



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Health and Environmental Services Committee
Subject:	QUESTOR Industrial Advisory Board Meeting
Date:	12th April, 2010
Reporting Officer:	Tim Walker, Head of Waste Management, Ext 3311
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Relevant Background Information

Members will be aware that, at the Committee's meeting on 2nd December, Waste Management presented a report highlighting the collaborative work being undertaken between itself and the Economic Initiatives Unit. This has produced a number of schemes such as BITES (Business Improvement Through Environmental Solutions) and our joint participation on the board of the QUESTOR Centre run by Queen's University, Belfast.

As part of the Council's environmental industries action plan developed in 2007, it agreed to take an introductory two-year trial membership (2008 and 2009) of QUESTOR Centre. The Centre is a dynamic international environmental research co-operative which serves a select membership made up of environmental regulators and environmentally responsible companies, ranging in size from large multi-national corporations through to forward looking small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). QUESTOR provides member organisations with a highly focused environmental research programme, delivered by a multi-disciplinary staff at world class environmental research institutions.

The Council is currently represented by both Economic Initiatives (Development) and Waste Management Services on Questor's Industrial Advisory Board which has a responsibility for making decisions on the research projects to be funded.

Key Issues

The QUESTOR Centre Director has invited the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Development Committee and the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Health and Environmental Services Committee to visit the QUESTOR facilities and to attend the Industrial Advisory Board Dinner. The dinner is scheduled for Tuesday 11 May and the venue and time are to be confirmed.

No date or time has been set for the site visit to the QUESTOR facilities.

Resource Implications

There are no major resource implications regarding this report.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members agree that the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman accept the invitation to attend both the QUESTOR Industrial Advisory Board Dinner on 11th May 2010 and the tour of the QUESTOR facilities, at a date and time to be arranged.

Decision Tracking

Further to agreement on a site visit, a date for the visit will be set and confirmed with the Chair and Deputy Chair.

Key to Abbreviations

QUESTOR – Queen’s University Environmental Science & Technology Research Centre