

# Public Document Pack

Democratic Services Section  
Chief Executive's Department  
Belfast City Council  
City Hall  
Belfast  
BT1 5GS



Belfast  
City Council

10th February, 2016

## **MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE**

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Wednesday, 10th February, 2016 at 5.15 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

SUZANNE WYLIE

Chief Executive

### **AGENDA:**

#### **1. Routine Matters**

- (a) Apologies
- (b) Minutes
- (c) Declarations of Interest
- (d) Request to present to Committee - Visit Belfast (Pages 1 - 2)

#### **2. Matters Referred Back from Council**

- (a) Notice of Motion - Bus Lanes (Pages 3 - 4)

#### **3. Presentations**

- (a) Libraries NI
- (b) AECOM - Car Parking strategy (Pages 5 - 10)

#### **4. Attendance at Events**

- (a) Sister Cities Summit Dublin 2016 (Pages 11 - 12)

5. **Operational**

- (a) European Social Fund (Pages 13 - 22)
- (b) Beltech Conference - Request to sponsor (Pages 23 - 26)
- (c) Stall increase - St. George's Market (Pages 27 - 30)
- (d) DRD Consultation exercise - Taxi ranks in Donegall Square (Pages 31 - 36)

6. **Tourism, Events and International Relations**

- (a) International Relations Framework - Update (Pages 37 - 42)
- (b) Draft City Events Unit - Programme 2016-17 and Strategic Review (Pages 43 - 48)
- (c) China outward Visit - May 2016 (Pages 49 - 50)

7. **Regeneration**

- (a) MIPIM Update (Pages 51 - 60)

8. **Restricted Items**

- (a) East Bank - Sirocco/Queen's Quay (Pages 61 - 72)
- (b) Outstanding Accounts (Pages 73 - 76)



<b>Subject:</b>	Request to present to Committee – Visit Belfast
<b>Date:</b>	10 February 2015
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Brian Johnston, Tourism, Culture, Arts & Heritage Manager

**Is this report restricted?** Yes  No

**Is the decision eligible for Call-in?** Yes  No

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	The purpose of the report is to seek Members' approval for a presentation to the March meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee by Visit Belfast in order to outline their draft Business Plan for the 2016/17 financial year and associated funding request.
1.2	The draft Business Plan has been developed in collaboration with Council officers and officials from Tourism Northern Ireland, as the other key public sector funder in Visit Belfast.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>agree to receive a presentation from Visit Belfast at the meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee in March 2016.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	In June 2015 Members approved the 'Integrated Tourism Strategy for Belfast' for the period 2015-2020. The strategy identified Visit Belfast as a key delivery organisation for tourism in Belfast.

3.2	Visit Belfast's role as outlined in the strategy included tourism marketing of the City, visitor servicing, close working with the private sector and increasingly developing a destination management role particularly around events and conferences hosted in the City.
3.3	There are four Council Members on the Board of Visit Belfast, namely; Councillor McDonagh-Brown, Councillor Hargey, Councillor O'Donnghaile and the Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Spence.
3.4	Early engagement with Visit Belfast in developing this business plan has focussed on looking at how the organisation can support the Waterfront Hall in achieving its ambitious business tourism targets as well as contributing to the tourism strategy target of doubling the value of tourism by 2020 by focussing on overnight stays. However, it is also important to acknowledge that the leisure tourism market remains important in Belfast. In this context, Visit Belfast is considering how they can work closely with the Belfast One BID, in promoting the City as an important retail and leisure destination. This collaboration will be important in order to avoid duplication of activity and to maximise the impact of the investment.
3.5	Visit Belfast lead on the tourism marketing of the City. The specific messaging will be informed by the recent City positioning work that Belfast City Council is leading on. This work and will also influence the messaging of strategic partners such as Tourism Ireland and Tourism Northern Ireland promoting Belfast as a tourism destination both domestically and Internationally.
3.6	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Members will be aware that previous funding agreements with Visit Belfast have been in the region of £1.8m per annum. It is anticipated that a similar request will be made for 2016/17 for which provision has been made in the estimates.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>There are no equality and good relations implications.</p>
4.0	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
4.1	None



<b>Subject:</b>	<i>Notice of Motion: Impact of Bus Lanes</i>
<b>Date:</b>	<i>Wednesday, 10th February, 2016</i>
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	<i>Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive</i>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<i>Louise McLornan, Democratic Services Officer</i>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider a notice of motion in relation to the impact of bus lanes in the city centre.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is requested to consider the notice of motion and to take such action thereon as may be determined.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>At the meeting of the Council on 1st February , it was proposed by Councillor Boyle and seconded by the High Sheriff, Alderman Rodgers, that:</p> <p>“This Council requests that the Minister for Regional Development and the senior management team of Transport NI come before the Council’s City Growth and Regeneration Committee to hear concerns from Councillors about the impact that bus lanes and bus lane cameras are having on motorists, commuters and local businesses, with a view to devising solutions which will make Belfast City Centre an easier place in which to live, relax and work.”</p> <p>In accordance with Standing Orders the Motion was referred to the Committee by the</p>

	<p>Council.</p> <p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None.



<b>Subject:</b>	Car Parking Strategy - Presentation to Committee
<b>Date:</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> February 2016
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Anne Doherty, Planning & Transport Officer

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The City Centre Regeneration & Investment Strategy identified car parking as a major issue for Belfast city centre and recommended that the Council work with the Department for Regional Development to develop and implement a strategy for car parking for Belfast. The Council commissioned consultants (Aecom) in October 2015 to develop a Car Parking Strategy and a project steering group consisting of Council officers and representatives from DRD has been set up to assist Aecom with the development of the Strategy.
1.2	The development of the Car Parking Strategy is under way and is due to be completed by Spring 2016. Representatives from Aecom will make a presentation on the progress of the strategy in particular, the baseline research, emerging issues and the outcomes from the consultation process with key stakeholders.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	It is recommended that Elected Members consider the findings presented to Committee on the emerging Car Parking Strategy commissioned by the Council and if appropriate provide feedback.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The development of the Car Parking Strategy comprises the following key stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Stage 1 – Baseline Review</b></li> <li>• <b>Stage 2 – Current Issues, Challenges and Trends</b></li> <li>• <b>Stage 3 – Assessment of Options</b></li> </ul>

3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Stage 4 – Formulation of Strategy and Action Plan</b></li> </ul> <p>An overview of the emerging findings is outlined in Appendix 1. Elected members will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the development of the strategy following the presentation and through specific meetings if requested at a later date.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendix 1 – Summary of findings – Belfast Car Parking Strategy and Action Plan</b>



## Appendix 1

# Belfast Car Parking Strategy and Action Plan Summary For 10/02 Special Committee



### 1. Background

As a result of Local Government Reform in April 2015 the Council became responsible for the operation of the 30 car parks previously operated by the Department for Regional Development. The recent Belfast City Centre Regeneration & Investment Strategy also identified car parking as a major issue for the city centre and recommended that the Council work with DRD to develop and implement a strategy for car parking.

The current parking strategy was set out in the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan which was developed to address transportation issues to 2015.

The Council wish to provide a strong civic leadership role for the promotion of a modern, safe, accessible and integrated transportation system for the City of Belfast and the wider region, and now is the opportune time to review and update the car parking strategy for the city. Belfast City Council has therefore appointed consultants AECOM to develop an integrated parking strategy and action plan for the city.

#### 1.1 Objectives

The steering group has developed a set of objectives which the strategy should seek to address:

- Ensuring appropriate provision and location of car parking to support the economic vitality of the City Centre.
- Ensuring parking provision does not encourage less sustainable commuter travel, especially for journeys into the City Centre and supports access by public transport, cycling and walking.
- Identifying opportunities to provide secure bicycle and coach parking in appropriate city centre locations.
- Minimising the potentially negative impacts of parking on residential communities in the city particularly in inner city areas.
- Supporting reductions in congestion and pollution and supporting improvement in road safety through more effective management of traffic flow and modal integration.
- Review of city centre car parking signage and information for drivers to identify the potential for improvements and co-ordination.

### 2. Baseline Review

A significant amount of work has been carried out to date to come to an informed view of the baseline within the city. This has included consideration of parking data, parking sites, current policies and proposals, best practice, and management and operational issues.

#### 2.1 Review of Current Situation

The total number of parking spaces in the city centre is just under 40,000, split roughly as 32% on-street, 41% off street (publicly available) and 27% off-street (privately available). These latter private spaces total over 10,000 within the city centre and are associated with buildings (e.g. underground car parking) and contract parking. The council-owned spaces total under 6% of this 40,000 total.

There are around 60 publicly available car parks within the city centre itself, although provision is fragmented geographically.

A review of usage of publicly available spaces has shown that typically around 50-60% of off-street spaces are used at any one time. On-street spaces show typically higher occupancies at between 70-80%. According to biennial surveys that have taken place over the last decade, this level of parking has remained relatively constant.

A review of each of the individual car parks has also been carried out. This has shown significant differences in terms of quality; for example only one in five car parks have provision for parents and children, with less than half providing dedicated spaces for disabled users. Blue Badge holders are able to park for free on-street and there is evidence to suggest that this is a popular practice in the city centre. In certain areas of the city centre there are high instances of vehicle crime and this inevitably has an impact on parking behaviour.

In light of these considerations, there appears to be ample parking within the city centre however there is reason to believe that some users are adding to traffic congestion by circulating to look for a space. The issue therefore appears to be more one of a lack of information on where people can park tied with a generally low quality parking experience for many users.

The review has found that parking tariffs are generally dependent on car park location. In core areas of Belfast, council owned car parks are cheaper to use than private car parks on an hourly basis, but in terms of daily charges some of the privately operated car parks are cheaper than the council ones. In general, tariffs in Belfast are comparable with cities such as Newcastle and Nottingham, but generally cheaper than cities such as Manchester, Dublin and Cardiff.

Commuter parking in residential areas is a known issue and individual Residents Parking Schemes have been developed by DRD for areas of the city centre and in other areas such as Stranmillis and Lower Malone. However, to date none of these schemes have been implemented, with low community and local political support seen as being the main reasons why they have not proceeded.

The city council is responsible for 16 car parks outside of the city centre. Only two of these have a charging regime, and surveys at the remaining sites show that there is both a high degree of occupancy and all day parking, probably due to the lack of any restrictions. This results in low turnover which limits parking availability for those who would wish to shop or do business in these areas.

