

Public Document Pack

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



Belfast
City Council

2nd March, 2017

MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Wednesday, 8th March, 2017 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. Presentations

- (a) Belfast City Centre Management (Pages 1 - 4)
- (b) RESTRICTED Visit Belfast (Pages 5 - 8)

3. Restricted Reports

- (a) Capital of Culture (Pages 9 - 14)
- (b) Grade A Office Market - Update (Pages 15 - 24)

4. **Positioning Belfast to compete**

- (a) Routes Conference - Programme update (Pages 25 - 28)
- (b) International Relations Update and Programme 2017-18 (Pages 29 - 42)

5. **Growing Businesses and the Economy**

- (a) Rural Development Programme (Pages 43 - 46)
- (b) Innovation Factory - Annual Business Plan (Pages 47 - 54)
- (c) BelTech Conference 2017 (Pages 55 - 60)

6. **Regenerating Places and Improving Infrastructure**

- (a) City Centre Living (Report to follow)

7. **Finance, Procurement and Performance**

- (a) Quarter 3 Finance Report (Report to follow)

8. **Operational Issues**

- (a) External Market Application (Pages 61 - 64)
- (b) Draft Belfast Bicycle Network 2017 Consultation (Pages 65 - 78)
- (c) Zoo workshop - Update (Pages 79 - 88)
- (d) Belfast Car Parking Strategy (Report to follow)



Subject:	BCCM Presentation to Committee
Date:	8 March 2017
Reporting Officer:	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
Contact Officer:	Lisa Toland, Head of Economic Initiatives and International Development

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 the report is to advise Members of the review of Belfast City Centre Management (BCCM) that is currently being undertaken and to present a request for financial support for the financial year 2017/18.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note the review of BCCM that is currently underway. - Note the draft BCCM business plan and the areas where BCC funds will be applied. The overall funding agreement with BCCM is built into the revenue estimates.
3.0	Main report
3.1	Members will be aware that Belfast City Centre Management was established as a public-private partnership to support the development of the city centre. The organisation carries out a range of services on behalf of its funders. The key public

3.2	<p>sector funders are Belfast City Council and Department for Communities. The private sector investment comes through a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce (BCTC) and the organisation also receives income from the Belfast One BID to cover the costs of some overheads associated with hosting the organisation in the offices of BCCM.</p>
3.3	<p>The Council is represented on BCCM Board by Councillors Craig and Dudgeon. There are also two officers sitting as advisors to the Board, representing the Development and City and Neighbourhood Services Departments.</p>
3.4	<p>BCCM played an important support role in establishing the Belfast One Business Improvement District (BID). It is also undertaking the development work on another BID which will cover the main office area around the City's Linen Quarter. The ballot for this BID is likely to take place in Autumn 2017.</p>
3.5	<p>BCCM has undergone some changes to its business model since the introduction of the two BIDS in Belfast One and Cathedral Quarter in the course of the last year. The development work on a third BID and its potential introduction from the end of 2017 will mean further changes to the role of the organisation in supporting city centre development. Meanwhile, the establishment of the City Centre Development Team within the Council along with an enhanced focus on the City Centre as a retail, cultural and business hub for the region signifies a change in focus for the Council's activities in this area. Taking account of all of these changes in the operating context, it is important to consider how BCCM can play a useful support role for the Council and other partners going forward.</p>
3.6	<p>At the February 2017 Board meeting of BCCM, Members noted and agreed a proposal to review the organisation. The focus of this review is to look at what the purpose of the organisation should be in a changing operational context. This includes not only the establishment of (potentially) three Business Improvement Districts (BID) but also the establishment by the council of a team to focus on the development of the city centre.</p>
3.7	<p>The review is to be led by Belfast City Council, supported by the other key partners in BCCM, namely Department of Communities and Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce.</p>

3.8	<p>It is anticipated that the review will be completed by August 2017 and the findings will be fed back to the Committee for information.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>3.9 In the current financial year, Belfast City Council's funding agreement with BCCM will amount to £190,000. An allocation of £190,000 has been set aside within the Departmental estimates for the financial year 2017/18.</p> <p><u>Equality or good relations implications</u></p> <p>3.10 No specific equality or good relations implications.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None

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of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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Subject:	Routes Europe Conference 2017
Date:	08 March 2017
Reporting Officer:	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
Contact Officer:	Maggie McNally, Strategic 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 or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	At January 2017 Committee, Members noted the update on the upcoming Routes Europe Conference 2017. They acknowledged the opportunity presented by this event to showcase Belfast to a global business audience as well as the potential of delivering new air routes for Belfast.
1.2	It was agreed that an update report would be presented to the Committee in March to set out the up-to-date programme for the event and to provide Members with an opportunity to identify relevant elements of the conference that they may want to attend.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note the update on the Routes Europe Conference which will take place in Belfast for the first time on 23-25 April 2017 - Nominate Members to attend the City Hall welcome reception on 23 April 2017 and Titanic Belfast reception on 24 April 2017 - Note that a report will be presented to the April City Growth and Regeneration Committee providing a more detailed programme outline. Members can confirm attendance at relevant elements of the programme at this point.

3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>In October 2016, Members agreed to commit £100,000 to support the costs of hosting the 2017 Routes Europe event at Belfast Waterfront. Routes Europe have indicated that the benefits to a city hosting the event in terms of positive PR coverage, potential new airline routes announcements and additional leisure/business tourism visitors, could be in the region of more than £50million. This is based on feedback and measurement of Routes Conferences that have been held in other cities.</p>
3.2	<p>The bid for Belfast involves financial contributions from a range of partners. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Belfast City Council - £100,000 – Invest NI has agreed approximately £348,000. In addition, they have spent £137,000 securing the Routes Conference for Belfast – Tourism Ireland (TIL) - £20,000 – Tourism NI (TNI) - £165,000 – Visit Belfast - £20,000 – BWUH Ltd - £10,000 – The local Airports - approximately £100,000 each.
3.3	<p>In addition to these funding contributions, all partners are also making additional contributions in-kind in order to ensure the success of the event.</p>
3.4	<p>The main Conference and showcase will take place in the Belfast Waterfront while a welcome reception will be held in Belfast City Hall and a gala networking event is to take place in Titanic Belfast. Organisers and the local team are working closely together on a programme of supporting events across the city. This “Team Belfast” approach has ensured joined-up working with all partners. Research shows that the host city has a significant impact on delegates’ overall satisfaction and the Belfast Waterfront will be able to showcase that it can deliver well-organised meetings and a high standard of events in a luxurious, state of the art, riverside location presenting a positive impression of the city.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Progress to date for Members update</u></p> <p>The three working groups that have been set up to co-ordinate the event continue to meet on a monthly basis and these groups will continue to meet in the run-up to the event in order to ensure that all planning details for the event are taken care of and that the City makes the most of this opportunity to showcase Belfast as a successful business and tourism destination. A further progress report on all of this work will be brought to Committee prior to the April 2017</p>

event.

3.6

The draft Programme for the event has been shared with partners. This is a high-level outline of the key sessions (networking sessions, receptions, keynote speeches) and there is limited detail available at present. The Conference itself consists mainly of networking sessions and pre-arranged one-to-one meetings between delegates. There will also be a number of guest speakers in attendance, although these details have not yet been released. Members will be advised of these details once this information is available.

3.7

Belfast City Council has been granted 10 delegate passes which can be for the full duration of the Conference or can be shared between individuals for specific days/events during the week. At this stage, the priority events for which Members need to register are the City Hall Welcome reception and the Titanic Belfast evening. Once further details are received in relation to the actual Conference programme, these will be circulated to Members and, at that point, they can confirm which other elements of the programme they wish to attend.

3.8

The programme for the event is as follows:

Date	Time	Location	Activity
23/04/17	08.00-17.35	Belfast Waterfront Hall	All day conference
23/04/17	17.45-19.30	City Hall	Welcome Reception
24/04/17	07.30-17.00	Belfast Waterfront Hall	All day conference
24/04/17	19.00-23.30	Titanic Belfast	Networking Evening and Routes Europe Marketing Awards
25/04/17	08.00-16.00	Belfast Waterfront Hall	Half day conference
25/04/17	12.35-14.05	Belfast Waterfront Hall	Lunch hosted by Hosts of Routes Europe 2018

3.9

The City Hall Welcome reception on the Sunday night will be an informal occasion with jazz music and drinks and canapés for all delegates. The Lord Mayor will also host 20 VIPs in the Parlour just prior to the Welcome reception. The Titanic evening will take place on the Monday evening and will consist of the Titanic experience tours, canapés and drinks, before the Europe Marketing Awards in the White Star lounge and a standing reception with hot food.

Members are asked to nominate attendees for each of the evening events. Given the availability of tickets, it is recommended that one Member from each party plus the Chair and

<p>3.10</p> <p>3.11</p> <p>3.12</p> <p>3.13</p>	<p>Deputy Chairs of Committee and up to two additional Committee members or nominees attend. Once nominated, Members' details will be submitted to the organisers and allow for allocation of delegate passes.</p> <p>Once the final programme is agreed, this will be brought to the April Committee for Members' information and they can agreed, at that point, which additional programme sessions they want to attend. Delegate passes for the relevant sessions will be allocated at that point.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>All financial contributions from Belfast City Council have been included in the 2016/17 and 2017/18 budgets and have already been approved by this Committee.</p> <p><u>Equality & Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>No specific equality or good relations implications.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None</p>



Subject:	International Relations Update and 2017-18 Action Plan
Date:	8 March 2017
Reporting Officer:	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
Contact Officer:	Laura Leonard, European & International Relations 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	The purpose of the report is to update Members on the delivery and actions of the International Relations Framework for the period 2016-2017, and to seek approval for the 2017/18 Action Plan.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Note the range of activities and actions outlined in Appendix 1 for delivery of the Council’s International Relations Framework for the period 2016-17. – Agree to support the attendance of the Lord Mayor and an Officer at the 2017 St Patrick’s White House Celebration from 14-17 March 2017 at a maximum cost of £3,000. – Agree to the attendance of the Lord Mayor, the Chair and Deputy Chair of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, or their nominees along with the Director of Development and the International Relations Manager on the China outward mission from 6-13 May 2017. This visit will not exceed £20,000.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Agree to the attendance of the Lord Mayor, the Chair and Deputy Chair of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee or nominees and an Officer on the Nashville outward mission from 17-22 May 2017. The cost of this visit will not exceed £10,000. – Agree to Members participation in the programme for the Boston inward delegation on 5-7 June 2017. – Agree to provide £5,000 towards the New York New Belfast Conference from 8-9 June 2017 and the attendance of the Chair of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee or their nominee along with an officer. The cost of attendance will not exceed £3,000. – Agree to provide £5,000 towards the Belfast International Homecoming Conference form 4-6 October 2017 and to Members’ participation in this event. – Agree in principle to further international activity later in the year, as outlined in Appendix 1 as 2017-18 International Relations Action Plan, pending further details and costs.
3.0	Main report
3.1	Members will recall the November 2016 approval of a new International Relations Framework for Council for the period 2016-2021.
3.2	The aim of this second Framework is to continue to promote Belfast on the international stage with other stakeholders as a place to visit, study, work and do business. The Framework will deliver primarily on the formal relationships already in existence through the Sister City Agreements with Shenyang, Boston and Nashville, the Memorandum of Understanding with Dublin, and developing relationships with London. New areas of opportunity will be considered on their merits and relevance to Belfast.
3.3	Members will be aware of the increasing activity delivered around the International Relations Framework during the last year. The highlights of these and the outcomes generated from our international linkages are outlined in Appendix 1 of this report by geographical area. These activities have, in the most part, been led by Belfast City Council at Councillor and Officer level and in full partnership with stakeholders in government, education, tourism, business, culture and sport. Members are asked to note this delivery and the progress made in these areas.
3.4	In terms of 2017-18 activity, there are a number of activities in the immediate to short term pipeline that align to the International Relations Framework and require Committee

