



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Democratising Governance in Transition (DGIT) Programme: Participation in multi-agency study visit.
Date:	May 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development
Contact Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development.

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Democratising Governance in Transition (DGIT) programme is an innovative partnership between government departments, statutory agencies, local councils and communities to improve policy complementarity and service provision in marginalised and disadvantaged areas. The programme is delivered in partnership by Groundwork NI and Intercomm, with funding from the SEUPB Peace III Programme.
1.2	DGIT develops links between 'grassroots' community groups, service providers and policymakers on issues of dereliction, shared space and interfaces.
1.3	The core aim of the programme is to develop community-led responses to community planning, community budgeting, co-location, co-production and shaping performance indicators that inform policymakers and programme directors on the efficiencies and effectiveness of service delivery.
1.5	To overcome the relational barriers, often existent between institutions of government and community, DGIT has been working with the Stanford Centre on International Conflict and Negotiation (SCICN), at Stanford University to increase intellectual capital on how to develop efficient integrated working practices, strategic alliances and shared budgeting.
1.6	Over the past two years DGIT has run a number of workshops in three interface areas: Bishop Street in Londonderry, in Whitewell and in Duncairn Gardens in Belfast. These workshops have been facilitated by Mr. Byron Bland from SCICN and participants have been drawn from a range of government departments, the three councils, statutory agencies and voluntary/community organizations in order to discuss how community-led partnerships can influence policy development and improve service provision.

2	Key Issues
2.1	Due to the success of these workshops DGIT has now been invited to participate in a bespoke study programme, delivered by SCICN, on how to move to the next level of developing efficient integrated working practices, strategic alliances and shared budgeting.
2.2	The programme is designed to attract Chief Executives, Senior Civil and Public Servants and Directors from the voluntary/community sector and will be delivered by Stanford's academic experts in International Relations, Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law. This will build on the workshops already held and will be delivered at Stanford University in late June 2012.
2.3	The degree of success of this next stage will be influenced by the continuity of participation, so it would be welcome if those individuals and organisations that have been part of the process to date were in a position to continue this involvement. It is envisaged this will be both a significant and intellectually challenging programme to participate in.
2.4	This innovative collaboration between DGIT and the SCICN demonstrates how the programme is now moving to the next level in developing partnership working that will sustain the development of key institutional capacities for a shared society.
2.5	To ensure this bespoke learning programme is meeting its aims and objectives; DGIT has obtained the endorsement of the University of Ulster, who will write the programmes learning outcomes, thereby ensuring they have an immediate relevance to the Northern Ireland experience.
2.6	DGIT have extended an invitation to the steering group nominees to attend this training programme. Stanford University is providing their facilities, experts and programme delivery as an in kind contribution to DGIT. With funding from the SEUPB, DGIT are offering a subsidy to support the involvement of steering group members and local community representatives.
2.7	To date a number of partner organisations have committed to being involved including representative from across local and central government, PSNI, NIHE, regional universities and the local voluntary and community sector.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	The non programme costs for accommodation and travel have been estimated as £3,000 however with funding secured from SEUPB, steering group participants are asked to contribute at least 50% of the non training costs. The total cost to BCC is therefore £1,500.
3.2	Stanford University is providing their facilities, experts and programme delivery as an in kind contribution to DGIT.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no equality or Good Relations considerations.

5	Recommendations
5.1	Committee are asked to approve the attendance at the event of the Community Services Manager on the DGIT bespoke study programme to Stanford University.

6	Decision Tracking
Catherine Taggart will action committee decision	

7	Key to Abbreviations
DGIT Democratising Governance in Transition	
SCICN Stanford Centre on International Conflict and Negotiation	