



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Presentation to the Culture, Arts and Leisure Committee on the Arts in Working-Class Communities
Date:	21 October 2014
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Janice Smith, Tourism, Culture and Arts Development Officer, ext 3646

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	As Members will recall, in February 2014, the Development Committee approved the Council's response to the Culture, Arts and Leisure (CAL) Committee's Inquiry in to the inclusion in the arts of working-class communities.
1.2	The terms of reference of the inquiry are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Investigate the accessibility of the arts in Northern Ireland to working class communities and to ascertain the key challenges and barriers to the involvement of those communities in the arts;- Examine the outreach activity of our arts venues and bodies with respect to how they make a meaningful contribution to social inclusion within working class communities; including the degree to which they can help tackle particular social issues;- Identify any examples of good practice in accessibility and outreach work – either within Northern Ireland or elsewhere – which could usefully be replicated by arts venues and bodies here; and- Make recommendations for improvements in policies, delivery mechanisms and collaboration among key stakeholders which will maximise the potential of our arts venues and bodies to address social inclusion issues in both urban and rural working class communities and across communities in Northern Ireland.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The CAL Committee has received 32 written responses and heard oral evidence from a range of stakeholders, including positive feedback. This includes feedback on the Council's work in supporting community engagement and access to the arts. Belfast City Council has now been asked to present to the CAL Committee on 13 November in order to elaborate on its response and outline some of the key actions in which the council is involved.
2.2	Members are asked to consider this request and to agree that the Director of Development and/or his nominated representatives deliver a presentation to the CAL Committee on the inclusion in the arts of working-class communities, based on council activity and experience in this field.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	There are no resource implications attached to this report.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no equality and good relations implications attached to this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to: Note the contents of this report Agree that the Director of Development and/or his nominated representatives deliver a presentation to the CAL Committee on the inclusion in the arts of working-class communities.

6	Decision Tracking
There is no decision tracking attached to this report.	

7	Key to Abbreviations
CAL: Culture, Arts and Leisure	