



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Consultation - DCAL - Museums Policy for Northern Ireland
<b>Date:</b>	15 September 2010
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Barbary Cook, Policy & Business Development Manager, ext 3620

### Relevant Background Information

We have been asked to respond to DCAL's Museums Policy for Northern Ireland. This policy consists of five interdependent strategic priorities, namely;

- Developing audiences
- Education and Learning
- Collections Development, Care, Management and Use
- Infrastructure, Investment and Resources
- Cultural Rights

#### SUMMARY of the proposed goals:

##### Developing Audiences (DA):

DA1. To increase the number and diversity of people visiting Northern Ireland's museums.

DA2. To increase the number of people using the services provided by our museums.

DA3. To gain a better understanding and be responsive to the needs and wants of museum visitors and users.

DA4. To strengthen the position of museums as a key component of the tourism product of Northern Ireland.

DA5. To maximise the role of museums as cultural ambassadors abroad.

A number of specific questions were asked as part of the consultation. These are shown on the draft response attached to this paper.

#### Education and Learning (EL):

EL1. To improve the standard of education services in Northern Ireland's museums and ensure that every child in Northern Ireland has the opportunity to visit a museum as part of curriculum-based activity.

EL2. To ensure that high quality museum learning services are consistently available across Northern Ireland.

EL3. To support learning through museums at every stage of life.

EL4. To enhance museums' engagement with the formal education sector.

EL5. To strengthen the commitment and capacity of museums to undertake outreach activity.

EL6. To develop museums' capacity for high quality research.

EL7. To consolidate and strengthen continuous professional development of staff across the museum sector.

#### Collections Development, Care, Management and Use (CD):

CD1. To improve the standards of collections care and management within Northern Ireland's museums.

CD2. To establish clear priorities amongst museums, both individually and collectively, for the development of their collections and the adequate protection of our heritage.

CD3. To develop the knowledge base on the objects and collections held in Northern Ireland's museums.

CD4. To improve the quality of exhibitions and stimulate more partnerships between museums by way of increasing public access to objects and collections.

#### Infrastructure, Investment and Resources (IIR):

IIR1. To strengthen the governance, management and leadership across the museums sector.

IIR2. To consolidate the Museum Accreditation Scheme as the sector standard and as the gateway to public funding.

IIR3. To ensure the equitable and sustainable provision of high quality museum services across Northern Ireland and maximise their levels of support and income.

IIR4. To clarify how and what museums, both individually and collectively, contribute to local and central government objectives.

IIR5. To ensure that local museums, especially the voluntary and independent museums, have adequate and effective guidance and support.

IIR6. To maintain an up-to-date intelligence on the sector in support of the development of policy and strategy.

#### Cultural Rights:

CR1. To ensure museums have access to and an understanding of legislation, treaties and declarations relating to cultural rights.

CR2. To ensure museum collections and exhibitions are considerate to the cultural rights of people and communities.

The Full proposal is available online:

[http://www.dcalni.gov.uk/consultation\\_document.doc](http://www.dcalni.gov.uk/consultation_document.doc)

The consultation document has been passed to all Departments within Council as well as to Development's management team. The feedback has been used to create the attached draft suggested response.

#### **Key Issues**

A draft suggested response is attached to this paper.

#### **Resource Implications**

There are no resource costs associated with this consultation response.

#### **Recommendations**

The Committee is asked to :

- Approve the suggested response; or
- To suggest additional comments or changes that they feel need to be made.

#### **Decision Tracking**

Further to approval the agreed response will be communicated to DCAL.

Timeframe: October 2010

Reporting Officer: Barbary Cook

#### **Documents Attached**

Appendix 1 – Proposed response to DCAL