DRD operates a number of large strategic park and ride sites on key routes to/from the city centre. These include sites at Sprucefield, Dundonald and Cairnshill. Translink has also introduced increased parking provision at a large number of rail stations within Belfast. These sites have largely been very successful over the past few years and perform a strategic function in getting car users to switch to public transport for the final few miles of their journey into the city centre.

Given the recent rising popularity of cycling, there is a need for increased levels of cycle parking. Similarly, parking for coaches is important given the recent rise in tourists visiting the city.

It should be noted that congestion at certain times of the day is an ongoing issue within the city centre and it should be noted that there are a number of Air Quality Management Areas, primarily designated as a result of traffic pollution.

## 2.2 Policy and Best Practice

It is important to note that existing local policies in relation to parking are typical of those used throughout the UK and Ireland. Key policy documents previously published over the last 10-15 years include the Regional Transportation Strategy and the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan. All of the policies are generally in accord with one another in that they identify the need to carefully manage or restrain parking supply and demand within the city in order to achieve wider transportation objectives.

The outworking of these policies means that they include proposing to control the amount of publicly and privately available parking; only providing new parking spaces if they replace other ones or facilitate new development; and introducing residents parking schemes and new strategic park and ride sites.

It is also important to highlight that the recent City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy identified inconsistent pricing, poor signage and fragmented provision of parking in the city centre. It suggested that there could be a rationalisation of the spaces towards the inner ring within multi-storey car parks as well as improved signage, development of a city 'app' and more cycle parking.

There are also a number of large schemes potentially coming forward within the city. These include large transport schemes such as York Street Interchange and Belfast Transport Hub, as well as regeneration frameworks and masterplans such as Ulster University's Belfast campus, Linen Quarter and Northside. These schemes will impact on parking and need to be considered in the development of the strategy.

The study has also identified best practice in parking. In terms of how parking influences town centre attractiveness, studies note that location is the number one factor for customers, whereas parking costs come much lower down the list of priorities and below the need for safe and attractive parking facilities.

Modern day parking systems offer cashless payment, the pre-booking of spaces and electric vehicle charging. Technology is being utilised via active variable message signage and parking apps are being developed which direct users to individual spaces. This has benefits in terms of better turnover of high demand spaces and reductions in enforcement requirements. The best car parks can achieve the 'Park Mark' award which reflects the high standard of service that they offer in terms of security, design and accessibility.

The City of Nottingham has introduced a Workplace Parking Levy which asks businesses to pay an annual fee for providing workplace parking spaces. The levy is an incentive to employers to reduce the amount of parking they provide and the revenue is used to pay for public transport improvements.

Cycle parking 'hubs' have also been provided in some cities which offer a large number of secure, covered bike racks for cyclists. Best practice for coach parking is to provide dedicated and secure off-street facilities in a good location which can be pre-booked by tour operators.

### **3. Consultation**

Acknowledgement and discussion of parking issues within the city through engagement with key stakeholders is vital for the success of the car parking strategy. Many of the issues require a comprehensive and detailed strategy to address them going forward, with potentially contentious decisions to be made.

The consultation process to date has comprised two elements; one-to-one discussion with a small number of stakeholders followed by a workshop with a larger group of stakeholders. One-to-one discussions were held throughout November and December 2015 with local commercial agents, car park operators, businesses, DRD, Translink and Transport NI.

Some of the key messages arising from these discussions is that parking is not the number one issue for investors looking to locate in the city centre, or possibly for people who work there. Some stakeholders noted instances of operational difficulties in the run up to Christmas due to traffic congestion and it was considered that this could be alleviated through improved signage and information.

Individual measures such as increased cycle/coach parking and new park and ride sites could all have a collective impact. Some stakeholders were open to idea of varying tariffs and there was also interest in locating parking predominantly to areas around the inner ring. Several of the stakeholders suggested that the strategy could be benchmarked against other UK/Ireland cities.

Following this initial consultation process with selected stakeholders, a workshop was undertaken and held in City Hall on 14<sup>th</sup> January. Prior to the workshop, a contact list of potential stakeholders was developed and each contacted was individually invited. The key stakeholders who had already taken part in the one to one discussions were again invited to attend as well as those from other organisations including, but not limited to, Belfast Chamber of Trade, Belfast Healthy Cities, Sustrans, Disability Action, NI Independent Retail Association, Belfast City Centre Management and Queens and Ulster Universities.

Of the 81 invites sent to stakeholders, 41 attended the workshop on the day. For those who were unable to attend in person, the presentation was sent via email along with a request for feedback.

The workshop format firstly comprised AECOM presenting the key information from the baseline review followed by a breakout group session to discuss the draft objectives and existing issues. A second presentation was then given which set out current policy, best practice and potential solutions. Delegates were again invited to discuss these issues in a breakout session.

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<b>Subject:</b>	Sister Cities International Summit Dublin 2016
<b>Date:</b>	10 February 2016
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Laura Leonard, European & International Relations Manager

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for Council attendance at the Sister Cities International Relations Summit in Dublin on 21-22nd April 2016.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- agree to the Council's participation in the Sister Cities International Summit in Dublin 21-22 April 2016.</li> <li>- agree that the Council be represented by the Lord Mayor, the Chair and Deputy Chair of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee or their nominees and representatives from each of the remaining parties along with the Chief Executive, the Director of Development and an Officer from the EU and International Relations Unit.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p><u>International Sister City Event, April 2016</u></p> <p>Belfast City Council, along with 62 other Irish and Northern Irish local authorities who</p>

	<p>have US-based sister city and partnership linkages, have been invited by the cities of Dublin and San Jose to participate in an international summit to take place in Dublin in April 2016. This event will celebrate Northern Ireland/Ireland – US connections, including the role that these relationships have played in supporting sustainable economic growth on the island of Ireland.</p>
3.2	<p>The Dublin event will take place over two days, from 21-22 April 2016. It is proposed that sister cities in Northern Ireland and Ireland will host their partner cities either before or after these dates. In the case of Belfast, Members will recall their decision on 12 August 2015 to invite the Mayors of Nashville and Boston to attend the Dublin event and to come to Belfast for a series of meetings on 19-20 April in advance of the Summit. To date, both cities have confirmed attendance and are in the process of recruiting respective delegations. Council officers are currently drafting a programme for the Belfast visit. Elected Members will be invited to participate as the Programme evolves. Depending on the composition of the in-bound groups, the visit to Belfast will involve a series of one to one meetings with relevant individual groups as well as opportunities to update the delegations on wider corporate and city developments. It will also offer an opportunity to re-focus the individual linkages with Boston and Nashville to ensure maximum benefit.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>At the 12 August, 2015 City Growth and Regeneration Committee meeting, £10,000 was approved to cover the costs associated with the event. Costs associated with the Belfast City Council delegations attendance at the Dublin event will not exceed £3,000 and will be met within the £10,000 budget already approved. It should be noted the budget will be accrued from the 2015/16 to the 2015/17 financial year.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>There are no specific equality or good relations implications.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
4.1	None



<b>Subject:</b>	European Social Fund – Match Funding proposals
<b>Date:</b>	10 February 2016
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Lisa Toland, Head of Economic Initiatives and International Development

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	The purpose of the report is to update Members on progress of the European Social Fund (ESF) projects that Belfast City Council agreed to match fund in Year One and to propose the continuation of match funding for the projects for Year Two, in line with Year One commitments and subject to approval of expenditure by the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL).
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agree to match funding provision for Year Two of the projects at the levels provided for Year One activity.</li> <li>- Note and agree the proposals to engage with the ESF projects to identify opportunities for collaboration and added value.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<u>Background to Employability and Skills</u> Employability and Skills forms an integral part of the Belfast Agenda with key priorities around jobs, skills and addressing educational inequalities. Belfast City Council commissioned an Employability and Skills Framework, which identifies how the education

	and skills challenges articulated through the Belfast Agenda might be addressed in a way that can support more inclusive economic growth in the City of Belfast.
3.2	The draft Employability and Skills Framework identifies several key challenges including high levels of economic inactivity, significant gaps in qualifications and skills, disparities in educational attainment and low levels of entrepreneurship. The ESF projects form a key contribution to developing the skills levels of those furthest from the labour market.
3.3	The Draft Employability and Skills Framework is being updated to incorporate amendments arising from the consultation process. In tandem with this, officers are preparing an implementation plan linking Employability and Skills with the Council's ambitions to support social value and address poverty. The plan will be developed with input from Corporate HR and Economic Development, taking into account the existing employability work of the Council. It will also identify how future resources could be best utilised to add value, whilst working in partnership with key stakeholders. An outline of this implementation plan and final Employability and Skills Framework document will be tabled to a future meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for endorsement.
3.4	<p><u>European Social Fund</u></p> <p>As Members will be aware, the European Social Fund (ESF), managed by the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL), aims to reduce economic inactivity and increase workforce skills primarily targeting those furthest removed from the labour market. Interventions supported through ESF are varied in terms of their target market and mechanisms of support. In practice, however, this includes job clinics, legal and debt advice as well as work placements, into work support and training up to Level One (equivalent to GCSE grades D-G). The outcomes of ESF projects are geared towards progression into employment, self-employment and/or further training.</p>
3.5	At the 19 June 2015 meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, Members agreed to provide match funding for six organisations delivering ESF projects and one non-ESF education and training programme (see table in 3.7). At that meeting, members also agreed in principle support for these projects in years 2 and 3, subject to available resources and satisfactory performance.
3.6	In addition to providing match funding for the ESF activity, the Council has included within our funding agreements with relevant projects a condition requiring organisations to



provide a referral/brokerage system to help contractors to meet their social clause obligations under our contracts. This has improved communications between contractors and training providers. Corporate HR has also worked closely with the organisations to facilitate work placements and requests to participate in pre-recruitment programmes for business clerks and providing opportunities at the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall. Corporate HR have also worked with Economic Development to provide information sessions, facilitate placement opportunities and provide site visits to Council facilities.

3.7

An overview of Year One costs and targets is set out below:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Total Project Costs Year One (as per letter of offer)</b>	<b>ESF/DEL/Other Match Funding</b>	<b>BCC Match Funding</b>	<b>Target Participant Numbers (Year 1)</b>	<b>Target into employment (Year 1)</b>
LEMIS Partnership	£2,684,736	£2,604,736	£80,000	2,000	400
Springboard	£251,639	£216,639	£35,000	131	30
Shankill Women's Centre	£237,570	£212,570	£25,000	150	30
Women's TEC	£220,572	£185,572	£35,000	140	8
Workforce	£185,463	£160,463	£25,000	105	16
Women in Business	£112,500	£97,500	£15,000	200	12
Lenadoon (Non-ESF)	£62,510	£37,510 (Non-ESF)	£25,000	250	25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£3,754,990</b>	<b>£3,514,990</b>	<b>£240,000</b>	<b>2,976</b>	<b>521</b>

A full breakdown of the organisations' progress and spend can be found in Appendix 1.

