



Subject:	100RC Challenge- City Currency Update
Date:	12 April 2019
Reporting Officer:	Grainia Long, Commissioner for Resilience
Contact Officer:	Claire Shortt, Research and Statistics Officer

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 update SP&R on progress with the 'city currency challenge' through the 100 Resilient Cities network, as agreed in January.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked: 1. To note progress in the development of the city currency challenge (pilot), which will run for a year from March 2019. To note that Belfast was successful in competing against other cities in the 100 Resilient Cities network to join a 'city currency' challenge. 2. To note that an event to announce Belfast's City Currency Challenge will be held in May, involving the Lord Mayor and city partners, with the eventual 'launch' of the

	Belfast Coin city currency in August/September, to coincide with the new academic year.
3.0	Main report
3.1	Members previously agreed that Belfast would apply to join a 100 Resilient Cities Challenge to explore opportunities to develop a city currency for Belfast. It approved a funding requirement of £25k if successful in applying to join the challenge. A 'city currency' is a 'payment and rewards' app, working on a smartphone, through which people are rewarded for good behaviour, e.g. for shopping locally, for using public transport or for recycling. Party briefings took place in February to brief elected members on the challenge.
3.2	We were successful in our application to join the city challenge. In March the Commissioner for Resilience joined four other cities, Addis Ababa, Porto Alegre, Cape Town and Milan in the Headquarters of the company, Colu, in Tel Aviv, to plan next steps in the development of a city currency pilot for each city. The visit also enabled us to review how the company works in practice, how the technology platform is supported, etc.
3.3	The company is in the process of hiring three staff to work in Belfast to lead its operations here, and is currently securing a retail/community space in the city centre through which it will operate.
3.4	We have met with several city partners to encourage them to join the 'challenge' and discussions are progressing well. For example, Ulster University is exploring how it could use a currency to incentivise or reward students' behaviour, e.g. use of public transport etc. Several large employers in the city are exploring whether to use the 'city currency' to reward/encourage positive behaviour among their staff, e.g. shopping locally.
3.5	Belfast has already taken several positive steps to progress our 'city currency' challenge, and we are keen to announce the challenge in May, to help encourage new partners to come on board, including local businesses etc. Given the importance of students and young people to the success of the currency, we are keen to launch the app in August or September in time for the new academic year. We aim to ensure that at least 50 businesses and organisations have joined the challenge in advance of its launch.

3.6	<p><u>Finance & Resources Implications</u></p> <p>SP&R previously approved a commitment of £25k from the City Council to take part in the City Challenge, as per the term of the application. No further funding requirement is sought at this point.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Equality or good relations implications / Rural needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report, however we will assess the potential equality, good relations and rural impacts on programme design, if accepted onto the City Challenge Programme.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None