



Subject:	Peace and Beyond Conference: request for authority to invite former President Clinton
Date:	22 September 2017
Reporting Officer:	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
Contact Officer:	Lisa Toland, Head of Economic Initiatives and International Development

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	The purpose of the report is to seek authority for the Lord Mayor of Belfast, on behalf of the City, to invite former US President Bill Clinton to attend a major conference planned to coincide with the 20 th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement in April 2018.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to:-

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorise the Lord Mayor to issue an invitation, on behalf of the City, to former US President Bill Clinton to address a major conference in Belfast to mark the 20th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement in April 2018.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	As Members will be aware, 10 th April 2018 marks twenty years since the signing of the Good Friday Agreement (GFA).
3.2	The British Council, working with both universities as well as the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building, is proposing to host a major conference in Belfast to mark the event. The conference will take place in a number of venues across the City from 10 th -12 th April 2018.
3.3	The objective of the Conference is to bring together policy makers and peace practitioners from around the world to share reflections and case studies on building effective, inclusive and sustainable peace. The series of plenary sessions, workshops, site visits and cultural events will create an open, inclusive and shared space for international dialogue to reflect upon the experience of peace processes across the world. The events will build on the Northern Ireland experience of and expertise in conflict resolution and peace building. By marking the achievement of the multi-track work that led to the signing of the Agreement, the conference will provide opportunities for international dialogue to reflect on the experience of everyday peace building. The Conference will also reflect on the contribution of partners such as the EU and the USA in the achievement and continuation of peace.
3.4	The British Council and its partners hope to attract a number of individuals who played a key role in the negotiations to attend the event. They hope, in particular, to invite former US President Bill Clinton to attend the event. In order to provide civic endorsement to the invitation, the British Council has asked whether the Lord Mayor of Belfast can issue this invitation on behalf of the City.
3.5	The Conference programme is currently being drafted. It will involve a series of tours, discussion and panel sessions, cultural showcases and visits to relevant projects and sites across the City. These are likely to involve Girdwood and the Innovation Factory. Attendees at the event will come from Northern Ireland but there will also be representation from international cities that are dealing with issues of conflict resolution.
	The involvement of former President Clinton is seen as highly symbolic given his close

3.6	<p>involvement in local politics at the time of the signing of the Good Friday Agreement. His visit to City Hall and the former Mackie's site in 1995 were also undertaken at a critical time in the process. A return visit to both locations offers a significant opportunity to explore how the City has developed since that time and to showcase how local partners are working collectively to improve lives within our communities.</p>
3.7	<p>This Conference presents a significant opportunity for the City to tell its story twenty years on from the Good Friday Agreement. It also offers an opportunity to reflect on developments since that time and to engage in discussion with other cities and locations that have undergone similar experiences.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>The conference programme will be designed to ensure that it is reflective of all relevant groups in the City.</p>
3.9	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The costs associated with hosting the conference will be met by the British Council and other partners. The organisers are likely to request access to Belfast City Hall for part of the programme. This request will be considered at a future meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None.