3.8

By match-funding these projects, the Council is helping to support a projected 521 residents into employment, 54 into self-employment, 235 into Further Education and supporting the achievement of 1476 qualifications.

3.9

Progress on the projects has varied, with some forecast to exceed their targets for participants entering employment and further education. Other projects, however, are unlikely to meet their targets, or may be underspent by the end of Year One, as a result of a number of challenges affecting delivery. Many of these were beyond the control of the project promoters. They include:

- Delays to the commencement of projects due to inability of project promoters to tie down match funding required.
- Delays in production of Letters of Offer and operational guidelines by DEL meaning

	<p>that projects were unable to recruit staff and mobilise for delivery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of a new referral system from Jobs and Benefits offices to ESF projects which took some time to resolve, impacting on the volume of clients.</li> </ul>
3.10	<p>One of the key outcomes for ESF is progression to Further Education (FE) training, whose traditional intake period for new students is September. Delays to the ESF projects have impacted on delivery of this target, as some participants have missed the intake deadline.</p>
3.11	<p>The projects are also restricted by DEL to providing Level 1 qualifications, which do not always meet client needs and are not sufficient in many cases for gaining employment. Both the Council and the project promoters are continuing to raise this issue with DEL.</p>
3.12	<p>The ESF Projects are currently awaiting confirmation from DEL of their funding for Year Two of their projects. Once DEL provide this detail, the projects also need to confirm if they have the necessary match funding in place. If projects do not secure all of the match funding needed they may have to scale back activity or, in the worst case scenario, they may not proceed at all. This may mean that the council allocation is not fully utilised.</p>
3.13	<p>While the Council is now committed to the ESF projects, it is still endeavouring to look at opportunities to secure added value from our investment, for example, by building upon the current mechanism in place for social clause referrals. If the Council agrees to the match funding amounts for the coming financial year, it is proposed that we should work across the projects to encourage greater collaboration and to share relevant information, for example, on emerging Council opportunities or on other development activity in the planning pipeline. Likewise, the economic intelligence information that we gather as part of the Belfast Agenda development and through our membership of the UU Economic Policy Centre should be shared with partners to identify opportunities for greater forward planning, in line with emerging growth sectors and new developments and opportunities.</p>
3.14	<p><u>Lenadoon Community Forum</u></p> <p>This non-ESF project was awarded £25,000 towards their 'Training for Employment' project with additional match funding from Ulster Bank's Skills and Opportunities Fund for one year only. To continue this project Lenadoon have requested match funding of £25,000 from the Council towards a total project cost of £107,000. This project provides a range of training up to and including Levels 2 and 3.</p>

3.15	<p><b>Financial and Resource Implications</b></p> <p>In agreeing to provide Council match funding for Year Two, the following caveats should be satisfied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Performance in Year One should be deemed satisfactory to permit progression to Year Two, as determined by DEL.</li> <li>- Projects will be required to confirm to Council that all match funding has been secured and enter into a funding agreement with Council on this basis.</li> <li>- Council funding should be provided on a pro-rata basis, based on actual expenditure and achievement of targets, capped at the funding levels approved for each project. Variances to project activity may be permissible by prior agreement with the council but the funding available will not exceed the amount set out in 3.16 below.</li> </ul>																		
3.16	<p>The funding allocations recommended are as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="260 857 1042 1205"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>Organisation</b></th> <th><b>Proposed BCC Match Funding Year 2</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>LEMIS Partnership</td> <td>£80,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Springboard</td> <td>£35,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shankill Women's Centre</td> <td>£25,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Women's TEC</td> <td>£35,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Workforce</td> <td>£25,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Women in Business</td> <td>£15,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lenadoon (Non-ESF)</td> <td>£25,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL</b></td> <td><b>£240,000</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Proposed BCC Match Funding Year 2</b>	LEMIS Partnership	£80,000	Springboard	£35,000	Shankill Women's Centre	£25,000	Women's TEC	£35,000	Workforce	£25,000	Women in Business	£15,000	Lenadoon (Non-ESF)	£25,000	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£240,000</b>
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3.17	<p><u>Equality and Good relations implications</u></p> <p>None</p>																		
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>																		
	<b>Appendix 1: Progress to date - breakdown of ESF Projects</b>																		

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## Appendix 1: Overview of project progress

<b>LEMIS Partnership – LEMIS+</b>		
<b>Target Output</b>	<b>Current Status (end November 2015)</b>	<b>Projected Status 31 March 2016</b>
To engage with 2,000 participants per year from across Belfast City Council area.	1616	2324
All 2,000 participants per year to complete an induction, be assessed, provided with a personalised action plan which will be monitored on a monthly basis to assess progress against agreed targets.	1616	2324
All 2,000 participants per year to complete an induction, be assessed, provided with a personalised action plan which will be monitored on a monthly basis to assess progress against agreed targets.	1616	2324
400 participants to enter employment per year	398	598
21 participants to become self-employed per year	16	21
148 participants to move into further education per year	30	80
274 participants to move into training per year standard	395	591
250 participants to move into DEL training programmes per year	63	147
<b>Project Expenditure as per legal agreement - £2,684,736</b>	<b>£1,041,416</b>	<b>£2,222,933</b>

<b>Springboard - JobWorks</b>		
<b>Target Output</b>	<b>Current Status (end November 2015)</b>	<b>Projected Status 31 March 2016</b>
To engage with 131 young people aged 18-24 years, who are NEETS in disadvantaged areas in Greater Belfast; and equip and support them to successfully access employment, education or training.	73	131
85 participants to gain experience of the world of work (Enable & Empower pathway);	49	85
85 participants to gain Level 1 qualifications from OCNNI Certificate in Vocational Skills and/or gain Level 1 qualifications as determined by need;	22	65

85 participants to move into employment, education or training.	37	85
<b>Project Expenditure - £254,639.00</b>	<b>£101,550.47</b>	<b>£197,754.13</b>

<b>Shankill Women's Centre - Education Training &amp; Employability Project</b>		
<b>Target Output</b>	<b>Current Status (end November 2015)</b>	<b>Projected Status 31 March 2016</b>
To engage 150 participants aged 16+	174	250
30 people to take part and complete specific (below Level 1) personal development programmes	69	110
100 people to gain a recognised qualification (Level 1)	12	130
10 participants to enter further education	1	10
30 people to gain employment	17	30
45 people to enter further DEL training	9	30
<b>Project Expenditure - £237,600.00</b>	<b>£71,753.51</b>	<b>£200,864.69</b>

<b>Women's TEC - Supporting People – Empowering Communities (SPEC) Programme</b>		
<b>Target Output</b>	<b>Current Status (end November 2015)</b>	<b>Projected Status 31 March 2016</b>
140 participants in Year One	94	140
106 accredited qualifications attained	15	106
70 to complete non-accredited skills sampling	56	80
30 to complete Basic First Aid	15	30
8 participants moving in to employment/self-employment	0	8
28 participants moving in to further and higher education	0	28
49 participants moving in to further (DEL) training	0	50
55 participants moving in to other support including volunteering	0	55
<b>Project Expenditure - £220,572</b>	<b>£92,327</b>	<b>£220,572</b>

<b>Workforce Training Services - Path 2 Employment (P2E)</b>		
<b>Target Output</b>	<b>Current Status (end November 2015)</b>	<b>Projected Status 31 March 2016</b>
To recruit 105 economically inactive participants.	79 economically inactive participants have been recruited.	105

58 participants to receive a qualification with a minimum of 116 level one qualifications in year one.	35 of the 58 have received a qualification, with 66 level one qualifications achieved.	116
16 participants to enter employment upon leaving the programme.	21 participants have entered employment.	Target exceeded. Predict a minimum of 25 into employment by March 2016.
22 participants to enter FE training upon leaving the programme per year.	20 participants have entered FE or training.	22
To recruit a minimum of 12 businesses to the P2E programme per year.	6 businesses have been recruited to date	12
<b>Target Project Expenditure - £185,463.00</b>	<b>£110,235.65</b>	<b>£185,463.00</b>

<b>Women in Business – The Connect Programme</b>		
<b>Target Output</b>	<b>Current Status (end November 2015)</b>	<b>Projected Status 31 March 2016</b>
200 economically inactive and unemployed women to be recruited to the programme	186	220
12 participants to enter into employment in year one	0	12
33 participants into self-employment in year one	0	33
7 participants into further education in year one	0	7
7 participants into higher education in year one	0	7
15 participants to complete Connect into Enterprise training in year one	8	15
<b>Project Expenditure - £115,113</b>	<b>£73,304.81</b>	<b>£113,691.90</b>

<b>Lenandoon Community Forum – Training for Employment Project+</b>		
<b>Target Output</b>	<b>Current Status (end November 2015)</b>	<b>Projected Status 31 March 2016</b>
To recruit and engage a minimum of 250 participants per year	107	250

from the target groups identified.		
To equip 188 participants with an accredited qualification up to at least Level 1	47	188
To support at least 38 participants through a personal development and goal setting course with the provision of "Steps To Excellence" Course.	14	38
To support and enhance the progression of at least 25 participants into sustained employment.	0	25
<b>Project Expenditure - £115,113</b>	<b>£15,671.80</b>	<b>£63,000</b>





<b>Subject:</b>	BeITech Conference 2016
<b>Date:</b>	10 February 2016
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Colin McCabrey, Economic Development Manager

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to recommend a funding contribution of £10,000 towards the delivery of the Belfast Technology Conference 2016 (BeITech).
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consider and approve the request for sponsorship to support the BeITech conference to be held in Belfast on 21–22 April 2016.</li> </ul> <p>The requested contribution from Belfast City Council is £10,000 and would be met from the current Economic Development unit budgets.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Belfast City Council supported the inaugural Belfast Technology Conference event which took place in April 2014 and the second conference in April 2015. In both years, the sponsorship from the Council was £15,000.</p>
3.2	<p>The 2015 conference took place at Titanic Belfast and brought together tech and business leaders as well as politicians from Belfast, USA and Europe including Katy Atkinson, CoFounder Datasnap.io; Ian Loughran, COO Google Payments; John McDonnell,</p>

