



27th September, 2012

MEETING OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman / Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room (Room G05), City Hall on Tuesday, 2nd October, 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. **Belfast Bike Tours - Presentation**
3. **Gaeltacht Quarter Boundary (Pages 1 - 2)**
4. **Belfast's Economy / Marketing the City**
 - (a) Festive Lighting in City Centre (Pages 3 - 6)
 - (b) Irish Technology Leadership Group (Pages 7 - 10)
 - (c) Sister City Linkages - Heifei (Pages 11 - 12)
 - (d) MIPIM Conference 2013 (Pages 13 - 16)
 - (e) World Travel Market (Pages 17 - 18)
 - (f) Erasmus Programme for Elected Members (Pages 19 - 20)
5. **Reports for Members' Information**
 - (a) Belfast Waterfront Hall Development (Pages 21 - 50)



Belfast City Council

This Matter was deferred by the Committee at its meeting on 18th September

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Gaeltacht Quarter Boundary – Council Definition
Date:	2 October 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 6370

1	Background Information
1.1	Members will recall that the Committee, at its meeting on 18 th September, considered the matter of what should constitute the Council's definition, in terms of recognised boundaries, of the Gaeltacht Quarter within Belfast. At that meeting, it had been agreed that representatives of the Gaeltacht Quarter Board would be invited to attend a future Committee meeting to provide clarification on a number of issues which had been raised by Members.
1.2	Accordingly, contact has been made during the interim period with the Gaeltacht Quarter Board and it has been confirmed that Mr. Ciaran Mackel and Mr Harry Connolly will be in attendance to address Members at the meeting. It is anticipated that more detailed and concise maps of the area in question will be available for Members' information prior to the meeting.

2	Key Issues – Overview of
2.1	At its meeting on 18 May 2012, the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee agreed that in line with a previous decision by the Development Committee regarding city dressing, hoardings and signs relating to the delivery of the Investment Programme projects in the Gaeltacht Quarter should be bi-lingual and printed in both the Irish and English languages.
2.2	As work on the Investment Programme is now underway, it is necessary for the Council to define its understanding of the boundary of the Gaeltacht Quarter.
2.3	There have been several studies completed on the Gaeltacht Quarter and a number of boundaries identified.
2.4	In 2010, Deloitte were commissioned by An Cheathru Ghealtachta Teo (ACGT) and the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure (DCAL) to prepare plans for the development of Belfast's Gaeltacht Quarter and to progress recommendations made in the 2004 Dutton report. This report outlines the boundary options.

2.5	<p>The Plans expand the original boundary delineation of the Dutton Report to create a wider area, together with a core, identifying eleven differing zones and their neighbourhoods having recognisable roles and objectives within a greater Gaeltacht Quarter Area.</p> <p>The Deloitte report states that the physical hub of the Gaeltacht Quarter is concentrated on an area around one square mile, with its focal point on the Falls and is bisected by the Falls Road, which provides the arterial route connecting Belfast City Centre to the wider West Belfast area.</p> <p>In addition it defines the greater Gaeltacht Quarter boundary as:</p>
2.6	<p><i>“that area bounded on its western edge by the Kennedy Way and Monagh Bypass, continuing onto its Northern boundary at a line following the Upper Springfield and Springfield Roads on both sides as far as Springfield Park and continuing on one side on the Country-bound lane until its junction with Lanark Way. Then following the ‘peace line’ to connect with the start of its Eastern Boundary at Divis Street / John Street Boundary and from there to a Southern Boundary line running from Durham Street / Grosvenor Road on one side of road on its city-bound lane only until Grosvenor Road’s junction with the M1 Motorway and then following the city-bound Lane of the Motorway as far as its junction with Kennedy Way.”</i></p>

3	Resource Implications
3.1	There are no immediate resource costs associated with this consultation response.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no equality and good relations considerations associated with this response.

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to provide guidance on which boundary option Belfast City Council should use to determine the provision of bilingual signage in the Gaeltacht Quarter.

