



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	400 th Anniversary of the 1613 Charter
Date:	10 June 2009
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Relevant Background Information

At May 2009 Development Committee, Members agreed an initial report on proposals to start the process of examining how the 400th Anniversary of the Charter which established Belfast as a civic entity might be marked in 2013 by holding a symposium in November.

It was agreed that officers would bring a further report to provide details of the budget and symposium.

In 2007 the 400th Anniversary of the settlement at Jamestown, Virginia, was celebrated on a large scale – Both Queen Elizabeth II and President Bush attended the event. In the seventeenth century and later the relevance of comparisons between Ulster and Virginia were widely acknowledged and the programme proposed is based on shared learning from Virginia in an inclusive and engaging manner, good relations approach as well as looking at issues from a local perspective.

Key Issues

The total proposed cost of the seminar is £11,218 and a full breakdown of the costs is attached at Appendix 1.

The Ulster Hall Group Theatre has been provisionally booked for the Symposium.

The following speakers have confirmed attendance: Profs. Audrey Horning (who has a book *Ireland in the Virginian Sea: Comparative Colonialism in the British Atlantic World* forthcoming) and Mary O'Dowd (Queen's University), Dr. Danielle Moretti-Langholtz,

Director of American Indian Resource Center, College of William & Mary with Buck Woodward a Muskogee Creek tribal council member, academic, manager of the American Indian Initiative at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation which played a key role in the 2007 events at Jamestown. With Dr. Moretti-Lagholtz, he is a member of the Virginia Council on Indians, which advised the Virginia Governor from 2003 – 06 on planning for the year of celebration.

Other speakers are being approached. It is planned that there will be five substantive sessions and time for moderated discussions on the day.

Initial discussions have been held with some other Councils intending to celebrate the anniversaries of their charters and with the Honourable the London Society, as well as with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency. It appears that there will be a complementary programme following that in Belfast, which will enhance the opportunity to attract external interest from the British Isles and north America as well widening opportunities and engagement locally. Coleraine Borough Council has indicated a willingness to lead on the programme outside Belfast.

Resource Implications

The total proposed cost of the seminar is £11,218 and a full breakdown of the costs is attached at Appendix 1.

Work is being carried out within the resources of the Culture and Arts Unit.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members approve the proposed activity and agree the proposed budget of £11,218

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 Budget and breakdown of costs for 400th Anniversary of the 1613 Charter.