ensuring business survival and growth is central to the corporate objective of growing the rate base. In light of continuing economic downturn and the growing number of insolvencies, it is important to offer targeted support to businesses to secure and support their future development.
- 2.4 There is now an opportunity and an appetite for undertaking collaborative projects across council boundaries. This is entirely consistent with the efficiencies agenda and ensures that programme overheads are reduced, with expenditure focused on direct support to the businesses.
- 2.5 It is proposed that further work is undertaken with Invest NI and other council partners in order to determine the opportunities for engaging in collaborative business support activity and what potential funding they have available for this type of activity.
- 2.6 At a recent meeting with Economic Development staff, DETI asked councils to undertake a financial profiling exercise identifying the amount of match funding that they might be able to provide in the coming financial years (11/12 and 12/13) to draw down funding through the Sustainable Competitiveness Programme.

2.7 While it is acknowledged that this may include a number of scenarios, DETI have suggested that it will be important to have a view of potential council match funding in order to allow them to make decisions regarding funding allocations for the remainder of the programme. It should be noted that the deadline for commitment of funding i.e. letters of offer issued is December 2013 with spend eligible up until June 2015.

2.8 Councils are being encouraged to think about wider development activities that may be eligible for support under the Sustainable Competitiveness Programme and to be creative about the types of collaborative initiatives that they are proposing. However DETI have confirmed that all applications will be subject to appropriate levels of economic appraisal and they must be consistent with the priorities identified in the attached Appendix I.

2.9 There is an opportunity to consider potential capital schemes that could meet the programme criteria and contribute towards the delivery of key council priorities. The proposal for the development of a convention centre in the city is to be considered separately and this is one potential scheme which might attract such support.

3. Resource Implications

3.1 Continuing the business support delivery function at similar levels to recent years (£600,000 per annum) will allow us to draw in over £1.5million of match funding from DETI and Invest NI, subject to projects meeting their programme criteria and corporate priorities.

3.2 One-off capital investments can be match-funded up to 75% of total costs, subject to projects meeting the programme criteria and the match-funding organisation's corporate priorities. Funding can be allocated over a period of 3 ½ years (up to June 2015).

4. Equality and Good Relations Considerations

None

5. Recommendations

Members are asked to:

1. Note the availability of the funding under the European Sustainable Competitiveness programme
2. Agree to the application to ERDF for the convention centre

3. Agree to LED applications up to a maximum of £600k for enterprise support programmes including strategic growth and sectoral development initiatives
4. Note the potential match funding and wider resource commitments on the part of council for European Sustainable Competitiveness Programme projects
5. Note the request by DETI to undertake a financial profiling exercise to identify potential match funding available for the coming financial years.

6. Decision Tracking

No specific decision tracking required.

7. Key to Abbreviations

DETI – Department for Enterprise, Trade and Investment
ERDF – European Regional Development Fund”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**European Social Fund –
Match Funding Requests**

The Committee agreed to defer, to a future meeting, consideration of a report in respect of requests for match funding from the Council for a number of projects throughout the City which had received funding from the European Social Fund.

**Economic Development Unit –
Business Programmes: Update**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1. Relevant Background Information

- 1.1 Members will be aware that the Economic Development Unit delivers a range of support initiatives to support business start-up and growth as well as a range of employability activities. These are approved by members on an annual basis as part of the Departmental Plan and at other stages during the year, as new initiatives are developed.
- 1.2 At present, over 200 companies are taking part in a range of programmes to support issues such as sales growth, strategic development, franchising, marketing, procurement and sustainable development. We are also delivering a range of sectoral development initiatives in the independent retail, creative industries, advanced manufacturing and environmental technologies sector. We are about to launch

a range of new programmes focusing on export development, access to finance and supply chain development, related to some of the major investment programmes in the city. Last year, we supported 1400 companies through 50 business programmes and 70 events.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Smarter Procurement Programme

Members will be aware that, at the Development Committee of 13 May 2009 and 9 March 2010, approval was given to develop and deliver initiatives to support enhanced access to public and private sector procurement opportunities through the Smarter Procurement Programme.

2.2 Two waves of the programme have been delivered to date supporting 23 small businesses and social enterprises in the council area with little or no experience of trading within the public sector.

2.3 An interim evaluation undertaken amongst participating companies on the programme has identified a total of £250,500 of new contracts secured to date and job creation resulting in one full time and one part time post. The programme was delivered at a cost of £15,000 to Belfast City Council.

2.4 Previous waves of the programme have been match funded by Department for Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI), using European funding. An application for two further waves of the programme was recently submitted to DETI for match funding and this has been approved.

2.5 Demand for this programme has been high with both waves of the programme delivered to date being oversubscribed. In addition, a further seven businesses have since expressed their interest in participating in a future wave of the programme, without any promotional activity being undertaken to date.

2.6 Findings from our 2010 business survey highlights the demand for procurement initiatives within the council area, with 44% of respondents requesting support to assist them in selling to the public sector. Survey findings also identified 50% of respondents were interested in initiatives aimed at developing their sales. It is therefore proposed that an additional two waves of the programme be commissioned from April 2012 onwards, targeting up to 24 new companies.

2.7 Exploring Export and Access to Finance programmes

Our business survey identified the need for targeted support for first-time exporters to help them identify new markets and provide support to attend promotional events and undertaken market visits. In conjunction with Invest NI, we developed an application for support which was submitted to DETI. This application has recently been approved.

2.8 A tender has been developed for the delivery of two waves of the programme (the second wave to proceed only on satisfactory completion of wave one). The budget for the two waves of the programme is £70,000 (includes export subsidy support for up to 10 companies per wave).

2.9 Our business survey also identified the current difficulties experienced by local companies who are trying to raise finance within a business. Lending by banks has slowed up and businesses are struggling to identify alternative forms of support.

2.10 As a result, we have developed the Business of Finance Initiative. This programme will help companies explore alternative mechanisms of funding for their business and to improve their financial management skills. The total budget for two waves of the programme (involving thirty businesses) is £69,000.

2.11 Approval was sought and granted by the Development Committee in June 2010 for the delivery of wave one of both programmes within the current financial year. In order to gain maximum value for money and to ensure consistency of delivery, it is proposed that the two programmes be tendered for two waves (with a clause inserted into the respective contracts to confirm that delivery of wave two will be subject to satisfactory completion of wave one).

2.12 It is also proposed that delegated authority be given to the Director of Development, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of Development Committee (or nominees), to approve the most economically advantageous tender, subject to the completion of a contract by the Legal Services section.

2.13 BITES programme

Members may be aware of the BITES programme (Business Improvements through Environmental Solutions) which was developed to help local businesses to enhance their economic competitiveness by identifying environmental improvements including waste management, use of water and energy and green procurement. Wave one of this programme has just completed, with 12 companies taking part. The participating businesses, on completion of the programme, estimate that they have saved a total of £240,000 through a series of cost-saving mechanisms that they have introduced. They have also diverted 148 tonnes of waste from landfill to recycling, avoided 35 tonnes of waste, identified over 800MWh of energy savings (on gas and electricity) and reduced by 183 tonnes the amount of waste to landfill. All participating businesses have been awarded the IEMA (Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment) Foundation Certificate in Environmental Management.

2.14 A new wave of the programme will recruit companies from February 2011 and 12 small businesses will take part. Approval for this programme was granted by the Development Committee in June 2010.

2.15 The BITES programme has been shortlisted for the Best Sustainable Development initiative at the NILGA Awards which will take place on 10 February 2011.

3. Resource Implications

3.1 Smarter Procurement Programme

Financial commitment - £29,900 total of which Belfast City Council will be required to commit up to £14,000 of match funding for waves 3 and 4 of the Smarter Procurement Programme. Participating companies will pay a total of around £2,000 towards the costs. DETI will provide match funding of £14,000.

3.2 Exploring Export and Access to Finance programmes

The budget for the Exploring Export programme is £70,000. DETI will contribute up to £35,000 and Belfast City Council will be required to commit up to £35,000. The company contribution will be used to support in-market visits.

