

Document Pack

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



15th March, 2012

MEETING OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Dear Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room (Room G05), City Hall on **Tuesday, 20th March, 2012 at 5:15 p.m.**, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully

PETER McNANEY

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. **Routine Matters**
 - (a) Apologies
 - (b) Minutes
 - (c) Declarations of Interest
2. **Requests for Deputations**
3. **Routine Correspondence - Minister for Social Development** (Pages 1 - 2)
4. **Belfast's Economy**
 - (a) Belfast Welcome Centre - Relocation (Pages 3 - 76)
 - (b) MTV Europe Music Awards and Belfast Music Week (Pages 77 - 86)
 - (c) Lagan Canal Restoration Trust (Pages 87 - 92)

(d) EUROCITIES (Pages 93 - 118)

(e) Management Arrangements - EU Structural Funds (Pages 119 - 122)

5. **Shaping Belfast**

(a) Active Travel Proposals (Pages 123 - 126)

(b) Presentation - Belfast on the Move (Pages 127 - 130)

(c) Local Area Regeneration Projects (Pages 131 - 136)

6. **Neighbourhood, Communities and People**

(a) Pride of Place Awards - Verbal Update



Department for

**Social
Development**

www.dsdni.gov.uk

5th Floor
Lighthouse Building
1 Cromac Place
Gasworks Business Park
Ormeau Road
BELFAST
BT7 2JB

Fax: (028) 9082 9548
e-mail: private.office@dsdni.gov.uk

Tel: (028) 9082 9034

Mr Barry Flynn
Democratic Services Officer
Chief Executive's Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
BELFAST
BT1 5GS

Your ref: BF/JT

Our ref: COR/136/2012

7 March 2012

Dear Barry

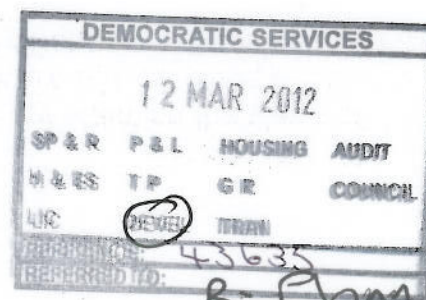
Thank you for your letter of 16 February bringing to my attention the views of the Council's Development Committee on the recent review of High Streets by Mary Portas. I am grateful to the Committee for its welcome of my Department's plans to consider the implications of the Portas Review for Northern Ireland.

I should be grateful if you would advise the Committee that I will consider including Belfast city centre within any pilot project formulated by DSD in light of the Portas Review and will arrange to keep the Committee updated in this regard. I can also confirm that my officials are available to attend a future meeting of the Committee to discuss issues of mutual concern. I understand that Jackie Johnston has recently met with Shirley McCay to discuss the Portas Review and that they will continue to keep in contact as we move forward with the review.

Yours sincerely

Nelson McCausland

NELSON McCAUSLAND MLA
Minister for Social Development



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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Lagan Canal Restoration Trust
Date:	20 March 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459

1.	Relevant Background Information
1.1	<p><u>Lagan Canal Restoration Trust</u> In November 2006 Members approved the establishment of the Lagan Canal Restoration Trust and in 2008 the core funding bodies appointed a manager whose remit was to set up the Trust. The Trust is a not for profit company limited by guarantee with charitable status.</p>
1.2	<p>The Trust currently represents core funding bodies and key interest groups including; Belfast City Council, Lisburn City Council, Castlereagh Borough Council, Craigavon Borough Council, Department of Culture Arts and Leisure (DCAL). Other Trust stakeholders include; Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), Department of Social Development (DSD), Inland Waterways Association of Ireland (IWAI), Countryside Access and Activities Network (CAAN), Ulster Waterways Group (UWG) , Lagan Valley Regional Park and a number of public stakeholders.</p>
1.3	<p>In August 2009 Development Committee funded the Trust until March 2011 and the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Development Committee were appointed as Belfast City Council representatives on the Trust Board.</p>
1.4	<p>For the three year period 2009-2011 all of the key partners contributed funding to the Trust, and for the three year period from April 2011 until March 2014, the following key partners further committed funding. This included; Lisburn City Council £112,200, DCAL £56,100, Craigavon Borough Council £22,500, and Castlereagh £11,200.</p>
1.5	<p>In April 2011 Members agree one year funding of £16,800 for the Lagan Canal Restoration Trust until March 2012 with a review of future funding. The Trust is now seeking funding from Council for the next two year period.</p>

1.6	For the period 2012-2013 the Council's financial commitment would be £16,827 and in period 2013-2014 it would be £17,341. A total funding contribution of £34,178
1.7	A number of key impact reports are currently being undertaken by the Trust, namely; a Business Case and Funding Strategy, a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and a Technical Assessment of the canal and locks of the Lagan Corridor from Belfast to Lough Neagh. These reports are considered fundamental to the possible future capital development of the project and will be completed in summer 2012.
1.8	Belfast City Council in conjunction with Castlereagh Borough Council and Lisburn City Council has submitted an Expression of Interest for funding to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) AXIS 3, Rural Development Programme, for the Lagan Strategic Rural Project. This submission is based on partnership support and includes the Stranmillis Gateway project as a key element of the project.
1.9	Following a meeting on the future of the Lagan Gateway with DCAL Minister Ni Chuilin in November 2011, a business breakfast will be planned for key stakeholders during April in the City Hall. With the city's draft Investment Programme 2012-2015 recently launched, the business breakfast is being used as an opportunity to feed into the consultation process.

2.	Key Issues
2.1	<u>The Lagan Canal Restoration Trust</u> Members will be aware that in 2006 an offer of £1million funding was made available to Council by Ulster Garden Villages Limited (UGV) towards the reopening of the Lagan gateway Lock 1 at Stranmillis, on the bases that match funding would be available.
2.2	UGV initially supported the Council by providing funding of £50,000 from the £1 million offer, to establish the Lagan Corridor Officer post within the Development Department.
2.3	As an emerging partnership project, the Lagan Canal corridor project is included in Belfast City Council's Investment Programme 2012-2015
2.4	In the draft Investment Programme 2012-2015, it is recognised that the Council cannot realise the objectives on its own, and therefore an underlying principle is the need to work in partnership and develop productive relationships with the Northern Ireland Executive and other key partners from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors.
2,5	Funding commitments have been agreed by the following key core funders up to 2014; Lisburn City Council, Castlereagh Borough Council, Craigavon Borough Council and DCAL.
2.6	The Lagan Canal Restoration Trust is seeking funding of £34,178 from Council for the two year period from 2012-2014.
2.7	A number of key Trust outputs have been highlighted in Appendix 1

Lagan Canal - Key Outputs to date

Belfast:

- A Topographical and River Survey has been completed for Lock 1 Stranmillis Gateway.
- A Scoping Study was completed for the Lagan Gateway Project from the Lagan Weir to Edenderry (First Phase)
- An Economic Appraisal was conducted for the stretch of river from Lagan Weir to Edenderry. This study confirmed the feasibility of re-opening the Lagan Navigation.
- The Lagan Steering Group was established to exchange advice and information between stakeholders.
- A three dimensional model of the proposed development at Lock 1 Stranmillis Gateway has been completed.
- A virtual (computer generated) model completed. This allows detailed examination of the project through 360 degrees. This interactive 3D environment will allow the user to navigate around in real-time and assess views from any location. It is compatible with use on the Council Website and is being used as a marketing and promotional tool.
- Interpretative signage has been installed beside Lock 1 Stranmillis Gateway and includes interpretation of the Lagan Navigation, the history of the area, the river and canal.
- Held 2 successful Lagan boat rallies including the rally to coincide with Belfast Tall Ships event
- DSD has installed interpretative signs based on the Council's signage template. They link areas along the Lagan from Belfast Harbour to Stranmillis.
- Funding Research undertaken and liaison with potential funding bodies ongoing
- A workshop was held in June 2008, in Enniskillen to raise awareness of the potential to establish a single inland waterway with a maritime connection at either end linking the East and West coasts of Ulster to form new water based tourism products. (East-West Project) This workshop attracted support from Alderman Jeffrey Donaldson MP, MLA and Tánaiste, Mary Coughlan TD. The overall aim was to raise awareness and buy-in from stakeholders especially Central Government and Waterways Ireland.
- A reciprocal meeting was held in December 2008 at Lisburn City Council. Alderman Jeffrey Donaldson MP, MLA and Tánaiste, Mary Coughlan TD. Pledged their support for the East West project.

