



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	B-Team
Date:	16 March 2011
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen Director of Development ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay Head of Economic Initiatives ext 3459

1.0	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Belfast City Council is the Lead Partner in the ERDF funded INTERREG IVC project B-Team.
1.2	The B-Team will bring together specialists in Brownfield regeneration from different countries to exchange knowledge contributing to improved developments and enhanced regional policies. The support and exchange of technical knowledge takes place during “Brownfield Days” events, while experiences will also be discussed and disseminated to a broader public in European Dissemination Events scheduled to take place at different stages during the life of the initiative.
1.3	The work programme for the project has progressed from the update provided to the October Committee with two Brownfield Days (Oulu/Finland and Torino/Italy) and one European Dissemination Event (Dresden/Germany) being completed and arrangements for the next stage of the programme agreed with the partners. This report seeks to secure approval for the attendance of Members at the next European Dissemination Event which is scheduled to take place in Debrecen/Hungary on the 19 th – 20 th April 2011.

2.0	Key Issues
2.1	The European Dissemination Events are scheduled to take place five times during the three year lifespan of the project. The project partners have the opportunity to broaden the participation at these dissemination events to encourage a wider audience and include political representation from each of the participating local authorities.
2.2	The dissemination event will seek to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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.
2.3	The 2 nd European Dissemination Event (EDE) will take place in Debrecen, Hungary on 19/20 April 2011. As it coincides with the Hungarian EU Presidency the event programme will feature a significant level of political engagement from the local authority partner and up to the European level (Hungarian partners have secured speakers from their state departments).
2.4	This EDE presents the opportunity for the Council to contribute through both officer and political participation during the event. In seeking to address the regeneration challenges of redundant Brownfield sites the event focuses on some of the issues frequently encountered by the Development Committee. It is therefore suggested that participation by the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Development Committee, or their nominees, would be appropriate at this event.

3.0	Resource Implications
3.1	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 fees for the event and the costs for travel and accommodation is estimated at £350 per person which will be covered by the project. There are no additional resource implications arising from the EU funded INTERREG IVC initiative.

4.0	Good Relations and Equality Considerations
4.1	There are no equality or good relations considerations attached to this report.

5.0	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is asked to approve the attendance of the Chair and Deputy Chair or their nominees, at the Debrecen Dissemination event on the 19 th and 20 th April 2011 as an approved duty.

	Decision Tracking
Further to approval the Chair and Deputy Chair or their nominees, will attend the Debrecen Dissemination event on the 19 th and 20 th April 2011 as an approved duty.	
Time line: May 2011 Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay	

	Key to Abbreviations
ERDF – European Regional Development Fund EDE – European Dissemination Event	