The budget for the Business of Finance programme is £69,000. DETI will contribute up to £33,000 and participating companies will pay a total of £3,000. Belfast City Council will be required to commit up to £33,000. Both programmes to be delivered over two financial years.

3.3 BITES programme

The delivery of wave 2 of the programme will require a financial commitment of £27,000 from the Development Committee. £10,000 will be provided by Waste Management Unit and participating companies will pay a total of £3,000 towards the costs. This budget was approved by the Development Committee in June 2010.

4. Equality and Good Relations Considerations

4.1 No specific equality and good relations considerations – TSN reports on all programmes completed.

5. Recommendations

5.1 Members are asked to:

- 1. Approve the commissioning of two waves of the Smarter Procurement Programme, at a total cost of £29,900, of which up to £14,000 will be provided by Belfast City Council and £14,000 from EU funds (funding already secured from EU funds)**
- 2. Note the tendering of the Exploring Export programme at a total cost of £70,000 of which £35,000 to be contributed by Belfast City Council**
- 3. Note the tendering of the Business of Finance programme at a total cost of £69,000 of which £33,000 to be contributed by Belfast City Council**
- 4. Agree to grant delegated authority to the Director of Development, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of Development Committee (or nominees), to approve the most economically advantageous tender for the delivery of the Exploring Export and the Business of Finance programmes, subject to the completion of a contract by the Legal Services section**
- 5. Note the nomination of the BITES programme for the NILGA Sustainable Development award and agree to attendance at the event by the Chair (or nominee) and one officer.**

6. Decision Tracking

Programme progress reports to be provided to Development Committee as part of Departmental Plan update.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

International Conference on Manufacturing of Advanced Composites

The Director of Development informed the Committee that the International Conference on the Manufacturing of Advanced Composites would be hosting its annual conference at the Belfast Waterfront Hall from 22nd till 24th March. He pointed out that advanced manufacturing had been recognised as a key sector for development within the Council's Economic Development Strategy and that the conference had previously been held in Belfast in 2009.

The Committee was advised that this year's event would attract approximately 150 delegates representing companies such as Rolls Royce, Bentley, Boeing and Fokker. In addition, the United Kingdom Trade and Investment Group would send a twelve-strong trade delegation to the conference which would seek to develop partnerships and supply-chain relationships and forge strategic alliances with local businesses. Accordingly, he recommended that, under the terms of the Council's Conference Subvention Policy, £1,500 be allocated to assist with the costs of the hosting of a reception in the Waterfront Hall on Wednesday, 23rd March.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Titanic and Maritime Heritage Tourism Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Relevant Background Information

- 1.1 One of the key visionary drivers within the Belfast Integrated Strategic Tourism Framework 2010 – 2014 is Titanic/Maritime Heritage. To progress this theme, Belfast City Council, in partnership with the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and the Department of Social Development, commissioned a study to map current assets and provision in the area of maritime and Titanic heritage and identify possible future developments and provision.**
- 1.2 A progress report was taken to Committee in August. The contract was awarded to a consortium with a wide range of expertise led by CHL Consulting. Specifically the consultancy team was asked to consider the future of HMS Caroline to inform an appraisal process being led by DCAL.**

- 1.3 The report provides an executive summary, action plan (short term up to 2012, medium term and longer term), an audit of current attractions and assets linked to Belfast's Maritime Heritage and an overview of current and future developments including Titanic Quarter, Odyssey Complex, City Quays, Sirocco Works, Donegall Quay, Lanyon Place, Central Station and the Gasworks. A copy of the draft executive summary and action plans are attached as Appendix 1. As well as on ground work, desk research was carried out on all major plans relating to the waterfront areas and review of best practice in Glasgow, Liverpool and Bristol was also completed.
- 1.4 The suggested vision to guide the work is 'to preserve, enhance and promote Belfast's Maritime Heritage as a foundation of the city's historic and dynamic character, as a source of pride for its people and as a defining and compelling experience for its visitors.'

2 Key Issues

2.1 2012 Priorities & Delivery

Whilst the report lists short, medium and long term actions, there are a number of immediate priorities that need to be addressed prior to 2012. These include completing key capital projects such as Titanic Belfast and the Slipways, producing directional and interpretative signage, integrating ticketing between key maritime / Titanic attractions and developing a Titanic Trail linking to the rest of the city.

- 2.2 The study proposes that the Belfast Tourism Forum, identified in the Belfast Integrated Strategic Tourism Framework 2010 – 2014 and approved by Development Committee in November 2010, should be tasked with overseeing the implementation of these actions.

- 2.3 Members will be aware that there is also a requirement to establish a TQ Tourism group under the BCC/TQL Memorandum of Understanding. Having reviewed the roles and compositions of both groups, there is significant duplication and it is recommended that the role of the TQ Tourism group is fulfilled by into the Belfast Tourism Forum. The focus of the Belfast Tourism Forum in 2011/2012 period will be ensuring that the tourism priorities outlined in the Belfast Titanic and Maritime Heritage study or raised as part of the wider TQ/BCC MOU discussions with stakeholders across the city, are implemented.

- 2.4 A copy of the Terms of Reference, proposed membership and draft short term action plan for the Belfast Tourism Forum are attached as Appendix 2. The action plan is due to be reviewed both internally across Departments and at a workshop with NITB and BVCB during February. Members' views and input would be welcomed.
- 2.5 HMS Caroline
- HMS Caroline is to be decommissioned at the end of March 2011, when she will pass into the ownership of the National Museum of the Royal Navy, the trustees of which will make a decision as to whether the ship should remain in Belfast or be transferred to Portsmouth. In either case it is intended that the ship becomes a heritage asset and tourist attraction. HMS Caroline has been in Belfast since 1924 and is of very considerable historical importance. She fought in the only major naval battle of the World War I and whilst in Belfast played a key part in World War II's Battle of the Atlantic. Her centenary and that of the start of World War I are coming up in 2014.
- 2.6 The Maritime Heritage Study identifies a shortage of tourism and heritage assets actually on the water and suggests that ships are crucial in emphasising the connection of a place with the sea. It recommends that HMS Caroline remains in Belfast but recognises that there associated capital and revenue costs. Wherever the ship goes, external funding will need to be sought and Belfast may have a stronger case for attracting this than any alternative.
- 2.7 The Strategic Investment Board has been commissioned to undertake further work on prioritising and securing investment into the maritime heritage assets on Queen's Island. They have included HMS Caroline with this brief. DCAL continues to undertaken an appraisal of HMS Caroline staying in Belfast.
- 2.8 The Royal Navy and National Museum of the Royal Navy are seeking Belfast City Council's position on keeping HMS Caroline in Belfast before a decision is made in March 2011 to move her elsewhere. Given that the Belfast Titanic and Maritime Heritage Study recommends she stays in Belfast, it would be preferable to keep the ship in Belfast for 2012 to add to the Titanic and Maritime Heritage experience whilst allowing an opportunity to undertake a feasibility study and test potential funding streams. There will be some costs (in the region of £150,000) involved during this period and

these would need to be split between a range of stakeholders. Any longer term decision on keeping HMS Caroline in Belfast would depend on the funding secured towards capital costs and the ongoing subsidy required to maintain the ship.

2.9 Members' are asked to endorse this approach to secure HMS Caroline in Belfast for a further year, subject to:

- the findings of the Strategic Investment Board's report (due before end of March 2011) and DCAL's economic appraisal;
- detailed costs for keeping the ship in Belfast until the end of 2012 and carry out relevant studies
- securing financial commitment towards any costs that would be incurred during this period from the Royal Navy/National Museum of the Royal Navy and Government Departments
- the level of funding required from Belfast City Council being acceptable to the Council.

3 Resource Implications

3.1 There are resource implications to deliver the short term priorities outlined in Appendix 2. £120,000 has been included in the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit's budget estimates for 2011/2012, on the basis that this will lever funds from NITB. Once the action plan is finalised, Members' will be provided with firm costings.

