



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic P&R Committee
Subject:	Big Lottery Big Thinking Consultation
Date:	20 February 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Therese McGivern, Director of Development (Ext 3470)
Contact Officer:	Laura Leonard, European Manager (Ext 3577)

Relevant Background Information

On 1 December 2008, Chief Officers initiated a Council response to the UK wide public consultation exercise regarding the Big Lottery Fund. The purpose of this coordination exercise is to allow Council to begin to identify and to prioritise potential future Belfast City Council applications to the Lottery. To this end the European Manager attended the NICVA led consultation workshop held on 22 January 2009 and consequently sought Council wide responses from the various departmental policy units.

Chief Officers asked that in anticipation of a new Big Lottery Strategy, the European Manager begins a process to establish a way forward for Belfast City Council to identify and prioritise potential Council lottery bids. Chief Officers asked that a report be brought to the Members, summarising the opportunities provided through the Big Lottery Funding stream and to identify how the Council might corporately improve its access to external funding. This exercise will be carried out once the response to the Big Lottery consultation has been completed and the European Manager explores the full range of external funding options available to Council.

The Big Lottery consultation seeks to help frame a new Lottery strategy for the period 2009-2015. Belfast City Council has to date had a direct involvement with the Big Lottery fund through its support of the three landmark application projects submitted for the city into 2007. Although the Council's own Giants Park project bid was unsuccessful, the city is benefiting from the very significant £25 million Big Lottery investment in the Connswater Community Greenway project with which the council is fully engaged. The exercise is structured around 15 questions, 10 common UK questions and 5 NI focused questions. The deadline for submission of responses is 27 February and Members are asked to consider and agree the attached response.

Key Issues

Members should note that this is the first stage in a process to engage with the Big Lottery fund in Northern Ireland. As yet it is not known what the final themes, funding priorities and opportunities will be for Belfast City Council and its stakeholders. These will emerge following the consultation and will be reported to Members as soon as is known.

Members should also note that a full investigation into external funding opportunities for Council is now underway within the European Unit and a full report will be brought to Committee early March 2009

Recommendations

It is recommended that

- i. Members approve the coordinated Belfast City Council response to the Big Lottery.

Documents Attached

Belfast City Council response to the Big Lottery Fund Consultation exercise