

Document Pack

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



8th June, 2012

MEETING OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman / Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room (Room G05), City Hall on **Tuesday, 12th June, 2012 at 5.15 pm**, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully

PETER McNANEY

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. Routine Matters
 - (a) Apologies
 - (b) Minutes
 - (c) Declarations of Interest
2. Routine Correspondence - Minister Kennedy re: Parking Initiatives (Pages 1 - 2)
3. Requests for Deputations - Belfast City Bike Tours
4. Presentation re: Digital TV Switchover
5. Management of Committee Business (Pages 3 - 4)
6. State of the City Debates (Pages 5 - 8)
7. Connect G Project (Pages 9 - 12)
8. Donegall Pass Community Centre - Management Arrangement (Pages 13 - 16)
9. Future Role of Members in Promoting Belfast in Europe - (to follow)



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Mr Barry Flynn
Democratic Services Officer
Belfast City Council
Belfast City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS

Your Ref:

Our Ref: DRD/COR/417/2012

Date: 29 May 2012

Dear Mr Flynn

Thank you for your letter dated 2 May 2012 regarding initiatives to encourage shoppers into Belfast. Minister Kennedy has read your letter and has asked me to reply.

You will be aware the Department has previously responded to the concerns of traders in Belfast by allowing limited free on-street parking in certain city centre streets during the Christmas period. In addition, it continues to promote Park and Ride to Belfast with major sites at Sprucefield, Blacks Road and Cairnshill and has a planning application under consideration for a further site at Ballyhenry. Furthermore, Translink continues to promote rail based Park and Ride to the city is endeavouring to expand parking around railway stations and halts. The proposals for a new Belfast Rapid Transit system will further enhance accessibility to the city centre. I hope you would, therefore, agree that the Department is very focused on getting people into Belfast.

The broad thrust of the Department's policy for parking in Belfast, set out in the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan 2015, is to encourage the turnover of short stay parking spaces, both on and off-street, and to discourage all day commuter parking. The objective of this policy is to help to improve the vitality of the city centre. On arterial routes, the policy is to restrict parking at peak times through the enforcement of urban clearways to ensure the free flow of traffic (public transport, goods vehicles and private cars) at peak times.

Where Roads Service charges for parking, the tariffs, and permitted time periods, are set to encourage the turnover of spaces and ensure that the recovery of the substantial costs associated with parking and parking enforcement. Failure to meet the cost recovery objective would result in the dilution of other key frontline services, which I'm sure Council would agree would not be an acceptable outcome.

Roads Service is always willing to listen to the views of Councillors and would be content to discuss this matter further. Mr John Irvine, Divisional Roads Manager Roads Service Eastern Division, will present his Spring Report to Belfast City Councillors on Monday 28 May at 4.30 pm. At this meeting, Mr Irvine will be happy to listen and consider the views of Council and provide a considered response in due course.

I trust that you find this helpful.

Yours sincerely

PP


MÁIRE CAIRNS
Private Secretary to Danny Kennedy MLA



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Management of Committee Business
Date:	12 th June, 2012
Reporting Officer:	Barry Flynn, Democratic Services Officer ext 6310
Contact Officers:	As above

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Committee will recall that, at its meeting 15 th June, 2011, it had agreed, given the amount of business which it was required to consider, that it would meet twice monthly with a commencement time of 5.15 p.m.

2	Key Issues						
2.1	Whilst the arrangements put in place have been successful, it is evident that the amount of business considered by the Committee had reduced considerably over the past six months. This would suggest that it might be feasible for the Committee to revert back to one meeting per month.						
2.2	It should be borne in mind that, since the establishment of the Area Working Groups under the Council's Investment Programme, coupled with the formation of the District Policing and Community Safety Partnerships, there is added pressure on Members' time and, accordingly, the Council's schedule of meetings. By reverting to one meeting a month, Members will be afforded time to address constituency matters or attend external meetings. The Committee will, of course, have the option of calling special meetings should the business at hand be deemed of such importance that an extra meeting is deemed necessary.						
2.3	The commencement time for meetings of 5:15 p.m. had been agreed by the Committee in June, 2011 at the suggestion of the Chairman. This time has suited almost all Members and it is notable that the attendance figures for the Committee have been extremely high. It is suggested that the Members might wish to retain the later commencement time of 5:15 p.m.						
2.4	Should the Committee agree to revert back to one meeting per month, the undernoted dates are suggested commencing in August until the end of 2012: <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Tuesday, 7th August at 5:15 p.m.</td> <td>Tuesday, 11th September at 5:15 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tuesday, 9th October at 5:15 p.m.</td> <td>Tuesday 6th November at 5:15 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tuesday, 4th December at 5:15 p.m.</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Tuesday, 7 th August at 5:15 p.m.	Tuesday, 11 th September at 5:15 p.m.	Tuesday, 9 th October at 5:15 p.m.	Tuesday 6 th November at 5:15 p.m.	Tuesday, 4 th December at 5:15 p.m.	
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Tuesday, 4 th December at 5:15 p.m.							

