



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Empowerment and Inclusion End of Project Event
<b>Date:</b>	7 February 2012
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John McGrillen, Director of Development, Ext 3470
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Laura Leonard, European Manager, Ext 3577

1.0	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The European Unit seeks support from the Development Committee to host an end of project event and official dinner at City Hall in September/October 2012 to mark the closing of the 3 year Belfast led European Learning Network on Inclusion and Empowerment and to celebrate and profile the city's role as lead in this successful European project.
1.2	The event, in autumn 2012, will provide a platform for the dissemination of key learning and project outcomes to local stakeholders and a to wide audience from other European member states including the network's partners in Flanders, Spain, Greece, Sweden and Slovenia. It is anticipated that around 150 people will take part and it is requested the Lord Mayor and Chair of Development open the event/dinner and members from the Development Committee are invited to attend.
1.3	Belfast City Council is a partner in this project which has been managed by the Department of Employment and Learning (DEL) and Proteus NI Ltd. We have assisted in piloting tools which promote 'empowering' environments to help those who are unemployed progress towards employment. We have also been invited as an exemplary 'empowering employer' to contribute to an employer focus group to develop an award to recognise 'best practice employers' who create inclusive work places. Our Human Resources unit are involved in this work.

1.4	<p>Other work achieved by the project has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- benchmarking best practice in the areas of empowerment and inclusion relating to employment,</li> <li>- piloting new initiatives to empower participants/trainees and assist intermediary agencies to create empowering environments which encourage people into employment,</li> <li>- exchanging experience and know-how through peer reviews and study visits,</li> <li>- producing tools to help measure how empowered those seeking employment have become as a result of support interventions,</li> <li>- producing tools to measure how work places and training environments are becoming more empowering and inclusive.</li> </ul>
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<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	None.

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	<p>We request a venue at City Hall for the day long closing event and to host the official dinner to celebrate the success of the project. European Unit staff will coordinate the event in conjunction with Proteus NI Ltd and a contribution of £3,500 from the European Unit 2012/13 budget is sought to cover costs.</p>

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Equality Implications</b>
4.1	There are no equality implications attached to this report.

<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	<p>Hosting the Learning Network's final conference in Belfast will provide an opportunity for Belfast City Council to celebrate success in 2012, to profile our lead role in supporting empowerment and inclusion in the work place while promoting best practice to a wider European audience. It is recommended that Development Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- agrees to provide a venue at City Hall for this celebratory event of the Belfast led European Learning Network in Inclusion and Empowerment</li> <li>- agrees to host the official dinner which will be opened by the Lord Mayor and Chair of Development and attended by Development Committee members</li> <li>- approves a contribution of £3,500 from the European Unit 2012/13 budget to cover costs for hospitality</li> </ul>

<b>6.0</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
6.1	There is no decision tracking attached to this report.

<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
DEL: Department of Employment and Learning NIERF: Northern Ireland European Regional Forum