



<b>Subject:</b>	Sister Cities International Summit Dublin 2016
<b>Date:</b>	13 April 2016
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Donal Durkan, Director of Development, ext 3470
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Laura Leonard, European & International Relations Manage

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members on plans for the upcoming Sister Cities Summit, and encourage participation in the Belfast programme by Members.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	Members will recall their decision of 12 August 2015 to host a Sister Cities delegation from Boston and Nashville in Belfast from 19-21 April 2016, and their approval on 10 February 2016 of Council's participation in the Sister Cities International Summit in Dublin on 21-22 April 2016.
2.2	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>consider participation in relevant elements of the Belfast programme (19-21 April) and attend the drinks reception and welcome dinner in City Hall on 20 April 2016.</li></ul>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	<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 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>
3.2	<p>The Dublin event will take place over two days, from 21-22 April 2016. In addition, Sister Cities in Northern Ireland and Ireland will host their partner cities either before or after these dates. In the case of Belfast, both Nashville and Boston have confirmed delegations and will participate in a two day Belfast programme of meetings and visits from 19-21 April. A copy of the draft programme is attached for Members’ consideration. The logistics for the Belfast visit are now advanced. In order to underline the importance that Belfast City Council attaches to these links and to build further connections with key contacts, Members are encouraged to take part in the programme, and are asked to contact Laura Leonard in the EU and International Relations Unit with regard to this.</p>
3.3	<p>Members of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee have already been invited to attend the welcome reception and dinner on 20 April and cross-party representation at the Dublin Summit has now been confirmed.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>At the 12 August 2015 City Growth and Regeneration Committee meeting, £10,000 was approved to cover the costs associated with the event and coming from existing budgets</p>
3.5	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>There are no specific equality or good relations implications.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
4.1	<p><b>Appendix 1</b> – Draft Belfast programme</p> <p><b>Appendix 2</b> – Programme delegates.</p>