- New web pages have been constructed highlighting the Lagan Corridor Navigation and the proposed development at Lock 1 Stranmillis Gateway. This web page has been added to Belfast City Council's website www.belfastcity.gov.uk/lagan
- A site meeting was arranged for members of the Development Committee, in June 2008. Representatives from DSD, DCAL, Lagan Valley Regional Park Board, Lagan Trust Manager and Belfast City Council Officers visited the Lagan Lookout to Locks 1, 2 and 3 via the Tow Path.
- Waterways Ireland arranged a best practice visit for officers and steering group members in June 2008, for the Lagan Steering Group to Ballyconnell Lock in Co Cavan. The purpose of the visit was to view the operation of the lock and gain an understanding and insight into the benefits of canal restoration.
- DSD has currently undertaken a major refurbishment of the Lagan Weir worth £2 million. DSD have also commissioned a feasibility report on the redevelopment of the Lagan Lookout, and an economic appraisal on two proposed bridges over the lower Lagan. They have also undertaken dredging work of the tidal stretch of the Lagan from the Lagan Weir to Stranmillis Gateway Lock 1.
- Belfast Activity Centre - based in Barnett's Demesne, completed the building of a boat house at Shaw's Bridge in 2010, and rebuilt canoe steps and reinstated the slipway. (Cost approximately £270k)
- DCAL through the Lagan Navigation Trust conducted a Business Case for the re-opening of the Lagan Navigation from Stranmillis to Union Locks, Lisburn. This study confirmed the feasibility of re-opening the Lagan Navigation.
- Lock Keepers Cottage – Castlereagh Borough Council
The Lock keeper's cottage (Lock 3) grade B1 listed building has been refurbished and the new visitor centre, café, toilets and Interpreted space is opened. Canoe pontoons and moorings at the lock are currently being installed.
DCAL restored the Lock and gates at Lock 3.
- Lagan Valley Regional Park worked in partnership with Castlereagh Borough Council in the development and refurbishment of the Lock 3 project. This has included towpath improvements, extension and interpretation signage.
- Lisburn Council operates a Lagan Corridor Programme. They re-opened lock 12 as part of the new Island Civic Centre. They have created a strategic framework – identified nodes for development along the canal which includes improvements in towpaths, interpretive signage, land purchase, and potential links to developments such as the Maze complex. These nodes pass through various eligible areas identified under the NISRA rural classification 2005.
- Received funding from NITB for the restoration of a Lagan barge "Lighter" for their proposed canal/waterways museum at Oxford Island. They have also developed a canal leaflet for the Craigavon section of the Lagan Canal.

- Lagan Canal Restoration trust Established. Partnership members recruited and structures formalized. Registered as company limited by guarantee and recognised as a charity
- Stakeholder workshops organised to inform the strategic way forward
- Identified key necessary pre-restoration tasks steps, action plan developed & delivery initiated
- Vision document developed and distributed
- Landownership database being developed and Geographical Information Systems database being developed
- Website launched
- Delivered program of events including, Walks, Lectures, Exhibitions and Community Events
- Secured funding from the Rural Development Program to develop the Guide to the Lagan Canal, Past, Present and Future.



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Eurocities Update
Date:	6 March 2011
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Laura Leonard, European Manager, ext 3577

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economic Development - Social Affairs - Culture - Mobility - Knowledge Society - Environment <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
1.2	<p>During 2011 Belfast City Council was active in the following fora:</p> <p><u>Economic Development Forum</u></p> <p>Member of cohesion policy working group</p> <p>Member of urban regeneration working group</p> <p>Member of metropolitan areas working group</p>

	<p><u>Social Affairs Forum</u> Member of social inclusion working group. Member of urban security working group Member of the health and well being working group.</p> <p><u>Environment Forum</u> 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</p> <p><u>Culture Forum</u> Member of the youth culture working group) Member of the resources for culture working group) virtual engagement</p> <p><u>Knowledge Society Forum</u> Member of the Open Data Working Group Member of Smart Cities Working Group Member of E Inclusion Working Group Member of Services Directive Working Group</p>
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2.	Key Issues
2.1	<p>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 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Appendix 1 outlines the key work areas and outputs achieved through Belfast City Council's engagement in the network in 2011. It also outlines the intended work plans specifically for Belfast City Council in 2012. Each area has been discussed and deemed appropriate at relevant directorate levels within council departments.</p> <p>Highlights of the 2012 work plan may be summarised as follows:</p>
2.2	<p><u>Economic Development Forum</u> In 2012 Belfast City Council will continue the high level lobby with Eurocities regarding EU funding post 2013. This work will be critical to influence and guide intensive work planned for 2012 to lobby Whitehall, the Northern Ireland Assembly and government departments to maximise the role of local government post 2013 and to secure a strong urban European plan for Belfast. BCC will engage in the Integrated Urban Development, Cohesion Policy and Metropolitan Areas Working Groups.</p>

2.3	<p><u>Social Affairs Forum</u> Belfast City Council will continue to contribute to the EU policy process in the following ways by strengthening the relationships with DG Employment through maximising the links between member cities and key officials in DG Employment and responding to the encouragement of DG Employment to show how cities can bring together researchers and practitioners to pilot new initiatives and test methods of evaluation.</p> <p>BCC will develop closer links with EU institutions and stakeholders on the European Year for Active Ageing.</p> <p>Continue to work on influencing the final shape of the future ESF regulations. Identify early, and take advantage of funding calls which could facilitate joint city working on projects which support the aims and objectives of SAF e.g. calls under the PROGRESS and FP7 Social Science and Humanities Programmes.</p>
2.4	<p><u>Environment Forum</u> Belfast City Council will continue to engage in the Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities. The launch of the full framework will be in Aalborg in May .</p> <p>BCC will engage in the S Cube project, 100% funding project designing city energy plans. We hope to hear if it is successful in March 2012.</p> <p>BCC will continue to work to address the challenges associated with global climate change, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions and anticipating the potential consequences and developing effective adaptation measures.</p> <p>We will provide input to the review of EU air quality policy, in particular with regards to the specific needs of cities</p> <p>BCC is a selected city in the 7 European Environmental Action Programme and will follow-up to the European Union's Sixth Environmental Action Programme (with the likely development of a 7th Environmental Action Programme), including the development of strategies on urban environment, including issues such as urban transport, reduction of toxic substances in the environment, air quality, and the prevention and recycling of waste</p> <p>BCC will promote the use of sustainable energy in cities (raising awareness and energy efficiency, while decreasing the production of CO₂) and promote and foster green growth as economic engine for city development</p>
2.5	<p><u>Knowledge Society Forum</u></p> <p>In 2012 the final report of the road map for Smart Cities will be produced by the working group. This draws together learning from other EU cities leading in this area. The report will provide valuable insights and learning for Belfast and other cities who have yet to develop a smart city strategy. Future opportunities for funding will also be explored.</p> <p>BCC will engage in the e-inclusion working group. BCC will produce a guide book with the Open Data Working Group to provide technical and legal guidance on the publication of data sets.</p>

<p>2.6</p> <p>2.7</p> <p>2.8</p> <p>2.9</p> <p>2.10</p>	<p><u>Culture Forum</u></p> <p>BCC will continue its contribution to the European policy process through participation in relevant consultations.</p> <p>BCC will use the Culture Forum to identify best practice and benchmarking to assist in the delivery of the Council's Integrated Tourism Strategy. The areas to be included in learning, benchmarking and sharing knowledge include cultural infrastructure, use of new technology, heritage issues, development of Belfast Story, maximising Titanic and maritime heritage particularly for 2012, extending benefits of tourism across the city.</p> <p>BCC will use the Forum to identify funding opportunities to support corporate plan objectives and in particular tourism, culture and arts.</p> <p><u>Additional Activity</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Members should also note that Belfast City Council attended the 2011 Eurocities Annual General Meeting and submitted priority council projects for the Eurocities awards under the categories of: Innovation, Participation and cooperation. The theme of the 2011 AGM was "Social Dimension of Urban Planning". Belfast City Council ran a photographic competition offering Belfast youth the opportunity to submit a photograph of Belfast which was profiled in the Eurocities 25 year anniversary publication. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful in securing an award. The conference looked at the challenges of cities addressing issues of aging populations, integrating young, new communities and creating sustainable connected cities. The AGM was attended by Councillor Bob Stoker and Councillor Caoimhin Mac Giolla Mhin on behalf of the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Development Committee. One of the key messages was that more EU resources need to be dedicated to urban issues given that more than 70% of Europe's population resides in urban areas yet 50% of the EU budget is dedicated to rural issues. BCC via the EU Unit is planning to lobby the NI Government with regard to this.</p> <p>Members are asked to note the contents of this report, approve the proposed 2012 Belfast City Council work plan with Eurocities and agree to the payment of the 2012/2013 subscription fee of 15,820 euros.</p> <p>Members should note that due to austerity resources across Europe, the annual fee has been frozen for 2012/2013 and Eurocities will increase the level of virtual online working to reduce travel and to ensure as wide engagement of cities as possible.</p>
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3.	Resource Implications
3.1	<p>The annual subscription fee for Belfast City Council's membership of Eurocities is 15,820 euros.</p> <p>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.</p>

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

5.	Recommendations
5.1	<p>Members are asked to recommend:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noting the Eurocities update report 2. Approval of the proposed 2012 Eurocities work plan for Belfast City Council 3. Approve payment of the 2012 Eurocities subscription at a cost of 15,820 euros

6.	Decision Tracking
<p>Following approval by Committee the European Unit will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commence work with relevant Council Departments on the implementation of the 2012 Eurocities Workplan 2. Pay the Eurocities subscription <p>Date line: April 2012 Reporting Officer: Laura Leonard</p>	

7.	Documents Attached
Appendix 1: Key work areas and outputs	

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EUROCITIES OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2012-2013

Forum Name: Economic Development

BCC EU Officer: Laura Leonard

Department(s) linked to/supported by work of Forum:

The Development Department via the Economic Development and European Units are linked to and supported by this forum. There are also evolving links and relevance for the Northern Ireland European Regional Forum.