	CoFounder and CEO, Bitnet Technologies; Sean Owen, Big Data Expert, Cloudera and Christina Wallace, Director BridgeUp STEM, American Museum for Natural History, NYC.
3.3	The conference helped inform technology professionals and businesses of the emerging technologies and approaches that allow them to innovate and compete effectively at a global level. The conference also helped educate and inspire kids, parents and teachers about the potential of a career in Digital Technology, thereby building the NI digital skill base.
3.4	The 2016 conference will again be held at Titanic Belfast and will target technology professionals, tech business owners, potential business founders and post primary school children, teachers and university students.
3.5	Key themes for this year's conference include; Machine Learning, Internet of Things, Smart Environment and Software Engineering. Representatives from UC Berkeley, California and Uber have been invited as keynote speakers. To date 12 key speakers have been confirmed.
3.6	<p>BelTech 2016 will run over 2 days and will feature the following:</p> <p><u>21 April:</u> Day 1 will focus on technology professionals and businesses, including sessions titled Starting a Tech Business and the Internet of Things. The Lord Mayor of Belfast will be invited to open the event and a global expert will present the initial session.</p> <p><u>22 April:</u> Day 2 will focus on Post Primary school children (aged 11 -18) and teachers. It will feature a mix of engaging technology demos and conversational sessions including career pathways and opportunities.</p>
3.7	Kainos Education Awards in association with Go Berserk will take place in the afternoon of Day 2, which rewards school children who have created digital products/content through the Go Berserk initiative.
3.8	Throughout the 2 days an exhibition of leading NI and Global high tech organisations will run to allow attendees to get a more detailed understanding of the people, products and innovations featured in the Conference. Education providers such as Ulster University, Springvale and Workforce training will also be among the exhibitors to advise students.

3.9	<p>The overall aims and benefits of the Belfast Tech conference are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Help attendees to gain an awareness of emerging technologies and practices that will improve effectiveness and career development.</li> <li>- Provide opportunities to interact with highly successful tech/business leaders and role models.</li> <li>- Help attendees to build personal networks and enhance career prospects.</li> <li>- Contribute to building a vibrant Technology community and culture in Belfast and NI.</li> <li>- Inform students and young people about the types of technology careers available, and to present successful role models in these fields.</li> <li>- Contribute to building a highly skilled STEM skill base in NI.</li> <li>- Develop awareness among key international companies of Belfast's capability as a source of technology talent.</li> </ul>
3.10	<p>The finance requested from the Council is sponsorship of £10,000, a reduction of £5,000 from previous years. Sponsorship of the Belfast Technology Conference will provide Council the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Full page advertisement in conference brochure</li> <li>- Prime time positioning of Council logo on all materials (Inc website, press ads, marketing materials)</li> <li>- Inclusion in pre-event publicity and post event publicity</li> <li>- Relevant promotional material in delegate packs</li> <li>- Prime exhibition space and opportunity for additional displays throughout the venue.</li> <li>- Delegate passes. (Number to be agreed)</li> <li>- Opportunity for additional exhibition stand for Invest NI to promote innovation space across NI, in particular Forthriver Innovation Centre and North Foreshore.</li> <li>- Opportunity for additional exhibition stand for Enterprise NI to promote the "Go for it" business start programme.</li> <li>- Access to networking events for companies participating on BCC creative and digital industry programmes.</li> <li>- 10 post-primary schools expected to attend, representing 200 pupils from all areas of the City.</li> </ul>
3.11	<p>Members will be aware the Council receives a large number of requests for sponsorship or</p>

	<p>other forms of funding. At present, there is no objective framework for assessing the relevant merits of these requests and allocating a contribution that is commensurate with the return to the Council. Equally, there is no single sponsorship resource from which these requests are funded. Instead, the funding is found within existing departmental budgets. This process is currently under review. In interim, however, officers have considered this request and made the recommendation based on a range of considerations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Alignment with the emerging Place Positioning strategy, which presents the City as a dynamic, ambitious city that supports business innovation.</li> <li>- Alignment of activities towards the creative, digital and innovation aspirations of the City and strategic fit and timing to contribute to Council led programmes for the creative and digital sector.</li> <li>- Alignment of activities towards the pre-enterprise and business start agenda of the Council which transferred to Council from DETI under Local Government Reform.</li> <li>- Alignment of activities to promote key employability and skills aims.</li> </ul> <p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p>
3.12	The total sponsorship requested is £10,000.
3.13	The 2015 BelTech conference received £21k public sector sponsorship (£15k BCC) from a range of partners, £22k sponsorship from private sector partners and £26,500 from income and own resources. The 2016 conference forecasts £12,500 public sector sponsorship (£10k BCC request), £10,500 sponsorship from private sector and £31,950 from income and own resources, demonstrating the organiser's business plan to reduce dependency on public funds and become self financing in the longer term.
3.14	If approved, the budget of £10k is to be met from within existing Economic Development unit budgets.
3.15	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>No specific equality or good relations considerations.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
4.1	None



<b>Subject:</b>	Stall Increase for St George's Market
<b>Date:</b>	10 February 2016
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Clodagh Cassin, Markets Development Manager

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to propose an increase in the stall fee for St George's Market with effect from 1 April 2016, and to agree to further work to look at an appropriate fee structure, in order to support the future development of the market.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Note and agree the proposal to increase the stall fee at St George's Market, from £14, to £15 per stall per day, from 1 April 2016.</li> <li>– Note the proposal to review fees in the coming year and agree to receive a report at the end of 2016 with a proposal for stall fee levels with effect from 1 April 2017.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	At the 18 February 2014 meeting of the Development Committee, Members agreed to increase the stall fees at St George's Market by £1, to £14 per stall, with effect from 1 April 2014. There has not been an increase in stall fees since that date.
3.2	Members will be aware that the success of St George's Market has grown significantly in recent years. Much of this success is due to ongoing investment by the Council in the

	venue, working in close partnership with the traders.
3.3	At present, the market attracts between 5,000 and 7,000 visitors on each market day (Friday, Saturday and Sunday). It is now one of the most significant visitor attractions in the city. In the 2015 calendar year, almost 1 million people visited the market.
3.4	In addition to the weekend markets, St George's hosted the first ever Twilight Market in November 2015. This event was a huge success, attracting 17,000 visitors on the evening. Due to the popularity of the event, and in line with the Year of Food & Drink 2016, a number of Twilight Markets are scheduled to take place in 2016, each over a two night period in order to control pressures on the volume of people accessing the venue.
3.5	However, this success requires ongoing investment at the market in order to maintain standards. A review of the market in 2014 identified a number of infrastructure and staffing recommendations. Already £200,000 has been invested in infrastructure improvements in recent years. A staffing review is also under way at present, with a report due to be presented to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee in February. This will provide additional front-facing staff at the market to deal with trader and customer queries, and will ensure that senior managers are present at all times.
3.6	The current stall fee of £14 represents very good value for money for traders, as it also includes marketing and promotion of the Market. Members will be aware that there are now a number of markets across the city. All of these markets are charging more than the fee for St George's. For example, Folktown Markets charges £60 per stall per day, and Fine & Dandy Market charges £25 per stall per day.
3.7	Currently, in St George's Market, there are on average 180 stalls per day. This generates an average income of approximately £9,000 per weekend, and an annual income of approximately £432,000. This overall figure includes a trader's contribution to utilities, for example, electricity. An increase of £1 per stall per day will generate an income of approximately £457,000. This income is used purely for the operational running costs of the market.
3.8	It is proposed that the stall fee is increased to £15 per stall per day, with effect from 1 April 2016. It is also proposed that a review of stall fees, and other potential income sources, is undertaken with a view to identifying how the fees can support the investment required to

	<p>sustain the market into the future. This may require a differentiated approach e.g. for certain events or certain traders such as hot food traders who generate significant grease, steam and smoke which therefore requires ongoing investment in maintenance and equipment. A report will be brought back to the Committee at the end of 2016, to make recommendations for the relevant pricing structure from 1 April 2017.</p> <p><u>Resource Implications</u></p> <p>3.9 This increase of £1 per stall per day, from £14 to £15, will generate a slight annual increase of approximately £25,920. This will be used to offset the running costs of the market. St George's costs approximately £480,000 to run every year. Council picks up the shortfall, and also the cost of maintaining and repairing the building.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>3.10 No specific equality or good relations implications.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
4.1	None

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<b>Subject:</b>	<i>Taxis ranks – Donegall Square</i>
<b>Date:</b>	<i>10<sup>th</sup> February 2016</i>
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	<i>Donal Durkan</i>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<i>Anne Doherty Planning &amp; Transport Officer</i>

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"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To provide a proposed response to the issues raised by the Belfast Public Hire Taxi representatives at the City Growth and Regeneration Special meeting on the 3rd of February and in this context consider the Department of Regional Development’s proposals to increase the Belfast public hire taxi rank capacity in the Donegall Square area and provide an agreed Council response.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>In relation to the DRD proposal to increase the Belfast public hire taxi rank capacity in the Donegall Square area, it is recommended that elected members consider the response below and if appropriate agree the submission to DRD as the Council position. In summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• it is recommended that the Council would support the proposed removal of restrictions on taxi access to one lane on Donegall Square West closest to City Hall;</li> <li>• It is recommended that Council would support the amendment to the taxi rank on Donegall Square North to allow increased capacity for ranking; and</li> <li>• Given the discussion at the Special Committee the Council would suggest that DRD consider whether it would be appropriate to reallocate part/or all of the public hire taxi rank at Chichester Street for coach parking and allocate some of the coach parking space at Donegal Square West for a public hire taxi feeder rank, even on a trial basis. Any proposals would be subject to further Council consideration and consultation with relevant stakeholders.</li> </ul>
2.2	The Committee is requested to consider the invitation by the Belfast Public Hire Taxi representatives to organise a tour of taxi rank facilities in the city centre and for elected members to decide if they wish to avail of the offer on a future date to be agreed.