3.2 No budget provision has been made for HMS Caroline at this stage however there is likely to be a cost to BCC if the ship is to remain in Belfast for a further year.

4 Equality Implications

4.1 The Belfast Integrated Strategic Tourism Framework has undergone equality screening. Further screening will be required on the action plan attached as appendix 2.

5 Recommendations

5.1 Members' approve the recommendations in the draft Belfast Titanic and Maritime Heritage Study.

5.2 Members' agree to the outline terms of reference for the Belfast Tourism Forum.

5.3 Members' agree to secure HMS Caroline in Belfast until the end of 2012 subject to the conditions set out in paragraph 2.9 above.

6 Decision Tracking

Timeframe: March 2011 Report back on HMS Caroline

Reporting Officer: Kerrie Sweeney

Timeframe: March 2011 Establish Belfast Tourism Forum

Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay”

A Member referred to the proposal that the HMS Caroline be retained in Belfast and suggested that, at this stage, given the unknown costs associated with such a decision in the longer term, it would not be prudent to agree to such a step.

In response, the Director pointed out that he would, in the near future, be meeting with representatives of the National Museum of the Royal Navy and he would seek clarification on the financial contribution which that organisation would be making towards the retention of HMS Caroline within Belfast. This approach to secure the HMS Caroline, as outlined, would enable officers to determine the level of funding which might be required and a further report thereon would be submitted to the Committee in due course.

After discussion, the Members adopted the recommendations as set out in the report.

Lagan Canal Restoration Trust

The Members were reminded that, in November, 2006, a Lagan Canal Restoration Trust had been established. In August, 2009, the Development Committee had agreed to provide funding to the Trust, in the sum of £50,500 per annum, until March 2011. Accordingly, it was pointed out the Trust would be seeking the same level of funding from the Council for the three year period from 2011 till 2013.

It was reported that, given the ongoing spending review within the Northern Ireland Executive, there had been a delay in the confirmation of funding commitments which the various bodies and agencies could commit towards the future of the project. The Director of Development reminded the Committee that Ulster Garden Villages had provided £50,000 assistance to the Council to employ a Lagan Corridor Officer within the Development Department. However, correspondence had been received from that body seeking to clarify the Council's intentions, financial or otherwise, in respect of the future of the Lagan Canal Restoration Trust. It was reported that Ulster Garden Villages had indicated that it intended to reconsider its proposed allocation of £1 million in funding towards Phase 2 of the project viz., the Stranmillis Gateway Project, which was to be made available to the Council on the basis that match funding was provided, unless the Council clarified its position with regard to the Trust by 31st March. It was pointed out that the Director would be meeting with the Mr. T. Hopkins, Chairman of Ulster Garden Villages, and Mr. E. Holmes Board Director, to discuss the matter.

After discussion, the Committee noted the information which had been provided and deferred consideration of the Council's contribution to the Lagan Canal Restoration Trust to allow the Director of Development to meet with the representatives of Ulster Garden Villages and report back to the Committee.

Sister City Nashville – Action Plan Update

The Committee was reminded that a number of new partnerships had been created to deliver the Belfast Nashville 2010/2011 Action Plan which had been enhanced to address a wider range of issues in order to strengthen further the relationship between the two cities. Accordingly, the Director of Development outlined the principal aspects of the Belfast Nashville 2010/2011 Draft Action Plan. He pointed out that additional areas had been identified for further investigation following consultation with Members. These areas included:

- the development of new partnerships with cultural organisations across the City, including those who supported Irish language and traditional music;
- working with the Belfast Nashville Songwriters Festival to ensure wider access to communities across the city;
- investigating the links and synergies between the Nashville and Belfast Civil Rights Movements, including the Nashville Public Library exhibition and Queen's University;
- researching the potential of exhibition exchanges between Belfast and Nashville and the touring potential of existing exhibitions, for example, the Linen Hall Library; and
- investigating further musicians from Belfast who have worked in Nashville across all genres.

The Director added that the Plan would be presented to the Belfast Nashville Sister City Steering Group for consideration and thereafter the final draft would be presented to the Committee for consideration.

The Committee noted the information provided.

Multi-Annual and Annual Funding for Culture and the Arts

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

- “1 **Relevant Background Information**
- 1.1 **Members' will be aware that Annual Funding for Culture and Arts aims to assist professionally managed, Belfast-based, arts and heritage organisations deliver annual programmes for the benefit of the city. Multi-annual Funding was established to provide a number of Belfast's flagship arts organisations with longer-term security to enable them to deliver activities that substantially benefit the city.**
- 1.2 **In 2010–11 Belfast City Council's Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit invested just over £1.4m in arts, heritage and culture organisations, helping support our vision of Belfast as a prosperous and vibrant cultural city, engaging everyone that lives in, works in and visit the city.**

1.3 This investment has helped to support an audience of 5.8m; 100,000 participants in culture and arts projects; 263 full-time jobs; 102 part-time jobs; 1,396 freelance contracts; and 777 volunteering opportunities. It accounts for approximately 11.4 per cent of the organisations' collective turnover, with a direct return on investment of 1:9.

1.4 This report provides the Development Committee with recommendations on Multi-Annual Funding and Annual Funding for the 2011–12 financial year.

1.5 Multi-Annual Funding for Culture and Arts

At the Development Committee meeting of 14 November 2007, Members' agreed the selection of 14 Multi-Annual Funding clients. These clients entered into a three-year funding agreement at a minimum value of £30,000 per year. On 11 February 2009 the Development Committee agreed the selection of two additional Multi-Annual Funding clients. These clients entered in to a two-year funding agreement at a minimum value of £30,000 per year.

At the Development Committee of 15 September 2010, Members' agreed that the current funding agreement for the existing Multi-Annual Funding clients be extended for an additional year until 31 March 2012. As in previous years, the continuation of funding was subject to receipt of a satisfactory monitoring report for 2010–11 and a one-year plan, including programme and budget, for 2011–12.

1.6 Annual Funding for Culture and Arts

The Annual Funding criteria for decision making (included in the guidance notes and application form, Appendix 1) were approved by Members' at the Development (Arts) Sub-Committee in September 2004. The criteria were devised in order to assist Council to work in partnership with arts and heritage organisations in achieving its objectives. They reflect the themes of the Development Department and the Integrated Cultural Strategy.

1.7 Principles of the Reporting Process

Officers undertake a lengthy assessment of all applications, scoring them against each of the criteria identified for the scheme. FGS McClure Watters was engaged to undertake a detailed assessment of each applicant's management and governance.

A summary of scores and recommendations are included at Appendix 3. A detailed assessment of each application is included at Appendix 4. These assessments:

- highlight the main strengths and weaknesses in the application under each criterion;
- ensure optimum transparency as to how decisions on applications have been reached; and
- familiarise Members' with the nature and variety of arts and heritage programmes in which the Council invests.

Assessments were made on the basis of information supplied by the applicant. This includes the application form, programme of activities and supporting documentation such as business plans and strategies. It should be noted that where there is limited information supplied to address a specific criterion, this is highlighted as a weakness.

As agreed previously by the Development (Arts) Sub-Committee, officers have not returned to applicants to request any additional details in relation to their applications. This includes clarification of budgets or submission of additional supporting materials, such as up-to-date accounts.

For ease of reference, grant histories for each applicant to Annual Funding has been included at Appendix 5.

1.8 Rolling Programme

At the Development Committee of Wednesday 9 April 2008, Members' agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Development to award grants under the Rolling Programme to support innovation in arts and heritage. An amount of £29,290 is included in the 2011–12 budget estimates. Grants awarded range from £250 to £3,000.

The purpose of the Rolling Programme is to assist arts or heritage organisations to avail of opportunities that arise during the year, including those that present themselves after the closing date of Annual or Multi-annual Funding applications.

1.9 Community Festivals Fund

Belfast City Council accepted the commission from the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) to administer the Community Festivals Fund in the Belfast area.

The fund is 50 per cent funded through DCAL and 50 per cent through Council revenue. At the Development Committee in August 2008, Members' agreed to delegate the authority to award grants under this fund to the Director of Development.

