



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Integrated Cultural Strategy - Update
Date:	Tuesday, 27th September, 2011
Reporting Officer:	Mr. Barry Flynn, Democratic Services Officer, Ext. 6312
Contact Officer:	

1.0	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Committee is reminded that, at its meeting on 15th June, it had agreed that Political Party briefings be provided in respect of the Council's updated Integrated Cultural Strategy, prior to it being submitted for the Committee's consideration.
1.2	Given the current constraints on Members' time, coupled with the demanding number of scheduled Committee meetings, it was felt appropriate that a single briefing session, to which all Members of the Council be invited, be held. This was on the understanding that should any individual Political Party wish to avail of a further detailed briefing, then officers from within the Development Department would undertake to provide this.
1.3	Accordingly, the briefing session on the updated Integrated Cultural Strategy was held in the Lavery Room on Tuesday, 20th September and attended by nine Members of the Council. During discussion, a wide and far-reaching range of issues and views were brought to the attention of officers in respect of the contents of the new Strategy.
1.4	There was a general consensus at the briefing that, given the size, scope and potential impact on local communities which the Strategy will have, it might be prudent to consider whether further consultation be undertaken with Members in respect of the Strategy. It is anticipated that the draft Strategy will be presented to the Committee for approval in November.

2.0	Key Issues
2.1	It had been suggested at that briefing that the Committee might wish to host a half-day workshop – to which all Members of the Council would be invited - at an external venue. However, it should be borne in mind that any workshop held during the day would perhaps not attract the desired number of Members in order to have a full and meaningful engagement.

2.1	The Committee might consider that an evening workshop for all Members would be a more appropriate option. This could be accommodated in the Reception Room in the City Hall and commence at 5:15 p.m. This would enable the Strategy to be discussed in a less formal setting with a view to finishing at 7:00 p.m.
2.2	The other option is that the Political Party Leaders, should they so wish, can request from officers an individual detailed briefing for their Party on the Strategy. This can be accommodated quite easily in the Party Rooms and could be arranged promptly.

3.0	Recommendations
3.1	It is requested that the Committee consider the foregoing report and takes such action thereon as deemed appropriate.

4.0	Decision Tracking
The Democratic Services Officer will implement any decision made by the Committee.	