



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

6th May, 2015

MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Wednesday, 13th May, 2015 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

2. **Presentation**

- (a) DSD - Capital Funding Projects (2015-16) (Pages 1 - 2)

3. **Belfast Agenda**

Business and Economy

- (a) Business Improvement Districts (BIDS) (Pages 3 - 14)

Regeneration

- (b) City Centre Regeneration Strategy - Framework for Car Parking (Pages 15 - 20)

4. **Tourism & Events**

- (a) Events and Festivals Update 2015-16 (Pages 21 - 30)
- (b) Sister Cities Management (Pages 31 - 34)
- (c) Sports Personality of the Year - Update (Pages 35 - 38)

5. **Operational Issues**

- (a) Market Licence Request - Babyday (Pages 39 - 42)



Subject:	Presentation by DSD on Capital Projects for 2015/16
Date:	13th May 2015
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects
Contact Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Programme Manager

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	Members agreed at the last meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee on 22 April that the Department for Social Development be invited into the next meeting to update the Committee on their proposed capital projects for 2015/2016.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Members are asked to note this report and that an update presentation by DSD will be given at the Committee.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	Members will be aware that regeneration powers are due to be transferred to the Council in April 2016. However in the interim the DSD are progressing a number of capital projects in 15/16 across the city and Members have requested an update from DSD on the status of these and any potential future implications for the Council.
3.2	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> DSD projects for 2015/16 have been agreed by DSD
3.3	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> All capital projects are screened as part of the stage approval process
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
4.1	None

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Subject:	Business Improvement Districts - Update
Date:	13 May 2015
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Lisa Toland, Head of Economic Initiatives and International Development, ext 3427

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members on progress on the BIDs (Business Improvement Districts) process and to highlight key issues that the Council may need to consider in readiness for a potential positive BID ballot.
1.2	Members will be aware that DSD invited applications from areas interested in taking forward development work on a BID. They appointed a consultancy team – Mosaic Partnership and Place Solutions – to deliver a “BIDs Academy” guiding successful applicants through the development process required to bring a BID to the stage of running a ballot.
1.3	Three areas in Belfast were successful in their application to DSD. These were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Belfast City Centre (planned October ballot) - Cathedral Quarter (no firm date for ballot but possibly early 2016) - Lisburn Road.

<p>1.4</p> <p>1.5</p>	<p>Due to unforeseen circumstances, it is likely that the Lisburn Road BID may not be taken forward, although this has not yet been officially confirmed.</p> <p>The Ballymena BID was approved on 31 March with a 41% turnout and an 80% yes vote.</p>
<p>2.0</p>	<p>Recommendations</p>
<p>2.1</p>	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Note the updated position on Belfast BIDs – Agree to receive an update on BIDs from Mosaic Partnership and Place Solutions, the consultancy team appointed by DSD to carry out the BIDs academy, along with the BIDs contacts in Cathedral Quarter and City Centre. Following this meeting, a more detailed report – including resource implications – will be brought back to a future committee meeting.
<p>3.0</p>	<p>Key issues</p>
<p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p>	<p>Belfast City Centre Management made an application for support to the Development Committee in early 2014 to secure the resources necessary to allow them to appoint a full-time member of staff to work on the BID. This resource will not be in place until October 2015 – the expected timescale for the BCCM ballot.</p> <p>BCCM have been carrying out a range of engagements with businesses in the BID area and have now established a BID Team who will be responsible for taking the BID to ballot stage. Details of team representatives are outlined in Appendix 1.</p> <p>They have recently completed a survey of businesses in the area to identify issues that they wish the BID to address. 125 survey responses were received – a response rate of 14%. The priority issues identified are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Marketing and promotion – Safety and security – Environment (removal of litter, trade waste etc.).

<p>3.4</p>	<p>The BCCM BID area contains just in excess of 1,000 properties, all of which have now been verified by BCCM (Appendix 2). While the actual levy has not yet been finalised, BCCM have been advising that it might average an additional £800 per property – but larger properties will obviously pay substantially more. This figure is based on a levy set at 1.5% of rateable value. This would generate a budget of around £1million per year from the levy.</p>
<p>3.5</p>	<p>Cathedral Quarter Trust is managing the BID process for the Cathedral Quarter area. They also asked the Development Committee for funding towards a development officer but this request was not approved. Tourism NI has been providing some support resources both in cash and in terms of staff time.</p>
<p>3.6</p>	<p>The BID for the Cathedral Quarter area is likely to focus on marketing and promotional activity, reflecting the dominance of the hospitality sector in the area. The first meeting of the BID team is imminent, and while the final composition of the group has not yet been established, it is likely to involve a mix of hospitality and professional services organisations based in the area.</p>
<p>3.7</p>	<p>The Cathedral Quarter Trust has not yet provided a timeframe for the BID ballot in the area although they have been looking at early 2016 as a possible date. There are around 500 properties in what might be considered the “core” Cathedral Quarter bid area, although they are also looking at possibly widening the boundary to take in a wider catchment area encompassing a total of around 800 properties (Appendix 3).</p>
<p>3.8</p>	<p>The Lisburn Road has made limited progress in developing the BID for the area, largely down to a lack of dedicated resource. While they have not formally withdrawn from the process, it is unlikely that it will go ahead within the coming year at least.</p>
<p>3.9</p>	<p>Should the BIDS progress, there are a number of operational issues for the council to discuss and consider. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A baseline service agreement needs to be established between Councils and the BIDS before a BIDS business plan can be created and future performance measured. Given that much of the funding to BCCM is currently discretionary and is not guaranteed year on year, consideration will need to be given to expectations of businesses in that area. Equally, for Cathedral Quarter, there is currently no

core funding for the managing organisation (i.e. Cathedral Quarter Trust) but, clearly, the council still provides a significant range of services in the area

