

Belfast City Council Eurocities Engagement 2013-2015

2013-2014 Engagement & Benefits

Forum Name & Objectives	Working Group	BCC Officer engagement (EU and technical)	Benefits to BCC this year
<p><u>Culture Forum:</u> Innovation & culture</p> <p>New funding models for culture</p> <p>New governance models for culture</p>	<p>Access to Culture & Young People and culture</p>	<p>Tourism, Culture & Arts Unit: Christine O'Toole</p> <p>EU Unit: Frances Murray</p>	<p>Successful bid to host Spring 2014 meeting in partnership with Derry City Council: the network's first dual city programme in its 25 year history</p> <p>Input into cities best practice in promoting cultural mobility</p> <p>Presentation at Spring 2013 meeting relating to Belfast's innovative practices in terms of music app and literary app: number of cities are interested in its replication</p> <p>Although a bid to the Culture Programme led by the Belgian publishing company "deBuren" was unsuccessful, the agency is still interested in producing a Belfast Citybook via other means which ties in with the Belfast story concept.</p>
<p><u>Social Affairs Forum</u> Inclusion & employment of young people</p> <p>Tackling deep seated poverty & worklessness</p> <p>Social cohesion in an age of austerity</p>	<p>Working Group- Smart Social Inclusion (virtual)</p> <p>Taskforce on Roma inclusion – via the South Belfast Roundtable</p>	<p>Community Services: Catherine Taggart Clare Mullen</p> <p>EU Unit: Frances Murray</p>	<p>Participation of Alderman Bob Stoker in politician's panel – Katowice April 2013</p> <p>Belfast hosted the Autumn meeting – profiling the work of Council in relation to social innovation , investing in and collaborating with communities</p> <p>EUROCITIES filmed the above meeting's project site visits which will be used across the EU as examples of best practice</p> <p>Second output of Autumn meeting – EUROCITIES paid for BCC representative to attend the EU Roundtable on poverty and social inclusion: an invite only and very high level conference</p> <p>Input of Belfast practice re: Roma integration into city case studies and peer reviews. Taskforce also enables city to link with an influential network – the Open Society Foundation</p> <p>Through previous project involvement, BCC was also invited to present at Intercultural Dialogue conference in Dublin in Feb 2013</p>

Belfast City Council Eurocities Engagement 2013-2015

			Potential opportunity to participate in the European Urban Platform in February 2014 (tbc)
<u>Knowledge Society Forum</u>	Smart Cities	Deirdre Ferguson	Access to policy and funding information on:
	Open Data	Deirdre Ferguson	e-inclusion
	e-inclusion	Deirdre Ferguson	open data
	Cyber security	Deirdre Ferguson	cyber security
	NiCE project	Davy Kelly	smart cities
			<p>Invitations to take part in 4 EU funded projects, 1 of which has been taken up.</p> <p>Invitations to take part in 2 locally led projects resulting from Eurocities engagement.</p> <p>3 Knowledge Society Forum reports to share learning, reduce duplication and make links.</p> <p>1 shared learning visit paid for through the NiCE project</p> <p>Contacts made to strengthen links for new round of funding with: Queens University University of Ulster Helsinki Data Facts University of Oulu Eurocities KSF members</p> <p>Information and opportunities have also been shared with city stakeholders via the Northern Ireland European Regional Forum.</p>
<u>Environment Forum</u> Addressing the challenges associated with global climate change, including anticipating the potential consequences of climate change, including heat, and developing effective adaptation measures with a focus on extreme heat and flooding, as well as continuing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions	Clean Cities	SJ Smith Caroline Briggs (attendance at meetings)	<p>A joint EU project re. implementation and proliferation of a concept for green events</p> <p>Making a common framework for describing the different traditions and practices for national clean-ups and the ways cities take part in them.</p> <p>Offering the Birmingham Forum meeting a joint presentation on 'up-to-date' nudging / campaigning strategies for city cleanliness (Tampere and Copenhagen.)</p>

Belfast City Council Eurocities Engagement 2013-2015

<p>Exchanging best practices on energy efficiency with a focus on sustainable building refurbishment</p> <p>Providing input to the review of EU air quality policy in the European Parliament and Council</p> <p>Providing input to the review of EU noise legislation</p> <p>Following up on the European Union's Seventh Environmental Action Programme, including the development of strategies on urban environment, including issues such as urban transport, air quality, and the prevention and recycling of waste, and impacts of chemical substances</p> <p>Following up on the recent changes in (green) public procurement rules. Promoting the use of sustainable energy and energy security in cities (raising awareness and energy efficiency, while decreasing greenhouse gas emissions)</p> <p>Following up the European Union's review of the waste legislation</p> <p>Addressing the challenges associated with other issues affecting the urban environment, public health and quality of life, such as noise,</p>			
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Belfast City Council Eurocities Engagement 2013-2015

