



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	B-Team – Update/ Belfast Brownfield Days
Date:	21 August 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
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1.	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Belfast City Council is the Lead Partner in the ERDF funded INTERREG IVC project B-Team. The B-Team project brings together specialists in Brownfield regeneration from different countries to exchange knowledge contributing to improved developments and enhanced regional policies focussing on the resolution of practical challenges on case study sites in the partners' countries.
1.2	The partners include Dublin (Ireland), Sevilla (Spain), Oulu (Finland), Dresden (Germany), Ruda Slaska (Poland), Hajdu-Bihar (Hungary), Torino (Italy) and Vilnius (Lithuania).
1.3	The support and exchange of technical knowledge takes place during "Brownfield Days" events with the experience and practical approaches discussed and disseminated to a broader public at European Dissemination Events. The last of these events will be the final conference that will take place 7 – 8 November 2012 in Sevilla/Spain. The Brownfield Days in Belfast will take place 10 – 13 September 2012 and will be hosted by the Development Department as the Lead Partner of the B-Team project.
1.4	The Committee previously approved the participation of the Chair and Deputy Chair or their nominees at the European Dissemination in Ruda Slaska (Poland) and Vilnius (Lithuania). In addition to the Development Committee Member participation the Town Planning Committee was also represented at the Vilnius event.
2.	Key Issues
2.1	As previously outlined the Brownfield Days (BDs) are focussed on the progression of work on case study examples/Brownfield sites with specific issues or challenges. The sites form the basis of examination and discussion with the European partners.

2.2	<p>In advance of the BDs for the Council has worked with the partners to identify the main issue in the redevelopment of Brownfields and assemble an information pack describing the local issues/regional context. This profile will be studied by each participant in advance of their BDs participation. The provision of comprehensive information and clear issue or question formulation in advance of the event is intended to ensure the participants can prepare and contribute during the working sessions.</p>
2.3	<p>At completion of the BDs workgroups, the relevant suggestions, findings and recommendations are presented to each other and a larger plenary discussion. This element at the end of each BD focuses on a final set of recommendations (that will form part of the <i>Brownfield Pledge</i>).</p>
2.4	<p>The policy recommendations, where possible, should be adopted and implemented to change or influence the planning processes of the host partner through the signing of a "Brownfield Pledge" (BP). This pledge would seek to commit the partner to improvements regarding their policies or approach to future activity. Following approval of a pledge for Belfast the Council will receive a further €15,000 to support the initiation of a specific action or the changes suggested to progress the regeneration of a case study site. The resources can be used for a study, organisation of event, consultation, direct work or similar activity.</p>
2.5	<p>Based on consideration of the priorities in the Investment Programme, wider Brownfield challenges and discussion with the European partners three topics/sites have been identified for exploration during the Brownfield Days:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Topic 1</u>: Tackling city centre Brownfields and bring back life in vacant spaces (vacant city centre sites) - <u>Topic 2</u>: Stimulating socio-economic activities in former industrial areas while involving surrounding communities (Springvale / Forth River) - <u>Topic 3</u>: Dealing with constraints issues and balancing site aspiration (environmental, market value, planning, community) (Northern Fringe / Gasworks)
2.6	<p>The BDs in Belfast presents the opportunity for the Council to benefit from the expertise of the other European partners in the field of Brownfield regeneration and to work towards innovative solutions for problematic Brownfield sites. The above mentioned sites were selected because they are in the priorities of the Investment programme and are examples of the wider challenges relating to the regeneration or development of sites within the city. In seeking to address the regeneration challenges of redundant Brownfield sites the workshops will focus on some of the issues frequently encountered by the Development Committee and Council. It is therefore suggested that participation by Members of the Development Committee, or their nominees, would be appropriate at this event. At the last day of the BD there will be a feedback session about the findings of the workshop days to which Members will be invited.</p>
2.7	<p>The results of the work in Belfast along with the broader project outcomes will be presented at the final conference which is scheduled to take place in Sevilla (Spain) in November.</p>

3.	Resource Implications
3.1	The provision for the participation at the dissemination event of operational staff along with political representation is contained within the agreed project plan. There are no fees for the event and the costs for travel and accommodation is estimated at £600 per person, which will be covered by the project. There are no additional resource implications arising from the EU funded INTERREG IVC initiative.

4.	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no Equality and Good Relations Considerations attached to this report.

5.	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - endorse the proposals for the Brownfield Days in Belfast and note the opportunity to work with European project partners to address the challenges in Belfast.

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

7.	Key to Abbreviations
ERDF – European Regional Development Fund BDs – Brownfield Days BP – Brownfield Pledge	

8.	Documents Attached
Draft programme	

Brownfield Days Belfast, 10-13 September 2012

Draft Programme

Date	Time	Activity	Contents/Contributor
Sunday 9th	19:00	Meet and greet the B-Team partners	B-Team members, BCC staff
Monday 10th	9:30	Welcome speeches Presentations about City Planning and Regeneration projects	Lord Mayor tbc, Councillors Directors of Development and other Chief Officers
	13:00	Lunch	
	14:15	Bus and walking tour	Tour through the city, showcasing landmarks and examples of regeneration projects B-Team partners, BCC staff, local actors
	19:00	Dinner	
Tuesday 11th	9:00	Walking tour to different case study sites 1. City Centre sites 2. Springvale/Forth River	Site visits and presentations B-Team partners, BCC staff, local community

		3. Northern Fringe/Gasworks	representatives, workshop facilitators
	13:00	Lunch	
	14:00	Workshops	Introduction to the workshops – facilitators Start of the workshops
	19:00	Dinner	
Wednesday 12th	9:00	Workshops	Continuation of the workshops
	13:00	Lunch	
	14:00	Summary of results	Informal presentation of results of different working groups Fine tuning of recommendations B-Team partners and facilitators
	15:00	Workshops	Finalisation of workshops outputs, preparation of official presentation B-Team partners and facilitators
	19:30	Official dinner	Official dinner with Lord Mayor and Councillors

			Possibly with presentation, venue tbc
Thursday 13th	10:00	Presentation of workshop results; recommendations	Official presentation of the results of the previous days; B-Team partners present results of the workshops and their regeneration experience to Councillors, BCC staff and other experts feedback
	11:30	B-Team issues	Internal meeting discussing B-Team issues B-Team partners
	13:00	Lunch	
	14:00	"Tourist" programme	Opportunity for B-Team partners to visit other areas of Belfast or Northern Ireland