- The legislation suggests that the council is responsible for collecting the BID levy. Consideration will need to be given to how this can be achieved, given that the other rates income is collected by LPS (Land and Property Services)
- Need to think about communication to businesses that clearly distinguishes between rates payments and BIDS payments. In Ballymena, LPS will issue a first letter detailing the separate BID Levy bill and Mid and East Antrim Council have outsourced the levy invoicing and collection to a third party
- Need to consider potential reputational risk to the council of – on one hand – taking on a new, more supportive role to businesses through the transfer of functions, while on the other hand possibly having to pursue enforcement action in the case of non-payment of BIDS levy payments
- Belfast City Council owns three properties within the Belfast One BID area (City Hall, Seymour House and Digital Services building). This means that the council will be liable for payment of the relevant levy on these three properties
- Need to consider potential implications for future resourcing of BCCM and CQT. Currently, BCCM receives £190,000 from the council while CQT receives no core funding. BCCM also receives funding of £176,000 from DSD. From 1 April 2016, this function will transfer to Belfast City Council. CQT is currently core funded by DSD and, as with BCCM, this function will transfer to Belfast City Council from April. However the resources of the organisation are minimal and there is likely to be a need for additional capacity, should the ballot be successful. At present, the DSD core funding to CQT is around £65,000 per year
- BCCM is currently in the process of considering how the organisation should be structured in the future, in the case of a successful BID. This may have funding implications for the council, depending on the Board's decision
- Given that both BIDs are likely to focus heavily on the need for additional marketing and promotional activities, it will be important for the council to consider what resources it currently provides for this activity – principally channelled through Visit Belfast at present. However, given that this organisation is being asked to align to the tourism strategy approach of increasing overnight stays, it is likely that their marketing activity may change to reflect this. If this is the case, consideration may be given to how more local marketing campaigns are organised and resourced,

	<p>looking at opportunities for synergy and cost reduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The council may be asked to facilitate the ballot process for the BIDs. This would require significant involvement from Democratic Services and officers from other parts of the council. <p><u>Financial and resource implications</u></p> <p>Resource implications are unknown at this stage.</p> <p><u>Equality or good relations implications</u></p> <p>No perceived equality or good relations issues.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1: Details of Belfast One BID team</p> <p>Appendix 2: Belfast One BID area boundary</p> <p>Appendix 3: Cathedral Quarter BID boundary</p>

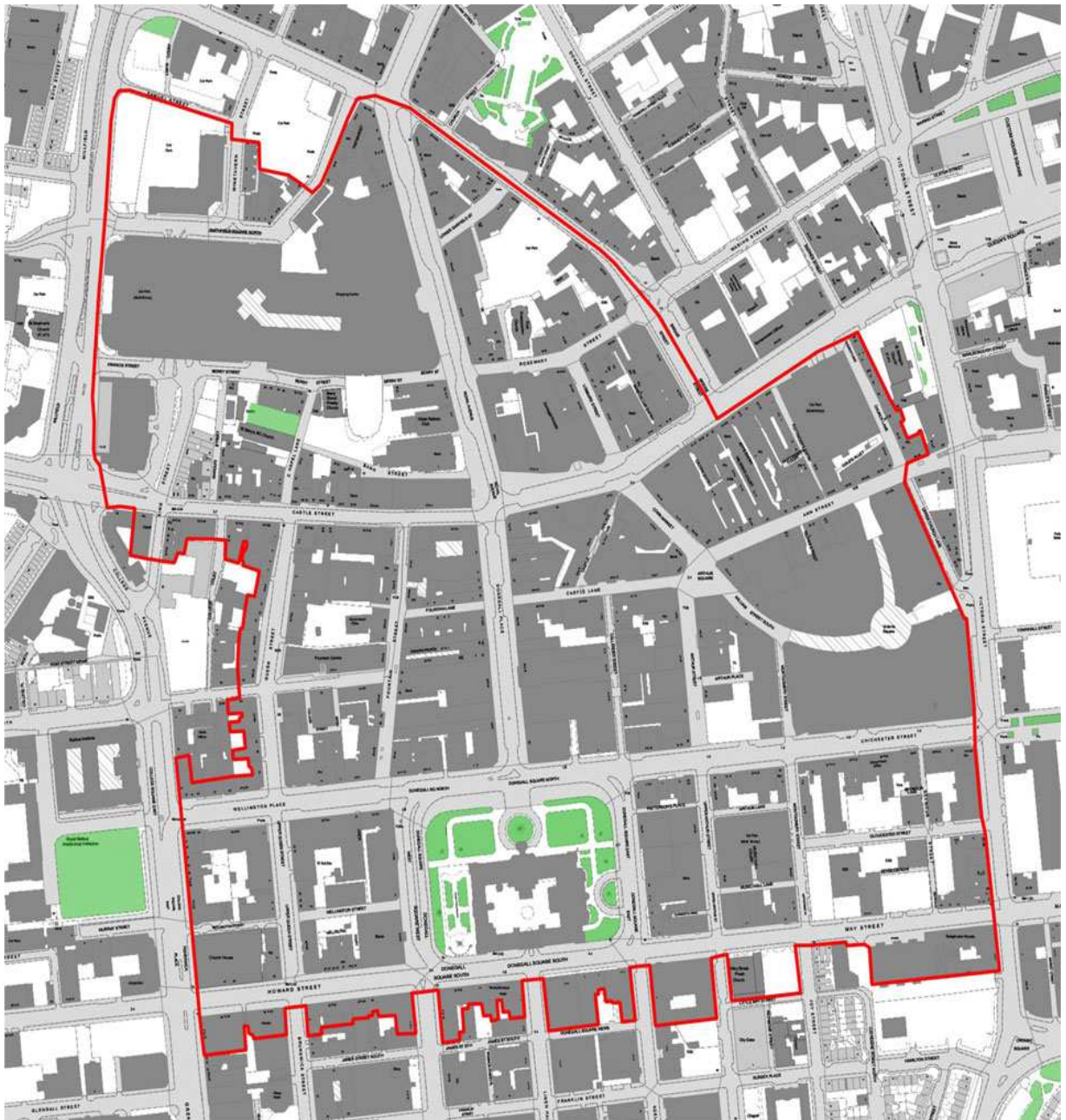
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Appendix 1: Belfast One BID team

