



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Belfast Public Bike Hire Scheme
Date:	20 August 2013
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
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1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members agreed at June committee to invite a representative from Dublin City Council to make a presentation on the Dublin bike scheme and their approach for future expansion.
1.2	The Council secured £698,700 funding in August 2012, towards the provision of a Belfast Public Bike Hire Scheme as part of the Department for Regional Development (DRD) Active Travel Demonstration Projects fund.
1.3	Based on the approved bid for capital funding, the first phase of the Belfast Public bike hire scheme should achieve coverage for the core city centre area as designated in the Draft Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan.

2	Key Issues
2.1	At the Development Committee meeting on the 19 th March, Members expressed the desire to extend coverage of the public bike hire scheme outside the area proposed in Phase 1. In particular, to extend to the North of the city to service the Crumlin Road Gaol and Mater Hospital, to the West to service the Royal Victoria Hospital and Gaeltacht Quarter and to the East to service the Hollywood Arches area and the Connswater Greenway project. It was suggested that Queens University and parts of Titanic Quarter are included in the proposed Phase 1 network if they could be accommodated within the current funding arrangements.
2.2	Phase 1 of Dublin bikes scheme covers an area of 5km ² in the core city centre area and it has been so successful that there is great demand for its expansion. As a result Dublin City Council produced a Strategic Framework for the phased expansion of the Dublin bikes scheme.

2.3	A strategic planning framework for Belfast Public Bike Hire is being developed which will set out the potential for future expansion of the Belfast Public bike Hire scheme based on criteria that addresses the operational requirements for the stations and the need to maintain a cohesive sustainable network. A draft will be presented to committee in the near future for consideration.
2.4	Members are asked to consider if a special Development Committee should be scheduled for a representative of Dublin City Council to make a presentation to Council on the Dublin bike scheme and their approach for future expansion. The committee will be open for all members of council to attend.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	No revenue cost associated with the request

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 requested to consider if a special meeting of Development Committee should be scheduled for a presentation on the Dublin bike scheme to which all members of the council would be invited.

6	Decision Tracking
Presentation – September/October 2013	

7	Key to Abbreviations
DRD – Department for Regional Development	

8	Documents attached