3	Resource Implications
3.1	There are no additional resource considerations attached to this report

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

5	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is requested to agree that it meets once per month until the end of 2012 on the dates and times outlined.

6	Decision Tracking
Mr. Barry Flynn, Democratic Services Officer to implement.	



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	State of the City Development Debates – Proposal for the Future Events
Date:	26 June 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Jelena Buick, Policy & Business Development Officer, ext 3229

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	<p>In September 2011 Development Committee agreed to a 'Marketing Belfast' theme for the 2011/12 State of the City debate series. It was noted at the time that the debates provided the Council with a strong opportunity to provide additional momentum and encourage strategic decision-making on the future marketing of the city. The Development Department organised and delivered three events:</p> <p><u>City Branding:</u> Held in October 2011 Dr John Heeley, Chief Executive of European Cities Marketing shared his expertise on the successful approaches to city branding taken by a number of global cities, (citing Amsterdam as the most successful). He shared practice on the successful marketing of a city brand and encouraged Belfast to commit fully to its 'B' brand.</p> <p><u>Marketing Manchester:</u> How we are growing tourism and investment by Andrew Stokes, Chief Executive of Marketing Manchester, held in January 2012. Andrew Stokes described the success of Marketing Manchester and the ways that Manchester is promoted to the wider world. He also shared his ideas on how Belfast can maximize its investment and grow the volume and value of our tourism.</p> <p><u>Tourism, Culture and Regeneration:</u> held in April 2012. Delivered in partnership with Titanic Foundation and Titanic Belfast. Professor Michael Parkinson chaired a panel discussion with Julian Dobson from Urban Pollinators; Mike Smith, CEO of Titanic Quarter Limited; Scott Burnham, Creative Director and Strategist and Alderman Christopher Stalford, Chair of Development Committee. The debate</p>

	<p>identified clear ‘wins’ for Belfast and helped us in framing some of the key stakeholder messages for international platform¹.</p> <p>To date the debates have been well received and attended with around 90 people present at each event. Feedback has been consistently positive and various new topics have been suggested by participants such as transport policy for a sustainable city; urban regeneration; integrated approaches to deprived areas; neighbourhood governance structures; and sustainable development. It is clear that after eight years of the State of the City, we have a very highly recognised brand that has been fulfilling its aim – to provide a platform for nurturing the debate on a wider urban policy agenda.</p>
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2	Key Issues
2.1	<p>With the Marketing Belfast events coming to an end, there is now an opportunity to move to other strategic areas of concern facing the city. The implementation of the Investment Programme and the new Belfast Masterplan have become priorities for the council. It is thus appropriate to rebrand and reshape the next series of the State of the City Development Debates to incorporate the Investment Programme priorities and design.</p>
2.2	<p>Specifically, it is proposed to focus the next series on the various delivery aspects of the Investment Programme. The events would incorporate the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Urban development, particularly city centre development. Urban Pollinators², a practical think tank specialising in issues of place-making and regeneration who worked with Mary Portas on the review of the high streets, would be valuable contributors. Their Director, Julian Dobson would be an excellent position to share with Belfast his experience in regeneration across the UK and to provide us with ideas on how to progress some city centre projects within the Investment Programme. Belfast City Centre Management and other key stakeholders could also be involved in shaping this event. - Mechanisms for alternative city finance in support of urban development, specifically linked to potential ideas for the European JESSICA programme³. It may be useful to invite representatives of English JESSICA projects – one led by Manchester City Council and the other based in Liverpool. There is also an option to include the JESSICA-backed Amber Green Consortium which has developed a Scottish Partnership for Regeneration of Urban Centres. This debate would help us consider the potential of JESSICA and other alternative financing mechanisms required to drive the city development agenda. - Maximising the opportunities presented by the Belfast Masterplan is

¹ Full details on these events are available at www.belfastcity.gov.uk.

