

Extract from minutes of –

## DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

11th August, 2010

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### **“Creative Industries – Blick Shared Studios**

The Committee was reminded that, since 2005, the Council had invested in the Creative Industries as part of its programme of support for the local economy. One of the projects in which the Council had invested previously was Blick Shared Studios, which was a business incubation project for the creative sector. The business was based on the Malone Road in a property which has been let by the private sector at favourable rates. The building currently housed twelve companies across a range of disciplines, including fashion, textiles, graphic/web design, jewellery, television production, photography, game development, motion graphics, magazine production and feature film development. The company had developed a structured programme of business growth for its tenant companies which comprised of a number of elements:

- a year long mentoring programme for tenant companies which linked them with industry experts;
- monthly business growth events - this incorporated networking sessions, workshops and seminars and the topics to be covered were likely to include intellectual property, copyright, patenting, product development and procurement;
- quarterly business growth clinics – those would be full-day/half-day workshops relevant to creative businesses on a range of topics such as public relations, sales and marketing, accessing funding and legal issues.

The Head of Economic Initiatives stated that the aim of the programme was to enhance the business skills of participating companies and subsequently support them in improving their productivity and competitiveness. She advised the Members that Blick Shared Studios had submitted a request for funding of £30,000 to support the work. She pointed out that match funding of £15,000 was available from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment under the European Unions Structural Funds programme.

The Committee agreed to allocate £30,000 for the delivery of the project, of which £15,000 would be made available from the Council's funds and £15,000 of grant-aid which had been secured from the European Unions Structural Funds Programme.”