



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Cities of the Isles, Dublin, October 2013
Date:	20 September 2013
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members will be aware that the 'Cities of the Isles' (COTI) Partnership is a network of six City Councils in the UK and Ireland (Belfast, Cardiff, Dublin, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Liverpool). Since 2000 these cities have come together annually to share urban regeneration experiences, develop joint projects and establish a co-ordinated approach to issues of strategic importance.
1.2	Each of the member cities takes it in turn to host the annual event in their city. The 2013 COTI meeting will take place in Dublin on 23 and 24 October 2013 and the theme for the event is "Shared histories: smart futures".

2	Key Issues
2.1	The 2012 COTI meeting took place in Glasgow. There was senior level member and officer representation from each of the cities involved. The delegates took part in a structured discussion on the challenge of inclusive regeneration and regeneration in an economic downturn. A site visit to a number of key regeneration sites was also part of the programme.
2.2	Dublin is the host city for the 2013 event. In order to align with the programme of events as part of the Gathering in 2013, Dublin has widened the scope of the event and has invited all cities in UK and Ireland to participate. At this stage, it is likely that there will be political and officer level representation from a number of cities including Liverpool, London, Leicester, Leeds, Cardiff, Bristol and Glasgow. Representatives from Derry/Londonderry will also be in attendance.
2.3	In advance of the COTI opening event, the Lord Mayor of Belfast has been invited by the city of Dublin to formally launch (with the Lord Mayor of Dublin) two public exhibitions. One of the exhibitions has been developed by the Council's Good Relations Unit as is entitled "Shared history: different allegiances". The

	<p>other exhibition has been developed by Dublin City libraries and is entitled “Shared heritage”, focusing on shared cultural and literary linkages. The Belfast exhibition will be on display in Dublin’s Civic Offices from 22 October to 14 November 2013.</p>
2.4	<p>The programme for the event is currently being finalised by Dublin City Council. A draft version of the programme has been attached for information at Appendix 1. After the exhibition launch, it will start with a city tour followed by a formal dinner on the evening of 23 October – likely to be held in Dublin City Hall. The conference programme will continue at 08.30 on 24 October with a Plenary session at which the Lord Mayor of Belfast has been invited to speak. The rest of the programme will include a series of discussion sessions on topics of interest for all cities with interventions from key speakers, including input from David Gavaghan, Chief Executive of Titanic Quarter. The programme is expected to conclude at around 16.30.</p>
2.5	<p>At this stage, Dublin City Council expects that the audience will principally include Mayors, officials, council leaders and councillors from invited cities.</p>

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u> Travel and accommodation costs estimated at £150 per person.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	<p>No specific equality or good relations considerations.</p>

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the COTI event to be held in Dublin on 23 and 24 October 2013 • Agree to participation by Lord Mayor at the event as well as costs associated with attendance. Approval is being sought from the Development Committee for attendance at the event by the Chair and Deputy Chair of Development Committee (or nominees) as well as up to two officers.

6	Decision Tracking
	<p>A report on outcomes of the visit will be brought back to SP&R Committee in December 2013.</p>

7	Key to Abbreviations
	<p>COTI – Cities of the Isles</p>

8	Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1: Draft programme – Shared Histories, Smart Futures Forum</p>