² <http://urbanpollinators.co.uk>

³ JESSICA (Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas) is an initiative of the European Commission developed in co-operation with the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB). It supports sustainable urban development and regeneration through financial engineering mechanisms.

EU countries can choose to invest some of their EU structural fund allocations in revolving funds to help recycle financial resources to accelerate investment in Europe's urban areas.

	<p>another potential topic. The State of the City could be used as a platform to launch the Belfast Masterplan consultation after we have taken on board the views of the relevant Executive Ministers and senior officials. Also we could use this platform to discuss place shaping agenda built upon the Place Shaping conference in Venice in 2011, which would identify our regeneration priorities and discuss these with the council's key stakeholders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An examination of community planning within the Investment Programme as part of the State of the City platform would bring benefits in terms of showcasing the implementation of ambitious, multi-partner initiatives. This would prove useful as it would examine the organisational challenges of partnership working, developing collaborative outcome frameworks and joint delivery structures. Such a discussion could be a stepping stone in preparing the council for undertaking community planning responsibilities.
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3	Resource Implications
3.1	The budget for State of the City is £35,000 and is included in the Development Department budget for 2012/13.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	The events promote equality and good relations

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to agree the programme of events for 2012/13.

6	Decision Tracking
6.1	<p>Director of Development to present a report on progress and proposed future events for 2013/14 in June 2013</p> <p>Timeline: June 2013 Reporting Officer: John McGrillen</p>

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Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Connect G Project - Partner Request
Date:	12 th June 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officers:	Laura Leonard, European Manager, ext 3577

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Belfast City Council (BCC) has been approached by Canan, the lead partner in an application for INTERREG IVA funding under collaboration for a project called Connect G. This project has been shortlisted to stage 2 and as part of the further work to do is seeking additional partners for the project.
1.2	The purpose of Connect G is to improve the effectiveness of public agency service support of Gaelic-language (Irish and Scottish) enterprise through greater collaboration and joint action.
1.3	The overall aim of the project will be to seek to improve the effectiveness of public agencies in their support of Gaelic enterprise, through greater collaboration and shared provision. This approach will be tested and trialled through a number of pilot projects during the life of the project, the results of which will inform the development of a shared strategy and agreed plan as to how these agencies will collaborate in the future to best support the growth of Gaelic enterprise post-project
1.4	The focus of this project will be public agency support pertaining to enterprises which : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop or have the potential to develop Irish or Scottish Gaelic language or cultural products or services. - Use or have the potential to use Irish or Scottish Gaelic for marketing or branding. Use the Gaelic language in their operations
1.5	The project will be delivered in the Border Counties of Ireland, Northern Ireland (including Belfast) and Western Scotland (Skye, Lochalsh, Lochaber, Argyll & Bute, Arran & Cumbrae and the Western Isles).

