



Subject:	Invest NI Regional Briefing – Request to Present
Date:	9 August 2017
Reporting Officer:	Donal Durkan, Director of Development,
Contact Officer:	Claire Patterson, Business, Research & Development Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
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	Invest NI has produced its first update to its annual 'Regional Briefing' for each of the 11 council areas. The Committee received the first Regional Briefing for Belfast at their meeting in April 2016 as part of the ongoing analysis of the city economy to support the underpinning evidence base for the Belfast Agenda and propositions around investments in the city as the economic driver for the region.
1.2	The annual briefings have been informed by and also helped to inform the development of the Belfast Agenda; specifically the priority to grow the Belfast economy and the stretch goal to attract £1bn of private sector Foreign Direct Investment by 2021. It also helps to shape the development of a range of programmes of work that aim to grow the economy,

1.3	<p>build on the city's competitiveness and ensure that all citizens can benefit from city growth and regeneration e.g. international relations, employability & skills and the development of a City Advice & Investment/Concierge Service.</p> <p>The Committee has expressed the importance of and their interest in hearing from a diverse range of perspectives on the economic position and prospects for Belfast and the region. It is therefore proposed that Invest NI be invited to present its updated profile of the city and an overview of the investment prospects and global interest in Belfast. It will also provide an opportunity to highlight areas where the Council and Invest NI can work collaboratively to maximise the benefits for the city.</p>
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree to receive a presentation on the Belfast Regional Briefing 2017 from Invest NI at the next Committee meeting; and • Note that the Invest NI Regional Briefing document will be made available to all Members once finalised.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Belfast Regional Briefing provides an overview of the key metrics from a range of data sources, including Invest NI corporate intelligence. It also provides comparative data across all 11 council areas in terms of population, labour market and the nature and scale of sectors.</p>
3.2	<p>Invest NI is currently finalising the Belfast Regional Briefing and the presentation will provide an opportunity to consider the main changes in the last year, the level of global interest and investment prospects in Belfast in relation to the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demographic and labour market structure; - Business base, productivity, jobs, skills and earnings; - Tourism impact; - Invest NI support and investment data; - Performance indicators and sectoral trends for Invest NI supported businesses; and - An overview of Belfast key economic sectors and economic development partners.

3.3	It will also provide an opportunity to explore future collaborative working opportunities between the Council and Invest NI to maximise the benefits for the city; for example, delivering the International Relations Framework and the proposals for the future City Investment Advice & Concierge Service which will be designed to complement the work of Invest NI and other city partners.
3.4	The Committee will also note that government departments are also making more information and statistical bulletins available at a Council level, such as the Department for Communities in relation to economic inactivity and employment data. Sharing information and intelligence is one way in which we are working with city partners to create a shared understanding of the Belfast economy and a key component in collaboratively prioritising programmes of work to support inclusive economic growth.
3.5	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no resource implications.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>There are no equality or good relations implications.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None