The Community Festivals Fund invites applications from organisations which are planning community festivals to take place between 1 April and 30 June covering activities such as exhibitions, family days, historical talks and concerts. Grants range from a minimum of £2,500 to a maximum amount of £10,000.

2 Key Issues

2.1 Due to current budget constraints, no increase has been included in the overall budget estimates for either the Multi-Annual Funding and Annual Funding programmes.

2.2 Multi-Annual Funding

The closing date for receipt of a one-year plan from existing Multi-Annual clients was 26 November 2010.

The total level of funding recommended for sixteen Multi-annual Funding clients is £697,264. Details of individual awards are provided in Appendix 2. While Multi-Annual clients have received an annual increase of up to 3 per cent previously, due to current budget constraints, all Multi-Annual clients are recommended to receive standstill funding.

In 2011–12, Multi-Annual Funding clients will provide an extensive programme of activities in Belfast. This will be seen by a projected audience of over 3.3 million and approximately 164,000 participants will take part the collective programme.

Multi-Annual Funding will help to support 204 full-time jobs; 31 part-time; 456 freelancers; and 388 volunteer posts.

Belfast City Council funding represents 6.7 per cent of the collective turnover for Multi-Annual Funding clients. This equates to a direct return for investment of 1:15.

2.3 Annual Funding

By the closing date of 12 noon on 19 November 2010, a total of 54 applications to Annual Funding were received (60 were received for 2009–10). This includes applications from 10 organisations who did not apply in 2009–10. An additional two organisations who were funded in 2009–10 did not re-apply. Requests for grants this year far outstripped the available budget of £301,835. The applications requested total of £722,206 or 239 per cent of the available budget.

With a few exceptions, the quality of application was high and Annual Funding applicants have put considerable effort into demonstrating how they meet the criteria.

A total of 37 organisations have been recommended for Annual Funding totalling £301,835.

Annual Funding organisations recommended for funding will provide an extensive programme of activities in Belfast. This will be seen by a projected audience of 1.4 million and approximately 70,000 participants will take part the collective programme.

Annual Funding will help to support 83 full-time jobs; 64 part-time; 505 freelancers; and 190 volunteer posts.

Belfast City Council funding represents 3.9 per cent of the collective turnover for Annual Funding clients. This equates to a direct return for investment of 1:25.

2.4 Rationale for Level of Recommendation

The threshold for funding is 60 per cent and over. All applicants who scored between 60 and 64.9 per cent have been recommended standstill funding (at the same level as awarded last year) or the amount requested, whichever is greater. This includes three organisations previously not awarded funding who are recommended to receive one third of the amount requested or £3,000, the minimum level of funding, whichever is greater.

Applicants who scored between 65 and 69.9 per cent are recommended to receive a £500 increase on last year or the amount they requested, whichever is less.

All applicants who scored 70 per cent or over got a £1,000 increase on last year or the amount they requested, whichever is less. £218 was left in the budget, which was awarded to ArtsEkta as the highest scoring applicant.

While the overall budget for Annual Funding remains the same as 2010-11, an increase for top-scoring applicants is recommended due to two previously funded organisations not reapplying.

Members' specific attention is requested in relation to the recommendation for Culture Night. In 2009 and 2010 they received £25,000 per year through Development and for future activity were encouraged to apply through existing BCC funding schemes. Their application scored 63.6 and it is recommended that CN is awarded £10,000, 33 per cent of their request. Members should note that given the scale of this reduced funding recommendation, it is unlikely that Culture Night could deliver programming in areas other than the City Centre

On average, applicants recommended for funding will receive 59.4 per cent of their request, which amounts to an average of 4 per cent of turnover.

In general, officers noted weaknesses in applications in relation to applicants' staff development and effective monitoring and evaluation. This will be further addressed in the development of the new Integrated Cultural Strategy. The sustainability of the organisation and its activity was assessed under the Economic Regeneration criteria. However, Members' should note that all organisations are vulnerable to public sector cuts in the current economic climate. Offers of funding will be made subject to the submission of a budget reflecting the actual level of award, viable and satisfactory revised programme and evidence of funding from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and other key funders, as applicable.

Where accounts submitted for 2009–10 show a surplus, we will also seek assurances from the board that this sum will be reinvested into the company as reserves.

2.5 Rolling Programme

Applications to the 2011–12 Rolling Programme scheme are due to open in mid-February 2011.

There is likely to be considerable pressure on the Rolling Programme budget to help support projects and organisations affected by Arts Council and other funding cuts. It is therefore recommended that Members' agree to limit the number of awards made through Rolling Programme to one award per organisation.

This will also encourage organisations to prioritise applications that are both innovative and strategically important. No funding will be approved prior to ratification of the 2011–12 budget estimates.

2.6 Community Festivals Fund

On 6 January 2011, DCAL notified Council that they are prepared to make an additional £3,175 available to Community Festivals Fund 2010–11. As the funding rounds for this year have closed and there is no further mechanism to distribute funding to festival organisations, it is recommended that this additional funding is put towards internal staff costs for administering Community Festivals Fund.

DCAL's contribution to the Community Festivals Fund 2011-12 is subject to the outcome of the central government budget consultation. Confirmation of their subvention is expected by mid-March 2011. £79,000 is included in the Departments budget estimates for 2011–12.

It is recommended that Community Festivals Fund re-opens on 2 March 2011 to allow organisations to apply for funding for festivals running from 1 April 2011. No funding will be approved prior to confirmation of an offer from DCAL and ratification of the 2011–12 budget estimates.

3 Resource Implications

3.2 Financial

Funding is included in the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit's draft budget estimates for 2011–2012.

Human Resources

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

Assets and Other Implications

None.

4 Equality and Good Relations Considerations

4.1 None.

5 Recommendations

5.1 It is recommended that Members' note the contents of this report and:

1. Approve the recommendations for Multi-Annual Funding as set out in Appendix 2
2. Approve recommendations for Annual Funding as set out in Appendix 3
3. Approve the number of awards made under Rolling Programme to one per organisation
4. Accept DCAL's offer of an additional £3,175 towards the administration of Community Festival Fund 2010-11
5. Agree to open applications to Community Festivals Fund 2011-12.

6 Decision Tracking

Timeframe: March 2010
Reporting Officer: Kerrie Sweeney

7 Key to Abbreviations

DCAL: Department of Culture Arts and Leisure

8 Documents Attached

Appendix 2: Recommendations for Multi-annual Funding
Appendix 3: Scores and Recommendations for Annual Funding"

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations to award the funding as set out below:

"Appendix 2

Recommendations for Multi-annual Funding

Organisation	2010-11 Award	Recommendation
Beat Initiative	£34,330	£34,330
Belfast Community Circus	£34,330	£34,330
Belfast Exposed	£31,209	£31,209
Belfast Festival at Queen's	£68,920	£68,920
Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival	£30,300	£30,300
Cinemagic	£31,209	£31,209
Crescent Arts Centre	£34,330	£34,330

Organisation	2010–11 Award	Recommendation
Féile an Phobail	£30,300	£30,300
Grand Opera House	£34,330	£34,330
Linen Hall Library	£42,912	£42,912
Lyric Theatre	£37,971	£37,971
New Belfast Community Arts Initiative	£34,070	£34,070
Northern Visions	£31,209	£31,209
Old Museum Arts Centre	£41,352	£41,352
Ulster Orchestra	£149,283	£149,283
Young at Art	£31,209	£31,209

