



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	European Connected Health Campus – Request for Sponsorship
Date:	14 April 2010
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459

Relevant Background Information

The European Connected Health Campus (ECH) is a stakeholder group of commercial organisations, academia and healthcare professionals who are working to improve the delivery and functionality of “connected health” across Europe. The campus is based at the Northern Ireland Science Park in Belfast.

The term “connected health” is essentially about developing technology-enabled healthcare and looking at how that will impact on the delivery of healthcare in the future.

The campus is hosting its second leadership summit in Belfast in mid-June 2010. The event is expected to attract over 250 delegates from all over the world to the city for a minimum of three days.

The campus has approached Belfast City Council to request sponsorship towards the costs of the event.

Key Issues

The European Connected Health Leadership Summit will take place in Belfast on 15 and 16 June 2010. It is part of a week-long programme of activity and events relating to connected health which includes a Connected Health Expo and the Continua Health Alliance Annual conference. It is expected that at least 250 delegates from across the world will be in Belfast to attend the event.

The European Connected Health Campus is led by a Board of Directors including the major healthcare companies (CA, Viterion Healthcare, Intel) as well as representatives from University of Ulster and Queen’s University Belfast. Its work is monitored and

managed by an International Advisory Panel which includes representatives from Republic of Ireland, England and Finland.

The campus is funded by its members and is also supported by Invest NI and by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS). The event will be resourced by public and private sponsorship as well as participant contributions. The campus has requested Belfast City Council support towards the costs of the event.

The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 19 March 2010, agreed to allow the campus to hold a welcome reception in the City Hall on 15 June and offered a contribution towards the costs of the drinks reception.

It is proposed that a maximum of £5,000 be allocated from the Economic Development Unit budget towards the costs of the wider event. Connected health has been identified as a major growth sector for the city and this event offers the prospect of identifying business opportunities for local companies within the sector and hearing from larger companies about the future direction of the sector. It is likely that initiatives to support this development will feature in the new Local Economic Development Plan in the year 2010/2011.

Resource Implications

The total requested from the Economic Development budget is a maximum of £5,000.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee approves this request for support.

Decision Tracking

Report on conference outcomes to be presented to the August meeting of the Development Committee.

Timeframe: August 2010

Reporting Officer: Lisa Toland

Key Abbreviations

DHSSPS – Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

ECH – European Connected Health