6	Decision Tracking
<p>Further to approval the response will be sent to An Cheathru Ghealtachta</p> <p>Timeframe: October 2013 Reporting Officer: John McGrillen</p>	

7	Key to Abbreviations
<p>ACGT - An Cheathru Ghealtachta Teo</p> <p>DCAL – Department of Culture Arts and Leisure</p>	



Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Festive Lighting in City Centre
Date:	2 October 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	Belfast City Centre Management (BCCM) are formally seeking a financial contribution towards upgrading the Christmas lighting stock in the City Centre.
1.2	The annual Christmas festive lighting scheme is managed and directed by BCCM within the City Centre with BCC taking responsibility for the City Hall and grounds. Over the last 10 years there has been investment of over £500,000 on the majority of main pedestrian and shopping routes in the City Centre.
1.3	The manufacture of festive lighting has changed and improved significantly over the years including the use of lighter aluminium frames and low wattage energy efficient led lighting. A large portion of Belfast's current stock is outdated, uses heavy galvanised steel frames and fluorescent lighting. A number of the decorations are considered dangerous and cannot be used any longer for health and safety purposes.

2	Key Issues
2.1	Having a vibrant city centre with quality festive lighting is considered to be an important part of the marketing package of Belfast over the Christmas season. Sustaining footfall and driving sales especially during this trading period is even more significant in the economic downturn given that this is when many traders trade up and balance their books which sustains them through the leaner months of the year. BCCM are formally seeking both BCC and DSD commitment towards upgrading and replacing some of the festive lighting stock for 2012.
2.2	In 2000, BCCM commissioned an evaluation of the existing festive lighting stock as most of the stock was obsolete or excessively costly to repair.
2.3	BCCM carried out an economic appraisal to identify costing and funding options for a major re-launch of the festive lighting initiative. As a consequence, BCCM secured £190,000 to install a new festive lighting scheme in the city centre.

2.4	Over the past 10 years an additional £300k has been invested to roll out festive lighting to new areas and to replace damaged or obsolete features as required. The majority of this work took place over 8-10 years ago using filament lighting, this was prior to the introduction of low cost environmentally friendly led lighting.
2.5	Year on year, businesses within the city centre have been contributing directly for the installation of new festive lighting features. The past 4 years has seen a decrease in the level of contribution due to current economic climate.
2.6	In 2008, Belfast received a new city brand – the Belfast ‘B’. The logo was launched by Belfast City Council and replaced the out-dated ‘smiley face’ which had been used for many years. To reflect this change, BCC asked BCCM to commission the design and manufacture of bespoke led festive lighting features to incorporate the new B Festive brand and provided £40k towards the costs.
2.7	In 2009, the Department for Social Development (DSD) initiated a £150k reStore Project in Castle Street. £28k was allocated to the installation of a new led festive lighting scheme for Castle Street.
2.8	In 2009, DSD contributed £31k towards new led festive lighting for Donegall Place and Ann Street as a substantial number of features could not be installed following the rationalisation of street furniture through the Belfast Streets Ahead project.
2.9	In 2010, DSD initiated a £150k reStore Project in North Street. £30k was allocated to the installation of a new led festive lighting scheme for North Street.
2.10	BCCM dedicates an annual budget of £75k towards the testing, installation, connection, dismantling, maintenance, insurance and storage of the Christmas lighting scheme for Belfast City Centre.
2.11	The specific objectives of the proposal to invest in new festive lighting within the City Centre area are:
2.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To achieve a consistently high standard of display across the city centre; - To replace incandescent lighting features with energy efficient LED lighting wherever possible; - To replace the heavy galvanised steel frames with light aluminium frames to reduce risk in high winds; - To minimise maintenance repairs and call-outs; - To produce a quality festive lighting scheme for visitors, shoppers and employees to enjoy; - To promote Belfast as a premier shopping and tourist destination; and - To complete the project within stipulated timeframes and financial budgets.
2.13	Whilst BCCM originally was pursuing funding towards a 3 year programme, due to budgetary constraints it is now seeking a 1 year commitment for 2012 with both DSD and BCC being asked for £50,000 each to match £50,000 already in the Belfast Chamber of Commerce budget. BCCM has completed the tender process and subject to securing of the finance they affirm they are in a position to implement the new lighting for 2012.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	BCCM is seeking a commitment of £50,000 from BCC for 2012 to match £50,000 which has been committed by Department of Social Development (DSD) for 2012 also. Belfast Chamber of Commerce has also committed £50,000 for this year.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no Equality and Good Relations Considerations attached to this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to approve £50,000 towards the upgrading of the Christmas lighting stock of BCCM for the City Centre in 2012.