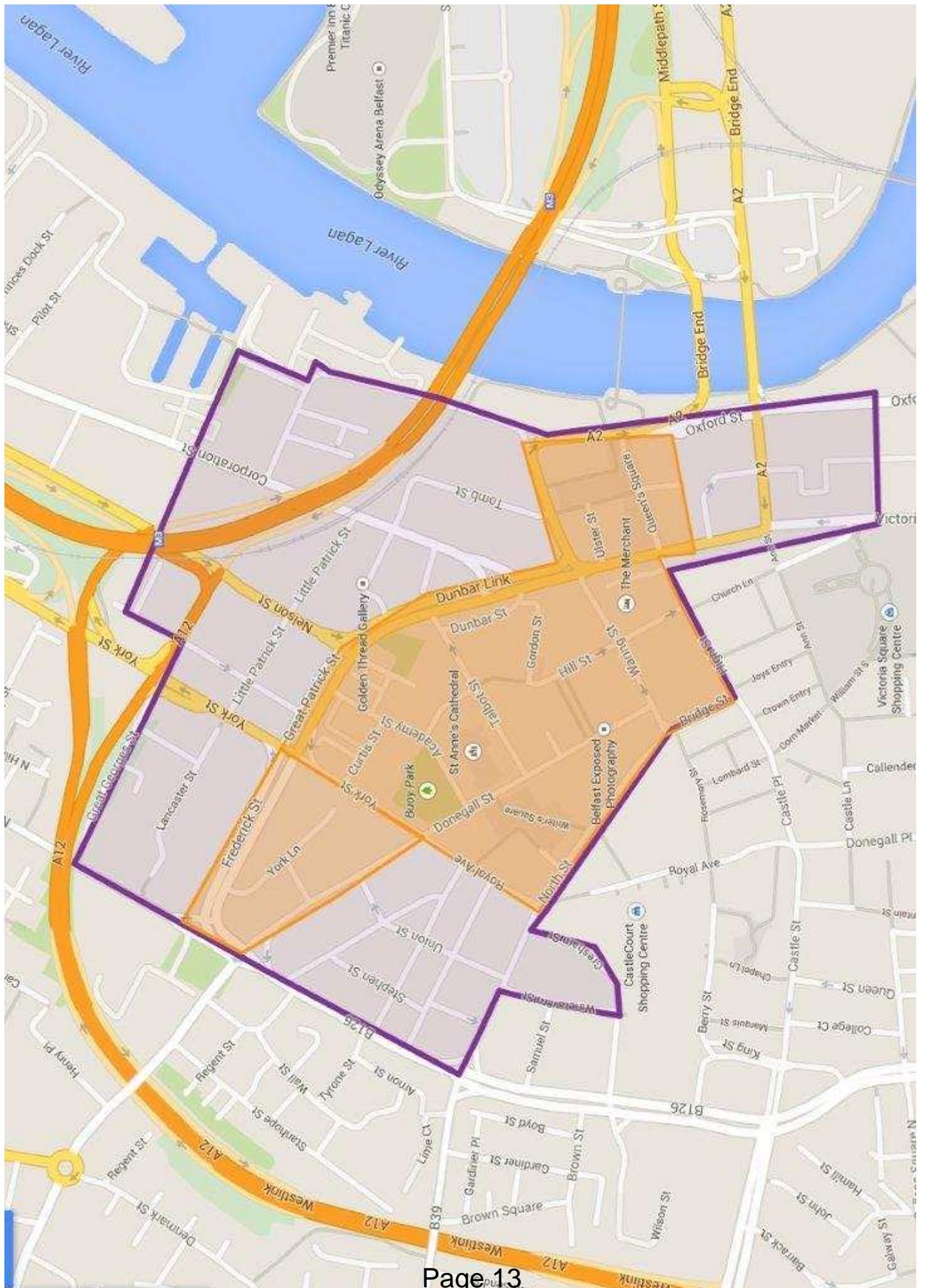
- Alan Robinson, Treat Boutique (Chair)
- Chris Suitor, Suitor Menswear (Deputy Chair)
- Aileen McGroogan, Boots
- Alice Sykes, Utopia
- Camila McCourt, Castlecourt
- Cathy Megahey, East Belfast Mission
- Catriona Carmody, Bank of Ireland
- Ciaran Donnelly, DSD
- Gary Rocks, Donaghey Carey Solicitors
- John Doherty, The Bible Society NI
- John Lunn, Lunn's Jewellers
- Kieran Sloan, Sawers
- Michael Stewart, The Hudson Bar
- Michelle Greeves, Victoria Square
- Nigel Skillen, Diamond and Skillen Accountants
- Peter McKay, Belfast City Council

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Appendix 2: Belfast One BID area



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Subject:	City Centre Regeneration: Developing a Strategy for Car Parking
Date:	13th May 2015
Reporting Officer(s):	John Mc Grillen, Director of Development Siobhan Toland, Lead Operations Officer, Health & Environmental Services
Contact Officer:	Damian Connolly, Environmental Health Manager (Food Safety and Port Health)

