



Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	8 th Forum of the World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty in Dublin (20-21 February 2013)
Date:	Tuesday 29 January 2013
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1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	This report is to inform Members and seek representation for the 8 th World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty (WACAP) Forum to be held in Dublin on the 20 and 21 February 2013.
1.2	WACAP is a network of more than 900 cities working together to confront development challenges. Managed from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Office in Geneva, the Alliance's main objective is to support its member-cities in mobilising individuals, governments, and all sectors of society in order to confront the many challenges of urban poverty and to share successes, and failures, with other cities.
1.3	Every two years WACAP organises a global conference in different host cities to discuss relevant poverty related issues, and to offer its members the opportunity to establish contacts, exchange experiences, develop partnerships and raise funds for specific initiatives. Dublin will co-host the 8 th edition of this major international Forum and Expo with the UNDP and in partnership with UN Women and United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

2	Key Issues
2.1	WACAP 8 will bring together key decision makers from cities of the global South and North, to highlight ways in which technology can be harnessed to address the symptoms of urban poverty. It will specifically examine the ways in which technology can make our cities smart, safe and sustainable. An Expo will run alongside the Forum which will give cities, technology companies, NGOs and universities the opportunity to showcase their programmes, projects and products which foster sustainable city development. The International Forum and Expo will bring together key people to build solutions for the Millennium Development Goals and to address the global challenge of urban poverty.

2.2	WACAP 8 has arranged a panel of world class speakers to address the Forum - Mrs Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director, UN Women; Mrs Mary Robinson, Mary Robinson Foundation, Climate Justice; and Mr Tom Arnold, Concern Worldwide. During the two days, a wide range of workshops, debates and discussions will be happening to give delegates the opportunity to learn and share solutions to urban challenges facing cities today.
2.3	This conference fits with a number of Belfast City Council policies and projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Council's Poverty and Inequalities Framework - The Investment Programme - Draft Belfast Masterplan - Emerging Integrated Economic Strategy - IBM Smarter Cities Challenge - Community Planning
2.4	This conference could also be a positive introduction into the proposed Cities Of The Isles (COTI) Conference being held in Dublin later this year. 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. Dublin City Council has committed to broadening the Cities of Isles programme and making it a significant event as part of The Gathering 2013, with a focus on the economic regeneration, youth employment, international relations and the increasing digital economy.
2.5	It is proposed that the Chair and Deputy Chair of Committee (or nominees) as well as up to two Officers take part in the Dublin conference and noted that any other Member who wishes can attend the conference as part of their agreed Personal Development Plan.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	The registration will cost £394 (€485) - including VAT. Travel and accommodation cost should not exceed £120 per person.

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

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note the 8th WACAP event to be held in Dublin on 21 and 22 February 2013 - 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 £500 per person. - Note that any other Member may attend the event as part of their Personal Development Plan.

6	Documents Attached
Appendix 1 – WACAP 8 Conference programme.	