6	Decision Tracking
If approval is granted by Committee an update report will be brought back to Committee in due course.	

7	Key to Abbreviations
BCCM – Belfast City Centre Management DSD – Department for Social Development	

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Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Update on ITLG linkages
Date:	2 October 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	Members will be aware that, at the 14 September 2011 meeting of the Development Committee, a proposal to host a delegation from the ITLG (Irish Technology Leadership Group) was approved. Six representatives from ITLG took part in a two day visit to Belfast on 4 and 5 November 2011.
1.2	A report was presented to the 13 December meeting of the Development Committee, outlining a review of the visit and confirming ITLG's commitment to put in place a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Belfast City Council and ITLG for an agreed collaborative work programme. This draft MoU was presented to the 21 February 2012 meeting of the Development Committee.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The Irish Technology Leadership Group (ITLG) is a group of Irish and Irish American senior executives based in Silicon Valley who are active in the global technology industry. They work to promote industry linkages between USA and Ireland through a range of collaborative initiatives including trade visits, award ceremonies and events in both USA and Ireland.
2.2	As part of the 4 November programme, the delegation met a range of organisations and individuals involved in the promotion and development of the technology industry in the city. Representatives outlined their offer to maintain contact with the organisations and individuals that they had met in Belfast.
2.3	In order to formalise the linkages, a MoU was agreed between Belfast City Council and ITLG and was endorsed by the Development Committee in February 2012. This contained a range of activities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of trade mission activity between Silicon Valley and Belfast - Development of an internship programme for up to 2 individuals from

	<p>Belfast to be placed with leading Silicon Valley businesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Development of international promotion activities in Silicon Valley to promote Belfast.
2.4	<p>Members were particularly keen that progress would be made on the trade mission activity. Since that time, officers have met with Invest NI and they have confirmed that they are supporting businesses who wish to travel to specific trade events or as part of trade missions to Silicon Valley.</p>
2.5	<p>Since the November visit, two representatives from ITLG have been back to Belfast for a brief visit. They came to the city on the back of a visit to Dublin with their respective companies. Their key engagement was with University of Ulster and they explored opportunities to develop an ITLG office in Belfast, possibly based at the University. No further progress has been made on this issue.</p>
2.6	<p>With regard to international trade activity, ITLG are holding an “Innovation in Entertainment” event and awards ceremony at Sony Studios in California on 27 September. Invest NI has not organised a specific group visit to this event but Brian Glynn, the Invest NI representative in San Jose, will be attending on behalf of the organisation.</p>
2.7	<p>ITLG have invited two companies from Northern Ireland to attend the event – both have been nominated for awards. These companies are Troll inc from Derry, and Inlifesize from Belfast. It is understood that another business from Belfast – Factory Pictures – will attend the event. Representatives from the University of Ulster will also be present. Company participation costs are being supported by Invest NI.</p>
2.8	<p>With regard to the proposed internship, it has proved very difficult to realise this initiative. It is understood that the calibre of interns that are being sought is extremely high. It has also been difficult to get ITLG to pinpoint these opportunities. Officers are aware of one internship opportunity that has been presented for local students but this has been organised through UU staff direct contacts in USA, as opposed to through the ITLG contacts. The student offered the internship has won prizes in global animation competitions and therefore is considered to be very experienced.</p>
2.9	<p>It is understood that other bi-lateral working is taking place between individuals who are part of the ITLG network and local, Belfast companies and individuals. However managing the organisation-to-organisation linkages between Belfast City Council and ITLG has proved more difficult to do and the progress in this field to date has been hampered due to the structure and workings of ITLG.</p>
2.10	<p>It was confirmed at the February 2012 Development Committee that this MoU would be reviewed on an annual basis. Members are therefore asked to add their assessment as to the effectiveness of the MoU with ITLG over the last year.</p>

