



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Update on State of the City: Development Debate Speakers and accompanying visit by City Reformers Group
Date:	15 February 2011
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen Director of Development ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Barbary Cook – Policy and Business Development Officer ext 3620

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members will recall that a paper on the proposed State of the City (SOTC) : Development Debate Speakers, was presented to Committee on the 10 November 2010. The paper noted that the next two SOTC speakers would be Mr John Palmieri from the Boston Redevelopment Authority and Mr Bruce Katz from the Brookings Institution.
1.2	The report also noted that in order to get the most out of Mr Katz's visit, there was an opportunity to connect it to a Belfast workshop that the London School of Economic's City Reformers Group wishes to hold with 20 participants from various cities across Europe including Bilbao, Saint Etienne, Leipzig, Glasgow and Milan. The report proposed that the Council work in partnership to organise and deliver this workshop.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The next State of the City: Development Debate will take place on Monday, 7 March 2011 at 8.00am – 10.00am in the Banqueting Hall, City Hall. Mr Palmieri is visiting as part of a trip planned by Boston College, working with colleagues from the DOE and the US Consulate, as a follow-up to a study programme.
2.2	Mr Palmieri will arrive on Sunday the 6 March. He will spend the 7 – 8 March in Belfast and then be in Dublin for 2 further days. Boston College, working with colleagues from the DOE and the US Consulate, will be working with various stakeholders to arrange other meetings for Mr Palmieri whilst in Belfast.

2.3	The third State of the City: Development Debate will take place on Thursday, 24 March 2011 at 8.00am – 10.00am at a venue to be confirmed. City Hall is not available.
2.4	As agreed by Members in November, in order to get the most out of Mr Katz's visit we have arranged the Belfast workshop with the London School of Economics' City Reformers Group. The workshop has been arranged for the 23 March 2010. The city participants would arrive in Belfast on the 22 March and a study tour of the city would be organised by Belfast City Council on Wednesday the 23 March, in the morning, followed by a workshop for participants in the afternoon, prior to the SOTC event on the 24 March. Combining these two events would not only provide economies of scale, but also provide an opportunity to learn from wider European examples on city competitiveness.
2.5	In order to host the workshop Belfast City Council will need to provide hospitality. This will be combined with the normal State of the City dinner for the speaker (and City Reformer Group guests) hosted by the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Development Committee. This report is requesting that up to £1500 is provided by Development Committee to cover the costs of the study tour, workshop and hospitality for lunch and dinner. We note that these costs are already included in the State of the City budget as previously agreed by Committee.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	This report is requesting that up to £1500 is provided by Development Committee to cover the costs of the study tour, workshop and hospitality for lunch and dinner. We note that these costs are already included in the State of the City budget as previously agreed by Committee.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	The City Reformers Group workshop on the 23 March will include a discussion on the connection between good relations and regeneration, highlighting the interconnection and interdependency of both.

5	Recommendations
	<p>It is recommended that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Members consider and agree the proposal to £1500 is provided by Development Committee to cover the costs of the study tour, workshop and hospitality for lunch and dinner. 2. Members agree the attendance at the dinner of the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Development Committee.

6	Decision Tracking
	<p>Further to approval the study tour £1500 will be allocated to arrange a study tour, workshop and hospitality as detailed in the report.</p> <p>Time line: March 2011 Reporting Officer: Barbary Cook</p>