1.6	<p>The project will seek to pilot and evaluate the effectiveness of different types of service interventions and collaborations in support of Gaelic enterprises. The result of these evaluations will inform the shared strategy and action plan for future collaboration at the end of the project. The main focus for support addresses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - raising ambition - skilling to meet ambition - achieving ambition
1.7	<p>Project actions will be through two pilot approaches followed by evaluation and the development of an agreed future strategy and plan. The two pilot approaches will be:</p> <p><u>Pilot Approach 1 – Sectoral approach</u></p> <p>Connect G will pilot activity in support of three key sectors of Gaelic enterprise which are important to the area, are very different in nature and which the agencies consider have potential for growth. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - media – interactive and broadcast - cultural tourism - social enterprise <p>The support of each of the sectors will be overseen by a specific working group comprising of key agencies responsible for development of that sector within the INTERREG area, thereby ensuring that the project and its activities genuinely address the sector's needs.</p> <p><u>Pilot 2 A Generic approach</u></p> <p>It is recognised that many of the incubation centres within the INTERREG area provide opportunities to cluster but are underutilised, possibly due to the lack of full wrap-around support services to genuinely turn an office infrastructure into a business growth unit. This project will therefore seek to provide some of these wrap around services, online and through face-to-face activities and focussed on Gaelic enterprises. It will also promote existing serviced space including that owned by some partners, which would be appropriate to Gaelic enterprise.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Online support services – web portal - The Gallery – A foot on the ladder - Inspire videos – encouraging innovation and raising ambition - Learning resources - Mentoring – supporting high level growth in Gaelic business
1.8	<p><u>Delivery plan</u></p> <p>The project will be delivered through a management system of steering group, working groups and project staff.</p> <p>Steering Group - will comprise of the following organisations, all of whom are Connect G partners:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Cànan, Foras na Gaeilge, Údarás na Gaeltachta, <i>Carntogher Community Association</i>, Magherafelt District Council, Belfast City Council and the <i>Cultúrlann, Belfast</i>.</p> <p>These organisations will provide a governance role to the project, ensuring that agreed plans are being met and providing advice and guidance to the staff. The Steering Group will meet each quarter, with four face-to-face meetings (with a video conference participation option) and six using video conference.</p>

	<p>Representatives from the relevant Government Departments from each jurisdiction will be invited to attend steering group meetings. All three departments have supported the development of this project and have offered their support in the future. The Departments are Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, Northern Ireland, Gaelic and Scots Unit, Scotland, and Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Ireland.</p> <p><u>Sectoral Working Groups</u> Each of the sectoral pilots will be supported by a Sectoral Working Group, comprising of public agency experts with responsibility for delivery within the INTERREG area. These meetings will be held using Skype, teleconference, video conference or e-mail – as suits the group.</p> <p><u>Staffing</u> The project will be jointly staffed by four individuals, with each having responsibility for all three jurisdictions: Project Director based at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Isle of Skye - Responsible for project direction, implementation, staffing, liaison with steering group, governance and strategic communications Marketing and Communications Manager based at Culturlaan - Responsible for marketing and communications for project including promotion, website content development, marketing training with businesses and marketing related projects Training and Skills Manager based in Udaras na Gaeltachta - Responsible for management of course activity, mentoring, development of training resources for website Administrator/Finance Officer based at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Isle of Skye - Responsible for processing all financial claims; first point of contact for the project by phone and e-mail; events listings; and bookings for conferences and training.</p> <p>Project value is £1.175 million and will run from late 2012 to March 2015.</p>
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2	Key Issues
2.1	<p>BCC and the other organisations on the steering group are required to provide a governance role to the project, ensuring agreed plans are being met and providing advice and guidance to the staff.</p> <p>The partnership is seeking one representative from each organisation that is on the steering group. The time requirement would vary from face-to-face meetings according to their location and the video-conference meetings.</p> <p>It is envisaged that the first face-to-face will be in Skye in February 2013. This would probably require 2 or 3 days including travel time. The second face-to-face will be in Belfast and will coincide with the project launch April 2013. The third face-to-face will be in Gweedore requiring at least 1 day including travel time. The location of the fourth face-to-face hasn't been decided yet but maximum time requirement would be 2 or 3 working days. Video conference meetings would be maximum 3 hours. All travel costs will be paid by the project and there's a budget of £60 per person per video conference to pay for video conferencing costs.</p>

2.2	Demands are high on BCC departments to deliver on plans and funded projects and the involvement in this project would require the allocation of an Officer from the Economic Development Unit to commit time to the work of the Steering Group and also the involvement of an Elected Member to sit on the Steering Group. This will involve Officer time, cost of which is not covered by the project funding and therefore would be in addition to their normal duties. Travel costs for the Officer attending steering group meeting are also not covered.
2.3	Capacity to deliver what is required in terms of providing a governance role, agreeing plans and providing advice and guidance to the staff must be considered.
2.4	This project may provide an expectation that there will be money available beyond the project for continued activity, however, this project is a pilot project and the impact for businesses may be limited.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	There is no financial cost for involvement as a partner in this project; however, there would be officer time required which is not covered by the project funding and also travel and subsistence costs for an officer to accompany the Elected Member who sits on the steering committee to a number of meetings in Northern Ireland, ROI and Scotland.

