



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Titanic Anchor
<b>Date:</b>	9 June 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

At the April Committee meeting, Members agreed to ring fence £6000 within the Tourism, Culture and Arts budget towards purchasing a reproduction Titanic Anchor. The anchor was being produced by Twenty Twenty Television for a Channel 4 programme 'We Built Titanic'. The producers had offered the anchor to Belfast at a cost of £20,000, however did express that there were other interested parties. They were seeking a decision by May 2010. If purchased by Belfast City Council with support from other stakeholders the Titanic Anchor would have been displayed as public art.

### Key Issues

Officers were advised on the 30 April that the Titanic Anchor found a home in Dudley. Dudley Council was quick to come up with an offer of funding and confirm a programme of activity including street parties and delivering the anchor by shire horse. Belfast City Council was still in the process of pursuing other sources of match funding and therefore was not in a position to offer a rival bid.

Twenty Twenty has however extended the offer to Belfast to use the mould for the anchor. The cost may increase from £20,000 to £40,000. Twenty Twenty Television would need to know before October 2010 when the production team winds up.

Having discussed this with stakeholders, we are aware that Harcourt Development Limited is currently assessing opportunities for public art on the piazza surrounding the Titanic Signature Building and have expressed an interest in purchasing this anchor although they are also considering the possibility of purchasing the original Olympic anchor (although the authenticity of this object still needs verified).

It is recommended that Members note that the original offer to purchase the Titanic Anchor is no longer an option.

**Resource Implications**Financial

£6000 was ring fenced within the Tourism, Culture & Arts budget for this project. This budget will remain in the Tourism, Culture & Arts budget and will be realigned to other priorities, subject to approval.

**Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- notes the Titanic anchor has been sold to Dudley Council; and
- allows other stakeholders to take the lead on discussions with Twenty Twenty Television for a second Titanic Anchor and assess any future applications on their individual merits.

**Decision Tracking**

None required.