



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Externally Funded Regeneration Projects Updates
Date:	13 January 2010
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Relevant Background Information

This report provides an update in respect of three projects funded by resources from outside Council but delivered by the Planning and Transport Unit.

The “Re-Imaging Communities” initiative funded by the Arts Council Northern Ireland (ACNI) is in the final stages of implementation with the one remaining project progressing towards final implementation.

Under the PEACE III Programme £800,000 has been allocated to 12 Arterial Routes to develop an integrated approach to ensure that the primary arterial routes are safe and accessible to all, with a particular focus at interface areas, by working through the established Council-led partnership, involving community and private sectors.

The Development Committee previously approved the preparation and submission of a bid for the first call of the INTERREG IVC. The B-Team is the only project submitted with a Lead Partner from Northern Ireland and in addition to Belfast City Council, 13 European cities and research institutes have committed themselves to the project.

Key Issues

ACNI- Re-Imaging Communities

The ten projects identified in Appendix 1 have been successfully completed. The Village Focus Group project however, is still to be completed. The artist, working with the community to reflect the working class heritage of the Village and celebrate their industrial past, has created sculptural figures.

It is proposed that the figures will be set onto the piers of the Tate's Avenue railway bridge with additional sculptures of trains to provide a welcoming feature to people entering the area and linking to the former railway halt. A new mural has also been designed and installed to replace existing imagery and cover graffiti at the underpass of the bridge.

A technical survey is in the process of being completed and is to be submitted to Roads Service for approval. On receipt of the final permission the installation of the completed art will be commenced.

PEACE III – Arterial Routes

The full economic appraisal has been completed and confirmed initial target areas and recommended a preferred option that provides the best value for money in meeting the key needs identified.

The approved areas are: Carlisle Circus, North Belfast; Northumberland Street, West Belfast; Bridge End/Newtownards Road, East Belfast; and Ormeau Bridge/Embankment, South Belfast.

The proposed approach to each is community consultation, project design, procurement and construction/implementation. This approach reflects the potential diversity of the final physical works that could be carried out in the various locations and the different design skills that may be required.

The project is currently at the engagement stage working with key stakeholders in the four areas. Focus groups for each of these areas are established. These focus groups will support the facilitation of focused consultations with communities and key stakeholders throughout the delivery process.

Interreg IVC – B-Team

At its meeting in Stockholm on 5th November 2009 the INTERREG IVC Monitoring Committee conditionally approved the B-Team project application. The revised application was re-submitted and approved by the Secretariat in December 2009.

The project's objective is to improve local/regional policies influencing Brownfield redevelopment through transfer of best practice. The B-Team will offer policy support in the regions that will help to develop Brownfield sites prior to Greenfield land as a principle of continued growth.

Through the involvement of a number of experts within and outside the partnership, B-Team encourages international networking, trans-disciplinary and trans-sectoral cooperation.

The benefits for the Council would be:

- Advice from a resource of international practitioners/experts in Brownfield regeneration
- Establishment of Council as lead organisation at a European level
- Support in practical solution finding processes for redevelopment proposals
- Possibility to explore or utilise newer innovative methods and approaches
- Support in improving local and regional policies
- European wide dissemination of results of work – raising of awareness
- Reduction of resources required to develop such sites
- Redevelopment of complicated sites with international assistance

B-Team will bring together experts of Brownfield regeneration from different countries to exchange their experience in local and regional policies and jointly improve and transfer them. Beside the exchange that will take place in the “Brownfield Days” these experiences will be discussed and disseminated to a broader public in European conferences.

The policy recommendations will be implemented in the planning process of the partners in need of changing their policies or introducing new policies. The partners signing up to the “Brownfield Pledge” commit themselves to improvements regarding their policies. To enhance the cooperation and the learning process every partner organises regional meetings. Relevant policy makers will be informed about the progress of the project and the implementation of the policy recommendations discussed.

The project will last 3 years and has a total budget of EUR 2,046,791.00. Belfast as the lead partner will be responsible for the recruitment and appointment of a project manager and assistant on fixed term contracts to run for the duration of the project. A first meeting with all the partners will take place in the second week of February in Belfast where all the details and procedures will be discussed.

Resource Implications

There are no resource implications for the Council as the projects and staff appointments will be externally funded by the various bodies identified.

Recommendations

Members are requested to note the progress in relation to these externally funded initiatives and authorise the recruitment of the project manager and assistant on fixed term contracts in relation to the B-Team project under the Inrerreg IVC funding.

Decision Tracking

Following Committee approval a recruitment exercise to fill the posts of project manager and assistant will be undertaken.
Timeframe: April 2010 Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay

Documents Attached

Appendix 1: Re-imaging Communities – Completed Projects

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