Outputs and Achievements for 2011:

Attended three forum meetings.

- Input into the consultations on future cohesion policy and EU Funding post 2013.
- Input into the consultations on the EU legislative package and regulations post 2013.
- Input into the metropolitan areas study

Forum Priorities for 2012:

1. EU funding to support cities' integrated development:

Lobbying on EU budget 2014-2020, cohesion policy, competitiveness and innovation programmes, Horizon 2020, other relevant programmes and policies, and on financial instruments.

2. Economic recovery, long term economic development, and employment:

Demonstrating that cities are the engines of growth in Europe for instance through their support to entrepreneurship, employment and lifelong learning schemes. Exploring ways to foster innovation in cities and thereby boost the local economy.

3. Integrated development of functional urban areas:

Promoting integrated approaches in urban planning and urban regeneration schemes. Advocating the place-based approach in different EU policies. Outlining the importance of metropolitan areas in today's urbanised societies.

Forum Working Groups for 2012

The Integrated Urban Development Working Group
 The Entrepreneurship Working Group
 The Cohesion Policy Working Group
 The Metropolitan Areas Working Group
 The Innovation Working Group

Areas of Work to be Undertaken with Departmental Director approval in 2012

Attend three forum meetings and engage in;

1. Entrepreneurship Working Group

Promoting entrepreneurship, especially in target to increase the number of entrepreneurs, to achieve more growth companies in EU, to contribute to the European economical growth and Lisbon objectives and to increase the cooperation of the cities to improve competitiveness.

2. Integrated Urban Development Group

The WG will improve integrated planning through peer reviews exchanges.

3. Metropolitan Areas Working Group

The working group focuses on the city in relation to its surroundings and the governance of functional urban areas. The work of the group feeds into the EU debates about delivering Europe 2020 and Structural Funds 2014 - 2020.

4. Future Cohesion Policy Working Group

The working group coordinates EUROCITIES lobbying vis-à-vis the EU institutions and Member States on EU Cohesion Policy and Structural

Funds to ensure a sufficient urban focus in regulatory frameworks.

5. Innovation Working Group

This working group will exchange on innovation systems and to influence the new research programmes, e.g. Horizon 2020.

Expected Results:

- Belfast City Council through the Director of Property and Projects will engage in the Integrated Urban Development Working Group to see how other cities involve the private sector in urban regeneration and encourage joint investment.
- Belfast City Council through the Director of Property and Projects will engage in the metropolitan working group to look at best practise approaches to metropolitan governance and city regional working.
- High level engagement in Eurocities post 2013 structural funds lobby to ensure an urban dimension for cities
- The officer will also engage in the UK Eurocities campaign to lobby Whitehall to maximise opportunities for local government and this will feed into the local lobby led by Belfast City Council in 2012/13.

Forum Name: Environment Forum

BCC EU Officer: Sarah Jayne Smith

Department(s) linked to/supported by work of Forum:

Health and Environmental Services, Belfast Health Development Unit (made up of BCC and external partners).
Property and Projects(Energy)

A) Outputs and Achievements for 2011

- Attended two Forum meetings

Key outputs:

- Statements of every EEF meeting that are used to lobby the European Commission on policies affecting cities
- Stockholm appeal on Climate Change
- Inclusion in the S Cube Smart Cities project.
- Crisis Recovery paper (economic)
- Green Digital Charter
- Position on Noise directive
- Evaluation on 6th Environmental Action Programme
- Questionnaire on Green Procurement
- Overview of environmental priorities
- An overview of waste collecting practices in Europe
- Position papers on noise and silent tyres
- 7 Environmental Action Plan development
- Energy 2020 Policy Paper/consultation

- A Road map(timeframe) for a low carbon economy consultation with cities.
- EU air quality policy review: participation and contribution to Commission stakeholder expert group (lead: WG Air Quality Climate Change Energy Efficiency)
- Energy Efficiency Directive: position paper.
- Climate adaptation: Contribution to the Commission Adaptation Steering Group.
- Exchange of best practices between cities on issues such as: climate adaptation, air quality measures, greening the local economy/ green growth, climate mitigation/SEAPs/Covenant of Mayors

B) Forum Priorities for 2012

In 2012, the forum will focus on 3 thematic priorities:

- Environment and economy
- Environment and health
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation

Within these priorities, the forum follows several objectives:

- Addressing the challenges associated with global climate change, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions and anticipating the potential consequences and developing effective adaptation measures
- Providing input to the review of EU air quality policy, in particular with regards to the specific needs of cities
- The follow-up to the European Union's Sixth Environmental Action Programme (with the likely development of a 7th Environmental Action Programme), including the development of strategies on urban environment, including issues such as urban transport, reduction of toxic substances in the environment, air quality, and the prevention and recycling of waste
- Promoting the use of sustainable energy in cities (raising awareness and energy efficiency, while decreasing the production of CO₂)
- Promoting and fostering green growth as economic engine for city development

Addressing the challenges associated with other issues affecting the urban environment and quality of life, such as noise, water, waste, green areas, cleanliness and more.

Forum Working Groups for 2012(groups with asterisk are those with Director approval to attend):

1. Air quality/climate change/energy efficiency, chaired by Birmingham*

The working group addresses air quality and climate change issues affecting cities in Europe.

2. Waste, chaired by Genoa

Addressing the issues of waste recycling, bio waste and sludge. Contributing from the city perspective to European policy initiatives on prevention and recycling of waste.

3. Water, chaired by Eindhoven and The Hague

The EU framework guidelines on water, climate change and air quality demand new ways to tackle challenges in urban water management. The primary objective of the working group is to collect and exchange good, innovative and sustainable solutions on surface and ground water problems (for both water quality and water quantity aspects) with a view to stimulating the implementation of these innovative solutions.

4. Noise, chaired by Rotterdam

Supporting members in the implementation of European directives relating to the assessment and management of urban noise.

5. Greening the local economy, chaired by Zurich (co-chair tbc)*

Supporting the preservation and development of parks and gardens that often characterise the cultural heritage of European cities. The group strives to increase the contribution of green areas to a better quality of life and improved air quality as well as to cultural and recreation activities. We are also focused on increasing citizens' involvement in the management and recovery of green areas.

6. Clean cities, chaired by Copenhagen*

Promoting clean and attractive cities and changing behaviour on illegal depositing of litter and waste and other activities which have a negative impact on the urban environment and citizens' quality of life.

7. Green areas, chaired by Genoa

Supporting the preservation and development of parks and gardens that often characterise the cultural heritage of European cities. The group strives to increase the contribution of green areas to a better quality of life and improved air quality as well as to cultural and

recreation activities. We are also focused on increasing citizens' involvement in the management and recovery of green areas.

These seven working groups contribute to the overall EUROCITIES work programme through different actions: contribution to various position papers, workshops, joint meetings, joint initiatives and participation in other forum WGs meetings mainly

Areas of Work to be Undertaken with Departmental Director approval in 2012

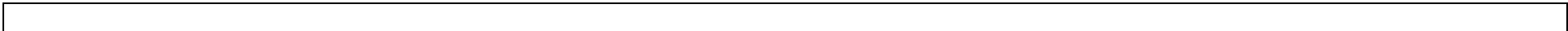
Attendance at three full Environment Forum meetings

Attendance at three Clean Cities Working Group meetings

Work with all relevant departments and units and in particular with Health and Environmental Services, Property and Projects on relevant projects and policy work.

(D) Expected Results:

To optimum would be funding to support corporate plan objectives, policy influencing and awareness and creating profile for Belfast internationally.



