



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Collaborative Attendance at MIPIM 2010
Date:	13 January 2010
Reporting Officer:	Shirley McCay, Acting Director of Development, ext 3459
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Relevant Background Information

Members will be aware that Belfast City Council has participated in MIPIM – Europe’s largest property and development expo – since 2000. This was initially done under the auspices of Laganside Corporation and subsequently Investment Belfast. Since 2007, Belfast at MIPIM has been organised by Belfast City Council’s Economic Development Unit.

Key Issues

A partnership approach has always been central to Belfast’s attendance at MIPIM. Generally, every £1 that the Council invests in the event levers almost £4 from other public and private sector partners. Despite the difficulties in the construction and property development market, seven private sector companies – as well as a number of public sector agencies – worked with Belfast City Council on last year’s event. All of these partners have indicated that they wish to take part in MIPIM 2010.

As part of the feedback sessions from the 2009 event, many of the private sector partners suggested that they were working across Northern Ireland – and beyond – and that a collaborative approach would allow them to promote more of their schemes and develop further partnerships.

Lisburn City Council has attended MIPIM separately for a number of years. Derry City Council has never participated in the event but had expressed an interest in exploring the opportunities presented by MIPIM.

Following some initial discussions with senior officers from both council areas, it is proposed that a collaborative Northern Ireland participation be organised this year. This will involve the three city councils as well as Ilex – the Urban Regeneration Company in the Derry City Council area – other government departments and a range of interested private sector companies.

Resource Implications

An allocation of £20,000 had been included in the Departmental Plan for this event. The total cost of the event is likely to be around £70,000 and the rest of the budget will be made up by contributions from other public and private sector partners.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members endorse a collaborative approach to participation at MIPIM in 2010, in conjunction with Lisburn and Derry City Councils as well as other public and private sector partners.

Additionally, it is recommended that the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman or their nominees participate, given that Elected Members from both Lisburn and City of Derry are likely to be attending.

Decision Tracking

A report on the outcomes of participation at MIPIM will be brought back to the Development Committee in August 2010.

Timeframe:

August 2010

Reporting Officer:

Lisa Toland