



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Access Guide – Phase 2
Date:	23 April 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	Belfast City Centre Management's Public Space Action Group, with support from Council, DSD, Translink and Shopmobility, launched the Belfast City Centre Access Guide in November 2011.
1.2	The Access Guide was developed to promote city centre premises across a range of sectors including hospitality, retail, professional service and public services which are fully or partly accessible.
1.3	A post project evaluation of the Access Guide was carried out in late 2012. Whilst the findings of the evaluation were largely positive, the evaluation did identify some key recommendations for the future development of the Access Guide. These included a requirement to provide information on the availability of disabled car parking, disabled toilet provision and public transport routes and timetables.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The Public Space Action Group have been tasked with taking forward a second phase of the Access Guide, which will incorporate the recommendations of the evaluation report as well as making the guide available in other formats including as a download from the relevant websites.
2.2	BCCM have made representation to both DSD and Translink for support towards the costs associated with Phase 2 of the guide. DSD have committed £6,000 and Translink have confirmed a contribution of £3,000.
2.3	BCCM have now approached Council to ascertain whether Council could fund the outstanding £3,000 towards the development of the Phase 2 Access Guide.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	The total cost of the second phase of the Access Guide has been identified as £12,000. DSD have approved a contribution of £6,000 subject to BCCM confirming match funding from other sources. A Council contribution of £3,000 is required in order to take the second phase of the Access Guide forward.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	Legislation and good practice will be adhered to with the proposal making a positive contribution to equality and good relations by enhancing access to the city centre for those with accessibility problems.

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to note and approve the request to support the second phase of the Access Guide to a maximum of £3,000.

6	Decision Tracking
There is no decision tracking required for this report.	

7	Key to Abbreviations
DSD – Department for Social Development BCCM – Belfast City Centre Management	