2.3	<p>It is also requested that elected members note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that the Council will contact DRD to consider proposals to improve signage information to the public hire taxi ranks in the city centre;</li> <li>• that public hire taxi access will be considered as part of ongoing implementation of the City Centre Regeneration and Investment Plan and experience of how the public taxis operate in other UK cities is investigated as part of this process; and</li> <li>• that information will be sought from the NI Assembly Committee for Regional Development on discussions relating to public taxi hire access in the city centre.</li> </ul>
3.0	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p>Representatives from the Belfast Public Hire Taxi association attended the City Growth and Regeneration Special meeting on the 3rd of February to highlight a number of issues relating to their operations in the city centre.</p> <p>The two main issues highlighted by the representatives related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• inadequate provision for public hire taxi operations in the city centre and in particular for ranking in the Donegall Square area; and</li> <li>• lack of directional signage to the public hire taxi rank locations.</li> </ul>
3.2	<p>Currently, there is an existing public hire taxi rank at Donegall Square North with additional space on Donegall Square East, however the representatives state that additional capacity is required in this area. There is also a public hire taxi rank nearby on Chichester Street outside Victoria Square but it is rarely used by drivers due to low footfall.</p>
3.3	<p><b>Taxis ranks – Donegall Square</b></p> <p>Previously, members considered a number of proposals to provide additional capacity by DRD at the September 2015 Committee, in particular a new feeder rank in Donegal Square West, using part of the area currently allocated for coach parking (pick up and drop off), which would be in direct line of sight of the Donegall Square North rank. However, at this time the Council did not support a new feeder rank in Donegall Square West as this would reduce the space available for coach parking in the city centre by 20 metres and requested further assessment for an alternative site.</p>
3.4	<p>Following the Council's response, DRD considered the following alternative arrangements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drivers would use the existing taxi rank in Donegall Square East acting as a single feeder rank to the Donegall Square North rank;</li> <li>• Access to Donegall Square West (the lane closest to City Hall only) would be amended to remove existing restrictions allowing taxi access; and</li> <li>• Amendments to the taxi rank in Donegall Square North by removing the existing island to permit a double line of queuing taxis therefore increasing ranking capacity. A map of the proposal is attached in Appendix 1.</li> </ul>
3.5	<p>Donegall Square West currently has restricted access for buses and service vehicles only and the removal of the restrictions on taxi access to one lane on Donegall Square West will allow public hire taxis waiting at the feeder rank on Donegall Square East quicker access to the rank at Donegall Square North. It is suggested that the Council would support the proposed removal of restrictions on taxi access to one lane on Donegall Square West closest to City Hall.</p>
3.6	<p>It is also suggested that Council support the amendment to the existing taxi rank on Donegall Square North to allow increased capacity for taxi ranking.</p>
3.7	<p>An alternative option was raised by DRD representatives at the Special meeting relating to</p>

	<p>options for additional capacity for ranking on Donegall Square West. There is an option to reallocate part/or all of the under used public hire taxi rank at Chichester Street for coach parking and allocate some space at Donegal Square West for a feeder rank as previously proposed by DRD in September 2015. This proposal could address the Council's previous concerns regarding loss of coach parking in the city centre which is considered an important tourism asset for the city. It is suggested that DRD consider this option in consultation with relevant stakeholders such as representatives from coach operators and the PSNI and it is bought back to Council committee for further consideration.</p>
3.8	<p><b>Signage</b> The taxi representatives suggested that signage was needed and this was largely supported by the Members. It is suggested that Council would liaise with DRD to consider proposals to improve signage to the public hire taxi ranks in the city centre.</p>
3.9	<p><b>City Centre Regeneration and Investment Plan</b> The need to consider public hire taxi access as part of the overall city centre access strategy was raised. It is suggested that public hire taxi access should be considered as part of ongoing implementation of the City Centre Regeneration and Investment Plan and experience of how the public hire taxis operate in other UK cities is investigated as part of this process. DRD representatives also stated that discussions are ongoing at the NI Assembly Committee for Regional Development relating to public hire taxi access in the city centre. It is suggested that information will be sought from the committee discussion. An update on the above issues will be bought back to committee at a later date for consideration.</p>
	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p>
3.10	<p><u>None</u></p>
	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p>
3.11	<p><u>None</u></p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	<b>Appendix 1 - DRD Transport NI proposals and layout drawings</b>

**transportni**

**Eastern Division**

Hydebank  
4 Hospital Road  
Belfast  
BT8 8JL

Mr Donal Durkan  
Director of Development  
Belfast City Council  
City Hall  
BELFAST  
BT1 6RB

Telephone: 0300 200 7893  
Fax: (028) 9025 3220  
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Email: traffic.eastern@drdni.gov.uk  
www.roadsni.gov.uk

Being Dealt With By: Roy Gordon  
Direct Line: 028 9025 3007

Your Ref: 208491  
Our Ref: MT Taxis-15

Date: 4 December 2015

Dear Mr Durkan

**TAXI RANKS - DONEGALL SQUARE, BELFAST**

Thank you for your letter of 22 September 2015 opposing a proposed taxi rank in Donegall Square West due to the effect it would have on the coach pick up/drop off bay.

We have been considering an alternative arrangement and the Belfast Public Hire Taxi Drivers have confirmed that they could operate with the existing taxi rank in Donegall Square East acting as a single feeder rank to the Donegall Square North rank. This would require the removal of the existing restriction on taxis using section of Donegall Square West closest to the City Hall.

We are also considering amending the existing taxi rank in Donegall Square North by removing the existing splitter island to permit a double line of queuing taxis.  
I have attached a drawing showing the proposal.

I would appreciate any comments Belfast City Council would have on these proposals.

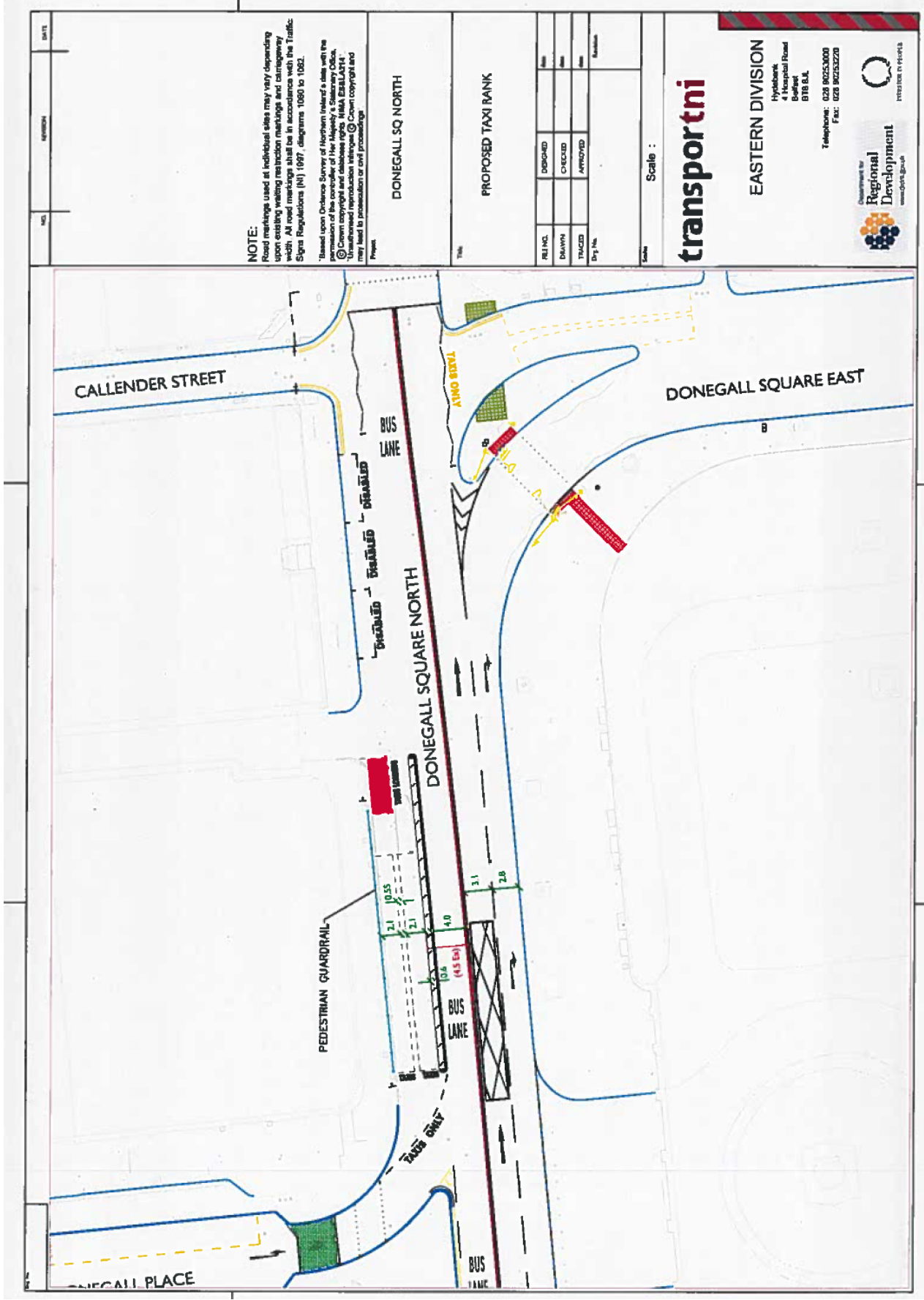
A reply by 8 January 2016 would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely



**R Gordon**  
**Network Traffic Management**

Encl.



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<b>Subject:</b>	International Relations Framework Update
<b>Date:</b>	10 February 2016
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Laura Leonard, European & International Relations Manager
<p><b>Is this report restricted?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To provide Members with an update on the delivery of the International Relations Framework (IRFW) 2013 – 2015 and to set out the proposed approach for developing a new framework, as part of a wider programme of City promotion.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- note the content of the report and;</li> <li>- agree to receive a future report setting out the proposed future international relations framework, based on evaluation work undertaken by staff and supported external advice</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	Members will be aware that one of the key commitments in the Council's Investment Programme 2012 - 2015 was that the Council would work with City partners to promote Belfast proactively on the international stage to attract trade and investment, increase visitor and student numbers and build the networks necessary to support growth.
3.2	In this context, an International Relations Framework and Action Plan were developed to shape how city stakeholders could work together to maximise the economic impact for Belfast.

