



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Markets Unit Update
Date:	13 May 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern - Director of Development ext. 3470
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Relevant Background Information

The Friends of St George's Market Association

Council Members and Market Officers meet on a regular basis with the National Market Traders' Federation representatives. The meetings assist in strengthening relationships between the various groups. During one of these meetings the issue of how relationships could be further strengthened was raised. One issue discussed was the possibility of securing funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to assist in the promotion of St George's Market. This funding would be used to actively promote the historical, cultural and social heritage of St George's Market and to make the benefits of this promotion available to local people and visitors. It was discussed and agreed that senior members of the NMTF would take the lead on this and drive it forward and Council officers would assist where required.

Further to this, the group changed its title to The Friends of St George's Market Association, established a constitution (Appendix 1) and agreed to use the expertise of local historian Brian Kennedy, retired Ulster Museum curator, in completing its application for funding.

The Friends of St George's Market Association, has received confirmation that they have been successful in being awarded just over £37,500 in HLF funding.

Key IssuesThe Friends of St George's Market Association

The Friends of St George's Market Association comprises previous St George's National Market Traders Federation representatives & members. It also involves some local experts who are also valued customers. The group's aims are the promotion and social standing of St George's Market as a premier market place and the retention of the Market's historical values. Regular meetings and discussions take place with Council Members and Market Officers.

The funding of £37,500 will allow the Association to run a variety of events/exhibitions during the months of November 2009 to May 2010. The group is also planning to celebrate the 10 years since the refurbishment of St George's Market, to showcase how much the Market has evolved since then and to further raise the Market's profile.

The programme of events would include visitor tours of the St George's building, information sessions, a variety of demonstrations and relating the history of St George's Market and its traders. The group also wants to promote St George's journey from a local market to a vibrant and social meeting place and an arena for local music artists. An example of which is Cara Robinson, who, since starting off in St George's Saturday Market, has gone on to support Rhianna. The Association also hope to shoot a short film about St George's Market, to be played during the weekly markets.

Further regular meetings and full discussions will take place between Council Officers and the Friends of St George's Market Association with the aim of producing a full programme of events and associated advertising and promotion.

Resource Implications

Heritage Lottery funding of £37,500 to cover associated costs.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee note the above report.

Decision Tracking

N/A

Key to Abbreviations

N.M.T.F. – National Market Traders' Federation
B.C.C. – Belfast City Council
H.L.F. – Heritage Lottery Fund

Documents Attached

Appendix A – Copy of The Friends of St George's Market Association constitution