



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Belfast One City Conference
Date:	15 January 2013
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The fourth annual Belfast One City Conference will take place on 9-10 May 2013 at venues across the city with the aim of the conference to showcase the very best of Belfast while promoting a shared and inclusive city and learning from best practice from across the world as exemplified by the prestigious guest speakers. The theme for the Conference will be "Lifting the City."
1.2	Previous speakers at the Conference have included Robert Walsh (Commissioner for Small Business Services New York City), Clive Dutton (Executive Director for Regeneration London Borough of Newham), Alasdair Allen (Scotland's Minister for Languages and Sciences), MPs Paul Maskey and Naomi Long, Ministers Danny Kennedy and Alex Attwood and Chair of Development Alderman Christopher Stalford.
1.3	In 2012, over 200 participants from across the public, private and voluntary sectors, came together to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing Belfast and sent out a powerful message that Belfast is ready for business.
1.4	Among those invited for the 2013 Conference are the Lord Mayor of Dublin (Naoise Ó Muiri), Congressman Joe Crowley (New York), Neale Coleman (Director of London 2012) and Nicola Sturgeon MSP (Deputy First Minister of Scotland and Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities).

2	Key Issues
2.1	The Conference is the latest in a series of events debating the future of the City and considering new perspectives on its future development.
2.2	Belfast City Council has been invited to participate in the 2013 Conference through

	nominating speakers to participate in the conference sessions as well as encouraging attendance by Members and Officers at the various sessions that will take place at a variety of venues around the city including An Chultúrlann, Crumlin Road Gaol, Titanic Belfast, Belfast Met's E3 Campus and the residence of the US Consul General.
2.3	The Council have also been asked to consider a Platinum Business Partnership Package at a cost of £2,500, discounted from £5,000.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	A Platinum business partnership package would cost Council £2,500, discounted from £5,000.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	No specific equality and good relations considerations attached to this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>It is recommended that Members;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Consider the request to support the Belfast One City Conference through a Platinum Business Partnership Package; II. Consider whether it wishes Council to make a presentation at the Conference.

6	Decision Tracking
A report on the Conference will be brought back for Committee's attention in June 2013.	
Timeframe: June 2013	Reporting Officer: Shirley McCay