



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Meeting with Minister re: Tourism Issues in Belfast
Date:	Tuesday, 27 th September, 2011
Reporting Officer:	Mr. Barry Flynn (Democratic Services Officer) ext. 6312
Contact Officer:	

1.0	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Committee will recall that, at its meeting on 10 th August, it had considered a report in respect of the work of the Council's Tourism Forum. At that meeting, it was reported that the Forum had identified a number of issues which it wished to raise with the Minister for Tourism, Mrs. Arlene Foster, M.L.A., in respect of tourism development in Belfast. Given the considerable range of events which will take place in 2012, including the 100 th anniversary of the launch of the Titanic, the Committee considered it appropriate that it would seek also to meet with the Minister to explore how the Council and her Department might work together to maximise the tourist potential of the City in 2012.
1.2	Accordingly, it was agreed that the Democratic Services Officer would write to the Minister requesting that she receive an All-Party deputation from the Committee, which would be accompanied by a number of representatives from the Belfast Tourism Forum, to discuss issues pertinent to tourism within the City.
1.3	Subsequently, a response was received from the Minister's office indicating that she would be happy to meet with the Deputation, subject to diary commitments, on a date to be agreed in the near future.

2.0	Key Issues
2.1	Given that the Minister has agreed to meet with the deputation, it is necessary that the issues to be raised are notified to the Minister's office in advance of the meeting. Therefore, it is suggested that the Committee agrees, within the context of the significant events which will take place in Belfast during 2012, which issues should take precedence at the meeting. It is anticipated that the meeting will last no longer than an hour so it is essential that the time is utilised in an effective manner.

2.2	Since the request to meet the Minister originated from the Tourism Forum, the Members are asked to consider how their concerns can be addressed also at the meeting. It will be necessary for the Committee to agree how many representatives from the Tourism Forum should accompany the Members.
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3.0	Resource Implications
	None

4.0	Equality Implications
	None

5.0	Recommendations
5.1	<p>It is requested that the Committee considers the foregoing matters and agrees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) to appoint a deputation consisting of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, together with one representative from the remaining Political Parties (or their nominees); (ii) to decided on the number of representatives from the Tourism Forum to be included in the deputation; and (iii) to identify the main issues to be raised with the Minister at the meeting.

6.0	Decision Tracking
6.1	The Democratic Services Officer will liaise with the Minister's office in respect of the meeting.