



Belfast City Council

Report to: Development Committee
Subject: Culture Night
Date: 12 May 2010
Reporting Officer: John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer: Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459

Relevant Background Information

Members will be aware that at a meeting of the Development Committee held on 14 April 2010, Committee agreed to defer for one month consideration of a report regarding Culture Night 2010 to enable officers to discuss further with the organisers how the event would be delivered on the arterial routes of the city.

The final draft Integrated Strategic Tourism Framework for Belfast 2010 – 2014 identifies culture and arts as the 'essence of Belfast' and one of the main priorities is to explore ways in which to engage with the sector and develop greater visitor access to culture and arts activities. Culture Night provides a unique opportunity to showcase Belfast's culture and arts product to not only local citizens but visitors. The current Integrated Cultural Strategy for Belfast, produced in partnership with the Arts Council for Northern Ireland, identifies that the culture and arts sector can often be fragmented, however key events such as Culture Night develops partnerships across the sector, promotes cross selling and strengthens their overall capacity to deliver. Culture Night also contributes to the general development of the City's Evening Economy.

Key Issues

Following further discussions regarding how the event would be delivered on the arterial routes of the city, Culture Night organisers have proposed new routes and expansion partners. Please see Appendix 1 for details.

The organisers will also ensure that audiences from the widest geographical area of Belfast have every opportunity to access core activities by brokering new relationships with transport providers such as Translink.

Should the Development Committee agree to the request from Belfast Culture Night Committee to support the event in 2010, the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit will work with the organisers to ensure that the above objective to deliver on arterial routes will be met as conditions of funding.

As in 2009 the Arts Council NI has been approached to match the request to BCC.

Resource Implications

Match funding of £25,000 to be allocated in 2010/2011 from within the existing Departmental budgets

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee agrees to provide support for Culture Night 2010 of match funding of no more than £25,000. This has been included and approved within the Departmental budget 2010/2011.

Decision Tracking

Further to ratification payment of no more than £25,000 is made towards the Belfast Culture Night 2010.

Time line: June 2010

Reporting Officer: Kerrie Sweeney

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 – Proposal from Culture Night Organisers