



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Belfast Public Bike Hire Scheme
Date:	23rd September 2013
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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. 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.

2	Key Issues
2.1	In Dublin, the initial phase of the public hire bike scheme covered an area of 5km ² of the core city centre area and it has been so successful that there are proposals for its expansion. To facilitate a planned approach to any extension Dublin City Council produced a Strategic Framework for the phased expansion of the scheme.
2.2	Following a similar planned approach a strategic planning framework for Belfast Public Bike Hire is being developed to inform the consideration of the various options. This will set out the potential for future expansion of the Belfast Public Bike Hire scheme based on criteria that addresses the essential operational requirements for the stations alongside the need to maintain a cohesive sustainable network. It is proposed that a draft will be presented to the Committee at a future meeting for consideration.

2.3	In relation to the timetable for the Belfast Public Bike Hire scheme, the Committee may wish to note that the procurement documents are currently being drafted for the design, build, operation and maintenance contract of the proposed project. The invitation to tender will take place in November 2013 with a report on the responses to the procurement process being bought back to both the SP&R and Development Committees for consideration. These construction and associated ongoing maintenance costs will form the basis for the final investment decision for the implementation of the scheme which it proposed would commence March 2014.
2.4	It is proposed that the procurement processes include a requirement for pricing options to take account of future expansion potential for the bike hire scheme. The availability of this pricing information will inform future consideration of any options within the strategic planning framework for the expansion of the project.

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 the presentation on the Dublin bike scheme and their plans for the expansion of the scheme.

6	Decision Tracking
Procurement results to be bought back in March 2014.	

7	Key to Abbreviations
DRD – Department for Regional Development	

8	Documents attached