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	Members will be aware of the importance of the city centre to Belfast's prosperity and as a driver of the regional economy. City centres are where investment impact can be maximised, where rates are generated and where momentum can be built to support growth in the surrounding neighbourhoods. The draft Belfast City Centre Regeneration Strategy and Investment Plan has been produced as a framework for change through which the new council, with its place-shaping powers and greater responsibility for planning and regeneration, can achieve its bold vision for a thriving city.
1.2	As a result of Local Government Reform the Department for Regional Development (DRD) transferred all its off-street car parks (excluding Park and Ride/Park and Share) to councils on 1 st April 2015. The Council is therefore now responsible for the operation of 30 car parks which were previously operated by the DRD.
1.3	The City Centre Regeneration Strategy & Investment Plan considered access, traffic flows and car parking provision in the city and identified that there were significant opportunities for improvement; such as the consolidation of car parking provision and the real time provision of information about parking availability. To address these issues the Council will need to engage with a wide range of stakeholders, together with Transport NI and the

	DRD, to develop and implement a city centre parking strategy.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Members are asked to consider this report and agree to the commissioning of a strategy and action plan aimed at improving city access, traffic flows into and around the city, and city centre car parking within the context of the emerging City Centre Regeneration Strategy and Investment Plan. Members should note that the public consultation on the draft City Centre Regeneration Strategy and Investment Plan closes on 28 May.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Transport NI biannual surveys would indicate Belfast currently has more than enough car parking serving the City centre, estimating in excess of 10,000 publicly available off-street parking spaces (Urban Strategies 2014). In addition, an earlier study indicated that parking provision in Belfast city centre was significantly greater than in other UK similar cities, such as Dublin, Manchester, Bristol or Edinburgh. However, supply is fragmented being made up of large numbers of low capacity surface car parks with no real time information for drivers on availability. This means free spaces can be hard to find which adds to traffic congestion and creates a barrier to visitors accessing the City centre. Furthermore a large area of the city centre is being taken up by unattractive surface car parks which should be put to better use.</p>
3.2	It should be noted under Local Government Reform on the 1 st April the DRD transferred all its off street car parks (excluding Park and Ride/Park and Share) to councils. The Council therefore is now responsible for the operation of 30 car parks previously operated by the DRD. 15 of these car parks are within the City Centre, most of these are located around the inner ring road. It is estimated the Council now operates around 13% of the off street car parking spaces in the City Centre.
3.3	Recognising the importance of appropriate car parking for cities, the draft_Belfast City Centre Regeneration Strategy and Investment Plan includes a proposal for the Council, together with Transport NI and the DRD, to develop and implement a city centre parking strategy as a matter of high priority. As a result of the analysis carried out by Urban Strategies and the consultant team, it proposes that this should involve the consolidation of

car parks and real time advertisement of parking availability as well as being set within the context of alternative transport provision in the city, such as the Belfast Bike Share Scheme and Rapid Transit.

3.4 To support the City Centre Regeneration Strategy and Investment Plan; a city centre car parking strategy is likely to consider:

3.5 **Traffic Flows**

Despite the improvements that have been reported in relation to the Belfast On the Move project, there are still concerns raised about congestion into and around the city. A car parking strategy can help to reduce congestion in several ways. Firstly, it can provide alternatives to driving into the city by providing parking outside of the centre that is near to alternatives means of accessing the city core such as public transport, park & ride, cycling etc. Secondly, it can ensure parking is located in the right places to meet demand and minimise journey times by directing drivers efficiently into and out of key areas. Finally, it has been reported that there is ample parking in the city centre and the actual problem is caused by a lack of information about current parking availability. This causes significant additional traffic as drivers travel around the city centre searching for a space. A strategy that includes better signage and live information about parking could significantly reduce unnecessary traffic.

3.6 **Underdeveloped areas**

Much of the city centre feels incomplete, as development is interrupted by vacant sites, many of which are utilised as surface car parks. The clustering of these sites creates large, undefined areas around the edges of the centre. New growth in the city centre needs to expand into these areas and connect them to the core.

3.7 **Need for green space**

The centre is lacking in green space. Rationalising parking into fewer larger capacity sites will open up land for development. There is a great opportunity to provide a sizable new open space in the north end by reclaiming the parking area around St. Anne's Cathedral for green space and linking it to Buoy's Park and Writer's Square. Such a large open space could be used for events, festivals and celebrations.

3.8 **Improve accessibility to the City Centre**

Car parking can be perceived as a barrier to outer Belfast and Northern Ireland residents accessing city centre shopping. Anecdotally, drivers report that they cannot find a space and businesses have raised the apparent problem of adequate parking to serve city centre

retail. Quantitatively, there is more than enough parking with excess of 10,000 publicly available off-street parking spaces in and around Belfast City Centre in addition to extensive on-street parking and numerous private car parks. However the provision of these spaces is fragmented into numerous low capacity surface car parks owned and operated by a range of stakeholders with inconsistent pricing and information. Therefore while occupancy of the total available spaces may be relatively low parking spaces can be hard to find which can lead to significant volumes of traffic searching between car parks and increasing city centre traffic levels.

3.9 Rationalisation of parking into larger capacity multi-storey car parks accessed from the Inner Ring Road would open up development sites, create a much more coherent system and reduce congestion.

3.10 **The potential benefits of new technology and improved information systems**

In the short term, the coordinated_advertisement of parking availability to visitors to the centre would greatly improve the city centre experience. There are opportunities to harness new technology by providing information in real time about what parking spaces are available where.

3.11 The potential to develop a unified city 'app' that markets and promotes the city centre has already been used in other cities. This would provide information on parking together with a range of other topics including public transport, events, sales, as well as coupons, booking opportunities, etc.

