



<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Request to nominate a representative to sit on the Operational Committee for the development of the new Ulster-Scots Hub
<b>Date:</b>	18 March 2014
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Brian Johnston Tourism, Culture and Arts Manager, ext 3586

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	The Ulster-Scots Agency, Ulster-Scots Community Network and the Ministerial Advisory Group for an Ulster-Scots Academy, with the Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure are developing a hub and heritage centre at the former Corn Exchange on the corner of Dunbar Link and Gordon Street.
1.2	As well as providing a single site from which these organisations can operate the hub will provide a centre for activity across the city but particularly in Cathedral Quarter and north Belfast. There will be a visitor centre which will link to the wider tourism offer in the city.
1.3	Refurbishment of the historic building is currently underway and the centre is expected to open in September 2014.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	DCAL and the participant organisations are keen to develop a wider partnership approach to the development of the project.
2.2	It is hoped that representation will involve a group which could include DCAL, the Ulster-Scots bodies, the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, Department of Social Development and City Council. This group is envisaged to meet bi-monthly in the start-up period and then perhaps every six months thereafter.
2.3	A request has been received that Council nominate a representative to sit on the partnership group, in part to assist the integration of the tourism and heritage initiatives with other activity across to city.

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	None.

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

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	It is recommended that Members agree that the Director of Development nominates a representative to sit on the proposed group.

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
6.1	There is no decision tracking attached to this report.