



## Belfast City Council

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| <b>Report to:</b>         | Development Committee                                     |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | Economic Development Unit Update                          |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 14 October 2009   |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development, ext 3470 |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459     |

### Relevant Background Information

#### 1. Update of Council Local Economic Development (LED) Plan

At the September 2009 Development Committee, Members noted the proposal to update the current Local Economic Development Plan. In order to ensure engagement with appropriate representatives, a structured consultation process is planned for the period November-December 2009, with a view to the plan being operational from April 2010.

#### 2. Tender award for AIMS programme

A tender for the management of the AIMS (Advanced Industrial Materials Savings) programme, an initiative to support process improvements in small manufacturing companies, was issued in September 2009. Three companies submitted tenders for the delivery of the initiative which will cost a total of £120,000 over a two year period. The programme is being run in conjunction with Lisburn City Council.

### Key Issues

#### 1. Update of Council Local Economic Development (LED) Plan

Economic conditions have changed significantly since the development of the current LED plan. Similarly, the funding structure for Council-led local economic development activity has changed with a new Structural Funds programme. In light of these developments, Members agreed a proposal at the September 2009 Development Committee to update the current LED plan to reflect this situation and in preparation for 2011 when a range of additional LED functions will transfer to Councils.

As part of that updating exercise, it is proposed that meetings and consultations with a range of key organisations and individuals be undertaken. In this context, Party

Briefings are proposed, in order to maximise Elected Member input into the process and to enhance awareness of and ownership of the LED functions within the Council, given the impending changes post-RPA.

#### Resource Implications

No additional resources required.

#### Recommendations

It is recommended that Members note the proposed consultation process, including the organisation of Briefings with each Party.

#### Decision Tracking

A draft of the plan – along with a review of the resources required for delivery, will be brought back to a future committee meeting.

Time frame: January 2010

Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay

#### 2. Tender award for AIMS programme

In response to a public advertisement, tenders for the delivery of the programme were received from three organisations.

- Northern Ireland Technology Centre, QUB, at a project cost of £112,980
- Ortus, The Business Development Agency, at a project cost of £112,998
- Townsend Enterprise, at a project cost of £112,945.

The tenders were evaluated using the following criteria:

- Proposed approach and methodology
- Project plan and ability to deliver to schedule
- Calibre and experience of project team
- Relevant experience of working on similar initiatives.
- Ability to work in partnership
- Quality and environmental management systems.

Each tender was evaluated in liaison with the Procurement Unit using the pre-determined criteria set out above.

Following this assessment, the application from Ortus was judged to be most economically advantageous and to meet most closely the set criteria.

#### Resource Implications

The total cost of the work by Ortus will be £112,998 over a two year period. These costs will be shared by Belfast and Lisburn City Councils. The programme will also be match-funded at 50% by DETI from EU Structural Funds.

#### Recommendations

It is recommended that Members approve the appointment of Ortus for the delivery of the AIMS programme at a maximum cost of £112,988, subject to an appropriate form of legal contract being drawn up in conjunction with the Legal Services Department.

#### Decision Tracking

No decision tracking required if recommendation is accepted.

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| <b>Key Abbreviations</b>                    |
| CIIF – Creative Industries Innovation Fund  |
| LED – Local Economic Development            |
| UKTI – UK Trade and Industry                |
| AIMS – Advanced Industrial Materials Saving |

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