	<p>approval if they are to progress. The emerging priority activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – St Patrick’s Day invitation to the White House 14-17 March 2017 – Belfast in China Week 6-13 May 2017 – New York New Belfast 8-9 June 2017 – Belfast International Homecoming 4-6 October 2017
3.5	<p>Other activities have already been planned within the International Relations Calendar which are outlined in Appendix 1 as the 2017/18 International Relations Action Plan.</p>
3.6	<p><u>St Patrick’s Day White House Invitation, 14-17 March 2017</u></p> <p>Members will be aware that the former Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Arder Carson, and an officer, travelled to the White House St Patrick’s Day celebrations in 2016. The current Lord Mayor has received an invitation through the office of the US Consul General in Belfast, to the 2017 celebrations from 14-17 March. This visit can coincide with a programme of side meetings with government and business associates of the Council in order to explore business, academic and tourism collaborations in line with the International Relations Framework.</p>
3.7	<p>Members are asked to approve the participation of the Lord Mayor and an Officer at the White House programme and associated meetings. The cost of travel, accommodation and expenses will not exceed £3,000 and will be met within the 2017/18 International Relations Unit budget.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Belfast in China Week, 6-13 May 2017</u></p> <p>Members will recall their decision on 9 November 2016, to approve a second Council visit to Beijing and Sister City Shenyang in May 2017. The purpose of this event is to further develop relations and agree concrete collaboration activity going forward on the fields of Smart Cities, sustainable technologies, health, education and investment. Planning is underway for the visit with city stakeholders including Invest NI, Queen’s University Belfast, Ulster University, Belfast Metropolitan College, British Council, and the NI Bureau, who are facilitating the programme for Belfast City Council as they did in 2016. A final programme will be presented to Members in due course. This will establish a series of agreed outcomes for the visit, in line with the outcomes established for the International Relations Framework.</p>
3.9	<p>Members are asked to approve the attendance of the Lord Mayor, the Chair and Deputy</p>

	<p>Chair of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee or their nominees, along with the Director of Development and the International Relations Unit Manager and Confucius accompanying interpreter. The anticipated cost of this visit will not exceed £20,000, and this is contained within the 2017-18 budget of the International Relations Unit. Members should note that Invest NI, Queen’s University Belfast, Ulster University and Belfast Metropolitan College have confirmed their participation in the mission to create a second “Team Belfast” approach, and collective message during the mission.</p> <p><u>Nashville Mission, 17-20 May 2017</u></p>
3.10	<p>Again, Members will recall their decision on 9 November 2016 to approve a further Sister City visit to Nashville in 2017 to build on the relationships that had been re-established and developed in the course of that visit. Following close working with the Nashville Mayor and Sister City Board, the proposed dates are now 17-20 May. Ulster University and Queen’s University Belfast have already committed to the visit, and discussions are underway with other stakeholders including Invest NI, Belfast Metropolitan College and the Innovation Factory. Members will be presented with a detailed plan of activity in due course. The focus of the visit is likely to be on following upon business and education linkages to tie down actions for the coming year, as well as sharing plans for our respective activities as part of the Rockefeller 100 Resilient Cities Network.</p>
3.11	<p>Members should note that an invitation was received for the Lord Mayor of Belfast from Mayor Barry of Nashville to lead a delegation to Nashville. The proposed timeframe has been arranged to fit in with the diary of Mayor Barry.</p>
3.12	<p>Members should note that, given the Nashville and Shenyang visits are taking place in close proximity to one another, there may be logistical challenges for Members taking part in both visits.</p>
3.13	<p>In the meantime, Members are asked to approve the participation of the Lord Mayor, the Chair and Deputy Chair of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee or their nominees and an Officer at a maximum cost of £10,000. This cost is contained within the 2017-18 budget of the International Relations Unit.</p> <p><u>Boston Inward Mission, 5-7 June 2017</u></p>
3.14	<p>Members are asked to note that a further inward mission from Boston is scheduled to</p>

	<p>take place from 5-7 June. This will include Senators, Senior Judiciary, business and economic development officials, as well as Harvard and arts representatives. Plans are underway to develop a targeted programme of meetings and visit with key stakeholders. Members will be invited to join the programme and any costs of the visit will be contained within the International Relations 2017-18 budget.</p>
3.15	<p>Members should also note that Boston will lead a focussed business and government mission from Worcester (just outside Boston) in December 2017 to coincide with the inaugural Basketball Hall of Fame tournament in Belfast. Details will be presented to Members in due course.</p>
3.16	<p><u>New York New Belfast, 8-9 June 2017</u></p> <p>Belfast City Council has been asked to contribute financial support of £5,000 to the annual New York New Belfast Conference. As in previous years, this will offer Council an opportunity to send an Elected Member to speak at the Conference and promote the city to a high level audience of US government, education, tourism and business delegates. It will also be an opportunity to begin to use the emerging new City Place Positioning Branding and narrative, and to add a civic leadership element to the outward going Belfast delegation.</p>
3.17	<p>Members are asked to approve the request for £5,000 sponsorship and to approve the attendance of the Chair and Deputy Chair of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee or their nominees, and an Officer. The cost for the event and trip will not exceed £3,000 and can be identified within the International Relations Unit Budget.</p>
3.18	<p><u>Belfast International Homecoming, 4-6 October 2017</u></p> <p>Members are asked to consider a financial request of £5,000 to support the annual International Homecoming Conference in Belfast. Belfast City Council will have the opportunity to promote the city to 100 international visitors from government, business and academics. Belfast City Council will also have the opportunity for Members and Officers to attend the Conference and lead plenary workshops and panel discussions on areas pertinent to the Belfast Agenda.</p>
3.19	<p>Members should note that Nashville has committed to return to Belfast annually for the Homecoming as they found it a valuable event in 2016. Boston is also considering sending a delegation to the event. Members are also being asked to approve £5,000</p>

	towards the Homecoming 2017 event. This amount can be identified within the International Relations Unit budget.
3.20	Members should note that, if approved, this action plan – along with already approved activities – will mean that the International Relations budget is almost fully committed.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.21	International Relations activity cost has been taken account of within the new financial estimates 2017/18. Members have been asked to approve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – St Patrick’s Day White House Celebrations - £3,000 – China outward mission - £20,000 – Nashville outward mission - £10,000 – New York New Belfast sponsorship and attendance - £8,000 – Belfast International Homecoming - £5,000
	<u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u>
3.22	The new International Relations Framework 2016-2021 has been equality screened and signed off.
4.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1 - 2016/17 International Relations Activity and 2017/18 Action Plan

International Relations Outputs 2016/17

China Outputs 2016/17

Political/Civic:

- Belfast City Council assisted the Chinese Consulate Belfast with Planning and QC advice on their Capital build on Malone Road (due to open 2017).
- Belfast City Council signed a formal Sister City agreement with Shenyang in May 2016 and has developed a close working relationship with Madam Wang and her team.
- Belfast City Council promoted its successful Rockefeller Resilience work and roadmap at the 3rd Shenyang International Smart City event in November 2016, led by the China Centre for Urban Development.
- Belfast City Council provided briefing for the NI Assembly Business Investment and NI Ministers prior to their China visits in 2016.

Education/Sport:

- Belfast City Council connected Campbell College to the Shenyang Education Bureau and the NI Bureau Beijing to make direct contact for marketing the college to attract Chinese boarding students – ongoing.
- Belfast City Council directly influenced the decision by the China Confucius Institute to increase its number of Chinese teachers from 39 to 52 in Northern Ireland.
- Belfast City Council hosted the British Council China team in December 2016, and shared the education message for marketing.

Business and Investment:

- Belfast City Council regularly shares Belfast investment opportunity pitch information to contacts made in China at DIT, INI, Shenyang Foreign Affairs, Chinese Chamber London etc. This will be followed up by targeted investor pitch events in May 2017.
- Belfast City Council provided Belfast based Colliers Property and Real Estate company with Belfast promotional material for the Investor event in Beijing in October 2016 (KPMG cited the BCC document as best seen to date in the sector).
- Belfast City Council promoted city investment opportunities to the Chinese Investment Corporation during their visit to Belfast in November 2016, and provided a civic visit in City Hall.
- Belfast City Council provided promotional material to the China Export and Credit Insurance Corporation 2016.
- Belfast City Council hosted the China Merchants Group who represent a number of Belfast and NI companies as their port and beverage distributor in China.
- Belfast City Council assisted a Belfast ex-pat in Beijing to return to Belfast, and enter into a China/NI related business start up.

Tourism/Culture/Arts:

- Belfast City Council along with Dublin, joined the World Cities Tourism Federation 2016, and retains an updated web presence (100 million Chinese travel outside of China annually for tourism)

Appendix 1

purposes with only 48,000 travelling to NI).

- Belfast City Council has linked to Tourism Ireland to promote regular positive social media news feed to the China market.
- Belfast City Council co-hosted the 'China Government Chinese Tourism into UK Communities' event in the grounds of the City Hall in September 2016.
- Belfast City Council supported the annual Chinese New Year through a cultural event at the Mac in partnership with Confucius, and through the first ever joint Belfast City Council/Chinese Consulate event in City Hall.
- Belfast City Council shared 150 photos of the City for show at the Shenyang Sister Cities exhibition 2016-18.

International Relations Outputs 2016/17

Nashville Outputs 2016/17

Political/Civic:

- Belfast City Council led a mission to Nashville in March 2016 to be re-invigorate the Sister City link.

Education/Sport:

- Belfast City Council facilitated a Method College student exchange for 5 Nashville Harpeth Hall students in November 2016.
- Belfast City Council co-hosted 3 Harpeth Hall students for a 3 week work placement in January 2017 and plans are underway in partnership with Strathearn College to facilitate a further exchange.
- Existing links with Queens University Belfast and Nashville's Vanderbilt University have been strengthened as well as new links between Ulster University and Belmont.
- Belfast City Council facilitated connections between the NI Judiciary and the Nashville Bar Association in 2016 - ongoing.

Business and Investment:

- Belfast City Council connected Cleaver Fulton Rankin to key legal contacts in Nashville within the Belfast-Nashville Sister Cities network.

Tourism/Culture/Arts:

- Belfast City Council has engaged (on 4 occasions) on an exchange and learning experience with the founder of the Nashville Music Hall of Fame to explore potentially linking with Nashville and Boston regarding the promotion of music in the Belfast Story attraction – ongoing.
- Belfast City Council facilitated connections with Visit Belfast and the Nashville Visitor and Convention Bureau to explore exchange of staff and city promotional material.
- Belfast City Council brokered a link for Queens University Belfast with the Nashville Mike Curb College of Entertainment & Music Business at Belmont University, and are now linking their Sonic Arts Research Centre for exchanges and learning between academics.

