



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resource Committee
Subject:	Partnership agreement in relation to the publication of a new history of Belfast to mark the city's 400 th anniversary
Date:	19 February 2010
Reporting Officer:	Peter McNaney , Chief Executive
Contact Officer:	Robert Heslip Heritage Officer (ext 3583).

Relevant Background Information

The town of Belfast was formally established by the grant of a charter by James I on 27th April 1613. Therefore, in 2013 Belfast will mark its 400th anniversary. This has prompted a renewed interest in the City's history and the undertaking of important research, the findings of which is not yet available to the public. The last comprehensive history of Belfast was published in the nineteenth century.

Key Issues

Queen's University in conjunction with the Liverpool University Press has proposed the production of new multi-author history of Belfast, edited by Prof. Sean Connolly, modelled in part on the highly successful 800th anniversary history of Liverpool. The book will provide access to the best current scholarship, be well illustrated and accessible and cost £15 for around 400 pages in the paperback edition. For the first time, the history of Belfast from prehistory to the present will be addressed by a series of distinguished authors. The book will enhance civic pride and citizens ownership and connection to the story of Belfast, past and current. The book will appear in autumn 2012

The financial model proposed is based on each of the three partners providing £15,000. Queen's University is providing substantial input in terms of staff time and is seeking additional research funding externally. Council will receive a 12% royalty on copies sold, which will recoup costs if the print-run is all sold. Additionally, Council will receive 150 soft bound copies and 100 hard cover copies.

Resource ImplicationsFinancial

It is suggested that £15,000 be allocated from the Chief Executive Department's budget to make publication of the book possible

Human Resources

The proposals would be carried out within current staffing resources.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members :

1. Agree to entering into partnership with the Queen's University of Belfast and the University of Liverpool Press to publish the 400th Anniversary History of Belfast
2. Agree to the provision of £15,000 as Council's contribution to upfront costs.