



## Belfast City Council

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| <b>Report to:</b>         | Development Committee                                 |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | Sister City Nashville Action Plan Update              |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 15 February 2011                                      |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470     |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459 |

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| <b>1</b> | <b>Relevant Background Information</b>  |
| 1.1      | Members' will be aware that new partnerships have been formed to deliver the Belfast Nashville 2010 /11 Action Plan, which has been greatly expanded to include not only culture and tourism, but education, economic development, genealogy, literary tourism, music tourism, international exhibitions, international marketing, creative industries, film and digital media and communications. Group membership has been expanded to reflect the new plan. The relationship between the two cities has been greatly strengthened with a focus on achieving maximum economic benefits for Belfast. A considerable number of partner organisations contributed both financially and in-kind to sustaining the relationship, including Tourism Ireland, US Consulate, BBC, Ulster Historical Foundation, Ulster Scots Heritage Society, Queen's University and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. |
| 1.2      | Members' will also be aware that at a meeting of the Development Committee on 12 May 2010, approval and budget was given to develop the Nashville Sister City relationship and 2010/11 Action Plan and its implementation within budget. After discussion, Committee adopted the recommendations and agreed that representation on the Sister City Nashville Group be increased to include, in addition to the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman, one representative from each of the other Party Groups on the Council. Representatives from Party Groupings will be invited to attend the next quarterly Steering Group meeting.   |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Key Issues</b>   |
| 2.1      | At the Development Committee a number of Members asked for a review of the composition of the Steering Group with a view to broadening cultural experiences.  |

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| 2.2 | Appendix 1 contains the Belfast Nashville 2010/11 Draft Action Plan, which includes a number of potential new areas which have been identified for further investigation following input from a number of elected Members. The Draft Action Plan will be presented to the Belfast Nashville Sister City Steering Group for consideration and following this meeting a final draft will be brought to Development Committee for approval. Potential new areas include:   |
| 2.3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- new potential partnerships with cultural organisations across the city including those who support Irish language and traditional music</li> <li>- working with the Belfast Nashville Songwriters Festival to ensure wider access to communities across the city</li> <li>- investigate linkages and potential synergies between the Nashville and Belfast Civil Rights Movements, including the Nashville Public Library exhibition and Queen's University</li> <li>- research the potential of exhibition exchanges between Belfast and Nashville and the touring potential of existing exhibitions, for example, the Linen Hall Library</li> <li>- investigate further musicians from Belfast who have worked in Nashville across all genres</li> </ul> |

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| <b>3</b> | <b>Resource Implications</b>   |
| 3.1      | <u>Financial</u><br>No additional financial commitment is required from Committee. |
| 3.2      | <u>Human Resources</u><br>N/A.   |
| 3.3      | <u>Asset and Other Implications</u><br>N/A.  |

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| <b>4</b> | <b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b> |
| 4.1      | N/A.  |

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| <b>5</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>  |
| 5.1      | It is recommended that Members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Note the contents of this report</li> <li>- Consider the contents and recommendations contained within the new Belfast Nashville Action Plan 2010/11</li> </ul> |

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| <b>6</b> | <b>Decision Tracking</b>   |
| 6.1      | Further to approval, an update report in relation to planning and programme will be brought to Committee.<br><br>Timeframe: May 2011      Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay |

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| <b>7</b> | <b>Key to Abbreviations</b> |
| 7.1      | None.                       |

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| <b>8</b> | <b>Documents Attached</b>                                      |
| 8.1      | Appendix 1 - Belfast Nashville Sister City Action Plan 2010/11 |