Forum Name: Knowledge Society Forum

BCC EU Officer: Deirdre Ferguson

Forum Name: Knowledge Society Forum

BCC EU Officer: Deirdre Ferguson

Department(s) linked to/supported by work of Forum:

ISB is the key area of BCC linked to this forum. As ISB provides a support service for all of Council, the work undertaken by this forum impacts on and benefits all BCC departments.

A) Outputs and Achievements for 2011:

Belfast City Council staff sit on 3 working groups of the KSF, these are Services Directive, Open Data, Smart Cities and we have a watching brief on the e-Inclusion group. We have attended 3 meetings in 2011 and reports on learning, links and contacts made at all meetings have been shared with colleagues and BCC stakeholder organisations.

Services Directive: Other EU cities are using the Services Directive as a means of achieving economic growth by simplifying processes involved in business start up. We have looked at our approach to the Services Directive and how useful this has been and contributed to a Eurocities led review of the Service Directive. The findings from this informed a review carried out by the Commission at the end of the year.

Open Data: We have also benefited from the work of the Open Data group and learned from the experiences of different cities. As a result ISB have considered data sets suitable for open data publication and gained approval to publish these. Links have been made with DETI to support this work. Publication of open data is a means of making BCC information more transparent and easily available to the public. It can help to reduce the number of freedom of information requests received and information can be re-purposed to create new business opportunities. This work also ties in with the new Digital Strategy that is being developed for the city.

Links with DETI have also enabled us to access information on pre-commercial procurement which we have shared with economic development and procurement.

Smart Cities: As members of the Smart Cities working group we have had the opportunity to learn from other cities and have passed this information to relevant staff in Council who are involved in developing our own Smart City Strategy.

We also made a proposal to the KSF forum for Belfast to host one of its conferences in 2012 and gained approval to host the 2012 summer conference in Belfast on the theme of cyber security.

Information on 23 project opportunities have been shared so far this year with BCC colleagues and with Northern Ireland Regional Forum members. PSNI have been following up project opportunities and BCC will be involved in 2 projects which have been successful in being awarded funding. The first project Networking for Intelligent Cities (NICE), funded through the ICT Policy Support Programme began in September. This funds technical expertise to help us improve our work in reducing ICT emissions. The second project ILLUMINATE funded by FP7 will allow us to refit the outside of the City Hall with energy efficient lighting. It is estimated that this project has the potential to reduce electricity usage in the City Hall by approximately £13,000 per annum.

Three Knowledge Society Events have been attended, these are as follows:

1) **Ghent April 2011:** The theme of the conference was 'involvement and engagement of citizens and cities through ICT'. Key learning points were:

- Well established partnerships exist among European cities who constantly work with each other to develop and implement new projects. Cities see usage of the Eurocities partner search facility as a last resort and prefer to invite partners based on the relationships they have developed. It is therefore extremely important for Belfast to be seen as a credible partner, to find out what other cities are developing and to try to engage at the earliest stage possible rather than waiting for partner invitations.
- Although Belfast has not signed up to projects as a partner there are learning opportunities to be gained through dissemination of results.
- Belfast needs to consider the project opportunities we have been invited to join and respond quickly to establish credibility.
- Potential opportunities and efficiencies can be gained from re-use of public sector information. ISB to consider this for publishing data sets.

2) **Dresden June 2011:** The theme of this event was the hidden profits associated with the implementation of the EU Services Directive. Key learning points were:

- Other cities see implementation of the Services Directive as a means of achieving competitive advantage. By simplifying processes associated with business registration and start up they are making their cities more attractive for companies to set up.
- We need to understand how the Services Directive has been implemented in our region and City Council's role. Our experiences and recommendations can feed into the Commission's review taking place at the end of this year.
- The 'picture' method will be used to compare city processes for implementation of the Services Directive. It can also be used for streamlining processes to create greater effectiveness and efficiencies and is worth considering to support integrated working and changes required for RPA.
- D115 is an excellent example of a transformed telephone system where citizens access all public services by using one easy to remember telephone number - 115.

3) **Eindhoven October 2011:** The theme of this event was open innovation. Key learning points were:

- Eindhoven is a top European technology region where a triple helix of business, education/knowledge institutions work together with government to boost the competitiveness of the region. Philips light bulbs and DAF trucks were two pioneering industries which put the area on the map early last century.
- Eindhoven Brainport creates industries for the future which are developed 'for and by the market'. It spends 8% of the gross regional produce on R&D and has the largest share of profit in total Dutch private R&D expenditure. Brainport's work is based on thinking globally and acting locally in cooperation with others across functional networks. Collaboration is key to the success of Eindhoven Brainport which won Intelligent city of the year award. The proximity of campus provides easy access to technical facilities and services which has helped to create a vibrant research community.
- The FP7 programme will become Horizon 2020 post 2013. The scheme will integrate the current framework programme for research (FP&) the competitiveness and innovation programme (CIP) and funding for the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT).

B) Forum Priorities for 2012:

The connectivity of communities is key to developing creativity and social know how to form vibrant knowledge-based economies. This is the overarching theme for the work of the Knowledge Society Forum in 2012 and will shape the working groups:

1. Smart Cities
2. E-inclusion
3. Open data
4. Services Directive

Four meetings will take place throughout the year:

January 26th Brussels
March 20th and 22nd Berlin
June 20th and 21st Belfast
October Vienna, date to be agreed

Participation in working groups and expected results will be as follows:

1. **Smart Cities:** In 2012 the final report of the road map for Smart Cities will be produced by the working group. This draws together learning from other EU cities leading in this area. The report will provide valuable insights and learning for Belfast and other cities who have yet to develop a smart city strategy. Future opportunities for funding will also be explored.
2. **E-inclusion:** In 2012 the e-inclusion working group will ensure that this theme is included in the Smart Cities roadmap. The group will signpost members to funding opportunities which will link with our Investment Strategy.
3. **Open Data:** In 2012 the open data group will produce a guide book which will provide technical and legal guidance on the publication of data sets. The working group will focus on the practicalities of opening access to data to make it re-usable as well as identifying potential for joint initiatives at EU level. ISB will contribute to the guide book and have access to it and the ongoing support from group members when publishing data sets for BCC.
4. **Services Directive:** The focus of the work for 2012 will be a comparative analysis of the effectiveness of the single point of contact and a position paper on the contribution of the Directive as an economic driver. We will bring learning from this group back to council.

Forum Name: Culture Forum

BCC EU Officer: Frances Murray

Department(s) linked to/supported by work of Forum:

This Forum links to and supports work in the Development Department and in particular the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit. In addition there is also benefit for Parks and Leisure as this Department controls some tourism facilities including the Zoo and Parks including Botanic Park. It also links to the work of Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau and Belfast City Centre Management.

(A) Outputs and Achievements for 2011

BCC actively re-engaged with the Forum in 2011, attending the autumn meeting in Antwerp. A BCC response was also provided to the EUROCIITIES consultation with regard to the proposed Creative Europe Funding Programme. This €1billion Programme will be the main funding stream for cultural, arts and audiovisual activity for the period 2014-2020. The resulting draft EUROCIITIES statement is presently being agreed at Executive level and will be followed by meetings between EUROCIITIES staff and Commission representatives. BCC also participated in the Forum's Working Group on Young People and Culture.

(B) Forum Priorities for 2012:

Priorities for 2012:

Having taken into consideration members' perspectives and the European agenda, the following are the Culture Forum priorities for this year:

1. Creative partnerships

The economic crisis has had diverse consequences on cultural budgets in cities, but also on working methods. In most cities new partnerships involving cultural actors and other stakeholders have developed. They are now resulting in new ways for local cultural actors to work together for example between culture, knowledge institutions and innovation.

In 2012 the culture forum will explore those new alliances set up in cities. What are their objectives? Which actors do they involve? How are they managed?

2. Access to culture

Culture is for all to share, at all ages. It contributes to the wellbeing and entitlement of citizens and to social cohesion and inclusion. In 2012 the culture forum will continue acting as a platform for cities to share views and policies on local strategies to encourage access to culture for all citizens. Particular attention will be given to two groups: young people, and 'senior' citizens, thus marking a clear link with the 2012 European Year of active ageing and solidarity between generations.

3. European funding for culture

In addition to continuing to lobby for the proposed Creative Europe Programme to reflect the needs and concerns of cities, the Forum will also closely monitor other programmes that can be used to co finance cultural or creative projects. These include cohesion policy, and the new competitiveness and SMEs programme. The culture forum will also react to the European Commission's proposal for a new regulation on the European Capital of Culture after 2019 (expected mid 2012).

Two forum meetings are scheduled in 2012:

18-21 April in Utrecht which will focus on creative partnerships for culture.

