



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Marking of the 1400 th anniversary of the establishment of St Gallen Monastery, Switzerland
Date:	7 th February 2012
Reporting Officer:	Mr. John McGrillen, Director of Development (ext. 3470)
Contact Officer:	Gerry Copeland, City Events Manager (ext. 3412)

1.0	Relevant Background Information
1.0	At January's Development Committee it was agreed that a report be presented with regard to the marking of the 1400 th anniversary of the establishment of St Gallen Monastery, Switzerland.

2.0	Key Issues
2.1	2012 will mark the 1400th anniversary of the founding by St. Gall of the eponymous St. Gallen Monastery in Switzerland. St. Gall, who was based in the ancient diocese of Bangor, which encompassed the whole Belfast Lough area, was one of a series of Irish monks who travelled to Europe in the 7th century to re-evangelise the continent and to spread the Christian message.
2.2	In 612, St Gall, who was a disciple and companion of St. Columbanus, established a hermitage at St. Gallen which would become a world-famous monastery and seat of learning. St. Gallen became a vital centre for the spreading of Christian teaching and today contains one of the richest medieval libraries in the world and has been deemed a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
2.3	In June 2011 Committee agreed to support, to the sum of £1,100, events in October of that year. The Belfast events comprised of a festival that celebrated and explored the shared Christian heritage between Belfast and St. Gallen. This was used by organisers to raise awareness for planned year-long Europe-wide celebrations in 2012. The consortium that oversaw the festival consisted of representatives of Culturlann MacAdam O' Fiaich, The Ullans Academy Group, St. Mary's University College and Fobairt Feirste.

2.4	At the time of writing of this report Forbairt Feirste have informed officers that an event is planned on 16 th October 2012 under the title 'Feile Naomh Gall' to mark the 1400 th anniversary of the city's connection to the establishment of St Gallen Monastery. Officers have corresponded with Forbairt Feirste directing them to potential funding streams to assist with this event.
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3.0	Resource Implications
3.1	Currently there no monies within the City Events Unit for any planned events for this project. However, the organisers of the programme do have opportunities within two Council agreed funding programmes – City of Festivals and Community Festivals. Both of these will come online in the spring of 2012 (date TBC) and will be administered by the Council's Tourism, Culture & Arts Unit.

4.0	Equality Implications
4.1	Any potential programme will help explore and acknowledge the shared Christian heritage of Belfast and promote a wider understanding of the historic linkages between the City and Europe.

5.0	Recommendation
5.1	Given that there are no existing finances within the City Events Unit for any planned events for this project it would be recommended that the programme organisers should be directed to the above funding streams.

6.0	Decision Tracking
6.1	<p>Officers will monitor and evaluate the project and provide post-project details as part of the Department's annual review, dependent up the Committee's decision.</p> <p>Timeline: Dependent upon Committee decision</p> <p>Reporting Officer: Gerry Copeland</p>

	Key to Abbreviations
UNESCO – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.	