



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Rapid Transit Study Visit to Nantes
Date:	23 August 2011
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, Ext 3470
Contact Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, Ext 3470

	Relevant Background Information
	<p>Bus Rapid Transit is proposed by the Department for Regional Development (DRD) as the preferred option for the rapid transit system in Belfast. In 2007, DRD commissioned transport consultants to undertake a feasibility study looking at possible routes and technologies for rapid transit in Belfast. The study concluded that a bus based rapid transit system is the viable option for Belfast rather than light rail technology. In addition the study identified a pilot network of three routes connecting East Belfast, West Belfast and Titanic Quarter with and through the city centre.</p>

	Key Issues
	<p>The Minister for Regional Development will be undertaking a study visit to Nantes, France on 21-22 September 2011 to look at the Bus Rapid Transit system which operates within the city. Nantes is recognised as demonstrating best practice for rapid transit systems in Europe and will act as a benchmark for the Belfast Rapid Transit System.</p> <p>The Minister is keen to have the support of the Council for the Belfast Rapid Transit project and to work closely with the Council as it develops. As a result the Minister would like representatives from the City Council to accompany him on his visit to Nantes.</p>

	Resource Implications
	The final cost will depend on the total number of delegates, however it is anticipated that the cost of Council's participation in the visit would not exceed £2000.

	Equality Implications
	There are no equality issues associated with this request.

	Recommendations
	It is recommended that the Chair and Deputy Chairman, or their nominees, join the delegation along with the Director of Development and/or his nominee.

	Decision Tracking
	The Director will make the appropriate arrangements based upon the Committee's decision.