



<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Rockefeller Foundation and the International Urban Cooperation Programme</b>
<b>Date:</b>	5 January 2018
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
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<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
<b>After Committee Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>After Council Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Some time in the future</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Never</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	As part of its global 100 Resilient Cities work, the Rockefeller Foundation has lodged a proposal for Belfast to participate in the International Urban Cooperation (IUC) programme for sustainable urban development.
1.2	IUC membership would provide financial support for an eighteen-month exchange programme at a senior level between Belfast and the Colombian cities of Cali and

<p>1.3</p> <p>1.4</p>	<p>Medellin focusing on post-conflict urban development (on themes of social inclusion, regional / urban innovation and competitiveness; and inclusive and sustainable economic growth).</p> <p>The outline proposal is to build on the existing links that Belfast has with Colombia including the increasing trade links being fostered by Invest NI; and the work of the British Council in Northern Ireland which is planning a major Belfast initiative with Colombia in 2018. The Rockefeller Foundation funds Resilience Commissioners in both Colombian cities and has indicated that their resilience work to date can inform aspects of the work of the new Belfast Commissioner.</p> <p>European Commission officials have accepted the proposal and have now asked Belfast City Council to confirm by 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018 if it wishes to proceed with membership of the programme. Following confirmation, IUC officials will work with partners to agree a joint programme of work. These draft proposals would be presented to Members.</p>
<p><b>2.0</b></p>	<p><b>Recommendations</b></p>
<p>2.1</p>	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Approve Belfast City Council’s participation, with the Rockefeller Foundation, Invest NI, the British Council NI and other city partners, in the International Urban Co-operation programme.</li> </ol>
<p><b>3.0</b></p>	<p><b>Main report</b></p>
<p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p>	<p>Members will be aware that the Council has just appointed a Commissioner for Resilience. Once in post this person will work with Council officers and city partners to design and implement a resilience strategy for Belfast. The Commissioner will be able to draw upon Rockefeller’s extensive global network of expertise and private sector resources and will have opportunities to showcase Belfast’s own work on the world stage.</p> <p>Following engagement with local partners, including the Council, Invest NI and the British Council in Northern Ireland, Rockefeller have identified initial opportunities for the new Commissioner to build useful relationships with the Colombian cities of Cali and Medellin particularly around post-conflict urban development (on themes such as social inclusion; urban innovation and competitiveness; and inclusive economic growth).</p> <p>Rockefeller have also identified funding support for this work from the European Commission’s International Urban Co-operation (IUC) programme. IUC is aimed at</p>

	<p>European cities that wish to exchange with cities facing similar challenges in Asia, Latin and North America. During an eighteen-month programme, city leaders and decision-makers will be able to connect and gain new perspectives on shared urban issues. These city representatives take part in study tours, staff exchanges, training seminars, etc. and develop together a local action plan.</p> <p>3.4 Rockefeller have lodged an outline proposal to the programme on Belfast's behalf and this has now been accepted by the Commission (including confirmation that this decision would not be affected by Brexit).</p> <p>3.5 The British Council in Northern Ireland has provided written support for the proposal. Members will be aware that the British Council is already working with Belfast City Council on a major initiative with Colombia in 2018 that, they believe, would be strengthened by the IUC programme. They also note that the programme would constitute a good model for the British Council's wider work on cities around the world.</p> <p>3.6 Similarly, Invest NI have also expressed support for the programme which they believe would complement their own activities in Colombia. The Columbian market is a recognised growth area for Invest NI and they have supported recent trade visits to Colombia. Invest NI is committed to developing a commitment physical presence in the country.</p> <p>3.7 European Commission officials have accepted the Belfast proposal and have now asked Belfast City Council to confirm if it wishes to proceed with participation in the programme by 10th January 2018. Members are asked to approve this participation.</p> <p>3.8 Following confirmation, IUC officials will work with the new Commissioner for Resilience partners to agree a joint programme of work with the Colombian cities to commence in spring 201. These proposals would be presented to Members.</p> <p>3.9 (Members should also note that this IUC programme activity would constitute only one initial strand of work for the new Commissioner in the development of the Belfast Resilience strategy.)</p>
	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The IUC programme covers costs such as travel and accommodation related to the implementation of the exchange. Other resources (staff time, expertise, cooperation with</p>

	<p>other sectors, co-funding, etc.) will not be covered and will have to be provided by Belfast and its partners including the Rockefeller Foundation.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>Equality and good relations implications will be taken into consideration and it is proposed that we will take this through equality screening; however, it is anticipated that any collaborative efforts should have a positive effect on section 75 groups.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
<b>4.1</b>	N/A