



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	B-Team Update
Date:	22 November 2011
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
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1.	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Belfast City Council is the Lead Partner in the ERDF funded INTERREG IVC project B-Team. The B-Team project brings together specialists in Brownfield regeneration from different countries to exchange knowledge contributing to improved developments and enhanced regional policies focussing on the resolution of practical challenges on case study sites in the partners' countries.
1.2	The B-Team partners include Dublin/Ireland, Sevilla/Spain, Oulu/Finland, Dresden/Germany, Ruda Slaska/Poland, County Council Hajdu-Bihar/Hungary, Torino/Italy and Vilnius/Lithuania.
1.3	The support and exchange of technical knowledge takes place during "Brownfield Days" events with the experience and practical approaches discussed and disseminated to a broader public at European Dissemination Events scheduled to take place at different stages during the life of the initiative. The dissemination events are also opportunities for the partners to "pledge" to change or address problems that are identified as hindering Brownfield regeneration. In these dissemination events the participation of elected representatives is a key element to ensure exchange of information and experience across all aspects of the partner organisations.
1.4	The work programme for the project has progressed from the previous updates provided to Committee with six Brownfield Days (Oulu, Torino, Ruda Slaska, Seville, Dresden and Vilnius) and three European Dissemination Events (Dresden, Hajdu-Bihar, Ruda Slaska) being completed and arrangements for the next stage of the programme has been agreed with the partners.

1.5	This report seeks to secure approval for the attendance of Members at the future European Dissemination Events which are scheduled to take place in April 2012 in Vilnius/Lithuania and in November 2012 in Seville/Spain. The report also seeks to inform Members of the proposed Brownfield Days in Belfast which will take place in September 2012. The detailed programme for the proposed activity will be brought back to Committee and the participation of Members would be welcomed.
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2.	Key Issues
2.1	The European Dissemination Events are scheduled to take place in regular intervals during the three year lifespan of the project. The project partners have the opportunity to broaden the participation at these dissemination events to encourage a wider audience and the participation of elected representatives from each of the partner city authorities.
2.2	<p>The dissemination event will seek to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress the practical process for identifying viable solutions to common Brownfield challenges (case studies will be presented with experts from different regions developing solutions or alternative approaches); - Explore the potential to use new unconventional methods (more innovative approaches successful in other countries are assessed for broader application); - Encourage engagement within the partnership to explore the potential for shared learning; - Identify the potential for more effective use of resources - time, money, assets (through improved policy and approaches to Brownfield regeneration future development processes can become more effective and sustainable); and - Explore the potential for the development of Brownfield pledges for adoption by the partnership as a means to secure future improvements in policy and practice.
2.3	The European Dissemination Event in Vilnius (April 2012) will focus on the results of the B-Team project up to this stage with experience from Brownfield Days in Seville, Vilnius and Hajdu-Bihar. The European Dissemination Event in Sevilla will also mark the final event of the project. Elected representatives from all participating cities will participate in this event as well as representatives from the European Commission and other European bodies.
2.4	The Brownfield Days in Belfast will be carried out over four days in September. The findings of these four days will be presented to a broader audience at the last day of this event as well as at the final conference in Seville.

3.	Resource Implications
3.1	The provision for the participation at the dissemination event of operational staff along with political representation is contained within the agreed project plan. There are no fees for the event and the costs for travel and accommodation is estimated at £500 per person which will be covered by the project. There are no additional resource implications arising from the EU funded INTERREG IVC initiative.

4.	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no Equality and Good Relations Considerations attached to this report.

5.	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is asked to approve the attendance of the Chair and Deputy Chair or their nominees, at the European Dissemination Events in Vilnius and in Sevilla as an approved duty.

6.	Decision Tracking
There is no decision tracking attached to this report.	

7.	Key to Abbreviations
ERDF – European Regional Development Fund EDE – European Dissemination Event	

8.	Documents Attached
2 nd B-Team newsletter	