



Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Update on ITLG visit – November 2011
Date:	25 October 2011
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officers:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members will be aware that, at the 14 September 2011 meeting of the Development Committee, a proposal to host a delegation from the ITLG (Irish Technology Leadership Group) was approved. Financial support of up to £1000 towards the hosting costs was endorsed.
1.2	Significant work has been ongoing on the development of the programme, in conjunction with other local partners such as Invest NI and the University of Ulster. An updated version of the proposed programme (as at 19 October 2011) is presented for Members' information (Appendix 1).

2	Key Issues
2.1	The Irish Technology Leadership Group (ITLG) is a group of Irish and Irish American senior executives based in Silicon Valley who are active in the global technology industry. They work to promote industry linkages between USA and Ireland through a range of collaborative initiatives including trade visits, award ceremonies and events in both USA and Ireland.
2.2	The group recently hosted the First and Deputy First Ministers at an event in Hollywood USA. Entitled "Innovation in Entertainment", the event brought together international media groups and business leaders from multinational businesses. The First and Deputy First Ministers made a presentation at the event, outlining the opportunities and potential in Belfast and Northern Ireland in this area of business. The November visit presents an opportunity to follow up on contacts made and also allows local indigenous businesses to make contact with key players from multinationals based in the USA, with a view to developing

	collaborative working relationships and exploring exporting opportunities.
2.3	<p>To date, seven attendees have been confirmed. It is anticipated that there will be up to three additional participants. The confirmed delegates are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tony Clark, Head of Business Development, Sony Professional Solutions - John Stanton, General Partner, Irish Technology Capital - Jon Bukosky, Advisor, Digital & Emerging Media, Untitled Entertainment - Robert Nashak, European VP, Digital Entertainment, BBC - Sean O'Donoghue, Chief Information Officer, Dreamworks - John Hartnett, Chairman, ITLG - Cian Hughes, Head of Operations, ITLG.
2.4	The delegation will arrive in Belfast on the evening of 3 November. A full programme of meetings and visits has been pulled together on behalf of the group by local partners for 4 November. On 5 November, ITLG will organise a "Dragon's Den" event for local businesses in University of Ulster. A flyer for this event is attached as Appendix 2.
2.5	The Members of the delegation will cover their own travel and accommodation costs. Logistics during their visit will be organised and paid for by Invest NI.
2.6	The programme includes an opportunity for elected Members to meet with the ITLG delegation in order to explore in detail the opportunities for ongoing linkages which could support businesses in the city, particularly those in the IT, entertainment and software development sectors.
2.7	ITLG have already proposed a Memo of Understanding between Belfast and their organization for future investment opportunities between Silicon Valley and Belfast. This issue will be discussed at the meeting with elected Members on 4 November.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u> Up to £1000 towards costs agreed by Development Committee on 14 September.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	No specific equality and good relations implications attached to this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note the updated ITLG visit programme, including the opportunities for engagement with Development Committee, party leaders and local businesses.

6	Decision Tracking
	No decision tracking attached to this report

7

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 - Updated version of the proposed programme
Appendix 2 – Flyer for “Dragon’s Den” Event