



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Secondment request from the Ilex Urban Regeneration Company
Date:	4 March 2011
Reporting Officer:	Peter McNaney Chief Executive ext 6002
Contact Officer:	Laura Leonard European Manager ext 3577

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members will be aware that the Council has highlighted the need for more effective relationships to be developed with other cities in Northern Ireland, with a view to establishing a common city agenda, which can find expression in regional/European policies and resource plans.

2	Key Issues
2.1	<p>Since early in 2010, Derry City Council has been exploring the potential for establishing a dedicated European resource based on the success of Belfast City Council's European Unit since its establishment in 2003. To this end, Belfast City Council's European Unit has played an increasing advisory role for Derry City Council and more recently Newry City and Donegal County Councils.</p> <p>Derry City Council is now pursuing the intention of formally establishing a European unit and in the meantime the Ilex Urban Regeneration Company has approached Belfast City Council with a secondment request.</p> <p>The Chief Executive of Belfast City Council has received a request from the Chief Executive of Ilex to release Belfast City Council's European Manager Laura Leonard on secondment for a period of three to six months.</p> <p>The purpose of the secondment would be to work with Ilex to develop an EU resourcing strategy to help deliver the newly developed Ilex regeneration plan for Derry. At the same time the European Manager would give primary focus on her</p>

	<p>work for Belfast City Council, to contribute to Belfast's emerging resource plan.</p> <p>This is a real opportunity for Belfast City Council and the city of Derry/Londonderry and their stakeholders to work together to develop a shared urban resource strategy and to jointly lobby for a strong European urban dimension within future structural funds programmes post 2013.</p> <p>It will be the first time that the two urban centres of NI will come together to address urban challenges and maximise the potential to secure what European funding remains for Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Ilex has requested that the European Manager is seconded on a 3:2 day week about basis in Derry for a preliminary three month period with a possible three month extension subject to review.</p> <p>The Ilex Urban Regeneration Company will cover all related gross staff costs and related expenses and the manager will report monthly to the Director of Ilex and Belfast City Council's Director of Development to monitor progress and mutual benefit. Once Council approval is given the necessary legal and administrative arrangements will be investigated and put in place.</p>
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3	Resource Implications
3.1	All gross staff costs and associated expenses relating to this secondment will be covered through a legal agreement with BCC and Ilex Regeneration company.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no equality and good relations considerations attached to this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to agree to the secondment of the European manager for a period of three to six months subject to review beginning 1 April 2011.

6	Decision Tracking
There is no decision tracking attached to this report.	