



Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Visit by Lord Mayor of City of London
Date:	13 December 2011
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
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1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Lord Mayor of the city of London – Alderman David Wootton – will visit Belfast on 27 January as part of a visit programme to a number of cities across the UK.
1.2	The objectives of this one day visit are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- To be briefed about the unique contribution of the area of the UK financial services offering- To hear regional views on the financial services environment – regulation, taxation etc.- To engage with civic leaders in each of the locations.
1.3	The visit is being managed locally by Invest NI and they have approached Belfast City Council for guidance and input on the civic elements of the programme in particular.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The Lord Mayor of the City of London's principal role is to be an ambassador for all UK-based financial and professional services. The current Lord Mayor is a former partner in the law firm Allen and Overy LLP which has recently invested in Belfast and which is currently recruiting staff to meet its targets, as agreed by Invest NI.
2.2	The Lord Mayor will arrive in Belfast at around 10.30 on the morning of 27 January, on a flight from the Isle of Man – which is the previous stop on his visit. He will also have visited Manchester, Bradford and Liverpool prior to coming

	here. Belfast is the last city on his visit programme.
2.3	<p>At this stage, a very draft programme for the visit has been organised, for endorsement by the office of the Lord Mayor of the city of London. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting with the Lord Mayor of Belfast or nominee (Lord Mayor is unlikely to be available – awaiting confirmation of availability of Deputy Lord Mayor) - Industry briefing on financial and business services sector in Northern Ireland - Meetings with representatives from academia and industry to discuss skills issues - Company visits - Reception (potentially in City Hall) with wider business representatives.
2.4	There will be an opportunity for representatives from the Development Committee to formally meet the Lord Mayor as part of the programme. This could present a useful platform for discussing a future visit to London to meet key representatives of the financial services industry and to promote the Council's investment package.
2.5	Given the historical linkages between the city of London and the city of Derry/Londonderry, the Lord Mayor of the city of London's office have asked whether the Mayor of Derry/Londonderry can be invited to Belfast for a meeting, as part of the visit programme. This is being discussed with our Lord Mayor's office.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u> No financial implications – Invest NI will cover all programme costs.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no specific equality and good relations considerations attached to this report.

5	Recommendations
	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note the planned visit to Belfast by the Lord Mayor of the City of London - Note the opportunity for Members of the Development Committee to meet the Lord Mayor as part of this programme (official invitations to be issued by Invest NI).

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