3.3	<p>The existing framework includes a number of aims and supporting objectives. These relate to developing meaningful partnerships with key cities in order to support economic growth in Belfast and to improve the perception of the city as a dynamic business location. The role of the city council is one of an enabler and broker, and the framework identifies the importance of involving other partner organisations in order to make the relationships sustainable.</p>
3.4	<p>This framework and a 2 year plan were agreed by Members at the August 2013 Development Committee. Since that time Members have received updates outlining delivery of the action plan and highlighting additional areas of work that have arisen within the broad framework that was agreed.</p>
3.5	<p>The purpose of this report is to identify activities that took place under the International Relations Framework, highlight some of the outputs to date, set out some of the key challenges and issues for the future framework and consider proposed future activity in the context of a changing internal and external environment.</p>
3.6	<p>Throughout the delivery of the International Relations Framework, the Council has sought to add value to, endorse and maximise international connections that already existed within the Council itself or with city stakeholders. We have done this by working closely with partners such as the universities, Invest NI, Belfast Metropolitan College, the British Council and government departments and agencies.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Overview of activity to date</u></p> <p>The following actions have been delivered throughout the lifetime of the International Relations Framework 2013 – 2015:</p>
3.8	<p><u>USA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Participated in South by South West in 2013, 2014 and 2015.</li> <li>– Undertook business mission to Nashville in 2013.</li> <li>– Undertook exploration mission to Washington, New York, New Brunswick and Toronto in 2013.</li> <li>– Hosted Nashville during Belfast Music Week in 2013.</li> <li>– Undertook West Coast USA Tech Mission in 2013, 2014 and 2015.</li> <li>– Undertook 5 outward missions to develop the Boston Sister City Agreement.</li> <li>– Facilitated Belfast business mission to New York in 2014.</li> <li>– Hosted Massachusetts State Senate visit in 2014.</li> <li>– Hosted New York State Comptroller in 2014.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hosted Boston Police / Justice programme in 2014.</li> <li>- Secured first ever NCAA Friendship Four ice hockey tournament in 2015.</li> <li>- Facilitated Boston introductions for Belfast Youth Orchestra and the Outburst theatre company.</li> <li>- Hosted New York Legislators visit in 2015.</li> </ul>
3.9	<p><u>Europe</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Input into European policy and funding programme development for the period 2014 – 2020.</li> <li>- Undertook tourism showcase mission to Bilbao in 2013.</li> <li>- Signed Belfast Dublin Economic Corridor MOU Agreement in 2013.</li> <li>- Showcased Belfast at the Brussels annual Open Days in 2013, 2014 and 2015.</li> <li>- Showcased Belfast at the Eurocities AGM in 2013, 2014 and 2015.</li> <li>- Established and led the NI European Forum 2012 – 2015.</li> </ul>
3.10	<p><u>China</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supported Chinese New Year 2013, 2014, 2015 with city stakeholders.</li> <li>- Reviewed Belfast Sister City relationship with Hefei, attended Hefei Sister Cities Conference in 2013 and hosted 2 inward Hefei business, civic and arts missions to Belfast.</li> <li>- Hosted 15 civic visits for Chinese students in Belfast over 3 years.</li> <li>- Helped facilitate establishment of new Chinese Consulate Office opening in Belfast 2015 (Planning introductions, partner introductions and regular briefings).</li> <li>- Hosted 5 inward business and political missions from China over 3 years.</li> <li>- Supported local artists in Beijing through the Belfast Wave project exhibition 2013.</li> <li>- Signed Friendly Cooperation agreement with Shenyang in 2013, leading to the interest of OFMDFM to open a satellite office in the Province in 2016.</li> <li>- Undertaking city mission to Beijing and Shenyang in May 2016, in partnership with city stakeholders.</li> </ul>
3.11	<p><u>India</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Council exploratory visit to India in April 2013 in partnership with Invest NI and Tourism Ireland.</li> <li>- Secured and hosted the Global India Business Meeting in June 2013.</li> <li>- Delivered Belfast in India Week with 40 city events in June 2013.</li> <li>- Hosted 2 ministerial visits from India in 2013.</li> <li>- Facilitated Belfast Metropolitan College engagement in a British Council training for</li> </ul>

	<p>export project – UKIERI, supporting Belfast SME’s into the Indian market, 2014 – 2015.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Secure Challenge UK India project providing a platform to promote tourism, education and trade opportunities in India, September 2015 – March 2016.</li> </ul> <p>3.12 Some of the Key outcomes to date include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The Global India event, which was attended by 300 delegates, generated 18 investment leads (some of which are still under development) and provided opportunities for 47 local companies to pitch to key partners/targets.</li> <li>– Supported signature of link between NI Chamber of Commerce and Mumbai Chamber of Commerce as platform for future collaboration.</li> <li>– £90,000 secured from UK Challenge Fund (supported by UKTI) to undertake promotional events in India for creative industries and music development sectors.</li> <li>– Hosted the first annual Friendship Four Ice Hockey event, securing £275,000 of spend and significant positive media coverage for the city and event in the USA.</li> <li>– Provided political and civic support to facilitate development of local university and colleges work in China</li> <li>– Secured \$20,000 bursary for two Belfast schools through Boston contacts.</li> <li>– Secured EU funding for Waterfront Hall and Innovation Factory development.</li> <li>– Supported expert development opportunities for 60 local businesses to USA markets on West Coast (Tech Mission) and in Austin (through SXSW participation).</li> <li>– Brokered introductions to relevant partner institutions in USA, helping local business to develop new clients and joint ventures.</li> <li>– New clients and joint ventures secured through the Council’s brokerage of introductions of small businesses to US partner institutions.</li> </ul> <p><u>Interim Activities (2016/17)</u></p>
3.13	<p>While the details of the new International Relations Framework have not been finalised, there are a number of existing commitments already in place for the coming year. In endorsing these activities, Members have taken account of the fact that, in the absence of the agreed framework, the proposed activities contribute to a range of broader council initiatives. These include the Belfast Agenda, the Integrated Tourism Framework and the City Centre Regeneration &amp; Investment Strategy. Activities will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Council participation in Sister Cities Summit in Dublin in April 2016 (subject to committee approval), as well as hosting Nashville and Boston delegations in Belfast in advance of the Dublin event.</li> </ul>

- Lord Mayor visit to Boston in February 2016 to develop additional economic linkages, including planning for potential inward business mission at the end of 2016.
- Further development work on Youth Transformation Project between Boston and Belfast.
- Lord Mayor to undertake civic visit to Nashville in March 2016, including participation in Tourism Ireland promotional event.
- Attendance at South by Southwest music business event as part of business delegation with Invest NI.
- Continue to explore relevant EU funding opportunities for Belfast City Council, in line with corporate priorities.
- Civic visit to Shenyang alongside academic and business partners in May 2016.

Future Framework

3.14 Members will acknowledge that, since the development of the International Relations Framework in 2013, there are now a number of strategic discussions with which any future international relations framework should align. These include the Belfast Agenda, City Centre Regeneration, and Investment Strategy and Place Positioning.

3.15 In addition to developments within the council, our key partners have also been working on a number of frameworks of which we should be cognisant. These include:

- NI Executive International Relations Strategy 2014 – 2020
- NI Executive China Strategy 2015 – 2020
- Invest NI’s Corporate Plan 2016 – 2020
- DETI’s Export Matters Strategy 2016 – 2020
- Emerging new Programme for Government
- Revised Northern Ireland Economic Strategy

3.16 As such, when developing a new International Relations Framework, consideration must be given to the changing context for intervention. Likewise, greater focus will be placed on the added value of investment along with consideration of resources and the ability to secure partner buy-in.

3.17 In order to develop the new framework, it is proposed that officers undertake some early engagement with partner organisations to establish the added value that the Council can bring. This will be supported by independent advisory support to look at how this issue is managed in other areas and to give an objective view of the best way forward for the council

	and the city, including consideration of how measureable outcomes can be established.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.18	A maximum of £10,000 (from within the agreed budget) will be used to undertake the international relations review work.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u>
3.19	Officers will work with the Equality Officer to determine how equality and good relations should be considered in the development of the future Framework.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None



<b>Subject:</b>	Draft City Events Unit Programme of Events 2016/17 & strategic review of events and festivals
<b>Date:</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> February 2016
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Gerry Copeland, City Events Manager

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval for the Programme of events that will be delivered and supported by the Council's City Events Unit in 2016/17 and to make Members aware of the range of events that will take place in 2016/17.
1.2	The report also provides an update for Members on the strategic review of City events and festivals. It is hoped that, through engagement and agreement with strategic stakeholders, this process will result in future events and festivals across the city reflecting the emerging Place Positioning strategy and city narrative; and in doing so contribute to the outcomes of the Belfast Agenda.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- approve the draft City Events Unit Programme of Events for 2016/17 (<b>Appendix 1</b>) and;</li> <li>- note the current strategic review of the City's events and festivals and the recommended next steps.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<b>2016/17 EVENTS &amp; FESTIVALS PROGRAMME</b>
3.1	Over the last decade the Council's City Events Unit has delivered a series of high profile public events that are free to access by both citizens and visitors to the city. In 2015/16 it

	is estimated that these events generated £4,889,802 additional economic activity and 321,000 visitors attended the events programme (these figures exclude the 2015 Tall Ships festival, which generated £17million and attracted an audience of 520,000).
3.2	The draft programme of events being delivered or supported by our City Events Unit in 2016/17 is outlined in <b>Appendix 1</b> and includes a range of events throughout the year: beginning with the ‘Spring into Easter’ event, through to the Christmas Lights Switch-on in November and finishing with the City’s St Patrick’s Day event in 2017.
3.3	The programme also includes a number of events that were previously approved by Council; including the 2016 All-Ireland Irish Dancing Championship at the Belfast Waterfront (agreed by Council in October 2010 at a cost of £250,000) and the Royal Scottish Pipe Bands Association’s UK National Piping Championships at Stormont Estate (agreed by Council in January 2015 at a cost of £180,000).
3.4	The draft programme of events should generate millions of pounds of additional revenue for the City via participant and attendee expenditure. In order to facilitate effective delivery, however, preparation must begin a number of months in advance. Therefore Committee is being asked to approve the draft programme for 2016/17 and give permission to officers to begin event planning.
3.5	The estimated cost of the draft programme is £1,403,250 and this amount is contained within existing Departmental revenue estimates that were agreed at the City Growth & Regeneration Committee on 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2016 and subsequently at Strategic Policy & Resources Committee on 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2016.
3.6	Finally, Members should also note that the Council will continue to explore opportunities for other high-profile events that align with the emerging Place Positioning strategy and that discussions are ongoing in relation to the potential for ‘MTV Crashes Belfast’ to be hosted in the city in September 2016. If the Committee is minded to proceed with this a decision will be required in March.
	<b>STRATEGIC REVIEW OF EVENTS &amp; FESTIVALS</b>
3.7	In parallel with the proposed City Events Unit programme of events for 2016/17 Members will also be aware that a strategic review of events and festivals in the City is underway.
3.8	The review will consider the wide range of events, festivals and related activities that are delivered and supported by various departments across Council. As well as the City Events Unit programme this will also include for example, events in our parks, events funded as part of health development work and events promoting international relations and tourism.
3.9	The purpose of the strategic review is to define and agree criteria, and a process, for supporting events and festivals; including a mechanism to allow the Council to consider requests for support or resources from external stakeholders in order that they align with

