



Subject:	<u>Eurocities Culture Forum 2024</u>
Date:	20 September 2024
Reporting Officer:	Damien Martin, Strategic Director, Development Department
Contact Officer:	Lesley Ann O'Donnell, Senior Manager, Culture Tourism & Events

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input type="text" value="3"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime 	
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	Eurocities Culture Forum is taking place in Belfast 24-28 September 2024. We are expecting around 120 participants. The programme will be centred around showcasing our

1.2	<p>cultural strategy, local cultural sector and projects such as 2 Royal Avenue, Vacant to Vibrant, Hub-In, Belfast Stories and the Belfast 2024 programme. We are working with ten partner cities to include their case studies in the programme.</p> <p>The four day programme will include one official dinner, and one welcome reception, both of which exceed the limits for small scale hospitality due to the number of delegates, and therefore require committee approval.</p>
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve hospitality spend above small scale hospitality threshold: Welcome Reception £1,200 and Official Dinner £3,848.
3.0	Main Report
	Context
3.1	<p>At City Growth & Regeneration Committee meeting on 9 August 2023 Members were given an update on key Eurocities membership activity, including Belfast hosting Eurocities Culture Forum in September 2024.</p>
3.2	<p>At City Growth & Regeneration Committee on 8 May 2024 members were presented with a further update on the Eurocities Culture Forum 24-28 September 2024 including an outline of the programme.</p>
3.3	<p>Being chosen to host the event recognises the value of Belfast as a cultural capital and presents an opportunity to position and promote the city during Belfast 2024. This presents a great opportunity to shine a light on the city and on the rich cultural and artistic talent, and responds to <i>A City Imagining</i> cultural strategy and Belfast Agenda ambitions to showcase our city to the world.</p>
3.4	<p>For Eurocities Culture Forum 2024, 120 delegates are now registered from over 70 cities across Europe and the UK.</p>
	Proposal
	Welcome Reception
3.5	<p>Cost to host the welcome reception at 2 Royal Avenue on Wednesday 25 September is using Yallaa (a community interest company based at 2 Royal Avenue) is estimated at £1,200. High Sheriff will undertake civic dignitary role to welcome the delegates to Belfast.</p>

3.6	<p>Official Dinner</p> <p>Cost to host the official dinner at The Academy training restaurant (part of Ulster University) is at an agreed rate of £35 per head for set menu designed by UU students, (total estimated cost £3,848).</p>
3.7	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Approval is requested for hospitality for the events noted above, taking place during Eurocities Culture Forum. Costs to deliver the overall Forum event are within existing budgets.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no equality or good relations implications.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	None