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u> A financial allocation of £40,000 towards MoU activities was approved at the February 2012 Committee meeting.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	All initiatives will be subject to all relevant equality and good relations considerations.

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Note the update on the ITLG MoU and working linkages- Add any other information which may be relevant as part of this review.- Consider how to proceed with the ITLG relationship.

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

7	Key to Abbreviations
MoU – Memorandum of Understanding ITLG – Irish Technology Leadership Group	

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Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Sister city link with Hefei, China - update
Date:	2 October 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	Members will be aware that Belfast City Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the city of Hefei in August 2001, committing the two cities to 'friendly exchange and co-operative activities' within a number of themes including education, technology and culture.
1.2	A number of visits have taken place by delegations from Hefei to Belfast and, on one occasion (2003), a civic delegation from Belfast undertook a visit to Hefei to meet with government contacts and to attend the annual hi-tech fair in the city.
1.3	A small delegation from the city of Hefei visited Belfast in early September 2012 and expressed an interest in re-invigorating the link between the two cities. This included an invitation to visit Hefei again at a future date.

2	Key Issues
2.1	Hefei is the capital city of Anhui Province in China - located in the mid-east of China. It is an industrial city with fast growing potential, with a population of approximately 6 million people within the wider metropolitan area. The city core has experienced significant population growth over the last decade, doubling in size between 2000 and 2010.
2.2	Hefei is listed among the top 50 cities in terms of its investment environment and is listed within the top 30 cities in terms of its growth potential. Currently the Anhui region trades with over 180 countries and 51 of the Fortune 500 companies have invested in Hefei including Johnson, Unilever, Sanyo etc.
2.3	Hefei has been progressing vigorously in the development of scientific and technological undertakings over the last thirty years. It was designated the first Science and Technology Innovation Pilot City in China in 2004 (there are now 45 pilots) and the city is a member of the WTA (World Technopolis Association).

2.4	During the visit to Belfast in September 2012, the four delegates from Hefei undertook a series of visits and engaged in a number of meetings around city development and social care. They also met with members of the Chinese community in Belfast and with Invest NI's international trade team.
2.5	In the course of the meeting with Invest NI, the trade representatives expressed an interest in exploring the business opportunities presented in Hefei and have committed to researching this proposition further. Currently, Invest NI undertakes one trade mission a year to China and the next visit is in mid-November. Staff are considering whether it may be possible to undertake a brief visit to Hefei as part of this visit.
2.6	The Hefei delegation was keen to support a return visit to Hefei by a delegation from Belfast at a future date and has committed to putting together a programme based on the specific needs of the group. Given the review of international linkages that is currently underway, it may be appropriate to consider the future direction of the link with Hefei, including priority areas for collaboration, if appropriate.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	No specific resource allocations attached to this report – for information only.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	No specific equality and good relations considerations associated with this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Note the recent visit to Belfast by a delegation from Hefei – Consider the future direction of the link with Hefei, in the context of the review of international linkages and marketing currently underway.

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

7	Key to Abbreviations
MoU – Memorandum of Understanding	



Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	MIPIM 2013
Date:	2 October 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	MIPIM (www.mipim.com) is a major real estate exhibition and conference which takes place in March each year in Cannes, France. The event regularly attracts up to 20,000 delegates. MIPIM 2013 takes place from 12-15 March 2013.
1.2	Since 2000, various partners from Belfast have participated in the event and have contributed towards the costs of a joint stand in the exhibition area. Belfast City Council has taken part each year since the early 2000s but did not participate in MIPIM 2012.
1.3	Partners from Lisburn and Derry City Councils have now approached Belfast to ascertain the likelihood of Belfast City Council representation at the 2013 event.