Appendix 3

Scores and Recommendations for Annual Funding

Organisation	Amount Requested for 2011/12	Total Score	Recommendation
ArtsEkta	£30,000.00	71.7	£6,521.00
New Lodge Arts	£4,305.00	70.9	£4,030.00
Queen's Film Theatre	£12,000.00	70	£12,000.00
Youth Action Northern Ireland	£25,000.00	70	£9,405.00
Kabosh Theatre	£13,785.00	69.9	£13,785.00
Golden Thread Gallery	£19,200.00	68.7	£8,043.00
Tinderbox Theatre Company	£20,959.00	68.7	£17,572.00
Festival of Fools	£25,000.00	68.6	£11,164.00
Kids in Control	£13,005.00	68.6	£13,005.00
Cahoots NI	£13,728.00	68.3	£5,228.00
Bruiser Theatre Company	£9,000.00	68	£8,823.00
Andersonstown Traditional & Contemporary Music School	£4,000.00	67.8	£4,000.00
Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich	£12,000.00	67.5	£8,742.00
Streetwise Community Circus Workshops	£21,630.00	67	£6,166.00
Open House Traditional Arts Festival Limited	£30,000.00	66.4	£10,579.00
Catalyst Arts	£3,000.00	66.3	£3,000.00
Primecut Productions	£30,000.00	66.3	£12,057.00
Dance United NI	£3,500.00	66.1	£3,500.00
Replay Productions Ltd	£16,954.00	65.8	£11,832.00
Belfast Film Festival	£30,000.00	65.1	£28,851.00
Oh Yeah	£10,000.00	65.1	£3,500.00
Wheelworks	£12,500.00	64.8	£8,499.00
Belfast Print Workshop	£15,000.00	63.9	£6,250.00

Organisation	Amount Requested for 2011/12	Total Score	Recommendation
Music Theatre 4 Uth	£7,000.00	63.9	£3,060.00
Beyond Skin	£8,580.00	63.6	£3,000.00
Culture Night Belfast	£30,000.00	63.6	£10,000.00
Green Shoot Productions	£20,000.00	63.3	£3,000.00
Queen Street Studios	£21,264.00	63.2	£5,250.00
Maiden Voyage Dance Company	£3,980.00	63.1	£3,500.00
Moving on Music	£20,000.00	62.4	£18,286.00
Ransom Productions	£7,026.00	62.4	£3,523.00
Open Arts	£8,970.00	62.2	£3,000.00
East Belfast Arts Collective - Engine Room Gallery	£22,000.00	61.3	£3,000.00
Community Arts Forum	£25,000.00	61	£20,604.00
Source / Photoworks North	£5,000.00	60.6	£3,060.00
Aisling Ghéar	£6,000.00	60.3	£3,000.00
Creative Exchange	£10,000.00	60.2	£3,000.00
Belfast Philharmonic Society	£4,000.00	58.6	£0
Drake Music Project NI, The	£7,990.00	58.6	£0
Live Music Now	£10,000.00	58.5	£0
Titanic Schools Project	£7,000.00	56.9	£0
Irish Pages Ltd	£5,000.00	55.9	£0
Partisan Productions	£10,750.00	54.7	£0
Alternative Ulster	£30,000.00	53.8	£0
Belfast Buildings Preservation Trust	£30,000.00	51.4	£0
Centre Stage Theatre Co.	£27,900.00	38.8	£0
An Droichead	£6,280.00	INELIGIBLE	£0
Arts & Disability Forum	£6,000.00	INELIGIBLE	£0
Dance Resource Base (NI) Ltd	£3,000.00	INELIGIBLE	£0
Flax Art Studios	£5,460.00	INELIGIBLE	£0
Headliners (UK)	£10,000.00	INELIGIBLE	£0
Indian Community Centre	£9,400.00	INELIGIBLE	£0
Spectrum Centre	£22,040.00	INELIGIBLE	£0
Star Players	£8,000.00	INELIGIBLE	£0"

Belfast One City Conference

The Committee was advised that the Belfast One City Conference, which would be hosted by the Belfast Media Group, would take place in An Culturlann and the Belfast Waterfront Hall on 10th and 11th March, 2011. It was reported that the theme of the conference would be 'Unlocking the Potential of a City on the Rise' and one key element of the conference programme would examine the issue of 'Tomorrow's Belfast' and would receive presentations in respect of the Connswater Community Greenway, the Conway Mill, the MAC and the Lyric Theatre. The Director informed the Committee that a request had been received for the Council to provide a contribution in the sum of £500 towards the cost of hospitality and the hire of the venue. In addition, he requested if the Committee wished to be represented at the conference.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to make a contribution of £500 as outlined and agreed further that the Chairman and Deputy Chairman (or their nominees) be authorised to attend the event at a cost of £125 per delegate.

**State of the City –
Development Debate Update**

The Committee was advised that the next in the series of the State of the City Development Debates would take place on 7th March in the Banqueting Hall, City Hall. It was reported that Mr. John Palmieri, Boston Redevelopment Authority, and Mr. Bruce Katz from the Brookings Institution would be the speakers at the event. The Director outlined the proposed programme for a Belfast workshop, which would be facilitated by the London School of Economics City Reformers' Group, and was scheduled to take place on 23rd March. A study tour of the City would be organised prior to the holding of the workshop.

Accordingly, he requested that the Committee agree to provide financial support in the sum of £1,500 towards the hosting of the workshop, study tour and provision of hospitality.

After discussion, the Committee granted the authority sought.

**Departmental Pricing Policy –
Scale of Charges 2011/2012**

The Committee considered the undernoted report on the proposed scale of charges for 2011/2012:

“1 Relevant Background Information

1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider the annual review of prices for hire/rental charges at the Belfast Waterfront, Ulster Hall, St George's Market and Community Centres and to agree an implementation with effect from 1 April 2011.

2 Key Issues

2.1 Belfast Waterfront / Ulster Hall

Following a standard 2% price increase in 2010/2011 it is recommended that Members give approval to retain existing prices for hire charges relating to all areas of the Belfast Waterfront, including Main Auditorium, Studio, Meeting Rooms, Exhibition areas including Concourse, Gallery Levels 1 and 2, Bar Levels 1 and 2 and also the Ulster Hall and, where appropriate, event services hire charges, for 2011/2012.

2.2 It is suggested that the proposed “no price increase” for 2011/2012 is necessary to keep hire fees at both venues competitive in what will inevitably be a very difficult trading environment over the next 12 months.

2.3 St George’s Market

In January 2010 Members approved an increase in stallage and hire charges for a 2 year period from 1 April 2010 – no increase is therefore proposed.

The Development Committee also approved in October 2004, a 25% incentive discount for those paying in advance. It is proposed that as a result of the high cost in administering the scheme and to simplify and introduce daily market reconciliations that the 25% payment in advance incentive discount scheme is now discontinued. The issue has been raised with traders’ representatives and to date no issues have been raised

2.4 Community Centres

Following a standard 2% price increase in 2010/2011 it is proposed to increase prices in 2011/2012 by just over 2% to take account of the VAT increase from 17.5% to 20% which changed on 4 January 2011.

The proposed schedule of prices for each of the Community Centres is detailed at Appendix 1.

3 Resource Implications

3.1 Financial

The recommendations above have all been factored into the Departmental Revenue Estimates for 2011/2012 approved by Committee in January 2011.

3.2 Human Resources

There are no additional human resource requirements in relation to implementation of the proposed Pricing Policy.

4 Equality and Good Relations Considerations

4.1 There are no equality implications in agreeing the 2011/2012 Departmental Scale of Charges.

5 Recommendations

5.1 It is recommended that Members note the contents of the report and approve the following :

1. No increase in hire charges at Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall
2. No increase in stallage or event hire fees at St George's Market
3. The removal of the advance discount scheme at St Georges Market
4. An increase of just over 2% in Community Centre pricing as a result of the recent VAT increase
5. An effective date of 1 April 2011 for all areas

6 Decision Tracking

Further to approval the recommended actions will be completed .