3.12 In addition there are other emerging technologies that can support similar smart information systems e.g. the pay and display machines used both on and off street have inbuilt computers connected to the internet with integrated ticket printers and can be easily fitted with touch screen displays. Some cities are using these machines to signpost visitor information or offer promotional coupons.

3.13 The development and implementation of a City Car Parking Strategy will require a time frame of at least five years given the potential requirement for capital investment. Therefore, in the interim it is proposed that the Council should develop an action plan to address the shorter and medium term issues including:

- engage key stakeholders including current parking providers and the DRD to develop a parking strategy for the city centre,
- develop and implement a costed improvement plan for city centre parking provision, management and enforcement,

<p>3.14</p> <p>3.15</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress the use and improvement of parking information systems and contribute to the development of a “city app”, • Deliver the off street car parking functions and review its effectiveness to identify improvements to deliver on the ambitions in the Belfast City Centre Regeneration Strategy and Investment Plan. <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The cost of developing a parking strategy and action plan is likely to be in the region of £50k and will be met from existing budgets.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>Equality and good relations issues will be considered in the development of the strategy and improvement plan. It is noted that the Shadow Council had previously passed a motion in relation to child and family friendly car parking provision which will be considered in the development of the strategy.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None.</p>

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Subject:	Events & Festivals update 2015/16
Date:	13 May 2015
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development,
Contact Officer:	Brian Johnston, Tourism, Culture, Heritage & Arts Manager

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	Members will recall that, at the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee meetings in March and April 2015, approval was granted for a number of city centre animation events aimed at increasing visitors to and spend within the city.
1.2	In addition to the funding approved at those meetings, the Council supports a wider range of festivals and events through its various grant funding streams, as well as the key city events organised through the Council's City Events Team.
1.3	Given the volume of activity being undertaken, it is considered that there may be some value in packaging this activity together to reinforce the scale of the Council's investment and to underline our commitment to city animation.
1.4	A comprehensive overview of funded activities and events has now been drawn together in order to demonstrate the collective impact of the investment and to explore opportunities for further promotion or branding activity (appendix 1).

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note the programme of council-funded and part funded events and festivals taking place between June 2015 and March 2016. - Agree to package these activities together and brand the collective programme of activity to raise their profile and promote awareness of the Council's investment, as part of the promotional activity around the creation of the new Council.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>Given the Tall Ships event this year, the combined value of the Council contribution to this events programme is in excess of £3million. This is only for events taking place from June 2015-March 2016. Most events also attract funding from other sources adding value across the city.</p>
3.2	<p>The programme contains a range of activities funded through a number of Council grant schemes including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creative and Cultural Belfast - TCA project grant funds - Core Multi-annual funding
3.3	<p>At the 22 April meeting of the City Growth & Regeneration Committee, Members noted that the Cultural Framework – within which all of these funding streams sit – was in its final year of implementation and that a review would be undertaken to determine the most appropriate approach to future grant funding, particularly given the challenges around attracting funding from other sources.</p>
3.4	<p>The current programme of activities supports the delivery of the city centre animation programme – identified as a key component of the City Centre Regeneration Strategy. It also supports the new Integrated Tourism Strategy – which identifies the potential of large-scale events to attract additional tourist numbers to the city.</p>
3.5	<p>In order to capitalise on the collective programme of work and to draw focus to the Council's investment, Members may wish to consider packaging and branding this activity to create a positive perception of Belfast as a vibrant festival city. This could be considered as part of the wider activities to promote the new Council.</p>

<p>3.6</p>	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The funding of these events has already been approved through the Council’s various grants streams, the City Events budget and the City Centre Regeneration and Investment budget.</p>
<p>3.7</p>	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>There are now Equality and Good Relations implications attached to this report.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p>Appendix 1 - Overview of Belfast City Council funded activities and events</p>

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Event	Details	Date(s)
June		
Belfast Photo Festival	A Public and vibrant hub of photography celebrating cultural diversity and identity through events / exhibitions for young people aged 8-16. Artwork from workshops bringing together south Belfast schools / ethnic minority community groups will be exhibited, encouraging participation, skills, inclusion and exploring / highlighting common values within the community.	04/06/15-30/06/15
UK National Piping Championships, Stormont Estate	Only in its second year this Royal Scottish Pipe Band championship attracted 12,000 people in 2014.	13 June 2015
Ciclovía 2015	This is an international movement which promotes the closure of streets within cities in order to facilitate walking and, in particular, cycling on certain days in city centres. It is proposed that an event to promote the movement takes place in Belfast on Sunday 14 June to mark the start of Bike Week in the Botanic Avenue/Dublin Road Area of the city.	14 June 2015
Belfast Urban Ballet	Belfast Urban Ballet will be a new event for the Belfast summer calendar, building on the past two decades of Beat's parade innovation and international connections. It will be a festival of street bands and urban carnival choreography with dance and music performances in the streets and public city-centre spaces. Delivered by Beat Initiative.	20 June 2015
July		
Community Together Arts and Culture Festival	A Community based Festival of Culture and Arts relating to to the community. Community led encouraging all members of the community young and old to take part in all events. A show case of local talent and abilities from both young and old and culture awareness.	01 July 2015
Belfast Tall Ships	500,000 are expected to attend 'the event of the year.' Total cost of the project is £2.3 million inclusive of Council support of £1.3 million.	2 to 5 July
Tullycarnet Action Group Initiative Trust (TAGIT)	Through feedback and surveys from the community, TAGIT aim to have a 5 day festival, that will include all members of the Tullycarnet and Ardarn communities. TAGIT aim to promote Health and Well Being, Education, Intergenerational activities, Cultural/ Heritage and strengthen Neighbourhood cohesion, for all residents.	08/07/2015-12/07/2015