International Relations Outputs 2016/17

Boston Outputs 2016/17

Political/Civic:

- Belfast City Council through the Chair of City Growth met with Boston Senators and Judiciary on women's legal and equality issues. Interest now exists in making a visit to Belfast to study the equality and legal system here at central local and community level.
- Mayor Walsh appointed a Belfast/Boston Sister Cities Chair and International Development team within his office to progress co-operation under the agreement.

Education/Sport:

- Belfast City Council co-sponsored and hosted the 2nd annual Friendship Four Ice Hockey Tournament and engaged professional players with all Belfast Schools, community and youth organisations.
- Belfast City Council began engagement with the inaugural Basketball Hall of Fame Belfast Invitational Tournament December 2017.
- Belfast City Council facilitated connections between Ulster University, Queens University Belfast and Belfast Metropolitan College and the Irish International Immigration Centre in Boston securing 40 further J1 visas, 40 1 year placements in USA and a greater awareness of the programme.

Business and Investment:

- Belfast City Council endorsed recent Boston inward investments in Belfast eg. Black Duck, Rapid 7.
- Belfast City Council connected with Mass Challenge – a business eco system with a global presence, who are keen to link with a Belfast eco system and ultimately link the 3 Sister Cities.

International Relations Action Plan 2017/18

China Actions 2017/18

Political/Civic:

- Belfast City Council will co-host the Chinese Minister Counsel for Science and Technology during his return visit to Northern Ireland and Ulster University, to specifically look at best practice in Green Technology.
- Belfast City Council will lead a multi-partner outward mission to 6-13 China in May 2017 to explore education, investment and business cooperation.
- Belfast City Council will host the first Shenyang inward Mayoral visit in 2017.

Business/Investment:

- Belfast City Council will host an inward business mission from the London Chinese Chamber of Commerce with Invest Northern Ireland in 2017.

Tourism/Culture/Arts:

- Belfast City Council secured an opportunity to feature a Belfast art performance in Shenyang in 2018 when the 18th World Cities Association for Mayors will meet. Belfast City Council is working with Confucius to select and fund this.
- Belfast City Council will support Chinese New Year 2018.
- Belfast City Council connected the Irish Football Association with the 3rd annual Shenyang Peace Football Tournament to send a team of U12 and U13 to Shenyang in August 2017.

International Relations Action Plan 2017/18

Nashville Actions 2017/18

Political/Civic:

- Belfast City Council will lead a cross sectoral mission to Nashville from 17-20 May 2017
- Nashville has confirmed that the city will lead an annual cross sectoral delegation to Belfast each October for the annual International Homecoming, to engage in the event, meet Belfast and Boston colleagues, and continue to progress on collaboration.

Education/Sport:

- Ulster University secured Department of Economy funding to hold a competition to take 10 Undergraduate students to Nashville in April 2017 for a multi-sectoral programme (147 students applied).
- Belfast City Council will again facilitate a Harpeth Hall student work placement for 3 weeks in January 2018 in partnership with Strathearn College.
- Belfast City Council has helped facilitate a March 2017 Methody College student (5) exchange with Harpeth Hall.
- The NI Judiciary is planning an initial exploratory visit to Nashville in May 2017, along with the Belfast City Council delegation.

Business and Investment:

- Belfast City Council delivered a 3 way Sister City Life and Health Science company showcase and business to business programme in Boston in October 2016. This has led to a focused sectoral inward mission to Belfast from Nashville from 2-4 April 2017 and all partners desire to host 3 way annual events in Boston to grow the sector and linkages at business and academia level.
- Generator NI has engaged with the Nashville Centre for entrepreneurship and will lead a delegation of leading Belfast musicians to Nashville in September 2017 to develop business opportunities.

Tourism/Culture/Arts:

- Belfast City Council will continue the conversation with Charles McCutcheon and the Nashville Music Hall of Fame, with regard to engagement in the new visitor attraction, and creating Belfast/Boston/Nashville 3 way music tourism trail.
- Belfast City Council has connected the BBC with Nashville's Annual Country Music Awards to explore the potential of mainstreaming the awards live in Belfast (Ulster Hall), and simultaneously promoting the revival and growth of country/folk music here in Northern Ireland.

International Relations Action Plan 2017/18

Boston Actions 2017/18

Political/Civic:

- Belfast City Council will host a cross sectoral mission from Boston from 5-7 June 2017.
- Belfast City Council is donating an organ donor arts sculpture to Boston on 3 December as part of the global cities initiative to celebrate and provide organ donorship.
Note: Belfast was gifted the sculpture now located in Botanic Gardens by the City of Galway
- Belfast City Council will host Boston and Nashville delegates during the annual International Homecoming in October 2017.

Education/Sport:

- Ulster University will enter into a collaborative arrangement with Emerson College, Boston on animation. This link was made via Belfast City Council.
- Belfast City Council linked Belfast Metropolitan College to the Massachusetts Association of Colleges and Universities – ongoing.
- Belfast City Council secured a Harvard University keynote speaker for the launch of the Belfast Metropolitan College Belfast Business Show 2017.
- Belfast City Council will co-host the 3rd annual Friendship Four Ice Hockey Tournament and Gala dinner in November 2017.
- Belfast City Council will co-host the inaugural Basketball Hall of Fame Belfast Invitational Tournament in December 2017.

Business and Investment:

- Belfast City Council will host a Worcester (MA) trade mission coinciding with the inaugural Basketball Tournament in December 2017.
- Belfast City Council and CSIT (Centre for Cyber Security) will host experts from Nashville and Boston at the annual Belfast Cyber Security Summit 2-4 April 2017.
- Belfast City Council will provide Boston introductions for the first INI Sport technology trade mission to Boston on 5-8 June 2017.
- Belfast City Council will lead a cross sectoral Belfast in Boston week in October to coincide with the annual Boston based Life and Health Science event.

Tourism/Culture/Arts:

- Belfast City Council linked the Mac Belfast to Harvard University to explore receiving a Samuel Beckett exhibition in Belfast 2017.
- The Visitor Convention Bureau Boston and Visit Belfast will co-operate to promote the new Nordic low cost Belfast to Providence flight.

International Relations Action Plan 2017/18

Other planned 2017/18 activity

- Belfast City Council will host a visit of 22 students and teaching staff from the Columbia University in the state of New York, looking at planning and architecture practice in Belfast, and linking with both universities.
- Belfast City Council will host an inward study visit from Stockholm City Council from 24-26 April 2017, around the theme of regeneration and port/maritime development.
- Belfast City Council will host a visit from the Royal Family of Bahrain who will be on an exploratory visit to Dublin and Belfast looking at investment opportunities – date TBC.



Subject:	Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme – Support for Village Renewal Schemes in Hannahstown and Edenderry
Date:	8 March 2017
Reporting Officer:	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
Contact Officer:	Laura Leonard, European & International Relations 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	The purpose of the report is to seek Members’ approval for the submission of a bid under the ‘Village Renewal’ theme of the Rural Development Programme for the development of renewal schemes in Hannahstown and Edenderry following the completion of the villages plans and to recommend that the capital match funding element which is required to support the submission is referred to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee for consideration.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • authorise the submission of a bid under the Village Renewal theme of the Rural Development Programme for village renewal schemes in Hannahstown and Edenderry • note that, in order to secure the maximum allocation of £150,000 for the schemes, match funding of £70,000 from the Council is required. As this money is capital this needs to be considered by the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee as the Council’s investment decision maker and Members are asked to agree that

	<p>this scheme is referred to the SP&R Committee for its consideration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approve £7,500 for the current financial year and £7,500 in the coming financial year to support programme overheads to be met from within existing Departmental budgets
3.0	Main report
3.1	Members will recall that at its meeting on the 13 January 2016 the City & Growth Committee agreed to enter into an SLA with Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council to support the development and delivery of activities within the eligible area for the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (NIRDP).
3.2	At this time Members also agreed to provide development costs of £10,000 towards the production of village plans for the Hannahstown and Edenderry village areas. These completed plans are a pre-requisite for drawing down NIRDP funding under the Village Renewal Theme. This is one of five priority areas under the programme. Given the limited eligible area within the Belfast City Council boundary, the Village Renewal Theme is one of the key opportunities for attracting NIRDP funding and the only two eligible village areas are Hannahstown and Edenderry.
3.3	At the 13 January 2016 meeting, Members were advised that, once the village plans were developed, information would be brought back to the Council to indicate the level of match funding required to support delivery.
3.4	<p>The completed plans set out a series of potential improvement works, aimed at delivering physical and environmental improvements in the respective areas -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hannahstown - the capital works include planting, environmental improvements and boundary improvements in line with NIRDP eligibility criteria. • Edenderry – environmental improvements works including paths upgrades and new marquee
3.5	The maximum budget available under the Village Renewal Programme is £150,000. The funding is subject to securing match funding from Belfast City Council. In order to secure the full £150,000, £50,000 of capital funding is required from the Council (to be allocated equally across the two village areas). In addition the Council will be required to contribute towards external professional services such as Landscape Architect,

Quantity Surveying and Construction Design Management Co-ordination. This should be a minimum of 10% (£20,000) of the overall capital cost of the works. The overall commitment from the Council is therefore £70,000. Given that this is for capital works this needs to be considered by the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee as the Council's investment decision maker and Members are asked to agree that this scheme is referred to the SP&R Committee for their consideration. It is also proposed that the projects are delivered by the Property and Projects Department - subject to approval by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

3.6 As part of the Service Level Agreement with Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council, Belfast City Council is also required to make a contribution towards programme staff overheads. This is based on the proportion of the district that sits within the eligible area and the available funding. This contribution covers programme overheads such as staffing and office accommodation. The rest of the funding is provided by NIRD P and Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council. The amount required is likely to be in the region of £7,500 each year over the first two years of the programme. Overheads will reduce in year 3 as programme expenditure decreases so a revised overhead will be calculated at that point and Committee approval will be sought for any Belfast City Council contribution. Members are asked to approve the allocation of £15,000 for the first two years of the programme from the Development Department's budget.

3.7 Financial and Resource Implications

Financial

Match funding - The RDP is subject to securing match funding from the Council. In order to secure the £150k £70k of match funding is required from the Council – as this money is for capital works this needs to be agreed by the SP&R Committee as the Council's investment decision maker and it is proposed that this is referred to the SP&R Committee for their consideration

Programme support - £15k required over the first two years of the programme - this funding has been set aside in departmental budgets for the 2016/17 and 2017/18 financial years

Resource

Officer time in continuing to work up the proposals

Equality & Good Relations Implications

	All activity will be subject to equality screening.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None



Subject:	Innovation Factory Year 2 Business Plan
Date:	8 March 2017
Reporting Officer:	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
Contact Officer:	Colin McCabrey, Economic Development 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	The purpose of this report is to update Members on performance of the Innovation Factory since opening at the end of September 2016 and to summarise Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and areas of work for the coming financial year, as detailed in the Year 2 Business Plan for the Centre.
1.2	The Year 2 Business Plan, covering the period 1 April 2017 to end of March 2018, has been approved by the joint Project Board. This Board consists of senior-level Officer representation from both Oxford Innovation (the centre operator) and Belfast City Council. It has responsibility for the strategic oversight of the Innovation Factory, including both the capital and business support activities.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the achievements of the Centre to date, as set out in Appendix 1; and • Endorse the Year 2 Business Plan for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018, as approved by the Project Board.