Time line: 1 April 2011 Reporting Officer: David Orr

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 – Community Centres Charges from 1 April 2011

Appendix 1

COMMUNITY CENTRES RATE OF CHARGE 2011/2012

APPENDIX 1

Centre	Facility	£ Per Hour 7.00pm- 12.00pm	£ Per Hour 9.00am- 7.00pm
		prices from Apr 11	prices from Apr 11
Ardoyne	Main Hall	5.30	3.50
	Minor Hall	2.00	1.20
	Activity Room	1.20	1.00
	Committee Room	0.90	0.60
	Kitchen	1.70	1.70
	Loft	1.30	1.00
Concorde	Main Hall	5.00	3.10
	Minor Hall	2.00	1.50
	Activity Room	1.70	1.20
	Kitchen	1.00	1.00

Centre	Facility	£ Per Hour 7.00pm- 12.00pm	£ Per Hour 9.00am- 7.00pm
		prices from Apr 11	prices from Apr 11
Dee Street	Main Hall	4.20	2.80
	1st Floor Recreation	3.40	2.20
	Activity Room	1.90	1.20
	Arts & Crafts Room	1.80	1.10
	Kitchen	1.00	1.00
	Dark Room	1.00	1.00
Divis	Main Hall	6.30	4.00
	Minor Hall	3.40	2.30
	Activity/Project Room	1.10	1.20
	Committee Room	1.10	1.20
	Kitchen	1.10	1.20
Donegall Pass	Main Hall	3.50	2.20
	Minor Hall	2.00	1.50
	Committee Room	1.50	0.90
	Kitchen	0.80	0.80
Duncairn	Main Hall	4.20	2.70
	Minor Hall	1.90	1.50
	Ground Floor C.Room	1.20	0.90
	Kitchen	1.50	0.80
Finaghy	Main Hall	3.80	2.70
	Recreation Room	2.30	1.90
	Committee Room	1.20	1.20
	Office	0.60	0.60
	Kitchen	0.90	0.90
Glen Road	Main Hall	8.30	5.20
	Minor Hall	2.00	2.00
	Committee Room	1.70	1.70
	Project Room	1.70	1.70
	Activity Room	1.70	1.70
	Kitchen	1.50	1.50
	Stage	1.50	1.50
Hammer	Main Hall	5.20	3.90
	Committee Room	1.70	1.70
	Activity Room	1.70	1.60
	Kitchen	1.00	1.00
	Minor Hall	2.00	2.00
	Pitch-Junior	13.00	6.30
	Pitch-Senior	17.00	7.90

Centre	Facility	£ Per Hour 7.00pm- 12.00pm	£ Per Hour 9.00am- 7.00pm
		prices from Apr 11	prices from Apr 11
Highfield	Main Hall	7.00	4.20
	Committee Room	2.00	2.00
	Project/Activity	1.70	1.70
	Kitchen	1.70	1.70
Horn Drive	Main Hall	3.90	2.30
	Minor Hall	1.70	1.20
	Office(Back)	1.40	1.40
	Office (Small)	1.00	1.00
	Committee Room	1.00	1.00
	Kitchen	1.00	1.00
Inverary	Main Hall	6.30	4.40
	Committee Room	1.90	1.20
	Kitchen	1.60	0.60
	Activity Room	1.70	1.70
	Project Office	1.00	1.00
Knocknagoney	Main Hall	3.50	2.20
	Minor Hall	2.00	1.50
	Committee Room	1.50	1.00
	Project Room	1.50	1.00
	Kitchen	0.80	0.80
Ligoniel	Main Hall	4.40	2.80
	Minor Hall	2.30	1.90
	Committee Room	1.20	0.80
	Kitchen	1.00	1.00
	Dark Room	0.80	0.80
Markets	Main Hall	3.90	2.70
	Minor Hall	1.80	1.50
	Committee Room	1.20	1.20
	Kitchen	1.10	1.10
Morton	Main Hall	2.20	1.70
	Kitchen Downstairs	0.80	0.80
	Minor Hall	2.00	1.50
	Kitchen Upstairs	0.60	0.60
	Committee Room 2	1.50	0.80
	Committee Room 1	1.50	0.80

Centre	Facility	£ Per Hour 7.00pm- 12.00pm	£ Per Hour 9.00am- 7.00pm
		prices from Apr 11	prices from Apr 11
North Queen Street	Main Hall	5.30	3.40
	Minor Hall	3.30	2.20
	Committee Room	1.20	1.20
	Project Room 1	1.50	1.50
	Library	1.20	1.20
	Kitchen	1.60	1.60
	Project Room 2	1.00	1.00
Olympia	Main Hall	3.50	2.20
	Minor Hall	2.00	1.50
	Committee Room	1.50	1.00
	Project Room	1.50	1.00
	Kitchen	0.80	0.80
Sandy Row	Main Hall	4.90	2.80
	Activity Room	1.70	1.70
	Committee Room	1.20	1.20
	Kitchen	1.50	1.50
	Project Room	1.20	1.20
	Games Room	2.00	2.10
Suffolk	Main Hall	3.50	2.20
	Minor Hall	2.00	1.50
	Committee Room	1.50	1.00
	Project Room	1.50	1.00
	Kitchen	0.80	0.80
Whiterock	Main Hall	3.80	2.20
	Minor Hall	2.00	1.70
	Committee Room	1.20	1.20
	Club Room	1.00	1.00
	Project Room	1.00	1.00
	Kitchen	0.80	0.80
Woodvale	Main Hall	4.20	2.70
	Committee Room	1.00	0.80
	Kitchen	1.00	1.00

A Member suggested that the proposed 2% price increase in the charges for the use of community centres would impact adversely on local communities. He indicated, given that there was no increase proposed for the commercial hire of both the Waterfront and Ulster Halls, that the matter be re-examined.

In response to a further question, the Head of City Events and Venues, indicated that the Parks and Leisure Committee, at its meeting on 10th February, had agreed to increase its charges for the hire of Belfast Castle and Malone House by an average of 2.5%.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Ekin,
Seconded by Councillor Crozier,

That the Committee agrees to approve the proposed Scale of Charges for 2011/2012.

On a vote by show of hands three Members voted for the proposal and ten against and it was accordingly declared lost.

Further Proposal

Moved by Councillor Mac Giolla Mhín,
Seconded by Councillor Groves,

That the Committee agrees to approve the Scale of Charges for 2011/2012 for the Waterfront Hall, Ulster Hall and St. George's Market and that no increase be applied to the rate of charges for community centres.

On a vote by show of hands ten Members voted for the proposal and two against and it was accordingly declared carried.

Eurocities Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

"1 Relevant Background Information

1.1 Belfast City Council has been a member of the Eurocities network since the early 1990's. The network now consists of over 140 large European cities work is focused around the following fora:

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

The Secretariat for the network is based in Brussels with a staff and Executive Board of elected members from cities throughout Europe. Meetings are held three times a year in rotated venues around Europe and each forum has a maximum of eight working groups. An AGM is held each November and is attended by Belfast City Council's Chair and Deputy Chair of Development.

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

- 1.2 During 2010 Belfast City Council was active in the following fora:

Economic Development Forum

Chair of Economic Migration working group
Member of creative clusters working group
Member of entrepreneurship working group
Member of employment working group

Social Affairs Forum

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

Environment Forum

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

Culture Forum

Member of the youth culture)
working group) virtual
Member of the resources for) engagement
Culture working group)

During 2010 Belfast City Council also attended two meetings of the Knowledge Society Forum with an officer from ISB. The aim of this was to explore the potential for Belfast City Council to engage fully in the forum and pursue funding, project and best practice opportunities for Belfast.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Each year Belfast City Council experiences very positive gains from participation in the Eurocities network and importantly the council contributes to policy influencing at the EU Commission and Parliament levels and is currently engaging actively to ensure maximum EU funding for cities and an enhanced delivery role with respect to structural fund spend post 2013.**

The council also engages in European projects within the network and sources best practice that can be transferable to the city of Belfast. Critically the council works with other cities to track EU legislation and lobby heavily to influence this and ultimately create savings for the city eg EU Services Directive.

Appendix 1 outlines the key work areas and outputs achieved through Belfast City Council's engagement in the network in 2010. It also outlines the intended work plans specifically for Belfast City Council in 2011. Each area has been discussed and deemed appropriate at relevant directorate levels within council departments. Highlights of the 2011 work plan may be summarised as follows:

2.2 Economic Development Forum

In 2011 Belfast City Council will participate in a study to identify best practice approaches at city and regional government level for supporting SMEs. This will lead to recommendations for changing policies and implementing more targeted programmes to help build SMEs and support entrepreneurs. Belfast City Council will also continue the high level lobby with Eurocities regarding EU funding post 2013.

