



<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	New York-New Belfast conference
<b>Date:</b>	7 May 2013
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives and International Development, ext 3459

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	The fourth annual New York New Belfast conference takes place in New York on 12 and 13 June 2013. The conference focuses on building bridges of mutual benefit between the two cities. The event is hosted by Belfast Media Group and the Irish Echo and takes place in Fordham University.
1.2	A number of issues are discussed over the two day period, involving speakers from both cities. Belfast City Council has been offered an opportunity to participate in the event and have a speaking slot on the programme.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	Members will be aware of the annual New York: New Belfast conference that has taken place in New York over the last four years. These events attract delegates from both cities and the programme themes generally focus on promoting mutual linkages between both cities to support economic, social and cultural development.
2.2	The draft programme for the 2013 event has now been published and is attached as Appendix 1. The programme consists of a number of workshop sessions on themes such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- More than an add-on: art in our cities</li><li>- Smart business strategies</li><li>- Backin' Belfast: are we on the right path?</li><li>- New York and Belfast: a partnership of talent and technology.</li></ul>
2.3	In addition to the workshop session, there are a number of additional events as

	<p>part of the programme, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Visit to Brooklyn Navy Yards (part of Brooklyn's "Tech Triangle")</li> <li>- Lunch to celebrate top 50 Ireland-US companies with transatlantic operations.</li> </ul>
2.4	<p>There are a range of headline US-based speakers taking part in the programme including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- John Connorton – former Head Friend of Belfast in New York</li> <li>- John Fitzpatrick – Fitzpatrick Hotels and Chairman-elect of American Ireland Fund</li> <li>- Christine Quinn, Speaker, New York City Council</li> <li>- Daniel Libeskind, Architect</li> <li>- John Liu, Comptroller, New York City.</li> </ul>
2.5	<p>There is an opportunity for a Belfast City Council representative to have a speaking opportunity as part of one of the programme sessions.</p>

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<p>The delegate fee for the event is \$250. Flights and accommodation (per participant) are likely to be in the region of £1200. Therefore the total cost per participant is estimated at £1500.</p>

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
4.1	<p>There are no relevant equality and good relations implications attached to this report.</p>

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Note the invitation to participate in the New York-New Belfast event in New York on 12-13 June 2013</li> <li>- Agree to participation in the event by the incoming Chair of the Development Committee (or nominee) and Director of Development (or nominee)</li> <li>- Approve a budget of up to £3000 to cover participation of two representatives at the event.</li> </ul>

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	<p>Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives and International Development to report on implementation of Committee decision by August 2013.</p>

<b>7</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	<p>Appendix 1: New York: New Belfast – conference programme</p>