



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Cities of the Isles, Cardiff, October 2011
Date:	23 August 2011
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
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1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members will be aware that the 'Cities of the Isles' (COTI) Partnership is a network of six City Councils in the UK and Ireland (Belfast, Cardiff, Dublin, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Liverpool). Since 2000 these cities have come together annually to share urban regeneration experiences, develop joint projects and establish a co-ordinated approach to issues of strategic importance.
1.2	Each of the member cities takes it in turn to host the annual event in their city. The 2011 COTI meeting will take place in Cardiff on 11-12 October 2011.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The 2010 COTI meeting took place in Belfast. There was senior level member and officer representation from each of the cities involved. The delegates took part in a structured discussion on the challenge of regenerating cities within the context of public sector financial restraints. A site visit of Belfast was also organised and representatives were hosted by the Lord Mayor in his Parlour.
2.2	As the host city for the 2011 event, Cardiff has proposed a programme of discussion, site visits and civic engagement. Delegates will arrive in the city on the morning of 11 October and the session will begin after lunch. The programme will finish in the afternoon of 12 October.
2.3	The topics for discussion at the event will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaborative work – neighbourhood management and city governance• Universities and the city• Innovative financing models for regeneration.
2.4	The discussion will be facilitated by Andrew Carter, Director of Policy and Research at the Centre for Cities. The Centre has recently undertaken a range of interesting research pieces on topics such as incentives for growth, economic governance for city development and localism for growth.

2.5	These elements of discussion appear relevant to the council, particularly at the current juncture. With the corporate planning process underway at present, there is a need to take account of wider policy discussions and to consider how alternative operating models and processes might translate to the local environment.
2.6	Indeed, given the importance of the topics to be discussed, the opinion of the Democratic Services Section was sought as to the benefits of the participation of a larger number of Members. The Democratic Services Manager has confirmed that attendance at the meeting would be of direct benefit to a wider range of Members, particularly the Party Leaders and/or the newer Members as part of the Council's Member Development Programme.
2.7	It is proposed that the Chair and Deputy Chair of Committee (or nominees) as well as two officers take part in the Cardiff meeting and noted that any other Member who wishes can attend the meeting as part of their agreed Personal Development Plan.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<u>Financial</u> All programme costs to be covered by Cardiff. Travel and accommodation costs estimated at £200 per person.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	No specific equality or good relations considerations.

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the COTI event to be held in Cardiff on 11 and 12 October 2011 • Agree to participation by Chair and Deputy Chair of Committee (or nominees) as well as up to two officers at the event at a cost of around £200 per person. • Note that any other Member may attend the event as part of their Personal Development Plan.

6	Decision Tracking
A report on outcomes of the visit will be brought back to Development Committee in December 2011.	

7	Key to Abbreviations
COTI – Cities of the Isles	