2.3 Social Affairs Forum

The council will continue to engage in the follow up work to the 2010 year of combating poverty and social exclusion. It is anticipated that EU funding will become available to address this and potentially fund elements of the council's Anti Poverty Framework. Funding is anticipated from the newly established European anti poverty platform, set up under Europe's new strategy EU2020 to make Europe a more inclusive, sustainable and prosperous place by 2020. The city will also sign the Integrating Cities charter pledging our commitment to diversity.

2.4 Environment Forum

Belfast City Council will continue to engage as a pilot city in the Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities. The pilot will begin in March and finishes in September. 70 European cities have been chosen to partake in this pilot.

Belfast City Council was chosen as a regional capital along with four other UK cities – Newcastle, Glasgow, Thanet District Council and Wokingham Borough Council.

Belfast City Council will also host a high profile first ever climate change conference in Belfast on 10 March 2011. The Secretary General of Eurocities will speak at this along with renowned international and European speakers with a view to identifying and promoting practical climate change challenges for Belfast.

2.5 Knowledge Society Forum

Belfast City Council will engage actively for the first time in this forum. It will participate in the Open Data and Services Directive working groups while keeping a watching brief on the 4 other working groups of the forum. Through participation it will benefit from the knowledge and experience of others and identify potential funding and project opportunities.

The Council will also move to sign the Green Digital Charter committing Belfast to promote carbon reduction through use of greener technologies.

2.6 Culture Forum

Belfast City Council will engage actively in this forum for the first time to contribute to the European policy process through participation in relevant consultations. A watching brief in relation to the development of cultural policy will be maintained and expertise will be shared. In particular, following extensive consultation in 2010 there will be presentation by the European Commission of new policy action aimed at supporting the cultural and creative industries.

The Culture Forum will be used to work on dealing with budget cuts (not only in the UK) and will exchange knowledge on how cities cope with the economic downturn, ie: working with the business sector, with volunteers and new partnerships. It will also be used to identify best practice to

assist in the delivery of the new Integrated Tourism Strategy and the development of the new Integrated Cultural Plan; and to identify funding opportunities due to open later in 2011, through the Culture Programme and any other funding calls.

- 2.7 Members should note that all Eurocities work engaged in by Belfast City Council staff is coordinated by the European unit. On a bi-monthly basis an officers meeting is held to track and appraise the level of activity and related outputs with respect to Eurocities participation, ensuring that all work is aligned to the council's corporate objectives.
- 2.8 Members should also note that Belfast City Council will have the opportunity to attend the 2011 Eurocities Annual General Meeting and submit priority council projects for the Eurocities awards under the categories of: Innovation, Participation and cooperation. The theme of the 2011 AGM will be 'Social Dimension of Urban Planning'. Belfast City Council will also run a photographic competition offering Belfast youth the opportunity to submit a photograph of Belfast which will be profiled in the Eurocities 25 year anniversary publication.
- 2.9 Members are asked to note the contents of this report, approve the proposed 2011 Belfast City Council work plan with Eurocities and agree to the payment of the 2011/2012 subscription fee of 15,820 euros.
- 2.10 Members should note that due to austerity resources across Europe, the annual fee has been frozen for 2011/2012 and Eurocities will increase the level of virtual online working to reduce travel and to ensure as wide engagement of cities as possible.

3. Resource Implications

- 3.1 The annual subscription fee for Belfast City Council's membership of Eurocities is 15,820 euros.

The cost of Belfast City Council's engagement in Eurocities is covered within the Development Department's European Unit budget and through the relevant budgets of the participating departments.

4. Equality and Good Relations Considerations

- 4.1 There are no equality and good relations considerations attached to this report.

5. **Recommendations**

5.1 **Members are asked to recommend:**

1. **Noting the Eurocities update report**
2. **Approval of the proposed 2011 Eurocities work plan for Belfast City Council**
3. **Approve payment of the 2011 Eurocities subscription at a cost of 15,820 euros**

6. **Decision Tracking**

Following approval by Committee the European Unit will:

1. **Commence work with relevant Council Departments on the implementation of the 2011 Eurocities Workplan**
2. **Pay the Eurocities subscription**

Date line: April 2011 Reporting Officer: Laura Leonard”

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations.

Manifesta

The Committee was advised that Manifesta, which was a biennial exhibition of contemporary art involving a wide range of European artists, had requested that the Council, in conjunction with the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, consider supporting the establishment of a post of ‘Manifesta Bid Co-ordinator’, who would be based in the Belfast Exposed Gallery, to assist in the development of a bid to host the Manifesta exhibition in either Belfast or Londonderry in 2014 or 2016. He reported that the bid would be presented to the Manifesta organisation in December 2011 and that the benefits to the local economy arising from a successful bid would be in the region of £2.5 million. Accordingly, he recommended that the Committee consider contributing the sum of £10,000 financial assistance towards the costs of establishing a Manifesta Bid Co-ordinator. He pointed out that £10,000 had been secured from both Derry City Council and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, with Belfast Exposed Gallery providing in-kind support of £7,500.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Support for Sport Scheme

The Committee considered the following requests for assistance which had been received under the Support for Sport Scheme in relation to events and promotions:

**D
2064**

**Development Committee,
Tuesday, 15th February, 2011**

**Pages D2064-D2074: Please refer to Appendices 1 and 2
of Agenda Item 32 in the Reports Pack**

**Development Committee,
Tuesday, 15th February, 2011**

**D
2065**

D
2066

Development Committee,
Tuesday, 15th February, 2011

**Development Committee,
Tuesday, 15th February, 2011**

**D
2067**

D
2068

Development Committee,
Tuesday, 15th February, 2011

**Development Committee,
Tuesday, 15th February, 2011**

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2069**

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Development Committee,
Tuesday, 15th February, 2011

**Development Committee,
Tuesday, 15th February, 2011**

**D
2071**

D
2072

Development Committee,
Tuesday, 15th February, 2011

**Development Committee,
Tuesday, 15th February, 2011**

**D
2073**

D
2074

Development Committee,
Tuesday, 15th February, 2011

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Taxi Operator Licensing Regulations – Consultation

The Committee considered the undernoted report and agreed that the attached comments be forwarded to the Department of the Environment as the Council's response to the consultation:

“1 Relevant Background Information

1.1 The Department of the Environment published a consultation document on the 10 December 2010 seeking views on the proposal to introduce Taxi Operator Licensing in Northern Ireland.

1.2 The proposed Regulations will introduce:

- Taxi operator licensing for both private and public hire vehicles;
- Make provision for offences; and
- Establish the penalty system for the provisions of the Act.

1.3 The Department considers that the introduction of Taxi Operator Licensing will help to modernise the industry and introduce a regime comparable to the other administration in Great Britain and Ireland. This will contribute to the provision and management of a fair and safe transport industry by enhancing the role of taxi operators and ensuring that taxi services are more effectively regulated. This should contribute to a reduction in illegal taxi operations and greater certainty for the users of such services.

1.4 The Department intends to put in place transitional arrangements to allow existing taxi service providers to continue to operate in the period when the new regulations are being introduced. During a two month transitional period, taxi operators will be required to apply for a license and can operate under the application process until the license is granted or refused by the Department.

2 Key Issues

2.1 Currently neither taxi operators nor their bookings offices in Northern Ireland are subject to any regulation. The licensing regime is different in Great Britain although private hire operator licensing has been in place since 2000.