August Féile	August Féile is Ireland's biggest Community Arts Festival/Summer School. This ten day festival presents a wide range of arts and cultural activities, including music concerts, comedy, exhibitions, discussions, debates, youth & literary events, dramas, family, outdoor and community events, street performances, carnival parade, sports, tours and walks	31/07/15-9/08/15
August		
Belfast Pride	The organisers wish to increase the scale and impact of the event and regard it as an opportunity to promote Belfast as a modern, tolerant and multi-cultural cosmopolitan city.	1 August
Colin Summer Festival	A week long community festival that will cater for all ages that will include a community carnival and fun day, art workshops, cultural food tasting and craft fair, inter-generational trips, all ability sports days, Family walks, trips and visits to parks and museums for families.	03/08/15-08/08/15
New Lodge Summer Festival	A week-long summer festival in the New Lodge area to promote the arts and culture and bring positivity to an area at a time when tensions can arise with an increased risk of anti-social behaviour - organised by Ashton Community trust.	06/08/2015-14/08/15
Caribbean Week One Love Festival	Caribbean based festival with activities including story-telling/ Caribbean folklore, dub-poetry/ workshops and Caribbean influenced music & other performing arts. This event will highlight the growing Caribbean community and showcase the Caribbean's history, culture and ability to contribute positively to enriching community spirit and tourism in Belfast.	10/08/2015-16/08/2015
Eastside Arts Festival	EastSide Arts Festival and Summer School 2015 will be a community-led exploration and celebration of the rich artistic and cultural heritage and identity of East Belfast designed to present a positive image of, and animate the arts in, East Belfast and promote social cohesion and regeneration.	19/08/15-31/08/15

Brian Friel Festival	An international destination multi-arts and multi-disciplinary festival celebrating Ireland's greatest playwright of past 50 years in theatre, readings, talks & discussions, music, dance, food and leisure. The leading play is Friel's most popular play Dancing at Lughnasa in its 25th anniversary year to be produced by the Lyric Theatre Belfast. Five mini-Belfests will come into existence responding to the themes and concerns of this one signature play: (1) Amongst Women talks & discussions programme (2) Dancing Cranes outdoor dancefest (3) New Norths: Trade-Contemporary music from Ireland, Scotland, Scandinavia and the Baltic (4) The Kitchen Table Foodfest (5) Michael's KiteTanica Kite flying mini-fest	26/08/2015-31/08/2015
Belfast Mela	The Belfast Mela is NI's largest festival of world cultures held annually in Botanic Gardens. Attracting up to 30,000 people, the festival is an iconic highlight in the region's festival calendar, showcasing music, dance, crafts and food from over thirty nations across the globe.	30 August 2015
September		
The Community Festival at Skainos	This is a weekend festival, to be held in the Skainos Centre in East Belfast. It will bring a wide range of activities to inner East Belfast residents of all ages and will also encourage residents from other parts of Belfast to visit the area and celebrate its cultural identity.	01 September 2015
Bounce! - Arts Festival	Bounce! Arts Festival 2015 will showcase new work by disabled and deaf artists, celebrating and inspiring talent and artistic excellence. Showcasing artistic excellence, with challenge, warmth and a quirky sense of fun, Bounce! is the first and still the only festival of its kind on the island of Ireland.	03/09/15-06/09/15
Belfast Tattoo 2015	This is a new large scale event in the city which celebrates its Ulster-Scots culture and has taken place in the Odyssey Arena over the past two years.	4-5 September 2015
BBC Proms in the Park, Titanic Slipways	11,000 people are expected for the BBC managed live concert, on the Titanic Slipways, to mark the Last Night of the Proms series.	12 September 2015

Belfast's Autumn Fair, Botanic Gardens	A two day horticultural and family friendly event in Botanic Gardens organised in conjunction with BCC Parks and Leisure.	12 & 13 September
Culture Night	Writer's Square will be the focal point for community-led performances and activities, and a hub of outdoor activity and media attention on Culture Night Belfast (CNB) 2015. Community activity will be supported by complimentary programming and services to ensure an encouraging, welcoming and lively atmosphere for all ages.	18 September 2015
BabyDay	BabyDay will be an extraordinary day that will capture the imagination of the whole city. With art in the streets, music in the air and families everywhere, there'll be a real festival feel and Belfast will be one big bundle of joy!	27 September 2015
October		
Draw Down the Walls	Golden Thread Gallery will present Invisible Barriers: Moving Images, a programme of films in unusual and surprising sites across North Belfast. This will include art films, mainstream movies and community-authored productions, inviting audiences to imagine a city without barriers.	01 October 2015
International Cinemagic Festival	Cinemagic will use film, television and digital technologies through screenings, workshops and other participative opportunities to educate, motivate and inspire young people.	9/10/15-4/11/15
Belfast International Festival	This is an international multi art form festival taking place in venues across the city.	16 October - 1 November
Nine Nights	In 2015, ArtsEkta will present a large scale multi-artform outdoor arts spectacle to tell stories from age-old Indian folklore. Nine Nights is being artistically produced in partnership with Walk the Plank, an internationally renowned theatre company credited with major cultural events in Northern Ireland such as landmark UK City of Culture event The Return of Colmcille. The free evening show will play out to audiences in Autumn 2015 and light up Belfast City Centre in a way you have never seen before.	24 October 2015
Halloween Metro Monster Mash, Titanic Slipways	An evening of family fun and entertainment culminating in a massive fireworks display at the Titanic Slipways.	31 October 2015
November		

