



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Request to participate in Cinemagic Initiative
Date:	19 September 2014
Reporting Officer:	Jill Minne, Director of Organisational Development
Contact Officer:	Catherine Christy, HR Manager (3226)

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Council has been asked to participate and part fund a Cinemagic initiative aimed at addressing the under representation of women in politics. The Northern Ireland Assembly has already agreed to be a partner in this project.

2	Key Issues
2.1	<p>The project will involve twenty-four young women, aged between 16 and 24, being given the opportunity to attend a week long intensive filming course with industry experts to create a short film. The aim of the film will be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• inspire a new generation of young women to become leaders in the political arena.• educate other young women on the political decision making process in Northern Ireland.• highlight the current barriers to young women in politics and suggested solutions.
2.2	<p>The initiative will be launched by Cinemagic as part of its acclaimed festival in November 2014. Filming will take place in February 2015 and the films will be screened on International Women's Day in March 2015 in City Hall.</p>
2.3	<p>This year's theme for International Women's Day "Equality for women is progress for all" stresses the vital role of women as agents of development. One of the most effective ways to do this is to put women at the heart of the political process. The young women will be challenged to make a short film to inspire a new generation of young women to step up and become leaders in the most influential arena in the world – the political arena, covering one of the following issues affecting young women today:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Domestic Violence - Mental Health and Wellbeing - Drug/Alcohol abuse - Equal Pay - Single parent families/ child care - Negative effect of social media - Employment opportunities (STEM) -
2.4	The under representation of women in politics is a key theme in the Council's Gender Action Plan so the proposed project links directly to the aims of the Plan.
2.5	Cinemagic will manage the media and communications issues. This will be carried out in association with both partners.
2.6	The total budget required for the delivery of the initiative is £13,000 to be jointly funded by Belfast City Council and Northern Ireland Assembly.
2.7	Participation in this project has been considered by the Women's Steering Group and the Group has recommended that Committee agrees to the funding request of £6,500.
2.8	The funding proposal would meet the Council's criteria for special expenditure under Section 37 Local Government Act included as Appendix 1.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<u>Financial</u> The Director of Finance and Resources has advised that a contribution of £6,500 could be met from in year revenue resources and that if approved, the total of approved payments under Section 37 of the Local Government Finance (Northern Ireland) Act 2011 for 2014/15 is within the limit for such payments as advised by the Department of the Environment.
3.2	<u>Human Resources</u> The report has no human resource implications.

4	Equality Implications
4.1	There are no equality issues contained within the report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	It is recommended that the Committee considers a contribution of £6,500 to fund this Cinemagic project in conjunction with the NI Assembly and, if agreed, passes the undernoted resolution: <p style="margin-left: 40px;">"That the expenditure in respect of the aforementioned event be approved under Section 37 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, it being the opinion of the Committee that the expenditure would be in the interest of, and would bring direct benefit to the District, and its inhabitants of</p>

	the District, with the Committee being satisfied that the direct benefits so accruing would be commensurate with the payment to be made.”
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6	Decision Tracking

7	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1: Criteria for Special Expenditure