



Subject:	Horizon 2020 Funding Opportunity: Nature-based Solutions for Inclusive Urban Regeneration
Date:	8 th August 2017
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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	<p>The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval in principle to proceed with the funding application and become a 'front follower' in the Horizon 2020 EU funding bid. This funding bid is being led by University College Dublin (UCD) in conjunction with a consortia of other bid partners (EU cities) including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Front-runners - Dublin, Florence and Budapest- Front-followers – Belfast and Almere- Followers – Bottrop, Alytus, Kozani and Krakow. <p>If the bid is successful the total funding available will be approx. €10 million and initial</p>

1.2	discussions estimate the funding for Belfast to be circa €300k (i.e. funding for staff costs), depending on the scope of the work and plan of activities Belfast will be involved in. As well as the financial value of this opportunity for Council, intangible benefits will also be gained, including shared learning, experience and knowledge from the front-runner EU cities. The bid application deadline is the 5 September 2017 and the project is scheduled to run from May/June 2018 for 5 years (if successful).
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the contents of the report; • Approve in principle for the Council to proceed as a front-follower city and involvement in the project development and application phase; and • Acknowledge that an update report will be brought to Committee detailing the funding application and seeking approval to proceed with the application, prior to accepting the letter of offer and signing the project contract.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Through the Horizon 2020 funding call for ‘Nature-based solutions for inclusive urban regeneration’ the EU Commission wishes to support projects which develop solutions inspired and supported by nature and provide sustainable, cost-effective, multi-purpose alternatives to talking challenges faced by cities as a result of increasing urbanisation. The funding available is a minimum of €10 million and the bid application deadline is the 5 September 2017 with the project running for 5 years from May/June 2018.</p>
3.2	<p>Future Cities Catapult identified this opportunity for Belfast which is being led by University College Dublin (UCD) in conjunction with a range of other bid partners (EU cities). Belfast has been elevated to a “class” of cities called front-followers with a funding estimate of circa €300k depending on the scope of work and activities Belfast will be involved in. All EU cities involved in the funding application face similar social and environmental issues and challenges including social exclusion, crime, anti-social behaviour and lack of connectivity, to name a few. This funding will enable EU cities to develop areas of neglect and bring about significant environmental, social and economic benefits.</p>
3.3	<p>If successful, the funding bid will provide the Council with the following opportunities and benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to proactively seek advice, expertise, assistance, capacity building and

3.4	<p>mentoring from front-runners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Privileged contacts and collaboration with other EU cities; • Delivery and testing of some small scale activities; • Embed and replicate the lessons learned from the front-runners into processes, city strategies; and • Complement and bolster existing green corridor funding programmes. <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>If the bid is successful the total funding available for the EU cities involved in the overall bid will be approx. €10 million and the funding estimate for Belfast as a front-follower will be circa €300k (i.e. funding for staff costs) depending on the scope of the work and plan of activities Belfast will be involved in.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p>
3.5	<p>There are no equality or good relations implications anticipated at this stage.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None