



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Eurocities AGM
Date:	16 September 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern Director of Development ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Laura Leonard European Manager ext. 3577

Background

At the 12 August Development Committee, Members requested further information regarding the request for approval for representation at the Eurocities AGM in Stockholm from 25 – 28 November 2009 and a breakdown of the related costs.

Key Issues

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. The headquarters are in Brussels and activity is structured around the following forums:

- Economic Development
- Social Affairs
- Culture
- Mobility
- Knowledge Society
- Environment

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.

Every year Belfast City Council attends the Eurocities AGM which is hosted in a city within the member state currently holding the presidency of Europe, this year the host is Sweden. The Stockholm AGM programme is attached as appendix 1. The theme this year is 'Urban Challenges and Sustainable Solutions'.

Belfast City Council requires Member attendance at the AGM to participate in the voting process and election of the Executive Bureau of Cities and the chair and deputy chair posts of the various Forums. Belfast City Council Elected Member attendance is traditionally represented by the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Development Committee accompanied by the Director of Development and the European Manager or their nominees. However, over the last 5 years only one Member has travelled every year to the AGM.

The two BCC officers attend the AGM to ensure the interests of Belfast City Council are represented and promoted at the event. Belfast City Council officers host round table speed networking discussions around relevant topics. This year they will take part in two events with a view to promoting the work of the BCC led OPENCities project and also a workshop dedicated to city responses to the recession. Due to the fact that BCC is active in so many projects two officers are required to undertake parallel meetings with Forum chairs and insure input into the agreement of work programmes for the following year.

Belfast City Council is active in the following Forums:

Economic Development Forum

Chair of economic migration working group
Member of creative clusters working group
Member of entrepreneurship working group
Member of employment working group

Social Affairs Forum

Member of social inclusion working group.
Member of urban security working group
Member of the health and well being working group.

Environment Forum

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

Culture Forum

Member of the youth culture working group
Member of the resources for culture working group

Resource Implications

Estimated cost for attendance:

Registration Fees per person	£245.96
Hotel x 3 nights (£158.55 per room per night)	£475.65
Flight per person	£352.00
Subsistence per person for 3 full days at £75.00 per day	£225.00
Approximate Total per person	£1298.61
Approximate Total for three people	£3895.83
Approximate total for four people	£5194.44

Recommendations

Members are asked to approve the attendance and all associated costs of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, the Director of Development and the European Manager, or their nominees, at the Eurocities AGM in Stockholm in November 2009 at a cost not exceeding £5194.44.

Documents Attached

Appendix 1: Eurocities AGM Agenda

BLANK PAGE