



<b>Subject:</b>	European Youth Parliament International Session
<b>Date:</b>	13 January 2016
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Laura Leonard, EU & International Relations Manager

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To seek Members' approval to support the European Youth Parliament (EYP) International Session in March 2016 at a cost of £5,000.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to approve <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The allocation of financial assistance to the value of £5,000 with respect to organising the International Session in the city in March 2016. The funding will be taken from within the existing European Unit budget.</li></ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> <p>The EYP is a programme for and by young people, which brings together young people from all over Europe to discuss current topics in a parliamentary setting. Its mission is to inspire and empower young Europeans to become open-minded, tolerant and active citizens. Today the EYP is one of the largest European platforms for political debate, intercultural encounters, European civic education and the exchange of ideas among young people in Europe.</p>

3.2	The EYP reaches out to over 20,000 young people annually through a network of associations and organisations run by volunteers across 39 European countries.
3.3	EYPNI is run by a team of local volunteers and engages with Belfast City Council (Democratic Services, Children and Young People and the European and International Units) and the European Commission Office in NI to deliver the EurVoice event each October. This enables 80 young people to discuss and debate local issues and interact with Elected Members, and this year the information collated from the event has been used to inform the Belfast Agenda. The EurVoice event was nominated for the Charlemagne Youth Prize in 2015.
3.4	The EYP International Session will gather 300 young people aged 16-25 years who are EYP members, under the theme of “Crossing Borders, Transcending Conflict”. The programme will be split between Belfast and Dublin and is the first EYP International Session to be hosted by 2 cities.
3.5	Whilst in Belfast (4-9 March), the delegates will participate in team building activity, cultural exchanges, an international version of EurVoice and commence EYP committee debates. In Dublin (9-13 March), the committee work will be finalised and a General Assembly will vote on those resolutions which will then be passed onto the European Parliament.
3.6	For Belfast, the event will offer the opportunity to showcase its transformation and permit local young people (i.e. Belfast Youth Forum members) to engage with their European counterparts on pertinent issues through engaging in a EurVoice event and also working on the early stages of the EYP committee process. The International Session will be covered by the EYP Media Team and so therefore opens the city up to thousands of young Europeans.
3.7	The official opening will take place in the City Hall on Monday 7 March 2016 and the event’s Eurovillage (presentation of delegates’ culinary traditions) is likely to take place in St George’s Market. The Lord Mayor will speak at this event and an invitation will be extended to all Members of the Committee.
3.8	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>EYPNI are co-organisers and meet regularly with the Belfast Youth Forum Co-ordinator and the European &amp; International Unit. When appropriate, the Council’s Corporate</p>

<p>3.9</p> <p>3.10</p> <p>3.11</p> <p>3.12</p>	<p>Communications Team will also be engaged to promote the Council's role in the programme. The Markets Team are engaged in finalising details for the Eurovillage.</p> <p>This event relates to the European and International Unit's key objectives of attracting European events into the city and encouraging a sense of European identity. The requested financial intervention will go towards catering for the official opening in the City Hall on 7 March 2016 and towards venue hire and transport costs in relation to the EurVoice event.</p> <p>EYPNI as local lead organiser are responsible for all financial and operational management of the International Session and have secured additional funding through the Erasmus+ Programme, the European Commission Office in NI and in-kind support from St Mary's University and is maintaining approaches in respect to private sponsorship.</p> <p>The £5,000 funding for the event will be taken from within the existing European Unit budget.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>There are no direct implications in this regard.</p>
<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>Appendices – Documents attached</b></p>
	<p>None.</p>