



Belfast City Council

This Matter was deferred by the Committee at its meeting on 18th September

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Gaeltacht Quarter Boundary – Council Definition
Date:	2 October 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 6370

1	Background Information
1.1	Members will recall that the Committee, at its meeting on 18 th September, considered the matter of what should constitute the Council's definition, in terms of recognised boundaries, of the Gaeltacht Quarter within Belfast. At that meeting, it had been agreed that representatives of the Gaeltacht Quarter Board would be invited to attend a future Committee meeting to provide clarification on a number of issues which had been raised by Members.
1.2	Accordingly, contact has been made during the interim period with the Gaeltacht Quarter Board and it has been confirmed that Mr. Ciaran Mackel and Mr Harry Connolly will be in attendance to address Members at the meeting. It is anticipated that more detailed and concise maps of the area in question will be available for Members' information prior to the meeting.

2	Key Issues – Overview of
2.1	At its meeting on 18 May 2012, the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee agreed that in line with a previous decision by the Development Committee regarding city dressing, hoardings and signs relating to the delivery of the Investment Programme projects in the Gaeltacht Quarter should be bi-lingual and printed in both the Irish and English languages.
2.2	As work on the Investment Programme is now underway, it is necessary for the Council to define its understanding of the boundary of the Gaeltacht Quarter.
2.3	There have been several studies completed on the Gaeltacht Quarter and a number of boundaries identified.
2.4	In 2010, Deloitte were commissioned by An Cheathru Ghealtachta Teo (ACGT) and the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure (DCAL) to prepare plans for the development of Belfast's Gaeltacht Quarter and to progress recommendations made in the 2004 Dutton report. This report outlines the boundary options.

2.5	<p>The Plans expand the original boundary delineation of the Dutton Report to create a wider area, together with a core, identifying eleven differing zones and their neighbourhoods having recognisable roles and objectives within a greater Gaeltacht Quarter Area.</p> <p>The Deloitte report states that the physical hub of the Gaeltacht Quarter is concentrated on an area around one square mile, with its focal point on the Falls and is bisected by the Falls Road, which provides the arterial route connecting Belfast City Centre to the wider West Belfast area.</p> <p>In addition it defines the greater Gaeltacht Quarter boundary as:</p>
2.6	<p><i>“that area bounded on its western edge by the Kennedy Way and Monagh Bypass, continuing onto its Northern boundary at a line following the Upper Springfield and Springfield Roads on both sides as far as Springfield Park and continuing on one side on the Country-bound lane until its junction with Lanark Way. Then following the ‘peace line’ to connect with the start of its Eastern Boundary at Divis Street / John Street Boundary and from there to a Southern Boundary line running from Durham Street / Grosvenor Road on one side of road on its city-bound lane only until Grosvenor Road’s junction with the M1 Motorway and then following the city-bound Lane of the Motorway as far as its junction with Kennedy Way.”</i></p>

3	Resource Implications
3.1	There are no immediate resource costs associated with this consultation response.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no equality and good relations considerations associated with this response.

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to provide guidance on which boundary option Belfast City Council should use to determine the provision of bilingual signage in the Gaeltacht Quarter.

6	Decision Tracking
Further to approval the response will be sent to An Cheathru Ghealtachta	
Timeframe: October 2013 Reporting Officer: John McGrillen	

7	Key to Abbreviations
ACGT - An Cheathru Ghealtachta Teo	
DCAL – Department of Culture Arts and Leisure	