	<p>the emerging Place Positioning strategy and Belfast Agenda. The review will also take account of relevant economic, tourism and cultural strategies such as the Belfast Integrated Tourism Strategy (2015-2020). It will therefore shape the nature and types of events that the Council delivers or promotes; ensuring they reflect our city narrative, animate the city and generate economic development.</p>
3.10	<p>Once an agreed Council position has been established engagement with a wide range of stakeholders will be undertaken in order to encourage consistency of approach and delivery across the city.</p>
3.11	<p>Work is underway to map internal Council activity and an officer workshop is planned for February. The next step in this process therefore will be to engage with elected members after Easter and then it is intended that early recommendations will be brought to Committee by the summer; with a view to implementation from 2017 onwards.</p>
	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p>
3.12	<p>Subject to agreement of the rate, resources for both the draft programme of events and strategic review will be met through existing revenue estimates.</p>
	<p><u>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications</u></p>
3.13	<p>None - the proposed programme of events are open to all and as such have the potential to promote good relations &amp; equality by bringing together people from a wide range of backgrounds. Advice will be sought from the Council's Equality Unit throughout the strategic review.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
4.1	<b>Appendix 1 – City Events Unit: Events Programme 16/17</b>

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## Appendix 1

### **CITY EVENTS UNIT PROGRAMME 16/17 (DRAFT)**

Event	Venue	Proposed Date(s)	Target no of attendees*	Estimated Budget
Spring into Easter	Belfast City Hall	Sat 26 - Tues 29 March	15,000	£115,000
Circuit of Ireland Rally	City Centre	Fri 8 - Sat 9 April	70,000	£25,000
Belfast City Marathon	Citywide	Mon 2 May	60,000	£26,000
Belfast Titanic Maritime Festival	Queens Quay Abercorn Basin Titanic Slipways	Sat 28 - Mon 30 May	50,000	£180,000
Proms <i>(delivered by the BBC)</i>	Titanic Slipways	Sat 10 September	11,000	£95,000
Autumn Fair	Botanic Gardens	Sat 17- Sun 18 September	12,000	£40,000
Halloween	Titanic Slipways	Sun 30 or Mon 31 October	20,000	£120,000
Christmas Lights Switch-On	City Hall	Sat 19 November	10,500	£88,000
St Patrick's Day	City Hall & Custom House Sq	Fri 17 March 2017	15,000	£140,000
Big Screen Animation	City Hall	n/a	TBC	£27,250
Support for Sport Grants Scheme	n/a	n/a	40,000	£97,000
Sail Training	n/a	n/a	TBC	£20,000
<b>TOTAL COST:</b>	<b>£973,250</b>			

### **CITY EVENTS UNIT PROGRAMME 16/17 (EVENTS PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY COUNCIL)**

Event	Venue	Proposed Date(s)	Target no of attendees*	Estimated Budget
UK National Pipe Band Championships	Stormont Estate	Sat 11 June	12,000	£180,000
All Ireland Irish Dancing Championships	Belfast Waterfront	Fri 28 Oct – Sun 6 Nov	2,500	£250,000
<b>TOTAL COST:</b>	<b>£430,000</b>			

**TOTAL COST: £1,403,250**

\* Members should note that target attendance figures are estimated and are subject to a number of extraneous factors; furthermore that the 'success' of an event should not be measured by attendance alone.

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<b>Subject:</b>	China Outward Visit May 2016
<b>Date:</b>	10 February 2016
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Laura Leonard, European & International Relations Manager

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members on the proposed visit to Shenyang, China in May 2016 and to request approval for additional support staff, given the expanded visit programme.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Note the update on the proposed visit to Shenyang in May 2016.</li> <li>- Approve the participation of an additional member of staff to support the visit with costs to be met from the International Relations budget.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> Members will be aware of their decision at the SP&R Committee on 24 April 2015 to support an outward visit to China in order to identify opportunities for collaborative activity between the cities of Belfast and Shenyang. This was to be the first civic visit to Shenyang since the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Belfast and Shenyang in July 2013.
3.2	At this time, Members agreed that the Lord Mayor, the Chair and Deputy Chair of the City

	Growth and Regeneration Committee (or their nominees) and one Officer would participate in the visit.
3.3	There has been significant momentum in recent months and city partners have confirmed their willingness to engage in the visit. This means that, in addition to the civic request, Invest NI will lead a multi-sector trade mission to Shenyang for the first time. There will also be representation from Belfast Metropolitan College, Queen’s University and Northern Ireland Connections. Given the level of commitment from city partners, the Chief Executive will also take part in the city council delegation. Council staff are working with colleagues in the NI Bureau in Beijing as well as with contacts in the Shenyang Municipality to finalise details of the visit programme.
3.4	Members are therefore asked to agree to the inclusion of an additional Officer and a translator from the Confucius Centre at Ulster University to accompany the delegation to ensure appropriate support for the programming and logistics. Members should note that the Confucius Centre has offered in-kind support by covering the costs of providing the translator.
3.5	<u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u> The additional cost of support staff will be met within the International Relations budget.
3.6	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> There are no equality or good relations implications attached to this report.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents attached</b>
4.1	None



<b>Subject:</b>	Belfast At MIPIM 2016 - Update Report
<b>Date:</b>	10 February 2016
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Chris McCracken, 3323

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To update Committee on the preparations for MIPIM international property showcase, taking place in France from 15 -18 March 2016.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Note the report and agree the preparations underway and the delegation from Belfast private sector and BCC.</li> <li>- Note the local event on Investment in Belfast will be on 25 February (venue tbc)</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<b>Background</b>
3.1	On 18 Sept SP&R agreed Council should lead a city partnership delegation to MIPIM in March 2016. A budget of £60,000 was approved on the understanding there would be equivalent match funding from the private sector.
3.2	MIPIM attracts 20,000 delegates, including 4,500 investors and 1,500 developers. The purpose of the Belfast delegation is to attract investors in the real estate sector. We will achieve this by positioning the City alongside international counterparts; and by presenting investment and development opportunities in a compelling and deliverable manner.

	Appendix 1 shows the Belfast stand and key partners who with the Council will be representing the City.
3.3	In addition, MIPIM provides a platform to learn about our peer cities and understand the new methods currently being progressed to ensure cities are competitive.
3.4	A successful event to promote Belfast at MIPIM was held at Victoria Square on 27 November which was followed up with a number of one to one approaches. We now have 18 private sector partners who have agreed to join the City delegation.
3.5	In addition the MIPIM campaign has the support of Ulster University, Queens University, Invest NI, NI Screen and the BBC in helping to promote Belfast as a compelling location for investment and growth.
3.6	The 18 partners include: A&L Goodbody; Belfast Harbour; Bywater Properties; Carillion; CBRE; Deloitte; Kilmona Holdings; Lacuna Developments; Lagans; LSH; McAleer & Rushe; McLaughlin & Harvey; Lotus Group; 16 South; Stelify Media; Titanic Quarter; Todds; Bank of Ireland and Tughans.
3.7	Additional contributions in excess of £125,000 have been secured, which exceeds the minimum match funding target agreed with SP&R. This demonstrates the seed corn investment placed by the City Council in taking the stand has brought together a strong private sector lead showcase for our City.
3.8	The Belfast narrative for the event will be 'City of Talent'. This includes talent within specific sectors and in our educational achievement, but also includes a wider narrative of tenacity, innovation and creativity. The theme for the event will be Let's talk Belfast; Talent; Tax; Technology with the aim to ensure the key investment messages for Belfast are socialised and embedded in both the real estate and wider business sectors. In addition a targeted media campaign accompanies the event with coverage secured in the Financial Times (27 <sup>th</sup> January 2016) as well as trade journals and national press.
3.9	The importance of this campaign is to ensure the city is considered alongside its peers for FDI investment and that the unique selling points of Belfast are clearly articulated.
3.10	MC2, a specialist communications management company, are supporting delivery, along with Belfast based Laynon Communications and Ardmore. The event programme is

currently being finalised and a working draft it attached at appendix 2. However, key aspects of the programme include:

- Three themed days to cover:
  - i) *Creative industries; to highlight the thriving Creative Sector in Belfast* – UU will be presenting on stand on its investment into the city and its international standout of creative industries including digital animation.
  - ii) *Waterfront cities; Belfast a global port and waterfront city*. Presentations on waterfront developments including Titanic Quarter and the Belfast Waterfront.
  - iii) *Financial technology and professional services* - Presentations on stand to include Prof M Price from CSIT at QUB, Deloitte Digital and John Healy from Allstate on his Belfast experience of both Citibank and Allstate, as a compelling location for financial business due to talent base and productivity.
- Showcasing investment opportunities including strategic projects like NE Quarter, Transport Hub, Titanic Quarter, City Quays, Linen Quarter and the Cultural Hub. We also will major on the intention to reduce corporation tax from 20% to 12.5% in 2018 and what have a comparable corporation tax on the island of Ireland could provide.
- Events with other European partner cities including a specific Waterfront Cities event with Liverpool, Rotterdam, Lisburn, Oslo and Hamburg
- In addition we are expecting a significant announcement on the success of Belfast at an attractive business location for FDI.

3.11 Bringing together a Belfast business delegation of over 40 professionals across the business and public sector base, with a common aim of ensuring we are creating a legacy for our young and talented population, is a key driver for BCC in ensuring we can all meet the aims and ambitions of the Belfast Agenda.

3.12 Given the size of the Belfast delegation, the intensive programme and number of speaking engagements, the Chair and Deputy Chair of City Growth and Regeneration Committee (or their nominees), BCC Chief Executive, Directors of Development and Property and Projects, will also be required to attend to participate in the majority of the week's events programme. Two support staff will also be required to attend. Costs will be taken from the overall MIPIM budget, which has been heavily supported by the private sector.

