



<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Belfast City Centre Management – request for additional funding
<b>Date:</b>	17 June 2014
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Lisa Toland, Economic Development Manager, ext 3459

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	Members will be aware that, at the 14 January 2014 meeting of the Development Committee, Belfast City Centre Management's request for annual funding to support delivery of their 2014-2015 business plan was approved.
1.2	Members agreed to provide £190,000 towards an overall operating budget of £715,000 for the year. Other sources of funding included Department for Social Development (£157,000) and private sector contributions – directly and through Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce (BCTC) of £108,000.
1.3	Belfast City Centre Management has now approached Belfast City Council with two requests for additional funding for the current financial year, to cover an uplift in salary costs as well as funding towards a member of staff to undertake preparatory work on the BIDs (Business Improvement Districts) process.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	<u>Request for contribution towards uplift in salaries</u> At the February 2014 BCCM Board meeting, a paper was presented to Board members outlining the position with the salaries for all BCCM staff. The paper noted that – with the exception of the City Centre Manager role – salaries had not been reviewed since 2008. Given that BCCM staff were appointed on single point salaries as opposed to salary scales which apply across most public services, it was suggested that this had meant that their salaries were effectively frozen since that time.
2.2	The Board approved a review of the salaries in line with NJC salary scales (the salary scales used by Belfast City Council). Having undertaken this review, it was identified that this would involve an uplift of around £30,000 annually over 11 posts.

2.3	Belfast City Centre Management has now written to Belfast City Council to ask that the council considers the request to cover an increase in salary levels for the existing staff, amounting to a total of £30,000. BCCM is asking the council to provide £15,000 towards these costs, with the remaining £15,000 being sought from Department for Social Development (DSD).
2.4	<u>Request for support towards resource for the BIDs process</u> Members will be aware that, for some time, BCCM has been considering an application to designate the city centre area within which the organisation operates as a BID (Business Improvement District).
2.5	Members will also recall that BCCM – along with Cathedral Quarter Trust and Lisburn Road Business Association (LRBA) – made a submission to DSD in late 2013 to become a pilot as part of a “BIDs Academy”. This was an initiative to identify areas that had the potential and interest in becoming a BID area and to provide them with support to strengthen their initiative and make them better prepared once the BIDs legislation was in place and organisations were formally invited to apply to become a BID.
2.6	BCCM was one of the six successful projects selected to become a BID pilot. The other two Belfast areas – namely Lisburn Road and Cathedral Quarter – were also successful in their applications. BCCM has recently written to Belfast City Council to advise of the DSD decision and to ask the council to make a contribution towards a BIDs Development Manager role. This person would be responsible for undertaking the preparatory development work to progress the BID.
2.7	One of the stipulations for those areas taking part in the BIDs Academy is that they provide a budget for a bespoke marketing campaign as well a dedicated person working on the development process on a full-time basis. BCCM has now approached the council to ask for financial support towards the cost of this role, estimated to total £60,000 per annum over an 18 month period (£90,000 in total). They have approached DSD on the same basis.
2.8	Given that DSD will no longer be providing financial support to BCCM from April 2015, they have committed their £45,000 contribution in the current financial year. BCCM has therefore asked that the Council considers a request for £15,000 in the current financial year with the remaining £30,000 to be allocated in the financial year 2015/16.

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	The resource implications for each of the individual requests are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- £15,000 to cover salary increases for BCCM staff</li> <li>- £45,000 to cover the BIDs Development Manager role for an 18 month period, £15,000 in this year and £30,000 in the 2015/16 financial year</li> </ul>

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

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	Members are asked to:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Note and consider the requests for additional financial support from BCCM for £15,000 towards an increase in salary costs for BCCM staff and £45,000 towards the costs of employing a BIDs Development Manager.</li></ul>
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<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
If the requests for support are approved, feedback will be presented to the Development Committee in January 2015, in the context of BCCM's annual business plan for the coming year.	
Timeline: January 2015	Reporting Officer: Lisa Toland