24-27 October in Munich which will discuss how cities deal with their past

Forum Working Groups for 2012:

The culture forum is currently composed of 5 working groups

1. Resources for Culture (chaired by Bologna)

The working group examines the different types of financial resources that are available in cities to help sustain and develop their cultural activities and infrastructure in the long term.

In 2012 the group will continue exchanging experiences and information on how to strengthen resources for culture, and how to deal with the shrinking budgets in the post crisis years. It will also contribute to the development of a EURO CITIES position on the future Creative Europe programme and will input the network's position on the future cohesion policy.

The group will also broaden the concept of resources for culture and go beyond strictly financial resources, including for examples human resources for culture.

BCC has engaged in this working group in the past and will re-evaluate its position at the April meeting

2. Creative Industries (chaired by Ghent)

This joint WG of the EUROCIITIES culture forum and the EUROCIITIES economic development forum promotes cross-fertilization of ideas/projects/public policies related to cultural and creative industries and shares best practices targeting in particular measures to support and promote new forms of access to financial resources, to business support and to appropriate training.

In 2012 members will focus on the follow-up of the European Commission's Green paper on cultural and creative industries and will contribute to our position on the future Creative Europe programme. The brand new European Creative Industries Alliance will also be a key European initiative to be followed closely by the group, several members cities being leaders on different parts of the alliance.

Lastly, the group will reflect on 'creative industries and culture' in close collaboration with the culture forum: (How) do creative industries change the (traditional) content and perception of culture and/or the role/the relevance of culture in urban society?

BCC participates on a virtual basis.

3. Access to Culture (chaired by Riga)

The working group's aim is to identify, define and compare policies and action plans implemented by European cities regarding accessibility of cultural spaces and services. All aspects of accessibility (social, cultural, intellectual, physical and financial) are taken into account.

In 2012 the group will go on presenting and discussing concrete examples of policies and activities aiming to foster access to culture for all.

Cities hosting working group meetings will play a key role by arranging meetings with key local practitioners.

The working group is willing to contribute to the 2012 European Year of active ageing and solidarity between generations. Good practices to be shared will focus on senior citizens' access to culture.

4. Young People and Culture (chaired by Rotterdam)

The working group shares best practices about young people, culture and inclusion through cultural activities.

Culture reinforces society's commitment, the development of young people in our neighbourhoods and the climate of learning in schools.

Young people must also have the opportunity to develop culturally. It begins at schools in cooperation with artists, art institutions, art education centres and libraries as well as colleges of art for the further education of conspicuous creative talent. In our forum various cities have already implemented wonderful initiatives that deserve to be pursued or taken further in Europe.

In 2012 the young people and culture working group will continue to monitor all these trends to gain recognition for a fitting approach that can also be supported by the EU.

It will draw on the elaboration of 'Start them young', a paper on education and culture, as well as on youth cities in cities. A third focus point will be young people and heritage as an instrument for democracy, identity and mutual understanding.

BCC is actively engaged in this Working Group as it links across a number of Council strategies and corporate objectives

5. Mobility of artists and cultural professionals (chaired by Nantes)

Mobility is a professional and artistic necessity for artists in order to export their work, perform, learn, create, cooperate and discover new ways of expression. In 2012 the group will continue exchanging good practices on support provided by cities to the mobility of artists and culture professionals.

Interested members will also contribute to the writing of a Responsible and sustainable cultural and artistic mobility Charter, an initiative by On the move, a European cultural mobility information network.

(C) Areas of Work to be Undertaken with Departmental Director approval in 2012:

Attendance at the 2012 forum meetings

To continue BCC's contribution to the European policy process through participation in relevant consultations.

BCC will use the Culture Forum to identify best practice and benchmarking to assist in the delivery of the Council's Integrated Tourism Strategy. The areas to be included in learning, benchmarking and sharing knowledge include cultural infrastructure, use of new technology, heritage issues, development of Belfast Story, maximising Titanic and maritime heritage particularly for 2012, extending benefits of tourism across the city.

BCC will use the Forum to identify funding opportunities to support corporate plan objectives and in particular tourism, culture and arts.

(D) Expected Results:

The optimum results would be funding to support corporate plan objectives, policy influencing and awareness and creating profile for Belfast internationally.

Forum Name: Social Affairs Forum

BCC EU Officer: Frances Murray

Department(s) linked to/supported by work of Forum:

This Forum links to and supports work in the Development Department and in particular the Community Services Unit, Policy Unit given the development of the Poverty Framework; and the Economic Development Unit. In addition links to and supports the work of BCC's Good Relations Unit and links to the Northern Ireland European Regional Forum given members have the remit for many areas of work that BCC does not have a remit for.

(A) Outputs and Achievements for 2011:

BCC participated in the spring Forum meeting which discussed social inclusion through inclusive and integrated employment practices. This meeting allowed contact to be made with the Commission's representative of the new Social Innovation Unit. This is important in terms of the new proposed funding programme for Europe in 2014-2020, the Programme for Social Innovation and Change, which has an emphasis on social innovation.

BCC also contributed to the EUROCITIES consultation on The Social Dimension of the National Reform Programmes- key documents in relation to Member States' targets in respect to reducing poverty and social exclusion.

BCC signed the Integrating Cities Charter in 2011

Through the PROGRESS funded Taskforce on Roma, Belfast is also participating in identifying new ways to promote the integration and inclusion of ethnic communities.

(B) Forum Priorities for 2012

Following a members' survey, the overarching priority themes for the Social Affairs Forum in 2012 are:

- Active Inclusion
- Employment
- Demographic Change

The forum will hold 2 meetings in 2012 and at the March meeting, Belfast will present its Grundtvig Senior Volunteers Project as well as its

Older People's Panel.

In terms of lobbying activity, the Social Affairs Forum will contribute to the EU policy process in the following ways:

Engagement with the EU institutions:

- Continue to strengthen the relationships with DG Employment through:
 - Maximising the links between member cities and key officials in DG Employment.
 - Responding to the encouragement of DG Employment to show how cities can bring together researchers and practitioners to pilot new initiatives and test methods of evaluation.
- Be more proactive in seeking political dialogue not only with the Commission but with the European Parliament and CoR.
- Develop a lobbying and advocacy strategy to lobby for the EUROCITIES position on the future of ESF / structural funds particularly targeting MEPs and national authorities.
- Develop closer links with EU institutions and stakeholders on the European Year for Active Ageing.

Resources:

- Continue to work on influencing the final shape of the future ESF regulations to ensure that the recommendations of the Eurocities Position Paper are taken on board and that there will be a greater role for cities in the design and implementation of national and regional ESF programmes.
- Identify early, and take advantage of, funding calls which could facilitate joint city working on projects which support the aims and objectives of SAF e.g. calls under the PROGRESS and FP7 Social Science and Humanities Programmes.

Innovation:

- Ensure that the role of cities as catalysts for innovation is more widely recognised within the European Commission and other EU institutions, so that they are seen as key partners in the development of innovative solutions particularly to the social challenges facing Europe and thus essential to the delivery of the goals of Europe 2020.
- Continue to explore social innovation initiatives in our member cities and encourage peer reviews and mutual learning around them. Cities working smartly are the best places, the best players and, in fact, the best placed to build the kind of creative cross-sectoral, cross-cultural partnerships needed to achieve a socially cohesive Europe.

Active Inclusion:

Ensure that Active Inclusion remains a key priority on the EU agenda by demonstrating the effectiveness of city governments to deliver timely, flexible and innovative responses to the needs of those most at risk in today's society.

- Support the Working Groups in their key role of facilitating the sharing of innovative and best practice of members re: the skills agenda,

improving the employability and life chances of those furthest from the labour market and integrating those marginalised by society by reason of age, health or ethnicity.

- Participate in and contribute to the EU Year of Active Ageing 2012.

Forum Working Groups for 2012:

○ **ESF Task Force (Chair: Birmingham)**

This group will be working closely with the Economic Development Forum's Cohesion Policy Working Group. Its work will focus on lobbying for the interests of cities to be strongly reflected in the 2014-2020 European Social Fund Programme. It will develop a response to the proposed ESF regulation, respond to the structural funds Common Strategic Framework when it is published, and develop and execute a lobbying and advocacy strategy to influence MEPs and national governments on these proposals as they pass through the legislative process throughout 2012. BCC participates on a remote basis in this working group

○ **Education (Chair: Nantes)**

The overall objective of the Working Group is to prevent social exclusion through the education of young people up to 27 years of age. In its work, the WG aims to treat education in a broad sense, including education for democratic citizenship, and going beyond an understanding of education as an instrument of labour market policy. The WG is divided into three subgroups which reflect its priorities: Early childhood education and care, early school leaving, and labour market and vocational education and training (VET).

○ **Migration & integration (Chair: Barcelona)**

The Working Group's objectives are to: Raise awareness at all levels of governance of the importance of involving cities when developing policies for migration, integration and non-discrimination; Influence EU policy making on migration and integration; And to encourage innovation in cities' policies on integration and non-discrimination through exchange of best practice.

