



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Update on Integrated Economic Strategy
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	Members will recall that a proposal to develop an Integrated Economic Strategy (IES) was approved by the Development Committee on the 18 September 2012, subject to the establishment of a Project Steering Group comprising the Chairman and Deputy Chairman together with a representative from each of the remaining parties on the Council (or their nominees) to oversee the development and implementation of the IES.
1.2	The IES has been designed to respond to the identified need for a cohesive and integrated strategy for developing the economy of Belfast and to connect the policies and actions of the key players.

2	Key Issues
2.1	Further to the approval by Development Committee, Officers have been working with Officials from Invest NI to secure the match funding for the project and to approve the project specification in order to procure a contractor to develop the IES.
2.2	Match funding of £25,000 has now been secured from Invest NI and the specification for the project has been approved. The tender advertisement was placed in the local papers over the 14 and 17 December with a deadline for return of submissions of Friday 11 January 2013.
2.3	It is anticipated that the final draft report will be presented to Committee in May 2013.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	The final budget for the work has been confirmed as £55,000 with the Council contribution to this being £30,000 and Invest NI contributing £25,000.

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

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Note the contents of the update report II. Nominate a representative from each of the remaining parties on the Council to be represented on the project steering group along with the Chair and Deputy Chair; and III. Provide the Director of Development with delegated authority to award the contract to the successful contractor.

6	Decision Tracking
An update on progress will be brought back to Committee in March 2013.	

7	Key to Abbreviations
IES – Integrated Economic Strategy	