3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>About Innovation Factory</u></p> <p>Innovation Factory is located at Forthriver Business Park and offers Grade A-standard workspace for small businesses. The building is 55,000 sq. ft. in total; this includes 32,240 sq. ft. lettable space and 5,133 sq. ft. innovation space. It is the first development on the wider 14 acre business park site which was previously the site of James Mackie and Sons Engineering Works.</p>
3.2	<p>The Centre will accommodate 382 workstations across 111 business units when at full capacity. It will support at least 145 jobs by December 2018 and 187 by December 2020. It will provide support annually to over 100 businesses and create 5 collaborative networks. It will promote and encourage social and economic regeneration, encourage local and foreign direct investment and act as a catalyst for further development of Forthriver Business Park.</p>
3.3	<p>Belfast City Council accepted hand-over of the Centre from the contractor on 18th April 2016. It was completed two weeks ahead of the scheduled capital completion date and was on budget. Oxford Innovation Limited was appointed as the operator of the centre via a competitive dialogue procurement process. The Service Contract with Oxford Innovation came into effect on 1 June 2016. The contract is for an initial term of 5 years with the possibility of extension for a further three periods of three years subject to performance.</p>
3.4	<p>In accordance with the contract the performance of Oxford Innovation for the period to end of March 2017 will be formally assessed in April 2017. The contract contains a detailed methodology on how performance will be measured across a series of metrics including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extent to which services have been delivered in accordance with the Year 1 Service Commencement Plan and Business Plan; - Revenue generated; - Financial outturn (net profit/loss); - Customer satisfaction across tenants and users of the support services; - Complaints; and - Compliance with the Council's requirements
3.5	<p>Summary performance indicators to date are detailed in Appendix 1 for Members' information. A final dashboard of performance at the end of the financial year will be tabled to a future meeting of Committee upon completion. Some of the key performance results</p>

to date are that the centre is at 11.1% occupancy supporting 46 jobs across 14 tenant businesses. The buy local policy adopted by the centre has generated 90% local supplier spend (£165,000 – excluding Oxford Innovation’s centralised contracts). In excess of 50 community and stakeholder groups have been engaged and centre tenants are actively contributing to community benefit. A recruitment company tenant has committed to delivering recruitment training to circa 160 unemployed persons. The Community Engagement Officer is actively building positive relationships with local schools. A very successful Christmas good will event was hosted at the centre, attended by 55 P2 children from Springfield Primary and St Clare’s Primary School, their parents and friends.

3.6

Year 2 Annual Service Plan

The Year 2 Annual Service Plan and Business Plan for the Centre is a comprehensive document, in line with the contract requirements. It covers a range of areas including:

- Business support, innovation and growth services on offer;
- Marketing Plan and Proposed Target Markets;
- Business tenancy products, services and commercial terms (including business coaching delivered by the in-house Innovation Director);
- Benchmarking and comparison with other Oxford Innovation managed centres;
- Financial model;
- Community Engagement, Social Regeneration and Good Relations Plans;
- Continuous Improvement Plans;
- Displacement Mitigation;
- Management and organisation structure;
- Staffing (including placements);
- Facilities Management; and
- Summary of key policies.

3.7

An Innovation Director located at the centre full-time provides tenants with coaching to accelerate business growth and innovation. Alongside the Innovation Director a team of specialist business consultants offer a tailored menu of support including 1:1 coaching, business diagnostics, programmes and support. The workspace products available at Innovation Factory include:

- Dedicated business space
- Dedicated desks in shared offices
- Hot-desks in co-working areas

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Virtual office services - Membership - Conference, meeting and business lounge facilities - Café - Additional call and data packages.
3.8	<p>The Year 2 forecast occupancy is in line with Oxford Innovation’s original projection, forecast at 24% (7,749 sq ft). This is projected to increase to 43% in year 3; 76% in year 4 and 85% in year 5. 85% is defined as full occupancy to allow for churn and growth of tenants within the centre. The centre is forecast to come into annual profit in year 4 and cumulative operating profit in year 5.</p>
3.9	<p>The Year 2 business plan has been prepared in accordance with the financial model submitted as part of the original tender submission for the management of the centre. These projections were taken account of in the Economic Development revenue estimates for the 2017/18 financial year.</p>
3.10	<p>The Innovation Factory will continue to target high growth and innovative start-ups and SMEs in the coming year. The existing tenant sector mix is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Digital Services – 35% - Financial Services – 15% - R&D / Technology – 15% - Business Services – 15% - Insurance – 7% - Recruitment Services – 7% - Social Regeneration/Community focused business – 7%.
3.11	<p>The jobs located at the Centre are forecast to grow from the current 46 to 107 by April 2018. In the course of the coming financial year, key activities will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engagement with 115 businesses through first-time unique interventions (both tenant and non-tenant businesses) - 486 follow-on/repeat sessions with existing clients and users. The range of support is described as Growth Services or Innovation Services. It includes growth planning and strategic mentoring of clients and tenants, masterclass programmes with separate 1:1 mentoring, an open innovation event, support aimed at developing collaborations between tenants and users, a developer innovation programme and

a range of collaborative services in partnership with stakeholders such as Council, Invest NI and Techstart

- Targeted activities to attract FDI to the centre through the development of a 'plug and play' option and a price structure based on an all-inclusive cost per workstation model. Officers have been proactively engaging with Invest NI on an attractive proposition at Innovation Factory which can compete with other cities to attract FDI to the benefit of Innovation Factory tenants and the local community.

3.12








In addition to the economic focus of the Centre, social regeneration is a key element of the work programme at the Innovation Factory. This is about much more than just a stand-alone work stream: tenant businesses are encouraged to get involved by providing work placements and pro-bono support to local groups; there is a "Buy Local" policy to encourage the engagement of local businesses and there is an extensive programme of engagement with local schools and community organisations. The Innovation Factory will continue to utilise a proactive and inclusive engagement approach to inform and develop partnerships with organisations, forums, groups and individuals who are key to meeting the social regeneration objectives of the centre. Implementation of Innovation Factory's Social Integration and Community Engagement Plan (2017 – 2018) is built upon six key priorities highlighted below:

- Priority 1: To encourage positive local engagement aligned to the ethos of the Innovation Factory that can extend its core services to include under-represented groups. This includes opportunities to sponsor local initiatives, summer innovation bootcamps for young people and meet the buyer-events;
- Priority 2: To assist and support local businesses to tap into supply chain 'spin-off' opportunities arising from the operation of the Innovation Factory. To date, 90% of expenditure has been incurred locally (excluding centralised OI services such as IT etc.);
- Priority 3: To facilitate skills development, work placements and permanent employment opportunities for long-term unemployed / economically inactive people living within the local community. This activity will compliment City Council employability and skills initiatives, including Belfast Works. Under this priority it is worth noting the intent of Oxford Innovation to position the café within the centre as a "learning café". This means that there will be opportunities for work placements and traineeships. In addition, it forecasts a further 4 x 24 week placements within the centre in 2017/18, working with tenants to secure further placements and delivery of a pre-employment programme and local skills academy;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Priority 4: To provide school children from the Springfield Road, Shankill area and surrounding locality with first hand exposure to innovation and entrepreneurship with the aim of inspiring the next generation; - Priority 5: To engage actively with the local community to show-case operations including promotion of social enterprise activity and corporate social responsibility. This involves delivering a social community improvement activity that can utilise the skill-base of IF tenants for community benefit and well-being; and - Priority 6: To actively target, exploit and monitor potential sources of external support funding / other opportunities related to social regeneration. <p>3.13 Similarly to 2016/17, a detailed Social Integration and Community Engagement Plan Action Plan will be developed. This will be informed by the wider community engagement activity and will be widely promoted.</p> <p>3.14 <u>Finance and Resource Considerations</u> The Year 2 Business Plan for Innovation Factory has been prepared within the financial parameters detailed in the Financial Model submitted as part of Oxford Innovation’s tender for the operation of the centre. The Financial Model is still accurate as income and expenditure aligned with occupancy and usage is consistent with the original submission. The Council budget for IF Year 2 is included within the 17/18 Economic Development Unit estimates.</p> <p>3.15 <u>Equality & Good Relations Implications</u> The Innovation Factory Project has been successfully equality screened and the Social Regeneration Activities detailed within the Year 2 Annual Service plan will further develop equality and good relations impacts of the centre.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Performance dashboard of Innovation Factory October 2016 to current (still subject to formal performance review in April 2017).

Appendix 1

Innovation Factory (IF) Status Update (October 2016 – current)

Indicator	Performance	Status
Occupancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 66 enquiries, 53 qualified (meeting funding and planning conditions), 38 viewings, 14 licenses; - 11.1% occupancy (3,890 sq ft of Net lettable area of 35,000 sq ft); - BCC's first funding occupancy related target is: to achieve 55% occupancy by 31st Dec 2018; - No customers have left the centre. 	
Sectors / Tenants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Professional Services (Planning, Finance, Insurance & Recruitment); - TV Production; - Software & Wifi development; - Engineering Consultancy; - Courier Services; - Training; - Telecommunications 	
Source of Tenants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 new starts; - 7 relocations; - 4 from home office; - UU pipeline for the grow-on space for university spin-outs in development; 	
Graduation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 new business start tenant extending from 177 sq ft to 501 sq ft and 3 jobs to 5 jobs; 	
Employability & Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 46 jobs across the tenants located at the centre (projected to grow to 58 across the existing tenants in 2017); - 1 x tenant placement to date (voluntary capacity); - 5 staff employed by Oxford Innovation for service delivery; - 2 x SIF 24 week placements secured; - 20 Long-term unemployed persons attended a interview masterclass delivered by BITC and IF; - Developing an employer led skills barometer for the area to inform future IF led E&S activity; - IF engagement with Makematic developing digital content as a resource for secondary schools benefitting a minimum of 40 students at IF (content will be available on YouTube soon); - Promoting enterprise and entrepreneurship to underrepresented groups. An IF facilitated event attracting 50 female entrepreneurs at IF (26th Jan); - Facilitating West Belfast Business Education Partnership (careers cluster) at Innovation Factory; - 1 tenant exploring taking on 2 apprentices (1 from E3 and 1 from Springvale); - 1 tenant providing training to positively support children with Autism; - Developing a learning café environment for the café service delivery; 	
Business Growth and Innovation Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 30 businesses attended open innovation event; - All tenant businesses supported by Innovation Director at IF; - 4 Fusion / KTP / Innovation Voucher projects being explored; - 20 businesses attended sales development workshop; - 7 businesses attended innovation leadership workshop; - 11 businesses attended disruptive innovation workshop; - 20 businesses attended a Google digital marketing workshop; 	
Foreign Direct Investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BCC target to encourage local and foreign direct investments to the centre by 31st Dec 2020; - Proposals in pipeline for INI consideration (cost per workstation option) for FDI companies; - Sales suite proposition being developed for INI consideration. 	