Expected outputs and actions include: The development of three MIXITIES toolkits, holding an Integrating Cities conference in Amsterdam, a report monitoring the development of the Integrating Cities Charter, consolidation of the Integrating Cities Partnership with European Commission, intensified dialogue with National contact points on Integration, the European Migration Network and other city networks, responding to the Green paper on family reunification (tbc), and the identification of further signatories to the Integrating Cities Charter.

BCC is involved in the MIXITIES project through the Good Relations Unit

○ **Housing & homelessness (Chair: Vienna)**

The Working Group's objectives are to: Exchange best practice and contribute to the policy debate on Roma inclusion and how housing issues relate to this; Contribute to the ongoing discussion on the relationship between EU competition rules and social housing policies; And examine and exchange best practice on social mixing, demographic change and energy efficiency and how they each impact housing policy.

The WG's expected outputs include: A series of best practice exchanges, a peer review on energy efficiency in housing, and discussions with MEPs on EU competition rules and social housing policies.

- **Employment (Chair: Rotterdam)**

The Working Group intends to conclude a number of pieces of work from 2011. It will: Update the report on the comparison of job centre services and undertake follow-up activities on this; Finish the action plan on the Fit4Work initiative led by the four major Dutch cities and will ask WG members to be involved in its validation; And continue to work closely with the ESF Task Force on the future of ESF.

In addition the WG will contribute to EUROCITIES' activities on the European Year for Active Ageing and will contribute to the preparation of an FP7 bid on 'Social innovation against inequalities' led by Birmingham.

- **Health inequalities (Chair: Amsterdam)**

The main priority for the Health Inequalities Working Group in 2012 will be contributing to the European Year for Active Ageing.

The WG will contribute to the spring SAF on active ageing. It also intends to host a joint meeting with the Employment WG on active ageing and is also exploring the possibility of a joint meeting with the innovation platform on Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) hosted by Eindhoven.

BCC participation in this working group is interdepartmental as its themes relate to a number of work areas

- **Roma Inclusion Task Force (Ghent)**

The group's objectives are to: Exchange of good practice on Roma inclusion through peer reviews; Influence EU policy with regard to non-discrimination (in countries of origin) and management of intra-EU migration; Build partnerships with regions of origin for better migration management; Secure funding for cities for Roma inclusion and helping cities to prepare future proposals; Raise awareness with the EU institutions of the city perspective on EU mobility and Roma inclusion; Address the exploitative and security dimension of Roma exclusion; And to continue the partnership with the EFC Forum on Roma inclusion. BCC is represented on this Taskforce through the agreed nomination of the South Belfast Roundtable on Racism

(C) Areas of Work to be Undertaken with Departmental Director approval in 2012

Attendance at two full SAF meetings

Engagement in the Migration and Integration working group through the Good Relations Unit's participation in the MIXITIES project.

Participation in the PROGRESS Funded Roma Taskforce through The South Belfast Roundtable on Racism.

Work with all relevant departments and units and in particular with Community Services, Tourism, Culture and Arts and Events on relevant projects or profiling work in Belfast linked to the European Year of Active Ageing and Solidarity Between the Generations.

(D) Expected Results:

To optimum would be funding to support corporate plan objectives, policy influencing and awareness and creating profile for Belfast internationally.



Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Revised Management Structure for EU Funds 2014 - 2020
Date:	20 March 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officers:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	<p>In the current (2007-2013) funding round, Northern Ireland will receive approximately €1.1billion of support through the EU Structural Funds under EU Cohesion Policy. Northern Ireland is currently benefiting from five EU Programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - European Sustainable Competitiveness Programme - European Social Fund Programme - Peace III Programme - Rural Development Programme - Cross Border Territorial Co-operation Programme (Interreg IVA)
1.2	<p>The current round of programmes was designed in 2004 at a time when regional and community economic needs were very different and the implementation of these programmes has been problematic with justifiable criticism from Local Government (and others) regarding the role in and management of the Structural Funds by intermediate funding bodies.</p>
1.3	<p>Whilst increased administrative and management can be partly attributed to increased involvement from the European Commission and the European Court of Auditors as the programmes progress, regional and local interpretation of EU regulations plays a large role in contributing to the administrative burden often to the detriment of efficiency and targeted results.</p>
1.4	<p>The EU has started its preparations for the next funding period 2014-2020 and stakeholders across Europe are seeking to influence the shape of funding in the new Programming round.</p>
1.5	<p>NILGA, in conjunction with relevant stakeholder bodies, are proposing the development of revised management and governance structures for the new round of EU Structural Funds for the period 2014 - 2020 with an enhanced role</p>

	for Local Authorities in identifying needs and setting priorities and utilising the funds to respond to local needs.
1.6	In order to start this process, NILGA convened a workshop involving elected members, Officers and Officials from DFP to identify problems with the current programmes and to propose alternative arrangements for the new programming round.
1.7	At the workshop DFP Officials provided a useful overview of the new EU legislative package and regulations which provide greater scope for involvement at the local level in the design and delivery of EU funding. DFP welcomed experiences and input of the Local Government representatives and encouraged NILGA to put forward a position paper on the experiences of Local Government under the current programming round as well as recommendations for improvements to the administrative and management arrangements for the 2014 - 2020 programming period.
1.8	NILGA has subsequently issued a questionnaire to capture the range of Local Government experiences under the current programme to enable the preparation of a comprehensive position paper for submission to DFP and other relevant departments and stakeholder bodies. Officers will develop a response to this questionnaire and provide an update to Committee in due course.

2	Key Issues
2.1	<p>With the adoption of the draft legislative package which will frame the new Programmes over the period 2014 - 2020, the European Commission have proposed a number of important changes to the way Cohesion Policy is designed and implemented, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concentrating on Europe 2020 Strategy's priorities of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth; - Supporting integrated programming; - Focusing on results; - Reinforcing territorial cohesion – ensuring balanced distribution of economic and social resources; and - Simplifying delivery.
2.2	<p>These emerging EU Regulations which will govern the Regional Policy and Structural Funds 2014 - 2020 contain a number of important implications for Belfast and for Northern Ireland as a whole. Key aspects of these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Northern Ireland will have the status of a “more developed region”, thus ensuring that there will be less budget allocated to the local Structural Fund Programmes; - The Operational Programme which is developed at a regional level must be aligned to the European 2020 strategy and to a set of thematic objectives with investment actions for each theme; - Member states will have an overall Common Strategic Framework and a Partnership Contract with the European Commission combining all funds (ERDF, ESF, RDP, Peace & Interreg) with the option for multi fund programmes; - Provision is made for multi level governance involving Local Authorities and

	<p>other stakeholders from design through to implementation and evaluation stage of the Operational Programme;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The European Commission has proposed that 'local action groups' will have the responsibility for the design and implementation of local development strategies. Individual Member States will have responsibility for defining the respective roles of the local action groups and the authorities responsible for the implementation of the relevant programmes; - There will be greater use of alternative financial instruments such as JEREMIE (funding for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) by means of equity, loans or guarantees) AND JESSICA (supports sustainable urban development and regeneration through financial engineering mechanisms); and - At least 52% of the budget will be allocated to ESF activity to tackle poverty, education and joblessness. <p>2.3 NILGA have recommended that the proposed revisions to the management and delivery arrangements for the new Programmes must reflect the need for subsidiarity and the devolution of control and decision making to Local Authorities.</p> <p>2.4 Their proposal is to develop a local government strand to the EU Operational Programme from 2014 - 2020. This will ensure that the parts of the new NI EU Programmes, which have a local sub-regional or sectoral character could be largely realised by Local Government. In essence, Northern Ireland Local Government would manage its own EU Funds resulting in an autonomous Local Government section of EU Programmes for delivery by Councils over the period 2014 - 2020.</p> <p>2.5 The Operational Programme would align investment through the new programmes to address local need where it will have the greatest impact and remove economic and administrative barriers which are currently stifling the implementation of the current round of programmes and have the potential of affecting optimum drawdown of the current allocation for Northern Ireland.</p> <p>2.6 NILGA suggest that one of the fundamental improvements in the proposed new arrangements will be the achievement of operational efficiencies through the restructuring of the number of the existing sub-regional funding clusters and their associated administrative structures such as the Peace III Clusters, cross border networks and Rural Development Clusters. These savings and the potential reduction in technical assistance can be redirected through to local projects. It is considered that Councils, through the recently revived RPA process and the ongoing Improvement, Collaboration & Efficiency (ICE) agenda can establish collaborative partnerships in order to address mutual needs.</p> <p>2.7 In addition to this ongoing lobbying work undertaken by NILGA, Belfast City and Derry City Councils have agreed to jointly develop and promote an urban lobby to maximise resources and promote streamlined delivery of EU funding for the period 2014 - 2020. A lobby action plan has been agreed and a case developed for an enhanced role for both regional drivers in the design and delivery of structural funds over the 2014 - 2020 period. The EU unit will continue to engage with DFP and to monitor developments as they emerge.</p> <p>2.8 The development of the draft proposal now enables practical consultation with the sector, to develop a workable improvement to the present system, and one which creates tangible benefits for Councils in its design and implementation.</p>
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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Date:	20 March 2012
Subject:	DRD Active Travel Demonstration Projects
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Keith Sutherland, Planning and Transport Policy Manager, ext 3578

