



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Titanic Anchor
<b>Date:</b>	14 April 2010
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459

### Relevant Background Information

Twenty Twenty Television is producing a programme 'We Built Titanic' for Channel 4. As part of the programme they are commissioning elements of the Titanic; the bow structure, the anchor, the first class smoking room and third class cabin.

The bow structure is likely to be constructed during a week long build at the Northern Ireland Science Park next to the graving dock with the aim being the beginning of June. The first and third class rooms will be constructed at the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum.

The anchor will be made to scale at Forgemasters at Sheffield as it's one of the only places the company can get an anchor made. Once it is completed, the plan is to transport the anchor from the ferry in Belfast to Queen's Island repeating it's historic journey complete with Shire Horses and wooden dray and find somewhere significant where the anchor can be left temporarily, if not permanently.

### Key Issues

The producers are looking for a long term home for the Titanic Anchor in Belfast and have approached Belfast City Council to see if we are interested. The cost of producing the Anchor and costs associated are approximately £50,000. The production company is seeking to recoup some of these costs and have quoted £20,000 for Belfast to secure the anchor.

The anchor itself would be an excellent piece of public art and £20,000 offers good value for money. There may be some additional costs associated with installation depending on the site chosen.

There are a number of sites that the anchor could be sited included the Titanic and Olympic Slipways or anywhere along the waterfront.

Twenty Twenty need a decision on this by May. The anchor is being made in Sheffield and they are keen to display it; however the production company recognizes the link with Belfast and fit with wider developments across the City.

Officers have discussed this with the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and Arts Council for Northern Ireland; they believe it is an excellent idea. There may be opportunities to request financial support from these organizations as well as Titanic Quarter Limited (who have a public art scheme) and/or Odyssey Trust.

If Belfast City Council could provide an initial budget, we should be able to lever funding from other agencies.

#### **Resource Implications**

£6000 is ring fenced within the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit's Public Art budget in 2010–2011.

#### **Recommendations**

Members agree that:

- £6000 is ring fenced within the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit's Public Art budget in 2010–2011 and advises Twenty Twenty that we are interested in acquiring the anchor.
- Belfast City Council approaches other funders and organisations to secure the remaining budget

#### **Decision Tracking**

Funding and anchor secured

Timeframe: May 2010 Reporting Officer: Kerrie Sweeney

#### **Documents Attached**

Twenty Twenty Programme