



<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Belfast Masterplan
<b>Date:</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> April 2012
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<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to outline the proposed additional work on the Masterplan arising from the initial consultation and feedback from Members and to seek approval for additional resources to carry out the proposed actions.
1.2	The 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2012 Committee agreed that the progression of the Masterplan should be based on a two stage engagement process ensuring engagement with the Executive (Departments) and Committee prior to wider consultation. This agreement was on the basis that a further report would be brought before the Committee in respect of the proposed arrangements and the additional resource requirements.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	The first stage of the engagement will focus on work with the Executive to take full advantage of the potential for alignment of the Masterplan with strategic proposals and initiatives for the city. This work will seek to ensure recognition across government of the need for broader support for the Masterplan objectives.
2.2	This element of the engagement has been initiated with the Masterplan forming part of a broader agenda for a meeting that took place with the DoE Minister and officials. It is proposed that the same approach will be taken in a series of meetings to be organised with the other relevant Executive Ministers over the coming months.

2.3	The feedback from this engagement will supplement the comments already received from Committee and the individual Party briefings and be incorporated into a revised draft Masterplan. It is proposed that this revised document will be brought before the Committee for further consideration and agreement prior to the second stage wider engagement.
2.4	It was previously agreed that there should be a focussed approach to the additional work in respect of the broader consultation and engagement for the ongoing Masterplan review. The Committee may recall that the previous work, for the development of the original Masterplan, had been shaped by workshops covering the main strategy themes.
2.5	A thematic basis for the second stage of the engagement could provide an effective approach, alongside the publication for consultation of a revised version of the current draft, following the completion of the first stage engagement. This could involve a series of half day workshop events themed addressing the main objectives of the revised Masterplan including the: Neighbourhood City; Centre City; Learning City; Accessible & Connected City; and City Economy.
2.6	The proposed approach would be to target participants from for the sessions from the key stakeholders in the statutory, private and community sectors in the city. The focus for the work would be to build on the stage one engagement activity with the emphasis on the alignment between the Masterplan and other strategies or initiatives.
2.7	The sessions would be facilitated by external consultants to ensure continuity and the effective integration of the outputs into revision for a finalised document. The consultants would be required to compile the finding and incorporate any additional feedback from the public consultation into a final document, including and implementation plan with recommendations for further action or activity.
2.8	The Masterplan consultants (SLR Consulting) who were responsible for the current draft Review document due to their experience and for technical reasons are uniquely placed to support the Department in carrying out this additional work. It is therefore proposed that that will be appointed on a proprietary basis to deliver the additional work.
2.9	This appointment will be subject to the confirmation that the costs would not exceed a budget of £15,000 and that a detailed costs proposal covering the full scope of the additional works are submitted by them beforehand and approved by the Director of Development.

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	The proposed potential maximum budget of £15,000 can be met from provision within the approved Departmental Estimates for 2012/13.

<b>4</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	Members are requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) note the proposed approach to the appointment of consultants to carry out the additional engagement work and finalisation of a revised Masterplan document; and</li> <li>(ii) endorse the allocation of a budget of up to £15,000 to carry out the</li> </ul>

	proposed engagement activity and complete the Masterplan Review document;
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<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>

<b>8</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>