Marketing	<p>66 enquiries have been generated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BCC business page: 12 - Referral: 9 - Word of Mouth: 6 - Social Media: 1 - Website: 35 - Other: 3 <p>Current viewing to sales ratio is 38% (OI average across centres is 25%) A Year 2 Marketing Plan has been received as part of the Year 2 Business Plan</p>	
Social Regeneration initiatives summarised below:		
Good Relations & Shared Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 52 stakeholder groups engaged; - Access improvements being scoped with community & stakeholders; - Christmas good will event attended by 55 P2 school children & their families (Springfield Primary & St Clare's Primary School). IF funded community prizes on the evening; - Engaging with QUB Science Shop re: research student undertaking social regeneration multiplier analysis; - Strategic and programme updates provided by IF via attendance at the Springvale Inter-agency meeting; 	
Business supply chain spin-off opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Buy local & buy social procurement: £165k local contract spend (only £17.5k of which outside of Belfast); - Developing loyalty and incentive / discount schemes for tenants with local businesses. 	
Tenant led Corporate Social Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One tenant supporting Belfast Model School for Boys in the development of an App; - 1 tenant aiming to select a local and a regional charity to support through CRS activities; - 1 tenant exploring a project to create a virtual reality piece for social benefit; - 1 tenant aiming to avail of E3 student to develop social media strategy; - 1 tenant considering delivering classes to help parents keep their children safe online; - Training to circa 160 unemployed persons; 	
Sources of Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing a funding proposal for NI Big Lottery involving IF, Schools and USEL. 	
Facility Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facility Amends • Furniture • Operations Manual 	
Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial delivery in accordance with year 1 business plan 	
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 2 Annual Service Plan developed for delivery April 2017 – March 2018; • Annual Performance Review completed by Council April 2017 to assess performance 16/17 Financial Year; • Internal lessons learned and exit plan workshop 	



Subject:	BelTech Conference 2017
Date:	8 March 2017
Reporting Officer:	Donal Durkan, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Colin McCabrey, Economic Development Manager, ext 3805

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	The purpose of this report is to recommend a funding contribution of £8,000 towards the delivery of the Belfast Technology Conference 2017 (BelTech).
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>Committee is asked to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider and approve the request for sponsorship of £8,000 to support the BelTech conference to be held in Belfast on 5–7 April 2017. Note that Officers are adopting a process for assessing sponsorship requests aligned to the Belfast Agenda targets and outputs. A future report will be brought to Committee for endorsement.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Members will be aware that one of the key priorities of the Belfast Agenda is Growing the Economy. Central to this pillar of activity is the commitment to increase business start up, build support for business growth and encourage additional investment in the City.</p> <p>Belfast's economic growth in recent years has been driven by technology-focused</p>

3.2	<p>businesses operating across a range of sectors. These companies are both FDI businesses and small, indigenous companies that are developing products and services here that are being exported worldwide or have the potential to do so.</p>
3.3	<p>Over the course of the last few years, there have been a number of annual tech-focused business conferences and events that have sought to showcase best practice, encourage collaboration between businesses and encourage young people to become engaged in the tech sector. The growing support for the Smart City Agenda means that the Council and the City are now looking at technology not only as a business product but also as a way of changing the way we all do business.</p>
3.4	<p>Belfast City Council supported the inaugural Belfast Technology Conference event which took place in April 2014 and the subsequent conferences in April 2015 and 2016. Sponsorship from the Council was reduced from £15,000 to £10,000 in 2016 with the view to reducing the reliance on Council funding each year as the conference grows and becomes self-sustaining.</p>
3.5	<p>The 2016 conference took place at Titanic Belfast and brought together tech and business leaders as well as politicians from Belfast, USA and Europe including Jascha Franklin-Hodge, Chief Information Officer for the City of Boston's Department of Innovation and Technology, and Doug Safford, Vice President of Technology Innovation at Allstate in Chicago.</p>
3.6	<p>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 and it also helped educate and inspire kids/parents/teachers about the potential of a career in Digital Technology, thereby building the digital skill base and reinforcing Belfast's global lead in this area.</p>
3.7	<p>BelTech 2016 attracted a total of 649 attendees, which is an increase of 250 since its inception in 2014. BelTech 2017 will now incorporate an extra day to the conference and will feature a strategic digital marketing campaign to attract more attendees from ROI and beyond.</p> <p>The 2017 conference will again be held at Titanic Belfast and will target technology professionals, tech business owners and those interested in establishing a business, as</p>

3.8	well as post primary school children, teachers and university students.
3.9	Key thematic areas for this year's conference include Software Engineering, which will be led by Kainos and Liberty IT and Machine Learning, Connected Learning and Immersive Technology which will be driven by input from the UK Digital Catapult.
3.10	<p>BelTech 2017 will now run over 3 days and will feature the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 & 6 April: Days 1 and 2 will focus on technology professionals and businesses and will feature curated conversations on the themes identified above. The Lord Mayor of Belfast will be invited to open the event and a global expert will present the initial session. The conversation sessions will be moderated by a Belfast entrepreneur and will feature respected Belfast and Global experts. • All sessions will be recorded and, ideally, be broadcast live via the conference website to a global audience. The emphasis of attendees will be on business networking and discussion of success stories and potential of technology. • 7 April: Day 3 will focus on Post Primary school children and teachers and will feature a mix of engaging technology demos and conversational sessions as above. The emphasis for attendees will be engaging technology demos for kids and discussion of career pathways and opportunities. • Exhibition: Throughout the 3 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 covered in the Conference. Education providers will also be among the exhibitors to provide advice and guidance to students.
3.11	<p>The overall aims and benefits of the BelTech conference include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaining an awareness of emerging technologies and practices that will improve participants' effectiveness and career development • Interacting with highly successful tech/business leaders and role models • Building personal networks and enhancing career prospects • Contributing to building a vibrant technology community and culture in Belfast and NI that can compete effectively on a global scale • Contributing to the NI Innovation Strategy • Informing students and young people about the types of technology careers

	<p>available and advising them on routes into employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspiring students and young people by successful role models and their stories • Supporting teachers to provide quality careers guidance and advice on future employment opportunities for students in this field • Developing awareness among key international companies of Belfast capability as a source of technology talent.
3.12	<p>The finance requested from Council is £8,000, a reduction of £2,000 from the previous year. Sponsorship of the event will provide Council the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full page advertisement in conference magazine (includes editorial); • Primetime positioning of Council logo on all materials including website and all promotional materials • Prime exhibition space • 10 Delegate passes.
3.13	<p>It is proposed that the delegate passes will be offered to small businesses located at the Innovation Factory. A number of Council Officers will also attend to staff the exhibition stand. Should Members wish to attend the event, they should advise Officers and arrangements can be made to enable them to do so.</p>
3.14	<p>Members will be aware that Business Support activities delivered by the Council's Economic Development Unit concentrate primarily on starting a business, growing a business and investing in Belfast as well as supporting employability and skills work.</p>
3.15	<p>The range of initiatives delivered or supported in each of these areas is developed based on research and engagement with partners to identify what will make the most significant contributions to the outcomes set out in the Belfast Agenda.</p>
3.16	<p>In addition to programme activity, there are also opportunities to engage with local events – such as Beltech – that are aligned to the Council's strategic priorities. At present, there is no objective approach by which decisions can be taken on approaches for funding that are made to the Council, outside of a broad assessment as to the ways in which they can contribute towards delivery of the Belfast Agenda outcomes.</p> <p>However, in order to take a targeted approach to supporting inclusive economic growth and ensuring participation by the most disadvantaged and under-represented groups in</p>

<p>3.17</p> <p>3.18</p> <p>3.19</p> <p>3.20</p> <p>3.21</p>	<p>our community, it is proposed that a more objective process is established in the future when assessing funding requests. This will ensure that the Council is seen to align itself to relevant activities to support its ambitions for inclusive economic growth – particularly those that involved ethnic minorities, persons with a disability or persons that are long-term unemployed/economically inactive.</p> <p>It is therefore proposed that Officers will develop an assessment process by which decisions can be taken about how to best invest Council resources in events of this type.</p> <p>This will enable a more objective assessment of any funding or sponsorship requests. It will also create greater transparency around funding decisions. An update on this will be brought back to a future meeting of the Committee.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The total budget requested is £8,000 which will be met from Economic Development Budgets. This has already been set aside in the 2017/18 estimates.</p> <p>Organisers are forecasting an additional £32,000 in sponsorship from other private and public sector partners. They consider that, in the longer-term, the event will become self-funding.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>No specific equality or good relations considerations.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices</p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p>None</p>

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Subject:	Request to approve licence applications for external markets
Date:	8 March 2017
Reporting Officer:	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
Contact Officer:	Clodagh Cassin, Markets Development 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	The purpose of the report is to seek approval from Members to grant a licence for a Market to be held in the Titanic Exhibition Centre as part of the Local Women Magazine – Titanic Food Festival in June 2016. Approval is also being sought to grant a licence for a monthly market to take place in Crumlin Road Gaol, starting in April 2017.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Approve the granting of a licence for the Market to be held at Titanic Exhibition Centre on 24 June 2017; – Approve the granting of a licence for monthly markets to be held in Crumlin Road Gaol, commencing in April 2017.
3.0	Main report
3.1	Members will be aware that Belfast City Council has exclusive rights to hold markets in Belfast. Anyone wishing to operate a market must apply to the Council for permission to do so.
3.2	The Markets Rights Policy, endorsed by the Development Committee in 2013, delegated authority to the Director of Development to approve some markets (e.g. those with less than

	<p>20 stalls, markets run solely for charitable purposes). All other requests require the approval of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee.</p>
3.3	<p>Local Women is a magazine that is produced and distributed across Northern Ireland. The magazine is working with a range of local partners to organise a one-off market in the Titanic Exhibition Centre on Saturday 24 June 2017 from 9am-3pm.</p>
3.4	<p>Plans for the market are currently being finalised but the organisers are suggesting that there will be between 30 and 40 stalls taking part in the market part of the event. The focus will be predominantly on local food produce.</p>
3.5	<p>The Crumlin Road Gaol Market is scheduled to commence April 2017 and organisers are suggesting that there will be between 27 and 30 stalls taking part in this market. If successful, the organisers intend that it will take place on a monthly basis.</p>
3.6	<p>According to the Markets Rights Policy, one of the factors to be considered when granting a licence is whether there is the potential to clash with and detract from the key city markets. These two proposed markets will coincide with the operating hours of St George's Market. However, given that the Market at Titanic Quarter is to be a one-off, and also taking account of the fact that neither of these is in close proximity to St George's, Officers do not consider that these events will have a detrimental impact on St George's Market.</p>
3.7	<p>Members should note that it is the intention that the Markets Rights Policy will be reviewed in the course of the coming year. This review will look at whether the Policy is still valid and whether the approach is conducive to the Council's ambitions to support tourism development and small business growth. There will also be an opportunity to look at how the markets can support city animation and align to the new Festival and Events Strategy for the city.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications:</u></p> <p>The applicants for the Titanic Market will pay a one-off fee of £50 for the market licence and there will also be a £6 charge for each stall. The Crumlin Road Gaol applicant will pay a licence fee of £100 given that it is the intention that these Markets will happen on a monthly basis. The £6 fee per stall will also apply.</p>

3.9	<u>Equality & Good Relations Implications:</u> No specific equality or good relations implications.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None.

