

Shadow SP&R Committee – 26th September

Appendix B- Detailed chronologies for the Innovation centre and Creative Hub projects

Innovation Centre

- Original application submitted to Invest NI – 28 February 2013
- Appraisers appointed by Invest NI – end May 2013
- Initial meeting held and request for information received – 7 June 2013; information provided 17 June 2013
- Request for detailed information received from appraiser: 26 June 2013 – information provided 02 July 2013
- Email received from appraiser on 25 September re: cost queries. Information provided 3 October; request for follow-up meeting received 25 October – meeting held 1 November
- Supplementary information/clarifications provided during period 1-8 November
- Re-engagement from appraiser on 9 January 2014 – request for additional information on operator proposals and information sent by email that day
- Request for additional information on costs received – 13 March 2014; ongoing correspondence and clarifications between 13 March and 7 April 2014
- No further correspondence received from appraisers
- INI advised that DETI transfer of financial allocation to potentially finance all approved ERDF resolved – 28th July 2014
- Correspondence with INI concerning LOO date in anticipation of capital tender close and potential tender award – 31st July 2014
- Confirmation received from INI that they are working through the necessary approvals – 1st August 2014
- Updated spend profiles for project requested from INI and submitted by Council – 7th August 2014
- Letter received from DETI by BCC CX and responded to concerning procurement compliance
- 4 September 2014 – email from Invest NI to request clarification of some points: information requested provided 5 September 2014
- 8 September 2014 – further queries received and clarifications provided directly to IINI in response to queries received by INI from DFP
- 11 September 2014 – Evidence of community consultation requested from INI and responded to.
- 12 September 2014 – notification of PAC recommendations and potential impact on Forthriver

Creative Hub

- Original application submitted to Invest NI – 5th June 2013
- Initiation meeting with appraisers (Cogent) – 13th August 2013
- Supplementary information sought from Cogent – 13th August 2013
- Council response to Cogent – 31st Oct 2013
- Revised operational plan for the creative hub developed by RMS McClure Watters and submitted to Council - 20th November 2013
- Research and arranging visits to UK based creative hub projects - 20th November 2013
- Operational Plan sent to Moira Loughran at INI - 21st November 2013
- Discussion with RMS on potential feedback from INI on operational plan but delays on INI side pushed after Christmas - 18th December 2013
- Creative hub procurement strategy Complete - 18th December 2013
- Property acquisition and valuation of 19 – 21 Donegall street negotiations ongoing - 6th January 2014

- Correspondence from Michael Denney Re: Hub EA - 17th January 2014
- Supplementary information sought from Cogent – 17th January 2014
- Director requested meeting with Cogent to push Hub project forward - 19 January 2014
- Council response to Cogent – 18th Feb 2014
- Supplementary information sought from Cogent – 23rd March 2014
- A significant resubmission provided to Cogent (including sector survey responses) – 23rd May 2014
- Supplementary information sought from Cogent – 5th June 2014
- Council response to Cogent – 10th July 2014
- Notification of three options from INI (27th August 2014):
- Proceed with information supplied - likelihood of negative economic appraisal outcome;
- Supply further information towards positive economic appraisal;
- Purchase and refurbish building at own cost and use next round of ERDF Programme support for Creative Digital Sector Growth.
- Discussion with INI confirming submission of further information – 29th Aug 2014
- Supplementary information sought from Cogent – 1st September 2014
- Council response agreed for review by INI 23rd September 2014 and Cogent 27th Sept 2014.