



Subject:	Presentation on Enterprise Framework for Belfast
Date:	7th November, 2018
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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"/>
Sometime 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/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	Members will be aware that the Council is working with partners to develop an agreed approach to investment in enterprise support in the city. This will focus on increasing the number of business start-ups in the city and making existing businesses more productive and competitive. The work is being supported by more than 30 partners active in the delivery of enterprise and business support activity across Belfast, including Catalyst Inc., Prince's Trust, the Enterprise Agency network, the universities and Belfast Met.
1.2	At the City Regeneration and Growth Committee meeting on 10th October, Members were updated on the progress of the development work. As this work nears completion, it is proposed that the final draft is presented to Members at the December meeting of the

	Committee by Steer Economic Development, the consultancy team which has been working with officers on the development of the framework.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to agree to receive at its monthly meeting in December a presentation from Steer Economic Development on the draft Enterprise Framework for Belfast.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Members will be aware that, as part of the transfer of functions and Local Government Reform, responsibility for business start-up and support for under-represented groups in terms of enterprise support transferred to Councils.
3.2	<p>In 2017, the Council convened an Enterprise and Business Growth Working Group to support the achievement of the economic priorities set out in the Belfast Agenda, and work collectively towards addressing Belfast's 'Enterprise Economy' challenges around business start-up and growth. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low business start-up rates: the 2016 Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) reported that the levels of total entrepreneurial activity in Northern Ireland were 6.3%, significantly lower than in England (9.2%) and the UK average (8.8%) - High levels of business deaths: Since 2008, there has been a tendency for business deaths to outnumber the creation of new firms (IDBR 2018) - Rebalance the economy: Belfast is too reliant on the public sector. Approximately 1/3 of employment in the city is within this sector - Employment opportunities: the long-term unemployment rate has fallen, albeit very slightly, over the period between 2014 and 2017 and is currently at 45.2%. However, this is still almost double that of the UK, where the rate is currently 25.3% - Business Survival Rates: Belfast's start up rate per 10,000 populations is the highest in the region, which averages at 24.4% this, is significantly lower than the UK average of 45.7%. However, the three-year survival rate of businesses in Belfast sits at 55.3%, higher than the UK average of 54.4%. Belfast is also the best place for businesses to reach £1m turnover in their first three years in the UK. The figures beyond that indicate that firms in Belfast are less likely to scale to £3m turnover with a rate of 5% compared to a UK average of 6.2%.

3.3	<p>The group agreed to progress with the development of an Enterprise Framework in order to identify strategic longer-term interventions to address some of the barriers to enterprise and business start-up across the city. The Enterprise Framework recognises the importance of taking a collaborative approach to delivering on the Belfast Agenda commitment of making Belfast a great place to start and grow a business.</p>
3.4	<p>The objectives of the framework, agreed by the Enterprise and Business Growth Working Group, are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Set the ambition for Belfast through the establishment of targets to enable Belfast to achieve rates of entrepreneurship and business start activity comparative to other cities- Identify initiatives, programmes and/or projects to be delivered through a partnership approach to achieve the ambitions/targets set- Inform future investment decisions for Belfast City Council and the Enterprise and business growth working group- Develop thematic areas of work, define volume of activity and financial and staff resource to deliver performance year on year towards the target- Identify specific changes that may be required to implement any recommendations- Consider the appropriate management and governance arrangements to deliver against the framework.
3.5	<p>Steer Economic Development was commissioned to develop the Enterprise Framework for Belfast in Spring 2018. The programme of work to date has involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A review of the existing evidence base to provide a baseline assessment of the current enterprise system in Belfast, and wider economic performance in the city- A series of targeted consultations with local stakeholders from the public and private sector- Workshops with 29 stakeholders to test and refine the emerging framework thinking- Research to establish key metrics to implement, monitor and evaluate progress performance.

3.6	<p>It is proposed that the presentation by Steer Economic Development will provide an update on the work to date as well as the priority areas of investment for the Council and the wider partnership in order to deliver on and achieve the ambitions set out in the Belfast Agenda.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.7	<p>The development of the Enterprise Framework for Belfast has been resourced from the 2018/19 financial budget for the Economic Development budget. The financial implications of any new areas of investment will be factored into the budget estimates for 2019/20 and into the medium-term financial planning process.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.8	<p>The proposed Enterprise Framework for Belfast will undergo the process of equality screening ensuring the framework gives consideration to equality and good relation impacts. A rural needs assessment will also be undertaken.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	None