1.	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Department for Regional Development (DRD) have invited applications from Councils in Northern Ireland to bid for capital resources to implement active travel (cycling/walking) demonstration projects in their area. The Department has indicated that a budget of approximately £3 million will be available over three years (2012 to 2015) to support between three and six projects. To be eligible the projects should demonstrate innovation in sustainable travel through the implementation of a programme of measures to increase active travel.
1.2	Councils can submit one or more bids and the funding is for capital works and cannot be used for revenue or support costs. Within the Council a cross departmental internal steering group has been established to consider possible bids which could meet the criteria outlined by DRD in their Project Guidance document.

2.	Key Issues
2.1	The aim of the demonstration projects is to support active travel and highlight how it can benefit people and communities through improvements to well being, quality of life, the environment and the economy. DRD have outlined the following criteria to assist in the selection of potential active travel demonstration projects in Northern Ireland.
2.2	The projects should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - demonstrate political and senior officer commitment to the programme;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identify key high level measures that will be included in the demonstration project (such as length of cycle/ walking infrastructure or number of workplace/ school travel plans targeted, number of people to benefit); - indicate how the project will improve the quality of life and well being of the community and how it promotes modal shift; - show commitment to monitor and measure outcomes and set out the mechanism by which the success of the investment will be evaluated; - demonstrate an understanding of local travel behaviour, barriers to modal shift and how the project will overcome these; - demonstrate how you have engaged with the local community/stakeholders, when designing the project and how the project will benefit local communities in its implementation; and - set out indicative costs for the scheme. <p>2.3 Local councils should also identify whether they will provide or source funding or other resources towards the cost of the project. Work has been carried out within the internal steering group and with Chief Officers to identify potential projects to match the criteria and submit possible bids.</p> <p>2.4 Two proposals have been selected as potential bids: <u>1. Community Active Travel Green routes</u> Developing cycle/walking infrastructure in North and West Belfast using Council parks, existing cycle infrastructure and quieter residential streets. The aim of the project is to focus on the areas of Belfast where cycle provision is currently poor and develop new continuous routes linking parks, communities, schools and the city centre.</p> <p>2.5 The proposed route in West Belfast will link the Falls Park to the Bog Meadows, then utilise the existing cycle path along the Westlink and link to the city centre using the proposed dedicated cycleway (as part of 'Belfast on the Move') on the Grosvenor Road.</p> <p>2.6 The second scheme proposed is for the north of the city linking the Waterworks Park with Alexandra Park then linking to the National Cycle network at Clarendon Docks using quieter residential streets in inner north Belfast. The existing national cycle route will link to the city centre along the River Lagan.</p> <p>2.7 An initial site visit has taken place with representatives from Sustran to assess the potential of the proposed routes and feedback has been positive. Opportunities to link the cycle path development with nearby schools and communities will be developed as part of the proposal.</p> <p><u>2. Belfast Public Bike Hire Scheme</u></p> <p>2.8 A notice of motion regarding the introduction of a bike hire scheme in Belfast was outlined at the October 2009 Development Committee and Officers were requested to discuss the matter with the Department for Regional Development (DRD) with a view to providing a future update. Since then an Outline Business Case has been completed which states that a public bike hire scheme could be viable for Belfast and the business case outlines infrastructure and running costs for the scheme.</p> <p>2.9 The Council could make a potential bid to DRD to cover the capital infrastructure costs thereby reducing the overall public bike hire project cost.</p>
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2.10	The capital infrastructure bid process would need to be linked to an exercise to identify how an operator could be sought to run the scheme and cover ongoing revenue costs. The Public Bike hire scheme for Belfast is included in the Council's Draft Investment Programme
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3	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
3.1	There are no Equality and Good Relations considerations attached to this report.

4.	Recommendations
4.1	It is recommended that Members consider the two proposed Active Travel project bids and if appropriate agree for further development of the projects prior to submission to the DRD Active Travel Demonstration projects fund.

6.	Decision Tracking
Submit bid to DRD by May 2012	
Timeframe:	May 2012
Reporting Officer:	Keith Sutherland

7.	Key to Abbreviations
DRD - Department for Regional Development	

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Date:	20 March 2012
Subject:	Presentation Belfast on the Move Update
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Keith Sutherland, Planning and Transport Policy Manager, ext 3578

1.	Relevant Background Information
1.1	DRD Roads Service requested an opportunity to update members on the 'Belfast On The Move' programme which is currently underway in Belfast city centre.
1.2	'Belfast on the Move' was launched by the Minister for Regional Development in City Hall on the 30 September 2010. Committee endorsed a response to the proposed 'Belfast On The Move' consultation in December 2010.

2.	Key Issues
2.1	Members may wish to note that the Council response in December 2010 generally supported the 'Belfast on the Move' proposals to promote sustainable transport options for the city centre. The proposal to reduce the amount of unnecessary through traffic in the city centre and increase priority for pedestrians and public transport in the city centre was welcomed along with the need to provide sufficient dedicated parking spaces for disabled people. The Council emphasised the need to ensure the measures do not adversely impact on the accessibility of the city centre for leisure, shopping and business use.
2.2	The Council supported a strategic approach to traffic management in Belfast to integrate the 'Belfast on the Move' city centre transport proposals with the rest of the city. The potential for displaced traffic from city centre streets to cause congestion elsewhere or create adverse impacts on residential communities should be continually monitored and managed.
2.3	It should be noted that the Council did not endorse the longer-term proposal for the completion of the southern section of the City Centre Ring (Bankmore Link).

	This proposal is not part of the work currently programmed. The Council highlighted design concerns and the need to consider sustainable transport options such as the implementation of Rapid Transit, Park & Ride and expansion of Quality Bus Corridors prior to building new road infrastructure.
2.4	Details of the 'Belfast on the Move' work programme are outlined in Appendix 1.

3	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
3.1	There are no Equality and Good Relations considerations attached to this report.

4.	Recommendations
4.1	Members are requested to note the presentation from DRD on the 'Belfast On The Move' programme and the opportunity to clarify or highlight issues regarding the programme of works.

6.	Decision Tracking
There is no decision tracking attached to this report.	

7.	Key to Abbreviations
DRD - Department for Regional Development BOTM – Belfast On The Move STEM - Sustainable Transport Enabling Measures	

8.	Documents Attached
Appendix 1 'Belfast on the Move' work programme	

Appendix 1 – Belfast On The Move

Programming of works for Sustainable Transport Enabling Measures (STEM)

	Location	Works and Benefits	Timescale - duration of works
1	Victoria Street	Bus Lane and Toucan crossing	October 11 - 4 weeks
		Cycle Track	June 12
2	Grosvenor Road / Durham Street Phase 1	Left turn slips and signal alteration - Improves bus movements	Jan – Apr 12 - 12 weeks
3	Sandy Row / Hope Street	Traffic Signal Installation - Controls traffic with priority to Hope Street	Feb – Apr 12 - 10 weeks
		Hope Street 2 way	April 12
4	Great Victoria Street / Bruce Street	Left Turn Slip - Introduces traffic to two way in Hope Street	Jan – Mar 12 - 8 weeks
5	Oxford Street to May Street	Provide bus lanes, bus gate and signal alterations - to reduce traffic flow towards West	May 12 - 2 weeks
6	May Street to Howard Street	Provide bus lanes, bus gate and signal alterations - to reduce traffic flow towards West	May – July 12 - 7 weeks
7	Linenhall Street	Introduce 1 way and kerblines alterations	June - July 12 - 3 weeks
8	College Avenue	Construct new alignment, kerblines alterations and provide bus lane while maintaining right turn to College Square North - to reduce traffic flow towards South.	May – July 12 - 10 weeks
		Ban right turn into College Sq North	Sept –Oct 12 - 4 weeks
9	Ann Street	Provide contra flow cycle lane	2012
10	College Square East / Fisherwick Place	Provide bus lane in College Sq. East. 1 general traffic lane straight and left turn - To reduce traffic flow southbound	July '12
		Construct new alignment, kerblines alterations without bus lanes in Fisherwick Place	July – Nov 12 - 16 weeks
		introduce right turn into Grosvenor Road	Sept 12
11	Great Victoria Street	Construct new alignment, kerblines alterations without bus lanes	Aug / Sept 12 - 6 weeks
		Introduce Bus lanes	Nov 12
12	Albert Street	Traffic Signal Installation	Sept – Nov 12 - 8 Weeks
13	College Square North / Durham	Introduce One way traffic movements and cycle provision	Oct – Nov 12 - 4 weeks