<p>water, waste, green areas, biodiversity, cleanliness and more</p> <p>Exchanging best practices on smart cities with a focus on ICT and energy, including smart grids, and exploring the city needs when it comes to new norms and standards</p> <p>Exchanging best practices on efficient, beneficial and balanced cooperation with large private companies.</p> <p>Horizon 2020: follow-up the funding streams for societal challenges, specifically environmental issues, including the suggested future Intelligent Energy Europe III programme within Horizon</p>	<p>Green areas and biodiversity</p>	<p>SJ Smith (watching brief)</p>	<p>The workgroup has collected best practices/case studies from the members of the environment forum on the topic urban bees. These examples will be compiled by <i>Urbanees</i>, an EU LIFE Program, which develops a guidebook of ecological management of greenspaces – listing tools, methods and case studies from all over Europe</p> <p>Information from 13 EEF members regarding city biodiversity strategy, targets and monitoring was compiled and collected through a survey. The results from the questionnaire will be presented in 2014.</p> <p>Local best practices and experiences were presented by: Stockholm, Chemnitz, Frankfurt, Utrecht, Oslo and Nuremberg</p> <p>Guided tours to urban biodiversity hotspots:</p> <p>“Lebensraum Burg”, (Nuremberg) a biodiversity hotspot and project, with more than 1 000 species of insects, bats, birds,</p>
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Belfast City Council Eurocities Engagement 2013-2015

			<p>mosses, lichens, fungi and vascular plants.</p> <p>The National City Park (Stockholm), a protected biodiversity hotspot with historical cultural values, and oak tree habitats, coniferous forest and wetland with birds</p>
	Greening the local economy	SJ Smith Formerly Martin Doherty and Shane Kelland	<p>Sustainable consumption and production in cities and companies with special focus on food: good examples and barriers of cities' approaching this topic has been achieved with good practices from Vienna, Nantes and Copenhagen.</p> <p>The working group had a joint meeting with the Environment Forum working group WG Air Quality, Climate Change and Energy Efficiency (Nantes in September on green growth and climate).</p> <p>Exchanged experiences on strategies, instruments and tools in improving the environmental performance of the businesses (especially SMEs) in European cities in order to strengthen the status of the existing less formal Environmental management systems and networks.</p> <p>Exchanged good practices and finding the barriers for companies in reducing the use of energy and introducing the use of renewable sources of energy. Why is it more difficult for SMEs than for bigger companies? Explore good practises the cities have done to enhance the energy efficiency of the SMEs.</p>
	Waste	SJ Smith T Walker	<p>Provided city input to the EU waste legislation review in 2013/2014, which is likely to include work on the better implementation of waste management and recycling:</p> <p>Responded to the consultation on the Green Paper on plastic waste</p> <p>Responded to the consultation on the revision on Extended Producer Responsibility</p> <p>Discussions with Commission consultant on the Waste Framework revision during WG meeting.</p> <p>Best practice exchange on municipal waste management</p> <p>Started an initiative to establish a project on exchange of knowledge and performance using the experience of the Cascade model.</p>
	Air Quality, Climate	SJ Smith	<p>The group provided input to several EU policy</p>

Belfast City Council Eurocities Engagement 2013-2015

	Change and Energy Efficiency	C McKeown	<p>initiatives, including: the 2030 EU climate and energy framework, through a response to the Commission consultation</p> <p>The review of the EU air quality policy through</p> <p>Contributions to the Commission Expert Stakeholder Group on the air quality policy review;</p> <p>Further definition of the EUROCITIES position on concrete policy options for the review in the EUROCITIES response to the second Commission consultation on the EU air quality policy review in March 2013;</p> <p>Press work, including interviews, opinion pieces and a EUROCITIES press release to respond to the publication of the Commission proposal</p> <p>The development of the EU Climate Adaptation Strategy;</p> <p>The working group also supported the preparation of the June 2013 Eurocities Environment Forum meeting regarding air quality issues.</p>
<u>Economic Development Forum</u>	Cohesion Policy to influence the future EU policy underpinning EU structural funds 2014-2020	Laura Leonard	<p>Attended meeting and contributed to final paper to EU Commission and Parliament on 'Cities Improvement in Cohesion Policy and Design of Structural Funds'</p> <p>Use learning and urban lobby tactics at EU level to make an effective lobby at NI level succeeding in securing a place for BCC at the NI Consultative Partnership. This has resulted in a clearer and stronger role for BCC in the design and delivery of EU funding in NI. It has also already enhanced the Councils profile and reputation on EU affairs with NI government and EU institutions.</p>
	Entrepreneurship	Laura Leonard	<p>Secured a place for Councillor Bob Stoker on a political panel with Cabinet Member Mr. Tajani of DG Enterprise. Councillor Stoker presented on BCCs innovative approaches to entrepreneurship specifically for young people.</p> <p>Secured a place for Councillor Hendron at the Eurocities AGM. Political panel on BCC approaches to youth inclusions and employability programmes.</p>

