



**Belfast City Council**

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Development Committee</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Music Laureate Proposal</b>
<b>Date:</b>	16 September, 2014
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Lisa Toland, Head of Economic Initiatives and International Development, ext 3427

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	Members will be aware that last year Dr Sinead Morrissey was appointed as the inaugural Poet Laureate for Belfast.
1.2	Following the success of this initiative, it has been proposed that a Music Laureate be appointed for this year. Plans are currently under way to organise a range of activities to promote music across the City and to maximise community engagement as part of those proposals.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	Members will be aware that the Council has been working to promote the development of the music sector in the City and to use music as a tourism driver. In the past, this has included involvement in a series of "Belfast Music Week" events. In October this year, the Council will work with partners on an event called "Creative Belfast presents Output", which takes place in the Cathedral Quarter. This event will be attended by around 350 artists, businesses and creative students, and will address the challenges and opportunities that the music industry presents, highlighting the key role that music and performance plays within Northern Ireland's buoyant creative industries sector.
2.2	Organised in partnership with the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure and Invest NI music industry development programme Generator NI, the Output conference will include panel discussions, music sessions, workshops and speed networking events as well as keynote speeches from Grammy and Brit award-winning musicians and managers of globally recognised talent.
2.3	As part of the wider support for the music industry and to make music accessible to all residents, there has been some early engagement work with Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI) on how the appointment of the Music Laureate can be utilised for maximum impact. The details of the proposed programme are still being finalised but may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Partnership productions involving the Ulster Orchestra and of children from local schools, culminating in a major performance in the Waterfront Hall.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development of a series of short, site-specific operas that could take place all over the City.</li> <li>- Regular lunchtime choir rehearsals and workshops in City Hall.</li> </ul>
2.4	The costs for the Poet Laureate initiative were £15,000 – 50% of this funding was provided by ACNI, while a private sponsor contributed the remaining £7,500.
2.5	ACNI have agreed to contribute up to £7,500 towards the costs of the Music Laureate activities, subject to a further £7,500 being funded from other sources.

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	The overall cost of the Music Laureate initiative for the year is £15,000. ACNI have agreed to contribute £7,500. It is proposed that the remaining £7,500 be supported from the Tourism, Culture and Arts budget. Council officers will also endeavour to seek private sponsorship in order to reduce the overall Council contribution to the programme.

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
4.1	No specific equality and good relations considerations.

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Note the Music Laureate proposals</li> <li>- Approve a contribution from Belfast City Council of a maximum of £7,500</li> <li>- Note the proposal to seek further private sector sponsorship in order to reduce the council contribution.</li> </ul>

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	Timeline: December 2014 Reporting Officer: Lisa Toland

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	ACNI – Arts Council of Northern Ireland