



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	2016 EAZA Annual Conference and AGM
Date:	12 September 2013
Reporting Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Mark Challis, Zoo Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Belfast Zoo has been a member of EAZA since the early 1990s. As well as memberships of BIAZA and WAZA, membership of EAZA brings significant advantages to the Zoo. For example, through EAZA membership, a significant proportion of the endangered species held in the Zoo are on loan to Belfast Zoo from other EAZA Zoos, and are managed via EAZA managed cooperative conservation breeding programmes.
1.2	EAZA has an annual conference, usually in September, which is hosted by an EAZA member institution. It is not a public conference; rather it is primarily a working conference with a mix of parallel meetings and plenary sessions. The parallel meetings tend to focus on the work of a particular breeding programme, committee or working group, whereas the plenary sessions deal with more general themes related to the overall aims of the association. The conference itself runs from Wednesday to Saturday, although a small number of meetings also take place on Tuesday afternoon. The conference ends with a farewell dinner on Saturday night. Most of the 800 delegates attending the full event tend to arrive on Tuesday, in time to attend the ice-breaker taking place that evening.
1.3	The conference has previously been held in a number of major European cities, including Berlin, Budapest, Basle, Madrid, Barcelona and Montpellier.
1.4	Visit Belfast estimate that a conference of this size is worth £1.3 million to the economy.

1.5	Working closely with Visit Belfast, and colleagues in BCC, officers approached EAZA with a view to hosting the 2016 EAZA annual conference. Belfast Waterfront was proposed as the venue for the conference, and Titanic Belfast for the farewell dinner.
1.6	Staff from the EAZA office have visited the city twice, and met with BCC and Visit Belfast delegates on both occasions.
1.7	While there is still significant work to undertake to finalise the details, including accommodation, the conference programme and registration costs, via the EAZA Council, Belfast has been invited to host the 2016 EAZA Annual Conference.

2.	Key Issues
2.1	Belfast has been invited to host the 2016 EAZA Annual Conference and AGM.
2.2	The conference runs from a Tuesday evening to a Saturday night, and typically involves up to 800 delegates.
2.3	It is proposed that the conference will take place in the Belfast Waterfront and that Titanic Belfast will be the venue for the farewell dinner.
2.4	An evening event will be held in the zoo. Considerable use will be made of hotels and restaurants in Belfast during the conference, and it is estimated that the conference will generate £1.4M into the economy.

3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>It is intended that the majority of the conference costs will be covered by the delegate's conference registration costs.</p> <p>However, it is expected that some costs will remain the responsibility of the host:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the host is expected to organise and pay for the ice-breaker on Tuesday evening. All participants are invited to this event at which drinks and finger food should be provided; ● the host should also organise and pay for the farewell dinner, taking place on Saturday evening; ● an official visit to the host zoo or aquarium should be planned for Thursday afternoon/evening. Participants should be served food and drinks as part of this visit and some form of entertainment may also be considered, again at the expense of the host.

	<p>It is anticipated that some costs for this can be covered via Visit Belfast's Conference Subvention Scheme, and income from corporate exhibitors attending the conference. A further plan will be put in place to develop a sponsor's package and actively seek sponsorship, which will further assist with covering those costs.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>This will increase the workload of staff in the zoo, especially during the build up to the conference in 2016.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>There are no other implications identified at present.</p>
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4.	Equality Implications
4.1	There are no Equality and Good Relations Considerations attached to this report.

5.	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is asked to note the above report and agree in principle that Belfast hosts the 2016 EAZA Annual Conference and AGM, subject to a future report being presented to Committee on cost implications associated with hosting this event.

6.	Decision Tracking
6.1	An update report will be brought to Committee in Autumn 2015.

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	EAZA: European Association of Zoos and Aquaria AGM: Annual General Meeting BIAZA: British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquaria WAZA: World Association of zoos and Aquaria BCC: Belfast City Council

8.	Documents Attached
	none