- 2.2 It should also be noted that a separate review of Taxi Regulations covering fares and taximeters, hiring of taxi at separate fares, is being carried out by the Departments.
- 2.3 The general requirements of this Legislation are as follows:
- The new regulations will apply to all taxi operators within Northern Ireland.
 - It will make it illegal for an organisation or individual to operate a taxi service without having a license. (The legislation outlines information to be contained in the application for the license.)
 - Drivers will be required to hold a taxi drivers license in addition they must hold an Operator License if running their own taxi business or be named on a Taxi Operators License.
 - All licensed operators must ensure that taxis operating within their Taxi Operator License are licensed taxi vehicles, driven by licensed taxi drivers. It will be an offence to provide a taxi service without a Taxi Operator license.
 - Drivers will only be allowed to be named on one license at any one time and work for one licensed operator at any one time.
 - The Department proposes that the License will be valid for a maximum of five years from the date granted. The proposal also contains provisions for shorter license periods can be issued at the discretion of the Department.
 - The new regulations will require an applicant to be fit and proper. To determine 'fit and proper' criteria applicants will be expected to demonstrate that they have complied with other legal requirements connected with running a business.
- 2.4 The Department has proposed a fee structure which is dependent on the uptake by operators. The fees are intended to cover the costs incurred in carrying out a licensing function. Two fees are proposed depending on the size of the taxi business, a small operator license and large operator license. A summary of the proposal are contained in Appendix 2.

2.5 Issues for consideration

- The proposed system should improve safety by establishing a situation whereby taxi services would only be undertaken by those who have been subject to licensing checks.
- There may be a low uptake of the licenses due to increased administration and cost and therefore a decline in the service offered. The fee structure should be kept to a minimum to cover administration costs.
- A reduced fee is proposed for smaller operators which should be beneficial for the small local taxi business.
- There may be a case for taxi operators to transfer increased cost of operations onto taxi users; therefore regulations to cover fare structure should to be bought forward in line with the licensing legislation.

The proposed response to the consultation is attached in Appendix 1 for consideration by elected Members.

3 Resource Implications

3.1 There are no resource implications

4 Equality and Good Relations Considerations

4.1 There are no equality and Good Relations Considerations attached to this report

5 Recommendations

5.1 Members are requested to consider the proposed response to the Consultation paper on Taxi Operator Licensing in Northern Ireland if appropriate, agree a response to be submitted to DOE.”

6 Decision Tracking

Final response submitted to DOE

Timeline: February 2011 Reporting Officer: John McGrillen

7 Key to Abbreviations

DOE – Department of the Environment

8 Documents Attached

Appendix 1 – Draft Response

Appendix 1

General comments

The Council welcome the proposal for a new system of operator licensing for taxi services. The Council recognise that it should prevent the problem of illegal taxing and contribute to higher standards in quality and safety of the service.

The Council would suggest that in order to create a level playing field for taxi operators and ensure a choice of service for the users that the Taxi regulations covering fares and taximeters, the use of taxi ranks and hiring of taxis in bought forward in line with this legislation.

The Council would request further consultation on the fee structure. Taxi operators provide an important service to the local community and contribute to the evening economy. An adequate supply of taxis along with a reasonable fare is needed to ensure customers are not deterred.

The Council would be concerned in relation to the impact of small firms who provide a valuable local service. Steps must be taken to ensure costs and administration is kept to the minimum.

Question Number	Question	Agree/Disagree
1	<i>Do you agree that all persons who wish to operate a taxi service must hold or be named on a Taxi Operator Licence?</i>	Agree
	The Council would welcome proposals to regulate taxi operators and their booking offices in Northern Ireland	
2	<i>Do you agree that all drivers and vehicles associated with an Operator Licence should be properly licensed?</i>	Agree
3	<i>Do you agree that a driver may only work for one Licensed Operator at any one time?</i>	See comments below
	The Council seeks clarification in relation to part time drivers and if a reduced rate or sharing of a license can be considered.	
4	<i>Do you agree with the above proposal only to allow bookings to be accepted in licensed operation centres?</i>	Agree
5	<i>Do you agree with the proposal that any person, who wishes to be a Licensed Operator, completes the required application forms?</i>	Agree

Question Number	Question	Agree/Disagree
6	<i>Do you agree to the proposals relating to application and the licensing of operators?</i>	Agree
7	<i>Do you agree that everyone listed on an application for an operator licence sign a personal declaration that all the information provided is correct?</i>	Agree
8	<i>Do you agree that the Department may decline to proceed with applications where the application process has not been sufficiently completed?</i>	Agree
9	<i>Do you agree that a Taxi Operator Licence will be valid for a maximum of five years?</i>	Agree
10	<i>Do you agree that applicants must be considered to be 'fit and proper' in order for the Department to grant them a licence?</i>	Agree
11	<i>Do you agree with the proposed 'fit and proper' criteria?</i>	Agree
12	<i>Do you agree with the proposed conditions of licence?</i>	Agree
13	<i>Do you agree with the details which will appear on each licence?</i>	Agree
14	<i>Do you agree that records relating to bookings, drivers, vehicles, complaints and lost property should be kept and maintained as proposed?</i>	Agree
15	<i>Do you agree the proposal for publishing a public register?</i>	Agree
16	<i>Do you agree with the proposals for replacement and variation of licences?</i>	Agree
17	<i>Do you agree with the proposals for display of licences?</i>	Agree

Question Number	Question	Agree/Disagree
18	<i>Do you agree with the proposals for information on licences?</i>	Agree
19	<i>Do you agree with the proposals for fee structure?</i>	See comments below
	The Council would request further consultation on the fee structure. Taxi operators provide an important service to the local community and contribute to the evening economy. An adequate supply of taxis along with a reasonable fare is needed to ensure customers are not deterred.	
20	<i>Do you agree with the proposals for enforcement?</i>	Agree
21	<i>Do you agree with the proposals for inspecting operating centres?</i>	Agree
22	<i>Do you agree with the proposals for suspension and revocation of licences?</i>	Agree
23	<i>Do you agree with the proposals for appeals?</i>	Agree
24	<i>Do you agree with the assumed impacts outlined in this EQIA? If no, please can you explain why and provide any evidence which supports that view?</i>	Agree
25	<i>Are there any issues that will impact specifically on Section 75 groups? If there are any such issues, can you explain them and provide evidence that supports that view?</i>	
26	<i>Do you agree with the assumptions of the impact of the proposed changes on the various categories of taxi operator? If not, please can you explain why and provide any evidence which supports that view?</i>	See comments below
	The Council would be concerned in relation to the impact of small firms who provide a valuable local service. Steps must be taken to ensure costs and administration is kept to the minimum."	

**Tender for the Provision of Catering,
Bars and Restaurant Services at the Waterfront Hall**

The Committee was reminded that the contract for the provision of catering, bars and restaurant services at the Belfast Waterfront would expire in September, 2011. The Head of City Events and Venues provided an overview of the current arrangements in operation and reported that, due to the current economic climate, the catering service provider had reported a sharp decline in the demand for corporate hospitality. In addition, it was reported that there had been significant changes to the range of catering and hospitality products which conference organisers and the general public were requesting, which suggested that a full reappraisal and review of the contract's specifications be carried out prior to the contract being put out for tender.

Accordingly, in order to facilitate a full review of the specifications of the contract, the Committee acceded to the following course of action:

- that a full management review be carried out of the contract specification and catering product relating to catering, bars and restaurant provision;
- that the current catering contract be extended for an initial period of six months, with effect from 1st October, 2011, with the potential to further extend on a monthly basis up to a maximum period of one year; and
- that authority be delegated to the Director of Development to appoint a successful applicant on the completion of the contract review and the subsequent tendering process.

Adjournment

The Committee agreed to adjourn its business and agreed further that the undernoted items be placed on the agenda for its meeting on 22nd February:

- Business Improvement Districts – Consultation and Proposed Seminar
- Northern Ireland Affairs Committee Inquiry – ‘Enterprise Zones’
- Northern Ireland Economic Strategy
- Employability Support – Proposals Received and Proposed Approach
- North Belfast Advice Partnership – Proposed Expenditure Variance
- Lower Castlereagh Area Proposal
- Advice Services – Volunteer Training Programme
- Office of the First and Deputy First Minister – Child Poverty Strategy
- Office of the First and Deputy First Minister – Play and Leisure Consultation
- Generalist Advice – Consultation
- Community Services Grant Aid.

Chairman