



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Belfast Wheel
Date:	21 November 2008
Reporting Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives (ext. 3459)
Contact Officer:	Gerry Copeland, Events Manager (ext. 3412)

Relevant Background Information

In March 2006 Council agreed to the temporary installation of the 60m high Belfast Wheel in the grounds of City Hall (Donegall Square East) with a further extension of the Wheel being agreed by Committee in December 2007. To date the wheel has had been very popular with visitors and attracted considerable positive media attention. Due to the ongoing considerable success of the project the operators of the Belfast Wheel, World Tourist Attractions (WTA), have requested that the Council consider another extension the use of the City Hall grounds beyond December 2008 to August 2009.

The period, requested by WTA, would not only necessitate Council approval but also require an extension of the current planning consent granted by Planning Service (NI).

Key Issues

- **Cost to the Council.** There still would be no cost to Council. However WTA have agreed to pay BCC £4,166 plus VAT per month from January to August 2009. If the Belfast Wheel were to stay to the end of August 2009 this would mean £33,328 plus VAT revenue for the Council.
- **Location.** The Belfast Wheel is currently on the Donegall Square East car park of City Hall and it would stay in situ if the Council agreed to the extension.
- **Site Inspection.** A site inspection of the wheel has been undertaken and regular additional site checks are on-going.
- **Temporary Planning Permission.** This has been granted until the end of December 2008. Any extension would be subject to Planning Service approval.
- **Contract.** The existing contract with WTA would expire at the end of December 2008. A new contract would be required for any agreed date extension.
- **Duration.** Total duration, of the requested date of extension, would be eight months. After this period WTA would then analyse if the Belfast Wheel could be re-sited to a location in another part of the city.
- **Operation during Key Civic Dates (Remembrance Sunday).** The project is required to cease during events like Remembrance Sunday. This condition is included in the Council's contract with WTA.

- **Early termination.** Both the Council and WTA would have the right to terminate the contract earlier.

Resource Implications

Financial

By the end of December 2008, BCC would have earned £50,000 plus VAT from the Belfast Wheel at no cost to the Council. If the Council agreed a further extension to the end of August 2009, the total income would be in £83,328 plus VAT.

Human Resources

None

Asset and Other Implications

Use of Council property.

Recommendations

Members are requested to provide approval for the Belfast Wheel staying in the grounds of City Hall to end of August 2009, subject Planning Service approval.

Appendix 1



World Tourist Attractions Ltd

Gerry Copeland,
Events Manager
Belfast City Council
Cecil Ward Building
Linenhall Street
Belfast
BT2 8BP

Dear Gerry

Re: Belfast Wheel

Further to our letter requesting an extension to the term of the wheel to August 2009, I can confirm that WTA are willing to offer a rental payment of £4166 per month or part thereof for the period of the proposed extension. Rent will be payable up to the last day of trading (open to the public).

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nigel Ward", is written over a horizontal line.

Nigel Ward
Chief Executive

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