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 one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Belfast City Council be a full partner in the Connect G Project - Belfast City Council be a partner in the Connect G Project in an observatory basis only, or - Belfast City Council does not participate in this project.

6	Decision Tracking
<p>Following approval by Committee the European Unit will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advice Canan of the decision of Committee and take action as recommended by Committee decision 	



Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Donegall Pass Community Centre: Management Arrangements
Date:	12 June 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen Director of Development ext 3470
Contact Officers:	Cate Taggart, Community Development Manager, ext 3525

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Donegall Pass Community Centre (Apsley Street, Donegall Pass) was constructed in 2001 in direct response to community need in the area. The centre has been accessed by the local community providing much needed services since that time.
1.2	Council support for the community centre was approved by the Community and Leisure Sub-Committee at its meeting on 12 th March 1996. It was agreed that Council would part fund the construction of the centre together with associated running costs. The total capital cost being £244,500: 75% of which was funded by 'Making Belfast Work'.
1.3	Under the original terms of the development the responsibility of managing the centre was undertaken by Council. However this was viewed as a short term measure with the ultimate aim of transferring the management of the centre to the community. Therefore at the meeting of the Community and Leisure Sub-Committee in August 2000, it was agreed that a provision be made within the revenue estimates to enable the centre to operate as a full time directly managed facility for a period of two years with a view to building local capacity to adopt the local community management model at the end of an agreed period. This arrangement was further extended at the meeting of the Sub-Committee of 7 th January 2003 and again in 2007 on the basis that both the local community and Council officers felt the capacity had not been adequately developed to support local independent management arrangements.
1.4	Donegall Pass Community Forum (DPCF) developed an area master plan in 2009 for the Donegall Pass area.

	<p>The community centre is considered to be a vital part of the master plan which will enable the strengthening of community infrastructure and facilities. Within this context officers met with representatives of the DPCF in order to assess the potential of the Forum to assume management responsibilities for the centre. The outcome of this being that the DPCF, with support from Council, undertook a full economic business plan (2010). This included stakeholder consultation, extensive desktop research and benchmarking analysis. The study considered a range of options for the management of the centre and associated risk.</p>
1.5	<p>The Development Committee at its meeting on 11th May 2011 agreed to the request from the DPCF to 'seek to explore the possibility with Council of conducting a period of transition (1 year) which would allow it to fully examine the practicalities of assuming the management of the Centre successfully'.</p>
1.6	<p>The Development Committee at its meeting on 14th September 2011 authorised a request from DPCF to extend the transition period for a further six months.</p>

2	Key Issues
2.1	<p>The DPCF has now concluded the transition period which involved: members of the DPCF shadowing Council staff at Donegall Pass Community Centre; site visits by DPCF to other community managed facilities; and transfer of policy/procedures/centre budget and all relevant information to DPCF.</p>
2.2	<p>DPCF have informed Council that 'transfer of the Donegall Pass Community Centre to a locally based organisation is in the interests of the community it serves.' However it is the Forums view that before entering into agreement with Council to undertake management of the facility a number of outstanding issues need to be addressed. These issues relate to income and expenditure (current and potential), programming of local services, and the current design of the building and possible adaption to meet the needs of DPCF. Officers are currently supporting the DPCF to address these issues</p>
2.3	<p>In determining the organisation's competence and capacity to undertake community management of Donegall Pass Community Centre, officers will also identify any support or capacity issues which will require the expertise of appropriate officers to facilitate a smooth and successful transition to community management.</p>
2.4	<p>On completion of the organisations information and support requirements being addressed, a further extension will be necessary to allow the DPCF time to consider fully all elements of this undertaking and to then provide a realistic, planned and robust approach to Council.</p>

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p>There are no additional resource implications at this time</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no current Equality and Good Relations Considerations

5	Recommendations
	Members are asked to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. note the contents of the report.2. authorise an extension which will allow the DPCF to critically appraise its position and submit a proposal to Council. A report on the outcome will be presented to Committee in the autumn 2012.

6	Decision Tracking
	Yvonne Coyle to implement committee decision.

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