



Belfast City Council

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| Report to: | Development Committee |
| Subject: | Northern Ireland Science Park – Request to Present to Committee |
| Date: | 11 August 2010 |
| Reporting Officer: | John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470 |
| Contact Officer: | Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3427 |

Relevant Background Information

Members may be aware that the Northern Ireland Science Park, based in the city's Titanic Quarter, is home to a range of knowledge-based businesses. The Science Park was established in 1999 with support from DETI. It has a range of funding partners including the two universities. The Science Park is also responsible for a range of heritage assets linked to the Titanic including the Pump House.

Key Issues

At present, the Science Park stretches over 6 buildings, providing 170,000sq ft of flexible business space for 1500 employees in 40 companies.

In addition to the business workspace, the Science Park delivers NISP Connect – a business development programme for new knowledge-based businesses. This comprises a range of support initiatives including workshops, group mentoring sessions, the £25k award for “the next big thing” in business and a business boot camp providing intensive training for start-ups looking to raise venture capital. The Northern Ireland business angels' network – halo – is also based at the Science Park. Halo has recently been nominated UK business angel network of the year.

The Science Park is also engaged in a US mentor programme which will provide local graduates with hands-on business experience in some of America's top companies.

The Science Park is keen to maintain contact with Belfast City Council and Members of the Development Committee undertook a visit to the site in June 2010. As part of these links, they have requested an opportunity to present their work to the Development Committee at a future date.

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| Recommendations |
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| It is recommended that the Committee agrees to a request from the Northern Ireland Science Park to make a presentation at an upcoming meeting of the Committee. |
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| Decision Tracking |
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| No specific decision tracking required. |
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