



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Members Good Relations Event</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>2 September 2014</b>
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nicola Lane, Good Relations Manager; ext: 6020
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Anne Deighan, Good Relations Officer; ext: 6029 David Robinson, Good Relations Officer; ext: 6030

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	Members will be aware of the Council's Good Relations Action Plan and the projects contained therein. Part of the Action Plan contains a section on "Decade of Centenaries".
1.2	The purpose of this report is to request that Members consider a proposal to embark on a study visit to the south of Ireland. This visit would be designed to provide awareness and information to Members in order to increase their knowledge of issues surrounding the Decade of Centenaries, in advance of planning for events surrounding the commemorations of 1916 and beyond.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	There is a wealth of history within the south of Ireland and particularly Dublin, which has had an influence and impact on the way that the history of the island has evolved and developed over the past 100 years. The state visit by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth in 2011 brought her to a number of sites associated with the two main traditions on the island. Her visit brought her to the Garden of Remembrance, Croke Park, Trinity College and the war memorial at Islandbridge. The Secretary of State recently visited the newly installed memorial at Glasnevin Cemetery.
2.2	As part of the ongoing programme development around the Decade of Centenaries, it has been suggested that the Council could run an event to bring members to some of the sites that were visited by Her Majesty in 2011 by way of awareness raising and education.
2.3	Members may wish to consider nominating up to 3 members from each party to participate in the visit, which could be undertaken as a day-long excursion or an overnight stay

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	<b>Financial:</b> The costs of a 2 day visit for up to 3 members from each party, up to a maximum of £5,000 could be met from within the Good Relations budget, 75% of which will be recouped from the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister, through the District Council's Good Relations Programme. Or members may wish to consider one day long trip instead of an overnight stay which would reduce costs.
3.2	<b>Human Resources:</b> Good Relations staff, development on the programme, as well as delivery.
3.3	<b>Asset and Other Implications:</b> None

<b>4</b>	<b>Recommendation and decision</b>
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4.1	To recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that a visit to Dublin be undertaken either as a day-long excursion or an overnight, open to up to 3 Members from each party, to take place before the end of October, with a maximum budget of £5,000.
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<b>5</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
5.1	This proposal falls within the activity of the Council's Good Relations Action Plan, which was screened out following a screening exercise.
5.2	This proposal will serve to inform members of the complexity of the shared history on the island as we move towards the next phase of the commemoration of events on the island 100 years ago. This will assist Members and officers in the development of projects that will conform with the Council's own Decade of Centenaries principles as set out in 2011.

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
6.1	David Robinson and Anne Deighan, Good Relations Officers, will be responsible for any tasks arising out of this report.