



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Bi-monthly Departmental Briefing Document
Date:	10 March 2010
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Relevant Background Information

Members will be aware that in January the Committee agreed the format for a regular bi-monthly Development briefing update. This update was introduced in response to an ongoing issue identified by Members Services - that the Development Committee agenda had become quite large in recent times. The aim of the update is to allow the Department to keep Members informed on the progress of initiatives and projects within the Department, while reducing the number of items appearing on Development Committee agendas.

Key Issues

The Policy and Business Development Unit has produced and will distribute the first bi-monthly update to all Members in March 2010. This update covers the following items:

- Economic Development's programme update - Current events and programmes managed by Economic Development to increase business start-ups and help companies become more competitive.
- Business survey 2010 - Summary of research into business confidence and areas identified where support is needed. This will help shape the development of the new Local Economic Development (LED) Plan.
- B-Team - Update on new European project called the B-Team. Belfast is the lead partner in the project which will focus on improving regional policies on Brownfield redevelopment
- St George's Market recognition – Update on St George's recently being ranked 6th best overall market in the UK in a survey carried out by The Guardian newspaper.
- Poverty strategy - Progress on the development of a poverty strategy for Belfast

City Council to coincide with the European Year of Social Exclusion.

- Green electricity at the North Foreshore - Update on the North Foreshore green electricity generation facility which has been operational since September 2009.
- Renewing the Routes - Information on the final stages of the current phase of the Renewing the Routes programme.
- NILGA award for Ulster Hall - Ulster Hall picked up the 'Best Improvement Project' award at the 2009 Northern Ireland Local Government Association annual awards.
- Tourism Innovation Fund - £462,000 of NITB and European Regional Development Funds have been awarded to develop Belfast's tourism offering and stimulate product development

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members:

Note the contents of the first Members' update.

Decision Tracking

Next Members' update to be produced and distributed in April 2010.

Time frame: March 2010

Reporting Officer: Barbary Cook