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Subject:	Draft Belfast Bicycle Network 2017 Consultation Document
Date:	08 March 2017
Reporting Officer:	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
Contact Officer:	Anne Doherty, Planning & Transport Officer

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	<p><u>Draft Belfast Bicycle Network 2017 Consultation Document</u></p> <p>The Department for Infrastructure (Dfi) has prepared a Draft Belfast Bicycle Network Consultation Document which aims to guide the development and operation of the bicycle infrastructure in Belfast for the next 10 years. The Draft Belfast Bicycle Network 2017 is a progression from the Northern Ireland Bicycle Strategy published in 2015 which identified building a comprehensive network for the bicycle as one of its main pillars. Members can access the full consultation document at the following link:</p> <p>https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/consultations/draft-belfast-bicycle-network-2017-consultation</p>
1.2	The suggested response to the Draft Belfast Bicycle Network 2017 Consultation Document is attached in Appendix 1, for consideration.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the proposed response to the Draft Belfast Bicycle Network 2017

	<p>Consultation Document (Appendix 1) and, if appropriate, agree this response for submission to Dfl.</p>
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>The Department for Regional Development (DRD) published the Northern Ireland (N.I) Bicycle Strategy in 2015 with a vision of establishing a cycling culture in Northern Ireland to give people the freedom and confidence to travel by bicycle, and where all road users can safely share space with mutual respect.</p>
3.2	<p>The N.I Bicycle Strategy outlined a three pillar approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build – a comprehensive network for the bicycle; - Support – people who choose to travel by bicycle; and - Promote – the bicycle as a mode of transport for everyday journeys.
3.3	<p>Under the Build pillar, the Strategy highlighted the importance of developing urban networks as a key element of developing a comprehensive network. The Draft Belfast Bicycle Network represents the public consultation on the first urban network – a bicycle network for Belfast.</p>
3.4	<p>The Council is currently consulting on its first Community Plan – the Belfast Agenda. Relevant to the Bicycle Network Plan, the Belfast Agenda identifies the following outcomes by 2035:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Everyone in Belfast experiences good health and wellbeing; and - Belfast is a vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally friendly city.
3.5	<p>It is proposed that the percentage of all journeys which are made by walking, cycling or public transport and number of miles of cycle lanes, footways and footpaths will help measure progress towards the Belfast Agenda outcomes. In addition within the next 4 years under the “City Development” priority, the Belfast Agenda aims to develop the city’s infrastructure and improve connectivity.</p>
3.6	<p>The Council acknowledges that the development of a Bicycle Network for Belfast will be key to delivering aspects of the Belfast Agenda and to giving those who would like to cycle freedom and confidence to do so. However the Council would highlight that the capital build element is only one element of encouraging an increase in cycling and a series of behavioural change programmes and positively framed public awareness campaigns will</p>

	be required to provide feelings of freedom and confidence.
3.7	The Bicycle Network is intended to guide the development and operation of the bicycle infrastructure in the city for the next ten years. The Council recognises that the timeframe for the delivery of the network will be dependent on the resources available and it is critical that adequate resources are allocated to the implementation of the plan. The Council would welcome a more collaborative working approach on the prioritisation and implementation of the Bicycle Network Plan.
3.8	The Council would highlight the success of the Belfast Bikes scheme and the high demand to expand the scheme outside the city centre which is currently underway in parts of the City. In order to support this scheme, there is an urgent need to improve the overall cycling infrastructure across the City for current and future users.
3.9	It is proposed to develop different types of routes depending on the user needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Level of experience - inexperienced, casual, experienced; and - Trip purpose – utilitarian (cycling for a particular purpose e.g. commute, run an errand) or recreational.
3.10	The Council is supportive of this approach as each route will be different in terms of potential users and mix of travel modes. The use of a mixed network of routes would provide options for cyclists of various abilities and for commuting as well as leisure.
3.11	In addition, different types of infrastructure (cycle tracks, mandatory cycle lanes, contraflow cycle lanes, bus and cycle lanes, shared streets, and traffic calming measures) are identified and it is suggested that the network would consist of a range of these depending on the circumstances at each location. The Council would encourage that consideration be given to ensuring the highest levels of safety (traffic-free cycle routes and protected bike lanes) are appropriately employed along routes i.e. highest level of safety near schools and along routes where motorised traffic may be faster flowing).
3.12	The Department for Infrastructure (DfI) has recently announced a 12 week trial to allow Class A taxis access to bus lanes from Monday 20 th February. The trial will apply to the bus lanes on the East and West Belfast Rapid Transit (BRT) routes and the 12 hour bus lanes in the city centre, which link the two routes. There is concern that the use of the bus lanes by taxis will reduce the level of safety for cyclist and be in contradiction of the aims

	of the N.I Bicycle Strategy.
3.13	<p>Building on the themes outlined in the Bicycle Strategy, the Draft Belfast Bicycle Network identifies the following network requirements in defining the general character of the proposed bicycle network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Design Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coherence; - Directness; - Attractiveness; - Safety; and - Adaptability
3.14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guiding Principles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cycling must be planned for mass transport; - Facilities need to be designed for growing numbers; - Bicycles should be segregated from pedestrians where possible; - Bicycles should have space separated from volume motor traffic; - Quiet and lower-traffic speed streets should be used; - Interventions need not be attempted on every road; - Routes need to flow and take account of how users behave; - Routes need to be intuitively understandable by all users; - Provision needs to be consistent and routes need to be planned as a network; - Capital infrastructure may be necessary; - All designers of cycle schemes should cycle the proposed route; and - Routes need to be maintained.
3.15	<p>The Council considers maintenance of the network to be important to ensure its continual usage and would encourage that the network is regarded as a significant part of the local traffic infrastructure and should be seen as an extension of the road network. In this regard it should be given due priority with relation to maintenance, removal of debris, treatment in winter, etc. The Council would require clarification around potential financial issues relating to both the capital build and ongoing maintenance of the network.</p>
3.16	<p>A Primary Network consisting of 8 arterial/radial routes and 3 orbital routes (Appendix 2) has been identified. A Secondary Network will reach further into communities and provide access to services and other key destinations. The Council supports this approach</p>

	building upon the existing infrastructure across the city.
3.17	The Council considers the omission of a number of the main arterial routes which service high density residential areas from the primary network as a major oversight. In particular, the Lisburn and Ormeau Roads suffer from heavy traffic congestion as highlighted by a recent study and the opportunity to develop high quality cycle infrastructure along these routes to encourage a modal shift is paramount. In addition, the south and north of the city will not benefit from the Phase 1 of Belfast Rapid Transit, therefore priority should be given to promoting other sustainable modes such as walking and cycling routes.
3.18	The Council also proposes that consideration is given to an additional community greenway route to service the south west of the City. The alignment of the route would link the proposed Transport Hub and Belfast City Centre along the busway to the Westlink, Bog Meadows, along the M1 Motorway corridor to connect with the Lagan Towpath and Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park. This route has the potential to link high density residential areas in the west of the city to the Lagan Towpath and the city centre. It would provide a safer environment in which to encourage greater uptake of cycling, improve accessibility, improve health and well being and support greater bio-diversity.
3.19	While the Council welcomes the plan and agrees to it in principle, we would require clarification on the impact on Council land in terms of access, pathways, lighting and gates. The Council would also suggest that discussions take place with the relevant Council officers in relation to the specific proposed routes in relation to design, build and ongoing maintenance. As previously suggested, the Council would welcome a more collaborative working approach on the planning and implementation of the Bicycle Network Plan with the potential to improve elected member engagement through a presentation to committee.
3.20	Members should note that a Strategic Review of the Belfast Bikes Scheme is underway. Part of this review is to look at options for expansion of the scheme to other parts of the city and this will be examined in line with the proposals coming from the DFI in respect of the Belfast Bicycle Network.
3.21	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None.

3.22	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> No specific equality or good relations implications.
4.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1 - Response to the Draft Belfast Bicycle Network 2017 Consultation Document Appendix 2 - Proposed Routes

Appendix 1 – Response to Draft Belfast Bicycle Network 2017 Consultation Document

Question 1:

Do you agree that producing a Bicycle Network for Belfast is an important element of developing a more bicycle-friendly city? What time frame do you think it should cover?

Yes - producing such a plan will be important when addressing the barriers which deter people from cycling across the city. The BikeLife Belfast (2015) reported that almost 1 in 3 people in Belfast do not ride a bicycle but would like to. Addressing the bicycle infrastructure will be a key priority to realising the potential that travelling by bicycle can make to people's lives and the city in general. This is recognised within the Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland and the Belfast Active Travel Action Plan.

We would encourage that while an initial timeframe to create the Bicycle Network for Belfast should be in the region of ten years, the Network should be seen as 'ever improving' with development, maintenance and adaptation to meet demand and advances in technology considered on a continuous basis.

The timeframe for the delivery of the network will be dependent on the resources available and it is critical that adequate resources are allocated to the implementation of the plan. The Council would welcome a more collaborative working approach on the prioritisation and implementation of the Bicycle Network Plan.

We would highlight the success of the Belfast Bikes scheme and the high demand to expand the scheme outside the city centre which is underway in parts of the City. In order to support this scheme there is an urgent need to improve the overall cycling infrastructure across the City for current and future users.

Question 2:

Do you agree that these five criteria from the BMTP are still valid for the development of a network for Belfast? If not, what do you consider the criteria should be? Please explain.

Yes - the 5 criteria listed are still valid for the development of the Bicycle Network for Belfast. We would encourage that consideration is given to re-ordering the criteria to reflect the priority and potential of each criteria i.e. safety is listed as the fourth criteria, however, perceptions of safety would be the key barrier preventing more people from cycling. Without safe, practical, and continuous routes in urban areas it is unlikely that the increasing levels of cycling can be sustained. We would encourage the list to be re-ordered as follows: safety, coherence, directness, comfort and attractiveness.

Question 3:

Do you agree that the development of a Belfast Bicycle Network is a key element in giving those who would like to cycle (but currently don't) the freedom and confidence to do so?

Yes - the development of a Bicycle Network for Belfast will be key to giving those who would like to cycle freedom and confidence to do so.

However the capital build element is only one element of encouraging an increase in cycling and a series of behavioural change programmes (including cycle training) and positively framed public awareness campaigns will be required to provide feelings of freedom and confidence. It is also key that there is an enforcement campaign to ensure that cycle lanes are not misused by other road users.

Safety is a concern for people in Belfast, when it comes to cycling. Belfast BikeLife (2015) reported only 29% of people surveyed rated cycling safety in Belfast as good or very good. The development of high quality infrastructure will be required to increase this figure.

Question 4:

Do you agree that the objectives in 3.9 should be applied to the network? If not, what objectives do you think should be set?

3.9 Objectives

- *To develop a comprehensive bicycle network for commuter, amenity and recreational cycling through the expansion of cycling infrastructure and cycling facilities;*
- *To bring good quality cycle routes within the reach of most people within the city;*
- *To ensure a consistent level of service in the design of safe infrastructure – providing dedicated infrastructure where there are large volumes of higher speed vehicles and shared facilities where the volume and speed of traffic is low;*
- *To encourage use of the bicycle and promote safe cycling through increasing the amount of bicycle parking, providing more cycling education programmes for both young people and adults, supporting events to promote cycling.*

Yes – the objectives outlined cover the main points for consideration. We would encourage that consideration be given to phrasing the objectives in the language of outcomes, to match the direction being set by the draft Programme for Government and the draft Belfast Agenda.