2	Key Issues
2.1	Belfast City Council's engagement in MIPIM has always been as part of a collective presence, involving both public and private sector partners.
2.2	The objectives of the collective partnership's attendance at MIPIM to date have included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Raising awareness of the business opportunities in Belfast/NI – Building confidence among potential investors in Belfast/NI as a place to do business – Securing new investment opportunities for Belfast/NI.
2.3	Individual partners have had their own objectives but all have seen merit in the collaborative approach which provides them with a physical presence and a context for their work.

2.4	The scale and scope of the partnership changed from year to year but did include Invest NI (early 2000s); Department for Social Development (annually since 2007); Titanic Quarter/Belfast Harbour and other private developers and industry contacts (banks, solicitors, planning consultants etc). Since the economic downturn and the challenges in the construction sector and property market, it has proved increasingly difficult to attract private partners in particular.
2.5	The private sector partners have attended the event to pursue specific business opportunities with identified partners and have used the exhibition space as a “base” for their meetings and as a platform for demonstrating their range of products and previous work (through multi-media exhibitions; brochures etc.).
2.6	At MIPIM 2010, Belfast City Council was represented on a Northern Ireland partner stand with Derry City Council, Ilex (the Urban Regeneration Company (URC) in the city), Lisburn City Council (who had attended MIPIM since mid-2000s as a stand-alone exhibitor) and the Department for Social Development (DSD). A range of private sector partners were also involved and representatives from the Strategic Investment Board (SIB) attended for the first time. The same partnership attended the event in 2011.
2.7	In 2012, the Development Committee recommended that Belfast City Council should not attend MIPIM. The other Northern Ireland partners (Lisburn City Council, Derry City Council, Ilex) and number of private operators, (including Titanic Quarter and Delap and Waller – both based in Belfast) did take a place on the joint exhibition space.
2.8	<p>With regard to the outcomes of participation at MIPIM, these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Range of investors/influencers briefed on Belfast/NI economy and opportunities (target number set each year) – The initial introduction to Multi Development (the developers of Victoria Square) took place at MIPIM and was successfully followed up after the event – Derry City Council are currently working with a developer that they met at MIPIM who is interested in a development on the Fort George site – Lisburn City Council are also working with SIB and a developer that they met at a previous MIPIM event who is interested in the Maze Long Kesh site – Private developers report back on a range of partnerships developed and collaborative initiatives undertaken (although they are sometimes unwilling to provide full details due to the commercially sensitive nature of the projects).
2.9	Lisburn and Derry City Councils have now both confirmed that they plan to attend MIPIM in 2013 and have asked whether Belfast City Council plans to attend the event. In addition, Invest NI have committed to exploring the potential for representation at MIPIM and DSD have also committed £5,000 towards a joint stand at the event. .
2.10	At this point in time officers are currently finalising the Belfast Masterplan, which is likely to be launched in February 2013. This will identify the key investment opportunities within the city.

2.11	In parallel with this, work is still continuing on the City International Relations and Marketing Strategy, part of which will involve the creation of a city narrative, suitable marketing materials and communication channels in order to sell Belfast as an attractive investment location.
2.12	It is probable that this work will not be completed in time to be used at MIPIM. It is important that the marketing material for the city reflect the high quality investment location which the Council wishes to project. In that context, it is proposed that the Council declines the offer to participate at this stage, however, consideration to participate in future years should be considered as part of the broader City Marketing Strategy.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	While the costs of Council participation on a collective basis are not clear at this time, it is likely to be around £20,000 (subject to securing funding from other partners).

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no specific equality and good relations considerations associated with this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note the request from partner agencies to participate in a Northern Ireland collaborative presence at MIPIM 2013 but agree that BCC should not participate given that a review of International Marketing activity is underway as part of the new International Strategy.

