



Subject:	Sister Cities International Summit Dublin 2016
Date:	10 February 2016
Reporting Officer:	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
Contact Officer:	Laura Leonard, European & International Relations Manager

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for Council attendance at the Sister Cities International Relations Summit in Dublin on 21-22nd April 2016.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- agree to the Council's participation in the Sister Cities International Summit in Dublin 21-22 April 2016.- agree that the Council be represented by the Lord Mayor, the Chair and Deputy Chair of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee or their nominees and representatives from each of the remaining parties along with the Chief Executive, the Director of Development and an Officer from the EU and International Relations Unit.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p><u>International Sister City Event, April 2016</u></p> <p>Belfast City Council, along with 62 other Irish and Northern Irish local authorities who</p>

	<p>have US-based sister city and partnership linkages, have been invited by the cities of Dublin and San Jose to participate in an international summit to take place in Dublin in April 2016. This event will celebrate Northern Ireland/Ireland – US connections, including the role that these relationships have played in supporting sustainable economic growth on the island of Ireland.</p> <p>3.2 The Dublin event will take place over two days, from 21-22 April 2016. It is proposed that sister cities in Northern Ireland and Ireland will host their partner cities either before or after these dates. In the case of Belfast, Members will recall their decision on 12 August 2015 to invite the Mayors of Nashville and Boston to attend the Dublin event and to come to Belfast for a series of meetings on 19-20 April in advance of the Summit. To date, both cities have confirmed attendance and are in the process of recruiting respective delegations. Council officers are currently drafting a programme for the Belfast visit. Elected Members will be invited to participate as the Programme evolves. Depending on the composition of the in-bound groups, the visit to Belfast will involve a series of one to one meetings with relevant individual groups as well as opportunities to update the delegations on wider corporate and city developments. It will also offer an opportunity to re-focus the individual linkages with Boston and Nashville to ensure maximum benefit.</p> <p>3.3 <u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> At the 12 August, 2015 City Growth and Regeneration Committee meeting, £10,000 was approved to cover the costs associated with the event. Costs associated with the Belfast City Council delegations attendance at the Dublin event will not exceed £3,000 and will be met within the £10,000 budget already approved. It should be noted the budget will be accrued from the 2015/16 to the 2015/17 financial year.</p> <p>3.4 <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> There are no specific equality or good relations implications.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p>None</p>