	Street / Grosvenor Road	Barrack Street Stopping up	Sept - Oct 12 – - 2 weeks
14	Grosvenor Road / Durham Street Phase 2	Junction improvement	Jan – Mar 13 - 12 weeks
15	Queens Bridge / Queen Elizabeth Bridge to Titanic	Provide bus lanes and associated works	Jan – Feb 13 - 5 weeks
16	Donegall Square East	Construct new alignment, kerblines alterations and provide bus lane	Jan – Feb 13 - 3 weeks
17	Adelaide Street	Introduce 2 way and kerblines alterations	Jan – Feb 13 - 2 weeks
18	Wellington Place to Chichester Street	Provide bus lanes, bus gate and all signal alterations	Feb - March 13 - 6 weeks
Total for ALLWORKS			Oct 11 – March 13

Potential additional works should further funding become available

19	CCTV		
20	VMS		
21	Resurfacing -	Hope Street	
		May Street	
		Upper Queen Street	
		Others	



Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Proposed Local Area Regeneration Projects
Date:	20 March 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officers:	Gareth Downey, SNAP Officer, ext 3693

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The purpose of this paper is to seek approval to support the delivery of a number of local area based regeneration projects throughout the city.
1.2	As part of the budgetary process at the beginning of the financial year, the SNAP Unit was allocated a sum of £60k to match-fund up to six pilot projects which were anticipated to come forward from the Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships via the Department for Social Development's Belfast Regional Office.
1.3	Due to the fact that the Neighbourhood Renewal plans have been subject to review, the pilot projects have not materialised. However as a result of the work which the SNAP team and others in the department have been undertaking, a number of projects have been put forward by community organisations which could be funded from this budget. These projects are outlined in Appendix 1.
1.4	In addition to the projects identified above, DSD has written to the Council regarding a proposal from Walkway Community Association in Finvoy Street, Upper Newtownards Road.
1.5	DSD currently provide the group with Neighbourhood Renewal revenue funding to deliver a range of projects in the Inner East Neighbourhood Renewal Area.
1.6	The Association currently occupies three sites, all of which have issues relating to the lease arrangements. The Association recently requested funding from Neighbourhood Renewal to refurbish it's community centre given its poor state of repair. Due to the land issues and the fact that the building is a prefabricated portacabin, this is unlikely to represent value for money.
1.7	The Department for Regional Development have indicated that they no longer require the lands in question and may be prepared to transfer should a sustainable long term proposal be developed.

1.8	BRO have indicated that they would be keen to work with the Council in assisting the group develop such a project and be prepared to part-fund an appraisal should the Council be willing to do likewise. It is anticipated that the cost to the Council of such an appraisal would not exceed £7500.
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2	Key Issues
2.1	The majority of the projects identified are local, small scale projects which will have an immediate impact at a community level.
2.2	Three of the projects i.e. the Ardoyne Crèche Facility Study, the Ligoniel Outdoor Hall Plan and the Walkway Community Centre proposal are initiatives to support future development.
2.3	Members of the Committee will be aware that the Budget & Transformation Panel have been considering how the £5m Local Investment Fund will be allocated and how projects across the city can be prioritised.
2.4	A report on the governance arrangements for the delivery of the Belfast Investment Programme will be considered by the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee on 25 March 2012. It is envisaged that decisions on the further allocation of resources for these three projects would be considered within any framework agreed through the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee.

3	Resource Implications																						
3.1	<p>The proposals that have been identified would utilise approximately £36,000 which is available from the SNAP budget. The resources required to deliver the projects are as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="459 1346 1251 1910"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="459 1346 1046 1402">Proposed Project</th> <th data-bbox="1046 1346 1251 1402">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="459 1402 1046 1447">Healthy Choices Project</td> <td data-bbox="1046 1402 1251 1447">£3,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="459 1447 1046 1491">Giant's Foot Olympic Art Project</td> <td data-bbox="1046 1447 1251 1491">£1,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="459 1491 1046 1536">My Lady's Road Community Art Project</td> <td data-bbox="1046 1491 1251 1536">£6,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="459 1536 1046 1581">Dee Street Community Art Project</td> <td data-bbox="1046 1536 1251 1581">£5,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="459 1581 1046 1626">Ardoyne Crèche Facility Study</td> <td data-bbox="1046 1581 1251 1626">£3,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="459 1626 1046 1671">Ligoniel Outdoor Hall Plan</td> <td data-bbox="1046 1626 1251 1671">£2,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="459 1671 1046 1715">Alliance Avenue site regeneration project</td> <td data-bbox="1046 1671 1251 1715">£3,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="459 1715 1046 1760">Sandy Row Community Art Project</td> <td data-bbox="1046 1715 1251 1760">£3,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="459 1760 1046 1805">Fairy Thorn Garden Project</td> <td data-bbox="1046 1760 1251 1805">£1,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="459 1805 1046 1850">Walkway Community Centre</td> <td data-bbox="1046 1805 1251 1850">£7,500</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p data-bbox="325 1944 1203 1975">A full description of the above projects can be found in Appendix 1.</p>	Proposed Project	Amount	Healthy Choices Project	£3,000	Giant's Foot Olympic Art Project	£1,500	My Lady's Road Community Art Project	£6,000	Dee Street Community Art Project	£5,000	Ardoyne Crèche Facility Study	£3,000	Ligoniel Outdoor Hall Plan	£2,500	Alliance Avenue site regeneration project	£3,000	Sandy Row Community Art Project	£3,000	Fairy Thorn Garden Project	£1,500	Walkway Community Centre	£7,500
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4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	None.
5	Recommendations
5.1	It is recommended that the Committee consider and approve all of the proposals set out in Appendix 1 along with the proposal for funding an Economic Appraisal for Walkway Community Centre.
6	Decision Tracking
6.1	A further report will be brought to the Committee regarding the implementation of the above projects in due course.
7	Key to Abbreviations
	DSD – Department for Social Development BRO – Belfast Regional Office
8	Documents attached
	Appendix 1 – List of Proposed Projects

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Appendix 1

Proposed Project	Area	Amount	Description
Healthy Choices Project (Contact: Heather Horner, ext. 6454)	West	£3,000	Healthy Choices is a health education programme for children within P6 and P7. This project is scheduled to be facilitated in the Half Moon Lake (Lenadoon) and will involve children from five local Primary schools.
Giant's Foot Olympic Art Project (Contact: Heather Horner, ext. 6454)	West	£1,500	This project is intended to complement the existing multi-agency themed art work that was created to address severe degradation within the Giant's Foot area. Presently, there is a planned Titanic art work project for the site, but this particular segment will target an adjacent site with a specific focus on the Olympics.
My Lady's Road Community Art Project (Contact: Eiméar Vance, ext. 5458)	East	£6,000	Availability of funding will enable the development of a community art hoarding project for a corner site between the My Lady's Road and the Woodstock Road.
Dee Street Art Project (Contact: Michael Collins, ext. 3791)	East	£5,000	This art project will involve the creation of a new mural at the junction of Dee Street and the Newtownards Road. Initially, the project will require construction work in order to ensure the safety of the premises.
Ardoyne Crèche Facility Study (Contact: Eiméar Vance, ext. 5458)	North	£3,000	Funding will allow the undertaking of a Feasibility Study for the creation of a new crèche facility in the Ardoyne area.
Ligoniel Outdoor Hall Plan (Contact: Eiméar Vance, ext. 5458)	North	£2,500	To provide financial assistance by way of Planning Fees as part of the development of a Ligoniel Hills & Dams Outdoor Centre.
Alliance Avenue site regeneration project (Contact: Eiméar Vance, ext. 5458)	North	£3,000	To support the physical regeneration of site in order to establish community use, including community art mural project in adjacent Park.

<p>Sandy Row Art Project (Contact: Michael Collins, ext. 3791)</p>	<p>South</p>	<p>£3,000</p>	<p>This project will support the creation of a new mural at a site behind TA Allen's furniture store (St George's Gardens) and linking in with a Titanic mural which will be on-site in late March.</p>
<p>Fairy Thorn Garden Project (Contact: Heather Horner, ext. 6454)</p>	<p>South</p>	<p>£1,500</p>	<p>Funding will assist this social economy project which will upgrade a garden area within the Sandy Row area.</p>