



Report to: Development Committee
Subject: UKIERI Project
Date: 17 June 2014
Reporting Officer: John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
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1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members will be aware from previous report that the work of the International Relations Framework will focus on trade, education and tourism opportunities for Belfast in new markets.
1.2	As part of the Framework, actions under the Indian market were agreed at Committee in January 2014. An update on actions to date is provided within the International Relations Framework report which is also being considered by Committee at this meeting.

2	Key Issues
2.1	<u>UKIERI</u> The Prime Ministers of the UK and India initiated the UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI) in April 2006 with the aim of enhancing educational and skills development links between India and the UK.
2.2	As part of its International Relations Framework, Belfast City Council along with Belfast Metropolitan College and Queen's University submitted an application for funding to the UKIERI.
2.3	The project proposal was successful, and as a result, a two year (2014-16) project will commence with an inward visit to Belfast in August by the Mumbai Chamber of Commerce and key industry professionals.
2.4	The project is entitled 'Building Organisational Efficiencies for Small and Medium Enterprises' and focuses on skills development with SME's and the education sector between Belfast and Mumbai, working primarily with the Mumbai Chamber of Commerce.
2.5	The project aims to build capacity in SME's in Belfast to be able to export more

	efficiently to India, a market that has shown increased development over the last few years. There will be training on marketing and supply chain management for participants as well as capacity building and mentoring.
2.6	The key sectors are: ICT, Health and Innovation and Energy.
2.7	The project is funded by the UKIERI and administered via The British Council, however separate monies will need to be added from the International budget (2014/15) for the development of the showcase and outward mission as part of the project in this budgetary year.
2.8	As part of the project, it is envisaged that the outward mission to Mumbai will take place in October or December 2014.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	£15,000 of the International budget to support the UKIERI project, inward, outward visit and possible showcase in 2014/15.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no Equality and Good Relations Considerations associated with this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is asked to consider the contribution of £15,000 of the International budget to support the UKIERI project, the inward and outward visits and the possible showcase in 2014/15.

6	Decision Tracking
Timeline: July 2014	Reporting Officer: John McGrillen