



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Cities of the Isles, Glasgow, October 2012</b>
<b>Date:</b>	4 September 2012
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	Members will be aware that the 'Cities of the Isles' (COTI) Partnership is a network of six City Councils in the UK and Ireland (Belfast, Cardiff, Dublin, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Liverpool). Since 2000 these cities have come together annually to share urban regeneration experiences, develop joint projects and establish a co-ordinated approach to issues of strategic importance.
1.2	Each of the member cities takes it in turn to host the annual event in their city. The 2012 COTI meeting will take place in Glasgow on 24-25 October 2012.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	The 2011 COTI meeting took place in Cardiff. There was senior level member and officer representation from each of the cities involved. The delegates took part in a structured discussion on the challenge of regenerating cities within the context of public sector financial restraints. There was a particular focus on innovative financing models for regeneration and the role of universities in the city. A site visit to a number of key regeneration sites was also part of the programme.
2.2	The draft programme for the 2012 event has recently been circulated by Glasgow. The discussion will focus on two key themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Youth Employment, including apprenticeships and training</li><li>– Using sport as a tool to engage with young people.</li></ul>
2.3	Glasgow – like Belfast – has seen significant investment and regeneration in the last two decades in particular. However, despite this growth, the city has a major problem with economic inactivity, particularly in a number of neighbourhoods. It was one of the pilot "city strategies" that were supported under the previous

	government and much of the learning from this experience is being drawn on by partners working on Belfast's employability and skills strategy.
2.4	With regard to young people and sport, Glasgow is to host the Commonwealth Games in 2014. This discussion will offer an opportunity to talk about the potential legacy of investment in sport and of its role in engaging young people.
2.5	It is proposed that the Chair and Deputy Chair of Committee (or nominees) as well as up to two relevant officers take part in the Glasgow meeting.

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	<u>Financial</u> All programme costs to be covered by Glasgow. Travel and accommodation costs estimated at £250 per person.

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
4.1	There are no specific equality or good relations considerations attached to this report.

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Note the COTI event to be held in Glasgow on 24 and 25 October 2012</li> <li>– Agree to participation by Chair and Deputy Chair of Committee (or nominees) as well as up to two officers at the event at a cost of around £250 per person.</li> </ul>

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
A report on outcomes of the visit will be brought back to Development Committee in December 2012.	
Timeframe:	December 2012
Reporting Officer:	Shirley McCay

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
COTI – Cities of the Isles	