Question 5:

Do you agree that the primary network should be based on the concept of arterial and orbital routes?

Yes – the development of the Bicycle Network for Belfast should be pragmatic and make the most of the existing traffic infrastructure across the city. The use of arterial and orbital routes fits with the current infrastructure for motorised traffic and provides flexibility when planning bicycle journeys.

Question 6:

Do you agree that the network should be developed in Primary and Secondary stages as outlined in 3.13? If not, how should it be developed?

Yes – the use of primary and secondary stages for development is again a pragmatic approach. Development of the Network should maximise existing infrastructure improvement schemes and future city developments. We would encourage focus to be given to routes which offer the greatest potential to increase the number of people using the bicycle, including consideration of areas which are to see an increase in population numbers.

Question 7:

Do you agree that we should consider requirements of likely users on a scheme by scheme basis, for example routes which will primarily be used by children on the school journey may be best served as shared track?

Yes – while the planning of all routes should follow the same guiding principles, each route will be different in terms of potential users and mix of travel modes. The use of a mixed network of routes would provide options for cyclists of various abilities and for commuting as well as leisure.

We would encourage that consideration be given to ensuring the highest levels of safety (traffic-free cycle routes, shared pavements and protected bike lanes) are appropriately employed along routes i.e. highest level of safety near schools and along routes where motorised traffic may be faster flowing).

Question 8:

Are there any other kinds of bicycle infrastructure that should be considered? What are they? Do you have any views on which types of infrastructure, if any, should be favoured in developing a network for Belfast?

The Council would support innovative forms of cycling infrastructure provision and the development of segregated cycle routes /junctions similar to match the quality of best practice in Europe. In other areas, Authorities are currently trialling innovative cycling infrastructure such as:

- segregation within carriageway, side road crossings and separations methods;
- Dutch style roundabouts (kerb-segregated cycle track at carriageway level, orbiting the roundabout, with priority for cyclists across the entry and exit lanes);
- Traffic signals for cyclist – high and low level; and
- bus stop by passes.

We would encourage that where possible the infrastructure providing the highest level of safety be used and where this is not possible consideration is given to the use multiple options i.e. the best suited physical infrastructure coupled with appropriate traffic calming measures.

Question 9:

Do you support the use of the network requirements as detailed at paragraph 5.1?

Para 5.1 Building on the themes agreed in the Bicycle Strategy we have drawn up a number of network requirements to assist in defining the general character of the proposed bicycle network in

Belfast. In order to develop and maintain a coherent and consistent network it is important that the requirements are referred to:

- *at the time of route selection;*
- *during the design and implementation of individual routes within the network;*
- *when changes to the network are being contemplated;*
- *in other relevant planning documents; and*
- *when the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan is reviewed and updated.*

Yes – the network requirements are appropriate.

Question 10:

Do you agree with the addition of ‘Adaptability’ as a network requirement? What other requirements would you like to see included?

Yes – routes along the network need to be adaptable to ensure bicycle users of all abilities have the opportunity to experience the freedom and confidence to cycle, as set out within the ‘vision and objectives for cycling’.

Question 11:

Do you agree that the routes should be planned and facilities designed with the achievement of increasing numbers of people cycling in mind?

Yes – the development of the network should primarily be focused on increasing the number of people cycling. Changes to the physical infrastructure which slows or removes motorised traffic from a space may promote the use of that space for a variety of other uses. The network could allow for increases in other sustainable travel modes including walking and scooting.

Question 12:

What are your views on segregation between people who walk, people who cycle and people who drive? What are your views about physical segregation between motorised traffic and non-motorised traffic? Do you agree that there are levels of traffic (footway or carriageway) below which physical segregation is not always necessary – such as quiet routes and residential areas?

Segregation of people who walk, cycle or drive should be considered on the basis of potential speed of travel and volume of usage. The higher the potential speed or volume of traffic, the greater risk of serious incident. We would encourage that consideration is given to how infrastructure interventions are designed to prioritise the most vulnerable users i.e. where motorised traffic exceeds 20mph segregation is introduced, where people cycling have the potential to cycle above 5mph segregation is introduced. For quiet / residential areas which have effective traffic calming measures, physical segregation is not always required.

The Council would like to highlight the potential for shared use paths to create conflict between the pedestrian and cyclists. Busy pedestrian routes such as the shared path from Alfred Street to Cromac Street could benefit from some type of segregation such as demarcation or contrasting surfaces which could lead to a greater sense of safety, user confidence and comfort.

Question 13:

How important is the requirement that ‘routes need to flow’? What kind of signage should be provided? What facilities should be provided?

If the network is to encourage more people to cycle, then routes should provide an end-to-end journey for users and potential users. We would encourage that consideration be given to the type of journey most likely to take place across each route and appropriate signage and facilities be installed to match i.e. secure bicycle parking available at the end of each short route and within longer routes at points of interest is essential.

We would encourage the use of mixed signage throughout the network including directional signage, distance / time of travel signage, strong road markings, tourism signs / points of interest signs, etc.

Where required, the Council would suggest providing opportunities to rest / stop off (i.e. seating or shelter) on longer routes. The Council would also suggest including monitoring and traffic counters.

Question 14:

What is the relative importance between construction of a route and its maintenance? What other guiding principles would you suggest? Please explain.

Maintenance of the network will be important to ensure its continual usage. We would encourage that the network is regarded as a significant part of the local traffic infrastructure and is given the due priority with relation to maintenance, removal of debris, treatment in winter, etc. The network should be seen as an extension of the road network, a supplementary alternative that supports the better flow of people across the city. We would ask that the Council’s cleansing section is consulted during the design phase to ensure that consideration is given to allowing access for the mechanical sweepers which will be used to sweep the routes.

Question 15:

With reference to the appendices please set out your views on the proposed routes. We are interested in the positives or negatives associated with the various sections of the proposed routes.

General points for consideration would be to:

- Whilst we welcome the plan and would agree in principle, it does impact on Council land therefore we would require clarification on the impact on our land in terms of access, pathways, lighting and gates.
- We would require clarification around potential financial issues relating to both the capital build and ongoing maintenance.
- Maximize the existing network
- Incorporate the network within planned infrastructure improvements
- Prioritise the most vulnerable users of the network
- Align the highest level of safety infrastructure to parts of the network that carry the greatest risk of incident.

Question 16:

What are the specific issues that may arise if bicycle infrastructure was constructed along the proposed route?

As there is currently limited detailed on the proposed routes it is difficult at this point to identify what specific issues might arise. We would suggest that discussions take place with the relevant Council officers in relation to the specific proposed routes in relation to design, build and ongoing maintenance.

Question 17:

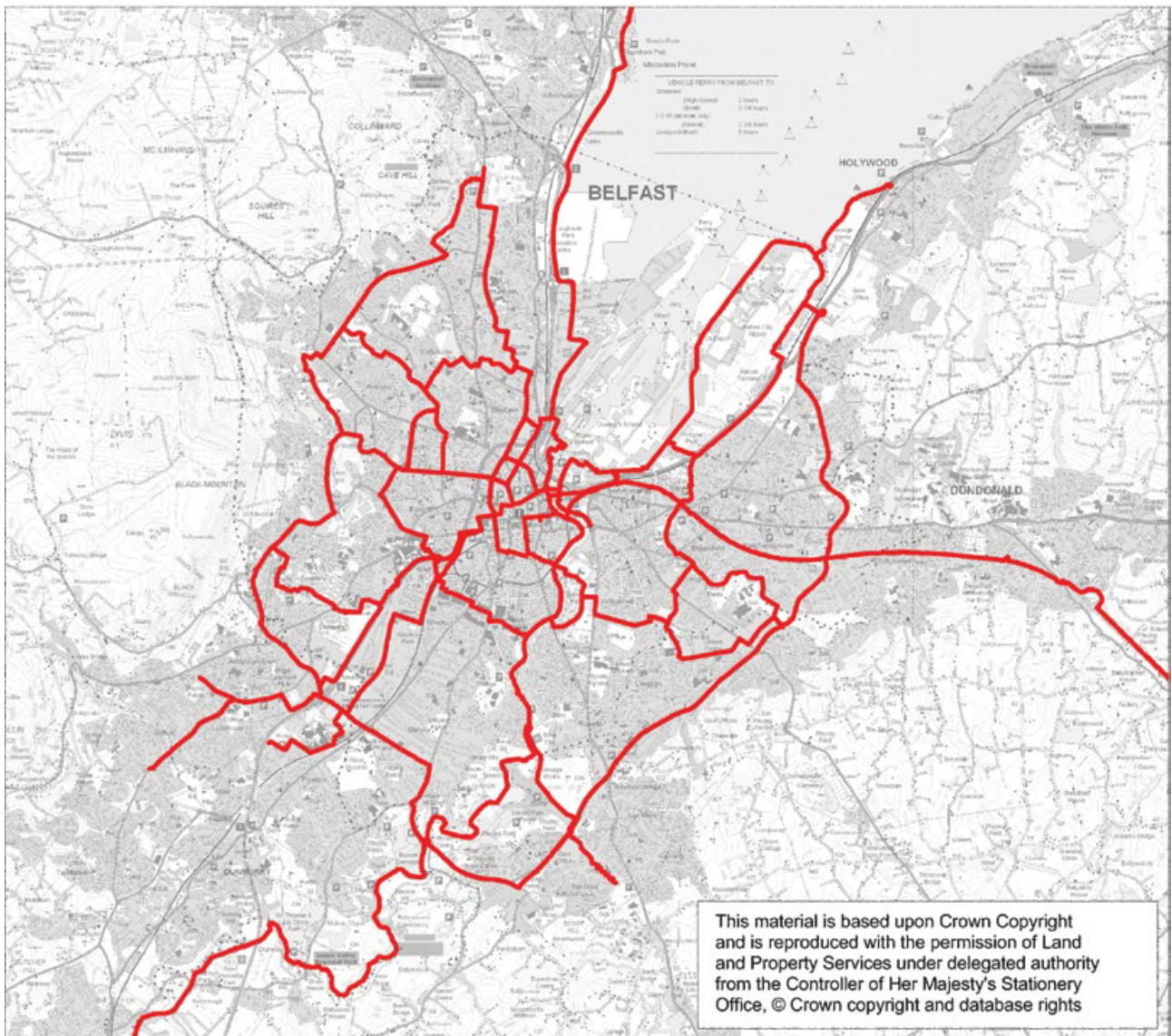
What other alternative routes are available?

The Council would request consideration is given to including a number of the main arterial routes in city which service high density residential areas as part of the primary network.

In particular, the Lisburn and Ormeau Roads suffer from heavy traffic congestion and the opportunity to develop high quality cycle infrastructure along these routes to encourage modal shift is paramount. In addition, the south and north of the city will not benefit from the Phase 1 of Belfast Rapid Transit therefore, it is considered that priority should be given to promoting other sustainable modes such as walking and cycling routes.

