



Belfast City Council

Report to: Development Committee

Subject: **Requests to Address the Committee**

Date: Tuesday 8th November, 2011

Reporting Officer: Barry Flynn, Democratic Services Officer (ext. 6312)

Contact Officer:

1	Purpose of Report
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is two-fold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• to update the Committee in respect of its request that representatives from the Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau attend a meeting to discuss a range of issues; and• to advise the Committee that a request has been received from Mr. Andrew Irvine of Belfast City Centre Management to present a half-yearly update in respect of the work of his organisation.

2	Background
2.1	<p><u>Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau</u></p> <p>The Committee will recall that, at its meeting on 29th September, concern had been expressed in respect of the extent of the Council's financial contribution to the Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau. In addition, concern had been expressed that the matter of the permanent re-location of the Belfast Welcome Centre was an issue which needed to be resolved as soon as possible. Given the points raised, it was suggested that it would be advisable for the Committee to invite representatives of the Bureau to attend a future meeting.</p>
2.2	<p>Accordingly, contact was made with Mr. Gerry Lennon of the Bureau who has indicated that he would be prepared to attend the meeting of the Committee scheduled for 22nd November to discuss a range of issues.</p>

<p>2.3</p>	<p><u>Belfast City Centre Management</u></p> <p>Members will recall that, at its meeting on 22nd February, the Committee had acceded to a request for funding in the sum of £190,000 to Belfast City Centre Management for the financial year 2011-2012. This agreement was subject to the organisation meeting a range of targets set out within a service level agreement. In addition, as part of the conditions for the provision of funding, it was agreed that representatives of Belfast City Centre Management would, after a period of six months, provide the Committee with an outline of its achievements in respect of the service level agreement.</p>
<p>2.4</p>	<p>Mr. Andrew Irvine, on behalf of Belfast City Centre Management, has indicated that he is now in a position to provide the Committee with an update on the organisation's work in 2011/2012.</p>

<p>3</p>	<p>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</p>
<p>3.1</p>	<p>There are no equality or good relations considerations associated with these requests.</p>

<p>4</p>	<p>Decision Required</p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p>It is suggested that the Committee either:</p> <p>Receives the Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau at its meeting on 22nd November and Belfast City Centre Management at its meeting on 13th December; or</p> <p>Given the extent of funding which the Council provides to both organisations, a special meeting for the purpose of receiving both organisations be held on Wednesday, 15th November at 5:15 p.m.</p>

<p>5</p>	<p>Decision Tracking</p>
<p>5.1</p>	<p>The Democratic Services Officer will make the appropriate arrangements based upon the Committee's decision.</p>