



Belfast City Council

Report to: Development Committee

Subject: **World Chamber Federation Biennial Congress 2015**

Date: 4 September 2012

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1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Belfast City Council has received correspondence from the Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce (NICC) who is currently competing to host the World Chamber Federation's Biennial Congress in 2015. Their letter is attached as appendix 1.
1.2	Hosting the event represents huge opportunities, including the economic impact of potentially 2000 delegates from 40 countries over 4 days, to increase the profile of Belfast and Northern Ireland on the world stage with the potential to establish further trade links.
1.3	Previous host cities have included, Marseille; Seoul; Quebec City; Durban; Istanbul; Kuala Lumpur; Mexico City; and Doha, Qatar which is scheduled to host the 2013 World Chamber Congress.
1.4	Following an initial expression of interest in March, Belfast has now been shortlisted alongside Biarritz, Geneva, Gothenburg, Liverpool, Lyon, Manchester and Torino as potential hosts.
1.5	Given the Waterfront extension, the Odyssey is the main proposed conference venue.

2	Key Issues
2.1	NICC is already being supported by Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau (BVCB) and will be eligible for the conference subvention scheme.
2.2	In NICC's correspondence they have outlined a range of ways in which organisations can support their bid including a simple statement of letter of support, being involved in the advisory committee, participating on the site inspection, contributing to the business or hospitality programme or sponsorship.

2.3	Given Belfast City Council is already supporting the NICC via BVCB, officers recommend that a letter of support is sent along with details on use of the City Hall for an event reception.
2.4	This is a landmark bid for Belfast and the level of political and business support could be a key differentiator for the city against other competitors.

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

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members agree to write a letter of support for NICC to host the World Chamber Federation's biennial Congress in 2015.

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

7	Key to Abbreviations
NICC - Northern Ireland chamber of Commerce BVCB - Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau	

8	Documents Attached
Appendix 1 – letter from Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce	