



Subject:	Lord Mayor's attendance at Smart Cities World Congress 2019
Date:	25 October 2019
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources
Contact Officer:	Deborah Colville, City Innovation Manager James Noakes, Innovation Broker

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 Smart Belfast programme encourages collaborative innovation between our universities, digital SMEs and the public sector in order to tackle urban challenges described in the Belfast Agenda; to support service transformation; and to foster greater private sector innovation. The programme is led by the Council's City Innovation team and delivery is driven by a 'pipeline' of projects specifically chosen for their capacity to meet the aims described above.
1.2	The success of Smart Belfast has attracted significant interest from other cities and from industry wishing to learn more about our approach. Recently the Lord Mayor received a VIP invitation to promote the work at the Smart Cities World Congress in Barcelona (19 to 22

1.3	<p>November 2019). The city has also been invited to contribute to the event's main programme to discuss the impact of AI on the future of the city and its economy.</p> <p>This report presents a short overview of Smart Belfast, the Smart Cities World Congress, and a draft schedule for the Lord Mayor's visit.</p>
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to approve the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Lord Mayor to accept the complimentary VIP invitation to participate in the Smart Cities World Congress 2019. 2. City Innovation officers to avail of complimentary passes (provided by the congress organisers) in order to travel with the Lord Mayor to manage and contribute to the itinerary (including presenting to the main programme).
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>The Smart Belfast programme encourages collaborative innovation between our universities, digital SMEs and the public sector to tackle major urban challenges. And to support the growth of the city's economy, particularly local start-ups and SMEs in our knowledge economy sector.</p>
3.2	<p>Delivery of the programme is driven by a 'pipeline' of projects specifically chosen for their capacity to contribute to the Urban Innovation framework agreed by Members in 2017. The latest information on the programme is available at http://smartbelfast.city Current projects includes work on last mile freight deliveries; the management of open space; using sensors to better understand local air pollution; using AI to understand the visitor experience along the 'Maritime Mile', supporting local SMEs to develop Internet of Things products and services. Each of these projects have attracted substantial external funding and have supported innovation in the SME sector.</p>
3.3	<p>More recently the Smart Belfast objectives have informed the content of the digital projects in the Belfast Region City Deal, particularly in the development of a digitally connected smart district and a city partnership for urban data. These investments will greatly expand and accelerate the impact of the Smart Belfast approach.</p>
3.4	<p>The Smart Cities World Congress (http://www.smartcityexpo.com/en/) provides a global platform for Belfast to promote this work, and to begin to explore with global business the opportunities that they represent.</p>

3.5	The Congress takes place from 19 to 21 November in Barcelona and attracts over 25,000 delegates, 1,000 companies and over 700 cities. The themes of this year's event include Digital Transformation, Urban Environment, Mobility, Governance & Finance and Inclusive & Sharing Cities.
3.6	The Lord Mayor's office received a complimentary VIP invitation to participate. The City Innovation team have also been invited to contribute to the main programme to discuss the impact of AI on the city and its economy.
3.7	<p>The proposed itinerary includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VIP Dinner with global mayors and city leaders • Discussion with other UK and Irish Smart Cities programmes on future programmes • Meetings organised by the Trade and Investment Agency of the Catalonia Government • Participation in Mastercard's 'City Possible' programme in a joint discussion the Lord Mayor of Dublin (Both Belfast and Dublin are members of this programme) • Meeting with Microsoft European Smart City executives • Participation in the Harvard Tech Accelerator Forum (of which Smart Belfast is a member) • Meeting with the Leeds City Region team (who have an annual inward investment presence at the Congress)
3.8	The Council is also encouraging other city partners (including the two universities and local businesses) to attend the Congress (at their own expense) to learn more about smart city investment opportunities and assist in the promotion of Smart Belfast and the digital innovation ambitions of the Belfast Region City Deal.
3.9	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The 2019/2020 City Innovation programme is part of the previously agreed Departmental budget.</p>
3.10	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</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>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None

