



Belfast City Council

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| Report to: | Development Committee |
| Subject: | B-Team |
| Date: | 23 August 2011 |
| Reporting Officer: | John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470 |
| Contact Officer: | Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459 |

| 1. | Relevant Background Information |
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| 1.1 | Belfast City Council is the Lead Partner in the ERDF funded INTERREG IVC project B-Team. The B-Team project brings together specialists in Brownfield regeneration from different countries to exchange knowledge contributing to improved developments and enhanced regional policies focussing on the resolution of practical challenges on case study sites in the partners' countries. |
| 1.2 | The partners include Dublin/Ireland, Sevilla/Spain, Oulu/Finland, Dresden/Germany, Ruda Slaska/Poland, County Council Hajdu-Bihar/Hungary, Torino/Italy and Vilnius/Lithuania. |
| 1.3 | The support and exchange of technical knowledge takes place during "Brownfield Days" events with the experience and practical approaches discussed and disseminated to a broader public at European Dissemination Events scheduled to take place at different stages during the life of the initiative. The dissemination events are also opportunities for the partners to "pledge" to change or address problems that are identified as hindering regeneration. In these dissemination events the participation of elected representatives is a key factor for success. |
| 1.4 | The work programme for the project has progressed from the previous updates provided to Committee with five Brownfield Days (Oulu, Torino, Ruda Slaska, Sevilla and Dresden) and two European Dissemination Events (Dresden and Hajdu-Bihar) being completed and arrangements for the next stage of the programme agreed with the partners. |
| 1.5 | This report seeks to secure approval for the attendance of Members at the next European Dissemination Event which is scheduled to take place in Ruda Slaska/Poland on the 5– 6 September 2011. |

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| 2. | Key Issues |
| 2.1 | The European Dissemination Events are scheduled to take place in regular intervals 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 the participation of elected representatives 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 next European Dissemination Event (EDE) will take place in Ruda Slaska, Poland on 5-6 September 2011. As it coincides with the Polish EU Presidency the local partners will seek to secure a significant level of political engagement from the local administration and up to the European level (the Polish partners have already secured speakers from their state departments and European level). |
| 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 and Council. 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. |

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| 3. | 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 £500 per person which will be covered by the project. There are no additional resource implications arising from the EU funded INTERREG IVC initiative. |

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| 4. | Equality and Good Relations Considerations |
| 4.1 | There are no Equality and Good Relations Considerations attached to this report. |

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| 5. | Recommendations |
| 5.1 | The Committee is asked to approve the attendance of the Chair and Deputy Chair or their nominees, at the Ruda Slaska dissemination event on 5-6 September 2011 as an approved duty. |

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| 6. | Decision Tracking |
| There is no decision tracking attached to this report. | |

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| 7. | Key to Abbreviations |
| ERDF – European Regional Development Fund EDE – European Dissemination Event | |

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| 8. | Documents Attached |
| B-Team newsletter | |