3.13 It is proposed that this will not be a one off event but that 2016 will create a long lasting legacy of true partnership. The private sector's commitment to come together was

	<p>demonstrated in the investment raised, amounting to double the Council's contribution, and in its determination to ensure Belfast stands shoulder to shoulder with its European peers.</p>
3.14	<p>An event to promote this new partnership and the investment in Belfast will be held from 12-2pm on 25 February (venue tbc). All members of the committee are invited to attend, with further details to follow.</p>
3.15	<p><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>A £60,000 contribution from the existing City Centre budget was authorised by SP&amp;R in Sept 2015. Due to financial contributions from partners, the initiative has met the minimum threshold required. There are no further resource implications.</p>
3.16	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	<p><b>Appendix 1</b> – Belfast Stand at MIPIM</p> <p><b>Appendix 2</b> – Draft Event Programme (to follow)</p>

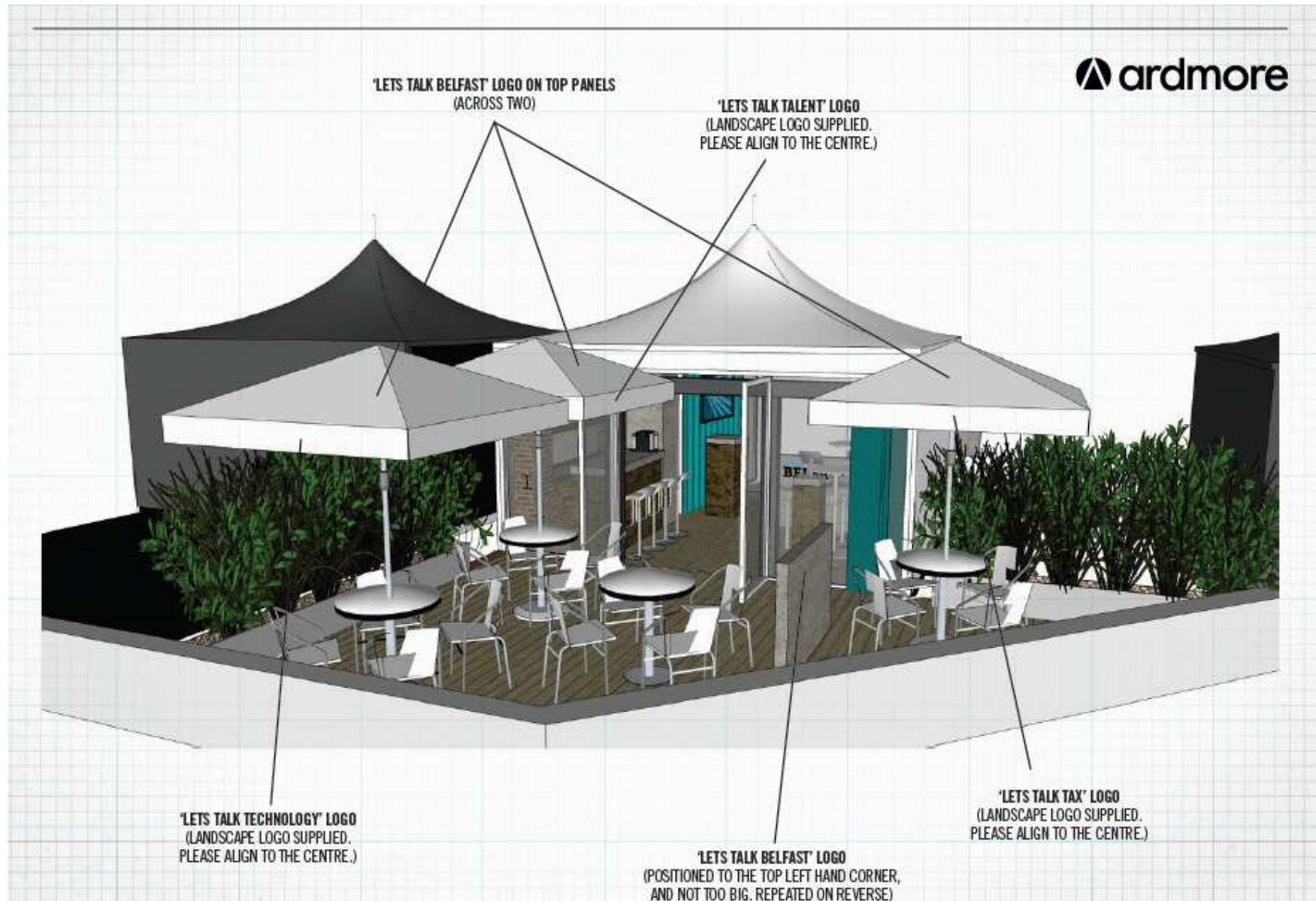


*Let's Talk*  
**BELFAST**

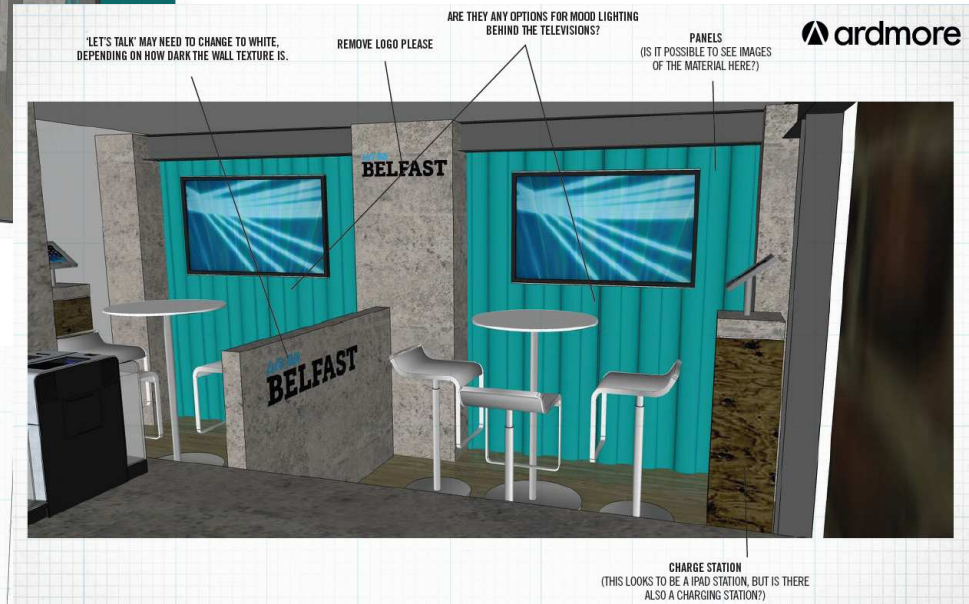
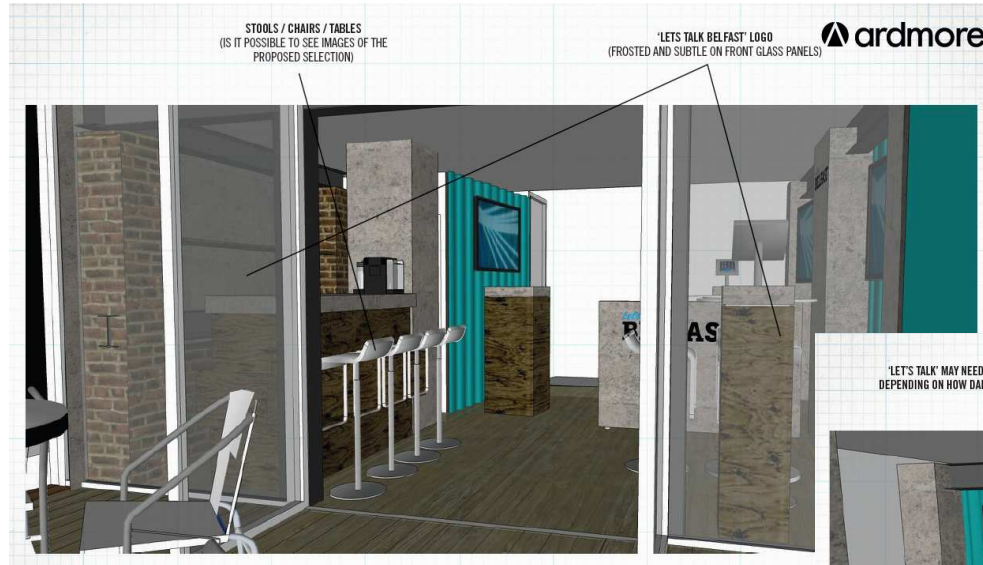


# MIPIM Stand

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# MIPIM Stand





# MIPIM Stand

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# BELFAST AT MIPIM - SCHEDULE

Croisette 19, Croisette Village



DAY	9:30AM	10:00AM	10:30AM	11:30AM	12:30PM	3:00PM	4:00PM	5:00PM	7:30PM	9:30PM
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>BREAKFAST</b>				<b>CX INVESTOR LUNCH</b>	<b>REAL ESTATE</b>			<b>CX BELFAST DELEGATION DINNER</b>	
<i>Creative Industries</i>	<b>Networking at the Belfast Stand</b>	"Lets Talk Belfast - Talent, Tax and Technology"	Informal Belfast Delegation Networking	<b>Networking at the Belfast Stand</b>	<b>Venue:</b> Les Apprentis (guest chef, Niall McKenna) <b>Invitation Only</b>	Real Estate Project Focus	<b>Networking at the Belfast Stand</b>	Informal Belfast Delegation Networking	<b>Venue:</b> Les Apprentis (guest chef, Niall McKenna)	
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>BREAKFAST</b>	<b>CORPORATION TAX PANEL</b>	<b>REAL ESTATE</b>	<b>INVESTOR LUNCH</b>	<b>REAL ESTATE</b>	<b>WATERFRONT CITIES EVENT</b>		<b>CX BELFAST DELEGATION DINNER</b>		
<i>Waterfront Cities</i>	CBRE Market Update	"The 12.5% Club"	Real Estate Project Focus	<b>Venue:</b> L'Annex Private Beach and Restaurant <b>Invitation Only</b>	Real Estate Project Focus	<b>Venue:</b> Blue Room, Palais <b>Panel:</b> Suzanne Wylie (BCC) with Chief execs of Liverpool, Hamburg, Lisbon, Oslo & Rotterdam	Informal Belfast Delegation Networking	<b>Venue:</b> Grill & Wine		
<b>THURSDAY</b>		<b>BREAKFAST</b>	<b>REAL ESTATE</b>	<b>CX INVESTOR LUNCH</b>	<b>REAL ESTATE</b>				<b>ST PATRICK'S DAY EVENT</b>	
<i>Fintech &amp; the Professional Services</i>	<b>Networking at the Belfast Stand</b>	Wake up & smell the coffee	Real Estate Project Focus	<b>Venue:</b> La Gold Plage <b>Invitation Only</b>	Real Estate Project Focus Belfast City Council Round Up	<b>Networking at the Belfast Stand</b>	Informal Belfast Delegation Networking		<b>Venue:</b> "Belfast Bar" at Ma Nolans	

The official 2016 Belfast Bar will be at Ma Nolan's on 6 Rue Buttura throughout MIPIM, and is open to all guests.

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