



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	B-Team Dissemination Event - Dresden
Date:	10 November 2010
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Relevant Background Information

The Council is the Lead Partner in the European Regional Development Fund INTERREG IVC project B-Team which seeks to bring together practitioners and experts from different countries to address the problems associated with the regeneration of Brownfield sites. As part of the exchange of knowledge the partnership will seek to improve regional policies and bring forward the development of sites in each partner location.

The practical exchange of knowledge will take place during "Brownfield Days" in each partner location with the experience and lessons learned collated to inform practice across the partnership at 'European Dissemination Events'. The dissemination events, through the involvement of a broader range of participants, seek to both test and disseminated the results to a wider audience.

The work programme for the project has continued to develop from the update provided to the August Committee and this report seeks to secure approval for the attendance of Members at the proposed European Dissemination Events.

Key Issues

The European Dissemination Events are projected to occur five times during the three year lifespan of the project. The project partners have the opportunity to broaden the participation at the dissemination events to encourage a diverse audience and include political representation from each of the participating local authorities.

The first dissemination event will consider the findings from the Oulu and Torino Brownfield Days with a focus on environmental / remediation and land-use policy issues.

The dissemination event will seek to:

- Progress the practical process for identifying viable solutions to common Brownfield challenges (case studies will be presented with experts from different regions developing solutions or alternative approaches);
- Explore the potential to use new unconventional methods (more innovative approaches successful in other countries are assessed for broader application);
- Encourage engagement within the partnership to explore the potential for shared learning;
- Identify the potential for more effective use of resources - time, money, assets (through improved policy and approaches to Brownfield regeneration future development processes can become more effective and sustainable); and
- Explore the potential for the development of Brownfield pledges for adoption by the partnership as a means to secure future improvements in policy and practice.

The first European Dissemination Event will take place in Dresden, Germany on the 13 December 2010. The event has been organised by Dresden the B-Team's German partner in cooperation with the local authorities in Oulu and Torino. The event programme developed by Dresden (Appendix 1) features a significant level of political engagement from the local authority to support the potential for the development of the pledges.

This presents the opportunity for the Council to contribute through both officer and political participation at the proposed dissemination event. The seeking to progress the regeneration of redundant Brownfield sites and exploring the regeneration challenges the event addresses issues frequently encountered by the Development Committee. It is therefore suggested that one of the participants is a member of the Development Committee.

Resource Implications

The provision for the participation at the dissemination event of operational staff along with political representation is contained within the agreed project plan. There are no additional resource implications

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to approve the attendance of the Chair, or his nominee, at the Dresden Dissemination event as an approved duty.

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 – Dresden Dissemination Event Draft Programme