



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Request from Belfast Civic Trust to make a presentation to Committee
Date:	15 February 2011
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members' agreed to receive a presentation from Belfast Civic Trust about their ideas for a 'Belfast History Centre' and what they are calling an 'Ulster Provincial Art Gallery'.

2	Key Issues
2.1	Belfast Civic Trust are seeking the establishment of a Belfast History Centre dedicated to telling the story of Belfast. They have been pursuing such a project for a number of years and indicate their desire to see implementation of this proposal before the centenary of the Belfast Charter in April 2013.
2.2	The proposal from Belfast Civic Trust is to create an Ulster Provincial Art Gallery to enable display of works held in archives by the Ulster Museum and the Arts Council. Officers met with Belfast Civic Trust and they have developed an outline exhibition on the architect of the City, which would be a more temporary exhibition and eligible for some support via Council's Rolling Programme.
2.3	The Belfast Integrated Strategy Tourism Framework was tabled at this Committee. Members' will be aware that a project called 'The Belfast Story', is a core part of this strategy and is identified as a visionary driver. A number of innovative approaches to engaging communities with their particular histories and that of the city as a whole are suggested as part of this. A proposal to develop displays and access to the City Hall which supports 'The Belfast Story' is also active and sources of funding for both projects is currently being sought. Together these proposals are seeking to enable a substantial presentation of Belfast's history in an inclusive manner.

2.4	The issue of a major central art gallery for Northern Ireland has been considered on a number of occasions and various reports produced. The key stakeholders are the Arts Council and National Museums for Northern Ireland.
2.5	The proposals submitted by Belfast Civic Trust are in outline only however they resonate with some of the objectives contained in the Integrated Tourism Strategic Framework. There is a great deal of potential to be gained from engaging with Belfast Civic Trust as a key stakeholder that can help Council and other partners deliver on the City's agreed strategy.

3	Equality Implications
	None.

4	Recommendations
4.1	It is recommended that the Committee receives the presentation from Belfast Civic Trust at the meeting.

5	Decision Tracking
	None.