The Council would also propose the creation of a community greenway to the south west of the City from the City Centre along the M1 Motorway to connect with the Lagan Towpath and Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park. The proposed southern arm of the West Route extends from the Bog Meadows along the M1 motorway to Kennedy Way where it then travels west towards Andersonstown Leisure Centre. It is suggested that a new community greenway is developed so the route continues south alongside the motorway to connect with the Lagan Towpath. The additional extension would provide an opportunity for a sustainable travel option to the south west of the city, provide a safer environment in which to encourage greater uptake of cycling, improve health and well being and support greater bio-diversity. Council officers would request to meet with the Cycling Unit to discuss in more detail.

Appendix 2 – Proposed Routes



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Subject:	Zoo - Long term Options
Date:	8th March, 2017
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw Director City & Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Jacqui Wilson, Business Manager

Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input 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	At City Growth & Regeneration Committee on 12 th October 2016 the long term options for the Zoo were presented for consideration. After discussion it was agreed that the closure of the Zoo and the status quo would not be pursued as options. A date for the Workshop with Members was agreed for 2nd December to enable Members to develop a range of criteria to be applied and weighted for each of the operating options. Members also asked to include in the workshop what the Zoo would contain, or focus on, initially.
1.2	<p>The Members' workshop focused on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The value of the Zoo from a conservation and education perspective ▪ Whether there are options to change the focus and scale of the zoo – for example moving to European species only/smaller in scale ▪ The main themes Finance, staff, investment and associated risks were assessed
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Note the feedback from the workshop and Members' written submission ▪ Note that other stakeholder engagement is ongoing ▪ Provide decisions on the key issues outlined to allow consultants to carry out further work on the options and weight these options for evaluation

3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>Appendix 1 sets out the output from the Members' working group. The Members participating gave an indication that the priorities for change included;</p> <p>The need to get the balance right between;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Welfare ▪ Research and Conservation ▪ Education ▪ Visitor experience (excitement, entertainment and value for money) <p>Supporting operations that provide opportunities for;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Volunteers ▪ Students (schools to post graduates) ▪ Researchers <p>Providing Zoo facilities that have;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved attractions for visitors ▪ Features which appeal to teenagers ▪ An experience which is constantly improving and changing to ensure it remains attractive for repeat visits by local people <p>Written submission from a Member;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reassignment of the Zoo to move away from a focus on exotic animals to be replaced with animals from Northern Europe in particular native species. This is a less expensive option ▪ The priority is the physical and mental welfare of the animals ▪ There is an opportunity to focus on native species breeding and link in the education and conservation elements to become world renown ▪ Redirection of our breeding programme to focus on animal releases back into the wild ▪ The costs of the Zoo are prohibitive and should be funded by the Northern Ireland Assembly rather than Belfast City Council
3.2	<p>Other engagement is ongoing with HLF, TNI and Friends of the Zoo generally but they will also be involved in discussions on the preferred options put forward by Committee.</p>
3.3	<p>Key issues to be considered by Committee include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain in-house business operating model or agree an alternative model? ▪ Maintain the Zoo on the existing site or relocate? ▪ Reduce the size and animal collection at the Zoo? ▪ Reassign the Zoo to focus on Northern European animals and native species? ▪ Dependant on answers to the forgoing points, what are capital investment implications?

3.4 In considering the above issues, the below table sets out a range of potential business operating models against which Consultants could develop greater detail and identify weightings to assist with evaluation of a preferred option going forward.

	Option	Brief description	Risks / Benefits
1	Transformed In - House	This would involve a challenging transformation process that would have to extend to a change in the way central services support the operation of the Zoo. It would require flexibility and a move towards new ways of working.	Change may be slow to deliver and may meet strong resistance from some staff and from staff representatives. All risks remain with the Council
2	Council owned Company	This would involve a transformation in the ways of working and a change in the way that the Zoo is governed. A new company would have its own board of directors and this would bring new expertise to assist the management team and staff.	Trading risk remains with the Council – at least for the early years following transfer.
3	Public / Private Partnership – including possible Joint Venture	This could take many forms and could involve the creation of a new Joint Venture Company	There are complex procurement issues and the arrangements are likely to involve shared risk alongside complex formal agreements
4	Market Solution – possibly involving a competition for the granting of a Concession and Lease	This would involve the Council testing the market and then using the feedback to help shape a Prospectus; setting out an opportunity to the market that is structured as a concession with an associated lease or license.	Although there would be a full trading risk transfer (contractually fixed price), the Council would be still be required to provide a level of funding – probably tapering over a number of years. The Council could benefit from some form of agreement in which funding is returned to the Council if a level of income is achieved.
5	Market Solution – involving a competition for a Management Contract	This is similar in some respects to the granting of a Concession and Lease as above, but the Council would define its requirements in a far more prescriptive form	Although there would be a full trading risk transfer (contractually fixed price), the Council would be still required to provide a level of funding – probably tapering over a

			number of years. The Council could benefit from some form of agreement in which funding is returned to the Council if a level of income is achieved.
6	Hybrid Solution – possibly involving the establishment of a local “Trust” and the letting of a Concession / Management Contract to an Operating Partner	This could take various forms and ideas might emerge from an early market engagement	This might involve shared risk / reward, a two tier structure that is tax efficient and an agreement with a specialist operator (visitor attractions) aligned to a Zoo specialist.

3.5 Financial & Resource Implications

Currently the direct operating costs of the Zoo are approximately £1m per annum with capital depreciation, centrally held property maintenance budgets and internal support costs are additional to this. At the workshop in December Members highlighted that investment was needed in the Zoo in terms of addressing the condition of the Floral Hall, improving transport options and enhanced visitor attractions. There is currently no financial commitment to the Zoo Improvements in the Capital Programme. Management are currently exploring options for possible investment and engagement on improving the Zoo.

3.6 The Zoo Trade Union Forum nominated through JNCC has been set up. Staff and Trade Unions will be vital for the communication and engagement around the options and will be part of the stakeholder engagement.

3.7 There are no asset implications at this stage although the final phases of the project will include an assessment of capital assets investment required.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

3.8 There are currently no equality or good relation implications however this will continue to be reviewed as the project is developed.

4.0 **Appendices – Documents Attached**

	Appendix 1 – Zoo workshop findings

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1. Introduction by Zoo Manager

The Zoo is many things to many people, but has core functions that include;

- Conservation
- Education
- Welfare
- Scientific Study
- Research and care of Native Species and habitats
- Community activities

Conservation

The Zoo is involved in 61 local or global captive breeding programs, and has a long history of supporting a number of “in-situ” conservation projects including species native to Northern Ireland including;

- Barn Owls
- White tailed Sea Eagles
- Red Squirrels

From Asia, the Zoo supports conservation projects for;

- Asian elephants
- Visayan Warty Pigs
- Francois Moloch Gibbons
- Tree kangaroos
- Red Pandas

Other species include Madagascan and African Primates including Sifaka, Lemurs, and Lowland Gorillas and South American primates (Brazil and Colombia)

Zoos such as Belfast Zoo do important work in terms of education and captive breeding programmes.

Many of the resident animals came to Belfast Zoo for welfare reasons. Belfast Zoo is a retirement home for elephants, including one female which belongs to the German Government. She had been badly treated by a German circus, and was living in terrible conditions before being cared for by dedicated staff at Belfast Zoo who have cared for both her physical and psychological needs. The original Sea Lion group came to Belfast Zoo from the Californian Marine Rescue Sanctuary as they had all been blinded from shootings by local fishermen. One of the original group lived in Belfast Zoo for 23 years.

Belfast Zoo has always provided placement opportunities for students involved in animal related studies and other students involved in environmental studies. The Zoo has traditionally supported activities for people with long-term employment issues, as well as people with disabilities and learning difficulties. In the period September to November 2016 the Zoo provided around 50 placement opportunities.

Native Species - The Zoo has had a very proactive native species group for many years. We have our annual native species weekend and work closely with many local groups, trusts and government bodies (NIEA, Ulster Wildlife, NI Bat group, Belfast Hills, Ulster Museum etc.)

The zoo has helped to rehome injured hedgehogs and re-homed confiscated red squirrels and Barn owls. The zoo through donations has helped with surveys of wild Barn owls providing educational material and nest boxes. The zoo is part of the Red Squirrel Forum and through this organisation working with other interested partners has been able to release Red Squirrels back to the wild. We are privileged to have one of only two junior bat clubs in the UK based at Belfast Zoo; this is run by the NIbat group. We have many exciting native species projects with Bees coming in 2017.

Research - The Zoo has always encouraged academic research both locally and globally, and in the last three years there has been 26 animal related research projects conducted at Belfast Zoo.

2. Discussions related to presentation by V4

Recognising the wider value to multiple organisations (and potential funding partners)

- a) Tourism Northern Ireland / Visit Belfast etc.
- b) Local businesses
- c) Education sector

Future Vision

A Zoo to be proud of and which offers the highest possible standards of animal welfare. Making a major contribution to the wider Belfast Agenda

Financial requirements

- a) A Zoo that is affordable and sustainable, and is capable of generating enough income to fund a re-investment programme to deliver the Future Vision
- b) Connected to the City Offer
- c) Accessible for transport
- d) Very low secondary spend at present
- e) Benchmarks indicate relatively low numbers of visits for Zoo of this size with low income generally
- f) Benchmarks show high levels of operating costs (staffing as %age of income etc.)

Need to get the balance right between;

- a) Welfare
- b) Research and Conservation
- c) Education
- d) Visitor experience (excitement, entertainment and value for money)

Operations that provide opportunities for

- a) Volunteers

- b) Students (schools to post graduates)
- c) Research

Zoo facilities that have;

- a) Improved attractions for facilities
- b) Features which appeal to teenagers
- c) An experience which is constantly improving and changing to ensure it remains attractive for repeat visits by local people

Customer comments

Generally, very good reports of customer experience (Trip Advisor etc.)

Frequent adverse comments about;

- a) the steepness (for young children etc.)
- b) poor catering facilities
- c) empty enclosures (perception)
- d) poor signage and interpretative materials
- e) need for more guides / volunteers
- f) need for investment generally
- g) poor public transport to Zoo

Frequent positive comments about;

- a) Friendly staff
- b) Value for money – low admission fees
- c) Some very rare species

Improvement ideas

- Better internal transport – up the hill and around the Zoo – like the old train
- Marketing the benefits of the hill – tremendous views over the zoo landscape
- Important to recognise that a successful Zoo requires a constant programme of investment and improvement (refreshing the offer every year)
- More "experiences" – keeper for the day etc.
- Better programming of feeding times (higher visibility for visitors)

Welfare considerations

- Need to recognise that not everyone agrees with keeping exotic animals in captivity
- Some argue that the Zoo should evolve into a facility that only keeps native European species and is re-focused on returning animals to the wild and protecting species which are endangered in the region
- Welfare and conservation must be of the highest possible standards
- Need to demonstrate level of activities in programmes that relate to species in their natural habitats

Floral Hall

- Eyesore in current condition – at the entrance to the zoo for all to see
- Fantastic facility with real heritage and cultural significance to Belfast

NOTES from members' workshop – Belfast Zoo

- In need of major investment
- Can be a highly valuable asset to the Zoo in the long term
- With major investment, could provide first class facilities for conferences, celebrations and events