



Subject:	100 Resilience Cities Belfast conference
Date:	23 September 2016
Reporting Officer:	Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources
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Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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	Purpose of Report Following the city's successful application to the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities (100RC) programme, officers have begun engaging with the Foundation to prepare for a stakeholder conference provisionally booked for 15 November 2016 at the Waterfront Hall. Following this event work will begin on the recruitment of the Belfast Commissioner for Resilience and planning for the Belfast resilience strategy. This is funded through the programme.
1.2	Summary of the main issues The November conference aims to bring together stakeholders to set out the broad resilience issues that would form the basis of a Belfast resilience strategy. It will also help determine the likely role for a new Belfast 'Commissioner for Resilience'. The approach described below seeks to ensure the early engagement of elected Members in order to align the emerging resilience strategy with the priorities of the Belfast Agenda, particularly around the priorities for inclusive growth.
1.3	The conference logistics; strategy development facilitation; and the position of Commissioner for Resilience (for two years), will all be funded by 100RC.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note 100RC's 'agenda setting' approach and their financial contribution to the process • Agree to the proposed approach for engaging Members in shaping the strategy including a specific Members workshop at City Hall and the attendance of Party Group leaders at the conference • Agree to the proposed Council contribution to venue hire
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Rockefeller Foundation's '100 Resilient Cities' programme provides grant and expert support to cities across the world to help them understand and prepare for future social, economic and environmental shocks and stresses. One hundred cities are now part of the programme including a final tranche of thirty cities that joined in May 2016. (Belfast and Greater Manchester have now joined Glasgow, Bristol and London to form a regional group which 100RC would like to see working together to share learning and practice.)</p>
3.2	<p>100RC are providing Belfast with the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. 100% funding for strategic consultancy support (from Arup) for the initial 'agenda setting' process. ii. 100% funding for logistical support for the conference (excluding venue hire) iii. 100% grant funding to the Council to support the salary of a new 'Commissioner for Resilience' for an initial two years iv. Strategic communications support from global communications consultants, Apco v. Support from a number of 'platform partners' offering specific technical expertise to support delivery of the final resilience strategy. vi. Ongoing access to the learning and practice of the other 100RC cities.
3.3	<p>The Belfast programme will begin with an 'agenda setting' conference on 15th November at the Waterfront Hall. This is a facilitated all-day stakeholder event that aims to identify the major shocks and stresses that a Belfast resilience strategy will need to address. (Following approval for the event from Members an initial 'Hold the Date' email will be issued to stakeholders.)</p>
3.4	<p>The conference will include a mix of workshop modules (tailored to suit the needs of Belfast). They include: Introduction to 100RC, What is resilience?, Prioritising Belfast's</p>

	shocks and stresses; Diagnostics; and Identifying resilience building opportunities.
3.5	100RC are keen that the process includes engagement with political representatives at the city and regional level. (The original Belfast bid was supported by the then Minister for the Environment who met with 100RC last year to support our application.)
3.6	It is therefore proposed that all Members are invited to a scoping workshop at City Hall the day before the conference in order to engage directly with 100RC officials and Arup on issues of specific importance to the Council. 100RC would also seek to invite political representatives from a comparable city to Belfast dealing with similar issues that has already developed a 100RC resilience strategy to share their experience with Members. (For example, Glasgow published its strategy in August of this year.)
3.7	For the conference itself, it is proposed that Party Group Leaders are invited to attend. It is also proposed that Party Group leaders contribute to a short video that sets out the Members' vision for the city, and their reflections on the main resilience issues. This would be shown at the outset of the agenda setting workshop following a welcome from the Lord Mayor. Finally, it is proposed that officers would engage with Members and 100RC to agree the most appropriate level of representation from the NI Government Departments.
3.8	Following the conference, officers will work with 100RC and Arup to prepare detailed recommendations for the twelve month development phase of the strategy which will be presented to Committee for consideration. 100RC will also work with the Council to agree the role for the new Commissioner for Resilience who is expected to be recruited and in post by early 2017. The Commissioner will oversee the development and implementation phases of the strategy.
3.9	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>100RC have set aside an initial conference budget of \$40,000 to commission Arup and to provide logistical support including, travel, A/V and catering for the event. The Council is expected to cover venue hire which is estimated to be £2,800 which has been identified in the existing Smart City budget.</p>
3.10	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>Equality and good relations implications, in relation to this policy, are still under consideration. Further updates will be sent to the Equality and Diversity Officer in due course.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached

4.1

None.