Belfast City Council Eurocities Engagement 2013-2015

	Metropolitan areas	Laura Leonard Gerry Millar	<p>Due to work pressures Gerry Millar was unable to engage in this working group.</p> <p>Laura Leonard shared the end product report with BCC on best practice across Europe regarding metropolitan area working and the different models of cooperation at local government level.</p> <p>Laura Leonard contributed to this report through the Council's Comet Model since 2002.</p>
	Integrated Urban Development	Gerry Millar	<p>No engagement took place in this work due to BCC work pressures.</p>

Belfast City Council Eurocities Engagement 2013-2015

Proposed 2014-2015 Engagement and Proposed Benefits

Forum Name & Objectives	Working Group and purpose	Proposed EU and BCC technical officer engagement	Expected BCC Benefits
<p><u>Culture Forum</u></p> <p>Innovation and culture</p> <p>New funding models for culture</p> <p>New governance models for culture</p>	<p>Access to Culture and Young People and culture</p>	<p>Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit Christine O'Toole</p> <p>EU Unit Frances Murray</p>	<p>Hosting in partnership with Derry City Council the Spring Forum meeting: prestigious occasion to highlight Belfast's work in building capacity and audiences in the sector, demonstrating the qualitative and quantitative impacts of culture.</p> <p>Above will also present the opportunity to build transnational partnerships which are necessary if future funding bids are to proceed.</p> <p>Taking forward discussions with DeBuren regarding the "CityBook" project.</p> <p>Investigating opportunities for Belfast through the Creative Europe Programme.</p>
<p><u>Social Affairs Forum</u></p> <p>Inclusion and employment of young people</p> <p>Tackling deep seated poverty and worklessness</p> <p>Social cohesion in an age of austerity</p>	<p>Working Group- Smart Social Inclusion (virtual)</p> <p>Taskforce on Roma inclusion – via the South Belfast Roundtable</p>	<p>Community Services Catherine Taggart Clare Mullen</p> <p>EU Unit Frances Murray</p>	<p>Maintaining Belfast's profile as a key player in the Forum – re: sharing best practice, learning from other cities' experience</p> <p>Potential funding opportunities: Erasmus+ (and in particular potential to develop an elected members programme and the sport and youth strands of this programme)</p> <p>Integration in wider EU lobby position papers and statements with regards to Roma inclusion and integration, social cohesion and inclusion.</p>
<p><u>Knowledge Society Forum</u></p> <p>Objectives</p> <p>The Knowledge Society Forum will focus on the use of digital technologies (ICTs) to support smart, inclusive and sustainable growth, in line with the Digital Agenda for Europe. During 2014 smart citizens, content and technical issues will</p>	<p>Smart Cities</p> <p>Cities will be supported in conceptualising and creating a strategic definition of the Smart City. Work will ensure that cities and citizens are at the heart of the Smart Cities and Communities Initiative. Members will be supported in participating in key funding schemes</p>	<p>Deirdre Ferguson will have a watching brief on all working groups and feedback to Digital Services</p>	<p>To support and inform BCC's Digital Strategy in relation to work on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> smart cities open data e-inclusion cyber security <p>To provide links and access to partners who will lead on future EU funded projects.</p> <p>To provide opportunities for BCC to profile its</p>

Belfast City Council Eurocities Engagement 2013-2015

<p>be considered within working group themes.</p>	<p>and advisory groups of the European Commission and in Green Digital Charter initiatives.</p> <p>Open Data</p> <p>This working group will provide a platform for exchanging experiences and comparing project examples on city initiatives in the field of open data. It will support developments towards models of open government on all levels of public administration. It will also further develop the open data guidebook for cities and support collaborative funding applications.</p> <p>E-Inclusion</p> <p>The group will work to ensure accessibility of city websites and improve the digital skills of citizens to reduce gaps in ICT usage, overcome exclusion, improve economic performance, employment opportunities, quality of life, social cohesion and participation.</p> <p>Cyber Security</p> <p>This working group will focus on increasing cities awareness about</p>		<p>work and share good practice with other cities</p>
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Belfast City Council Eurocities Engagement 2013-2015

	internet security threats and the importance of increasing efficiency to fight against cyber threats. It will assist with policy formulation through sharing of expertise and skills in the area of Cyber Security.		
<u>Economic Development Forum</u>	Cohesion Policy	Laura Leonard	To continue engagement in the EU policy debate and push for an EU urban policy. This will involve engagement on the new EU urban forum launching February 2014 and the Urban Development Network. BCC will engage locally with DSD to try and influence NI government towards developing an urban policy for NI
	International Relations	Laura Leonard	To participate in this new working group and learn from the city approaches to international relations and marketing and explore benefits of jointly promoting member cities at events like MIPIM or China and India Trade fairs.
	Urban Taskforce	Laura Leonard	To contribute to the development of the EU commissions new EU urban policy and in turn lobby for a NI urban policy action plan