6	Decision Tracking
<p>If this recommendation is approved, a report on outcomes from the event will be brought back to the May 2013 meeting of Development Committee.</p> <p>Timeframe: May 2013 Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay</p>	

7	Key to Abbreviations
<p>DSD – Department for Social Development URC – Urban Regeneration Company SIB – Strategic Investment Board</p>	

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Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	World Travel Market, 5 to 8 November 2012
Date:	2 October 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	Members will be aware that Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau (BVCB) will be showcasing Belfast at the World Travel Market (WTM) from 5 to 8 November 2012. The is the leading global event for the travel industry and is a vibrant must attend four-day business-to-business event presenting a diverse range of destinations and industry sectors to UK and International travel professionals. It is a unique opportunity for the whole global travel trade to meet, network, negotiate and conduct business under one roof. More information can be found at http://www.wtmlondon.com/
1.2	The Chair and Deputy Chair have traditionally accompanied the senior team from Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau to the WTM, attending on day one and two of the exhibition.

2	Key Issues
2.1	BVCB will showcase Belfast at the WTM Show, ExCel London, 5-8 November 2012. Belfast has a huge number of 2012/2013 products and events to showcase including Titanic Belfast, Belfast Music Week, Food Tourism, Belfast 400 the World Police and Fire Games etc. As has been customary it is recommended and requested that Belfast City Council is represented by the Chair, Deputy Chair and one officer if necessary.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	The cost of delegate fees, travel, accommodation and expenses of Chair, Deputy Chair and one officer to attend the World Travel Market will not exceed £1,000.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no Equality and Good Relations Considerations attached to this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to approve the Chair, Deputy Chair or their nominees and one Officer if necessary to attend the WTM, ExCel London Monday 5 to Thursday 8 November 2012.

6	Key to Abbreviations
BCC	Belfast City Council
BVCB	Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau
WTM	World Travel Market



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Erasmus for Elected Members
Date:	2 October 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officers:	Laura Leonard, European Manager, ext 3577

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	<p>Members will be aware that the current European Funding period will end in 2013 and that a new 7 year funding period will begin in 2014. As a result, the European Commission issued a call in June 2012 to implement a pilot project for elected members across the European Union. The purpose of this project, entitled Erasmus for Elected Members, is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase the knowledge of local and regional representatives regarding strategic planning within the EU - Encourage cooperation and discussion among 100 elected representatives - Enable the sharing of best practice. <p>Applications for this training programme had to be made within a short timeframe, within less than 3 weeks.</p>
1.2	<p>Belfast City Council submitted two applications, of which one was successful, that of Councillor Andrew Webb. This will enable Councillor Webb to participate in the 3 obligatory components of this training programme.</p>

2	Key Issues
2.1	<p>Funding through the Erasmus for All programme will enable Councillor Andrew Webb to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participate in the Brussels Open Days in October 2012. This event is a very important date in the EU calendar whereby workshops are held to outline and discuss the critical themes of the current EU Strategy, Europe 2020. These are attended by a wide range of EU stakeholders and involve speeches and debates by high level European officials. - Undertake a site visit to another EU city/region - Attend a 2 day closing seminar in Brussels in spring 2013. <p>Co-ordination of this activity is undertaken by The Committee of the Regions staff.</p>

2.2	<p>The European grant will cover Councillor Webb's travel, accommodation and a per diem allowance.</p> <p>It should however be noted that due to Belfast's peripherality and the fact that there is no direct flight to Brussels, it may be necessary to top up the EU grant.</p> <p>This will be made available through the European Unit's budget.</p>
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3	Resource Implications
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff time to support Councillor Webb in his participation in the Programme - Financial contributions when necessary, to enable Councillor Webb's full participation in the Programme.

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 requested to note the content of the report and agree to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Councillor Webb's participation in the Erasmus for Elected Representatives programme; and - Additional financial input into the Programme where the EU grant does not cover the full costs of programme participation.

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

7	Key to Abbreviations
EU- European Union	

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