



Subject:	European Capital of Culture Update
Date:	9 August 2017
Reporting Officer:	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
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Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members on the development of a bid with Derry City and Strabane District Council to become the UK designated city for European Capital of Culture in 2023.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Note the contents of this report including ongoing progress against critical timelines– Note the planned workshop with Members in September 2017– Consider the request for the Lord Mayor and 2 officers to attend an engagement programme including the launch of Belfast International Arts Festival.

3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>Members will recall that an update was provided to Committee in June 2017 with a follow up workshop held at the Seamus Heaney Centre on 19 June. The purpose of this workshop was to:</p>
3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - explore the opportunities and benefits of progressing a European Capital of Culture bid - gain an insight into the experiences of other European Capitals of Culture in terms of the positive legacy which has been created - input and shape the emerging vision and themes of the bid.
3.3	<p>In recent months significant progress has been made on developing the bid with a number of activities having taken place including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Official media launch in both cities resulting in significant broadcast, print and online coverage - Ongoing civic engagement programme with over 2000 people across the city having directly engaged with the European Capital of Culture team sharing views on their aspirations for the future and helping to shape the emerging themes - Detailed community engagement through Council's summer schemes and activities as well as partner organisations - A series of sessions with the wider cultural sector to begin to develop programme ideas
3.4	<p>In order to ensure further Member engagement, it is proposed that a second workshop is held at the beginning of September. The purpose of this workshop would be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide a detailed update on the engagement process and the associated themes for the bid - provide an overview of programme content - discuss the level of financial commitment required and the associated funding strategy
3.5	<p>It proposed that the same approach as agreed for the previous workshop would be adopted with invites being extended to all Members of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee as well as the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and the Party Group Leaders (or nominees).</p>

3.6	<p>Given the timelines associated with the submission of the final stage 1 bid an update report will be taken to City Growth and Regeneration Committee in September however the final proposal and financial information will be presented at a meeting of Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 22 September 2017. The updated critical path is included at Appendix 1.</p>
3.7	<p>A request has also been received for the Lord Mayor to attend the launch of Belfast International Arts Festival 2017 in New York on 18 September 2017. This would provide a platform to promote the European Capital of Culture bid with additional engagement activity scheduled as part of a three day programme. As well as engaging with the diaspora based in New York invitations would also be extended to sister city colleagues in Boston and Nashville.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Members are reminded that the Council has committed £500,000 to support the bid process, with Derry City & Strabane District Council contributing £300,000. This finance will cover costs associated with the bid development including staffing; consultancy; business case development; engagement process; marketing; public relations and bid design and production.</p>
3.9	<p>As part of the development work on this phase of the bid, officers are currently identifying the level of investment required for the delivery of the wider programme, if successful. This will require significant due diligence as well as engagement with other partners to explore opportunities for financial leverage. Additional information on this will be brought back to a future meeting of this Committee.</p>
3.10	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>In advance of stage 2 the engagement plan will be equality screened and any gaps addressed. The final programme and associated strategies will also be equality screened.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
4.1	Appendix 1 - European Capital of Culture Critical Path