Christmas Lights Switch-on, City Hall	A one hour family orientated event, at City Hall, to mark the start of the Christmas festivities	14 November 2015
December		
BBC Sports Personality of the Year, Odyssey Arena	Thousands will be able to avail of tickets for this iconic award ceremony, which will be staged in the Odyssey Arena and managed by the BBC.	20 December 2015
March 2016		
Belfast Children's Festival	Belfast Children's Festival is an annual international festival for children aged 0 - 14 years and their accompanying adults. Events take place both in and out of school time for schools, groups and families to attend. Young at Art is a leading arts charity presenting a wide range of arts events and activities all year round for children and young people in Northern Ireland. Their annual Belfast Children's Festival is back for the 18th year to light up the city with a colourful array of art and performance to inspire joy, creativity and curiosity.	01 March 2016
St Patrick's Day, City Centre parade and Custom House Square	Now in its ninth year the Council organised celebration incorporates a parade and live concert from Custom House Square.	17 March 2016
Circuit of Ireland Rally, City Hall and Titanic Slipways	Three days of international racing that is part of the World Rally Championships, which starts from Belfast City Hall.	24 to 26 March 2016
TBC		
Lord Mayor's Event, venue tbc	Details of this annual event are tbc with Lord Mayor, Cllr Arder Carson. Over the last three years previous Lord Mayors have staged: a multi-cultural event, a live music day and 'come-try-it' sports show-case.	tbc

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Subject:	Sister Cities Management
Date:	13 th May 2015
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development
Contact Officer:	Laura Leonard, European Unit Manager

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	Members will be aware that one of the key commitments in the Council's Investment Programme 2012 - 2015, is that the Council will 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.
1.2	Over the past two years, work has been undertaken to develop and deliver an International Relations Framework and Action Plan that seeks to shape how city stakeholders can work together in a stronger and purposeful way, to maximise the economic impact for Belfast as a whole.
1.3	This framework and a two year action plan were agreed by Members at the August 2013 Development Committee. An update report was presented to the Development Committee on 17 February 2015. The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval to explore opportunities and implications of putting in place partnership-based management arrangements to guide and support the respective work programmes to oversee and support the formal Sister City Relationships with Boston and Nashville.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>It is recommended that Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Note and endorse the proposal to convene a steering group of relevant local partners to take forward opportunities for Belfast – Boston collaboration. – Note and endorse the proposal to re-convene relevant partners from the Belfast – Nashville steering group to identify opportunities for collaboration between the cities.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The current aims of the International Relations Framework are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To maximise economic return of development for Belfast. – To increase the economic benefits of marketing Belfast internationally. <p>3.2</p> <p>The framework has the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To deliver increased economic return to Belfast through collaborative international promotion. – To develop meaningful international partnerships and civic relationships to support Belfast’s growth. – To promote the attractiveness of the city for business, education and tourism. – To create the optimum mechanisms for international promotion of Belfast. <p><u>Proposed Future International Relations Activity 2015 – 2016</u></p> <p>3.3</p> <p>The International Relations Programme for 2015 – 2016 contains activities which can deliver on the aims and objectives set out in the International Relations Framework, across the priority target markets and areas of work.</p> <p>In line with these aims and objectives, a series of proposed activities are set out below, focusing on the linkages with Boston and Nashville, currently the only two US-based sister city linkages that Belfast has in place.</p>

Boston

3.4

- Members should note that the Mayor of Boston is in the final stages of setting up a Belfast – Boston steering group. This will comprise of 5 voluntary members chaired by a politician including two business, one clergy and one third sector representatives. This group will be confirmed by the end of May 2015.
- It is proposed that a similar steering group is established in Belfast, based on those currently active in Boston or those interested in developing further links, in line with the international framework objectives. Based on existing and potential opportunities for collaboration, the Belfast-based group may comprise relevant political representation (Chair and Deputy Chair of City Growth and Regeneration Committee), third sector representation, academic representation and faith-based representation. Consideration may also be given to business representation in order to explore economic linkages.

There are a number of partners who are already undertaking a range of direct engagements with Boston include:

- PSNI is hosting two Boston Police delegations in April and May this year to look at community policing and interface work. The delegates will meet with the Lord Mayor and party leaders during these visits.
- Belfast Youth Orchestra is planning a concert in Boston in July this year (The Council has agreed to commit £5,000 towards this with additional funding being sought from other sources).
- Rev Bill Shaw regularly hosts inward visits from faith/community organisations in Boston through links with the North Eastern University.

Nashville

3.5

Members will be aware that there has been a sister city relationship between Belfast and Nashville for some years. Activities of those partners working on Belfast – Nashville initiatives were previously co-ordinated through a steering group and the council's Tourism Development Unit historically provided the secretariat for this group, given the original focus on cultural linkages. Partners have been working independently on their linkages and there are a number of mature partnerships which continue to function without any requirement for city council support. There are a number of new potential opportunities for collaboration that have recently emerged. These include:

- In October 2014, Ross Graham from Generator NI met with the Sister Cities contact, Tracy Kane, as part of a music delegation to Nashville, sponsored by UKTI

	<p>(UK Trade & Investment). Ross visited the Nashville Entrepreneur Centre to discuss opportunities for residencies for local artists and music businesses. This centre is just in its infancy and there is an opportunity to explore potential collaboration in the near future, particular with regards to connecting it with the proposed Belfast Creative Hub.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Queen’s University have active linkages with both Vanderbilt and Belmont Universities. In November 2014, twelve staff involved in international research activity took part in a visit to the city and a reciprocal visit is currently being planned. <p>There are ongoing linkages with the Belfast/Nashville Songwriters’ Festival and these continue to develop year on year. The organisers for the festival are in regular contact with the Sister Cities office.</p>
3.6	<p>In order to identify the current status of links between organisations in Belfast and Nashville, it is proposed that a meeting is held to bring together those partners currently active in collaborative projects. The purpose of the meeting will be to understand the scale and scope of current linkages and to identify whether there is any added value in taking a wider perspective on those linkages, through a city partnership steering group.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>A budget of £150,000 has been set aside for the delivery of the Council’s International Relations Framework and Action Plan.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>The International Relations Framework has been equality screened.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
4.1	None



Subject:	2015 BBC Sports Personality of the Year Awards
Date:	13 May 2015
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development
Contact Officer:	Gerry Copeland, Head of City Events

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	This report is to update Members on Belfast's successful bid to host the 2015 BBC Sports Personality of the Year Awards.
1.2	In October 2014 Council agreed to back BBC Northern Ireland's bid to host this iconic sports awards ceremony in Belfast. It also endorsed £140,000 worth of Council finances be allocated to the project and in-kind event support via the Council's City Events Unit.
1.3	On Wednesday 29 th April the BBC formally announced that Belfast was successful and that the event would be staged at the Odyssey Arena, on Sunday 20 th December. The Lord Mayor was in attendance at the announcement event.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Members are asked to note the report.
2.2	Members are asked to agree to a further report being brought back to Committee outlining the Council involvement in the event and detailing activities to take place in association with the BBC.

3.0	Main report
	<p data-bbox="252 226 408 259"><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p data-bbox="140 327 1433 510">3.1 The BBC Sports Personality of the Year is one of the most iconic sports programmes broadcast. The event has been staged annually for 60 years, and in recent times has been taken to cities including Glasgow, Liverpool, Birmingham, Sheffield and Leeds, but never to Belfast.</p> <p data-bbox="140 577 1433 913">3.2 The event will attract an audience in the venue of around 7000 people, with the audience members coming from both in and out-of-state locations. The event will make a major contribution to the local economy through accommodation requirements in the hotels in the city and beyond, and through the purchasing of local services and products to support the production of the event. The event gives the city the opportunity to present itself in a very positive light to an audience of over ten million viewers via BBC's various broadcasting channels including BBC 1, BBC Digital and BBC Radio 5 Live.</p> <p data-bbox="140 981 1433 1059">3.3 Tickets are distributed by the BBC and details of these arrangements will be announced in due course.</p> <p data-bbox="140 1126 1433 1373">3.4 It is the aspiration of the BBC to instigate a range of associated events connected to its Get Inspired programme in Belfast. The aim of this will be to celebrate sport across the city and look to inspire further interest by Belfast residents in getting actively involved in sport. The BBC has indicated that major partnerships are already in place with Blue Peter and the Youth Sports Trust to make this happen.</p> <p data-bbox="140 1440 1433 1574">3.5 Officers within BCC will engage directly with BBC NI to develop a bespoke sports outreach programme to complement the BBC's activities and a further report will be brought back to Committee in due course.</p> <p data-bbox="252 1641 735 1675"><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p data-bbox="140 1686 1433 1720">3.6 BCC has agreed to commit £140k towards the Sports Personality of the Year production.</p> <p data-bbox="252 1787 807 1821"><u>Equality & Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p data-bbox="140 1843 1433 1921">3.7 BCC officers will work with the BBC to ensure that all sections of society in Belfast are involved with the associated outreach programmes.</p>

4.0	Appendices
4.1	None

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Subject:	BabyDay - Market application
Date:	13 May 2015
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Christine O'Toole, Tourism, Culture and Arts Development Officer, ext 3572

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	Belfast City Council has exclusive rights to hold markets in Belfast. Anyone wishing to operate a market or car boot sale within Belfast must apply to Council for permission.
1.2	The council has now received an application for a market to be held as part of the BabyDay festival on 27 September 2015 at City Hall. This is one of Belfast City Council's flagship projects, funded through the Creative and Cultural Belfast Fund and run by Replay Theatre Company. BabyDay will include a range of quality cultural events and performances appealing to families.
2.0	Recommendations
	It is recommended that Members give approval to grant a one-off market licence to Replay Theatre Company as part of the Baby Day event.

3.0	Main report
3.1	On 27 September 2015, Replay Theatre Company will bring the world's first BabyDay to Belfast. It will decorate the city with playful art and fill the streets with families, much like on Culture Night – but focused on activities for babies.
3.2	BabyDay is one of Belfast City Council's nine flagship Creative Belfast projects. Replay Theatre Company was awarded a grant of £95,000 from the Creative and Cultural Belfast Fund to create this 14 month project. They are working in partnership with the Belfast Surestart Network and East Belfast Partnership Board. They have already delivered an extensive range of outreach activities and workshops across the city, engaging over 4000 residents to date. BabyDay aims to have an audience of at least 6,000 at City Hall, and participation from at least 10,000 residents across the city at community and cultural venues.
3.3	Members will be aware that the Creative and Cultural Belfast Fund was established by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI) and Belfast City Council in 2014, with the aim of supporting arts and heritage-based projects which will give everyone in Belfast the opportunity to take part in high-quality art inspired by our rich culture and heritage.
3.4	As part of the activity planned for City Hall, Replay have proposed to set up a number of stalls (likely to be around 25) selling food and relevant products that will appeal to those in attendance. While this was not planned as part of the original submission, Replay have approached the council to ask if this could be done, with the commitment that they will use any resources secured from the stall rental fees to undertake additional events and activities across the city. Replay Theatre Company is a registered charity and the project is not for profit, with all income from stalls going towards additional activity as part of the event.
3.5	This event is supportive of the recent motion of Council to encourage family friendly city centre. This motion was presented to the 22 April City Growth and Regeneration Committee and included a proposal for the creation of kids spaces in the city centre.
3.6	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> In line with the current markets rights policy, Replay will qualify for a discounted licence fee of £25 and will pay the appropriate stallage fee (£4-£6 per stall depending on the number of stalls).

3.7	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>There are no Equality or Good Relations implications attached to this report.</p>
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