

Development Committee

Friday, 7th March, 2008

MEETING OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor M. Browne (Chairman); and
Councillors Attwood, Convery, Crozier, D. Dodds,
Hartley, C. Maskey, McCarthy and McCausland.

In attendance: Ms. M. T. McGivern, Director of Development;
Ms. S. McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives;
Ms. C. Taggart, Community Services Manager;
Mr. T. Husbands, Managing Director,
the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Halls; and
Mr. N. Malcolm, Committee Administrator.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Cunningham, Ekin, Humphrey and Kyle.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 21st February were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd March, subject to the amendment of the decision under the heading "Draft Crumlin Road Gaol Masterplan" to provide that the Council's response to the consultation exercise includes a reference to the requirement for an Equality Impact Assessment and policy proofing of the Masterplan in relation to Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the "Shared Future" document and the new Targeting Social Needs to be undertaken.

Changes of Membership on the Employment Services Board

The Committee Administrator reported that notification had been received from the Sinn Fein Party Grouping that it wished Councillor O'Neill to replace Councillor McCann as its representative on the Employment Services Board. He reported also that the Social Democratic and Labour Party Grouping had indicated that it wished Councillor Attwood to replace Councillor Maginness as its representative on the Board.

The Committee approved the foregoing alterations to the membership of the Employment Services Board.

**Organisation for Economic Co-operation and
Development Study of Belfast Update**

The Director reminded the Committee that representatives from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development had visited Belfast in September, 2007 and again in February of this year to meet with key decision-makers as part of the study which the Organisation was undertaking on behalf of the Council. The aim of the study was to provide the Council with ideas as to how it could develop the economic and regional development agenda and would focus mainly on economic inclusion, quality of place and life and leadership and delivery arrangements.

She informed the Members that one of the emerging recommendations from the study was the need to establish a City-wide development agency. She indicated that a report on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's study would be submitted to a future meeting.

Noted.

European Unit Activity

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

"Relevant Background Information

Members will be aware of regular reports to Committee outlining progress and new proposed activity from the European Unit. Members are asked to consider the following:

- 1. Irish Sea Region Partnership**
- 2. European Year of Intercultural Dialogue**
- 3. Interreg Contracts**

Key Issues

1. Irish Sea Region Partnership

Members will be aware that, since February 2006, Belfast City Council, the Comet Councils and the Councils in Greater Dublin and Glasgow have been engaged in a Blueprint for cooperation. An overarching framework of cooperation was agreed, which Glasgow has still to formally sign, seeking to work together on projects developed under 6 themes, a copy of the Blueprint is available from the European Unit.

To this end, a number of projects have been developed for delivery in 2008 namely:

- 4 World Trade Centre seminars open to Dublin and Glasgow businesses - January-March 2008**
- European Day of Entrepreneurship pilot – November 2008**
- Irish Sea Region Platform proposal**

The Irish Sea Region Platform is an informal partnership of stakeholders around the Irish Sea, including cities, academic institutions, marine institutions and regional governments.

The interested parties have now met on four occasions to explore potential opportunities to collaborate and to work to the overall benefit of this geographical area.

In order to make a quick win, the partners have been developing a proposal to seek to secure funding for activities around the Irish Sea under the transnational European funding programme known as Interreg IVB – North West Europe zone.

Through this programme the ISP project seeks to foster and sustain territorial cooperation between the regions around the Irish Sea and including a third EU Member State yet to be determined.

This process has already begun and from the discussions that have taken place, four specific strands have been identified:

1. City-regions cooperation
 - Cruise marketing initiative
 - Carbon card incentive pilot
2. Transport/Trade logistics
3. Future challenges in coastal and marine management
4. Marine spatial planning

The Interreg IVB route is ideal if the significant outcomes of this extensive project are to be achieved. The programme funds up to 50% of project costs. The anticipated cost of the entire project is 10 million euros over a minimum of 3 years.

For Belfast it would involve working across departments and with other stakeholders including the BVCB, the Port Authority and others. The partners would be expected to provide the other 50% match funding by cash payment and in kind contributions such as staff costs. The exact amount for Belfast City Council has yet to be determined.

From a NI perspective partners to date include Belfast City Council via the EU unit, Economic Initiatives and Waste Management as well as interest from DFP and DOE.

In order to progress the funding bid, strand partners are asked to contribute £2000 as a first annual subscription to the Irish Sea Region Partnership initiative. This funding will be used to:

- Develop an ISP brand
- Engage a Consultant to develop and submit the Interreg IVB bid by May 2008
- Establish an administrative fund to coordinate meetings, policy papers and lobby activity to bodies such as the British Irish Council and the European Commission.

On a more strategic level the ISP partners have developed a Declaration of Intent to be signed by all interested parties and organisations. It is intended that this will be signed at a high level event in the Irish Sea area in May 2008.

Members are asked to endorse the ISP as a worthwhile initiative to put the Irish Sea Region on the map and profile this peripheral region with the European Commission and other strategic players.

Members are asked to agree to participate in the Interreg IVB funding bid subject to further consideration of the match funding required for Belfast City Council elements under the cities cooperation strand.

Members are also asked to agree the first annual subscription to the Irish Sea Platform of £2000 and to the attendance and participation of the Chair of Development or his nominee at the signing of the Declaration of Intent in May 2008.

2. EU Year of Intercultural Dialogue

2008 is the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue (EYID). Belfast City Council through the EU Unit is part of a successful Eurocities and European Council bid for EU funding to engage in EYID activities. Belfast's role in this is to partner with another two cities to undertake two city Ambassadorial exchanges. Belfast has been partnered to undertake an outward visit to Berlin from 9-12 May 2008 and to host an inward visit from Turin in June 2008.

The outward exchange is to involve an elected member, a relevant officer and a youth representative from the city. Cities are encouraged to send elected members who are actual youth champions. The Berlin event in May is defined as a four day street festival including a children's carnival and a parade

reflecting Berlin's cultural diversity. Belfast City Council is aiming therefore to approach the urban arts academy or the Beat Initiative to identify a young person to accompany the Belfast City Council delegation.

Members are asked to approve the participation of the Chair (or his nominee), an officer and a youth representative in the Berlin outward exchange and to engage in welcoming the Turin inward exchange later in the year. Both exchanges will take place at no cost to the council as this will be funded through the EYID programme.

3. Interreg Contracts

Members will be aware that the Interreg Unit within the Council's EU unit is staffed by a full-time manager and a part-time administrator. The contracts for both posts, under the current letter of offer, run to April 2008. However on 18 September 2007 the Comet Interreg Partnership received an amended letter of offer to provide further support of £85,000 technical assistance which members agreed at the Development Committee meeting of 13 June 2007. 25% match funding is provided and already agreed by the 6 Comet councils. The additional technical assistance is to extend support of the Comet partnership to December 2008. Members are therefore requested to extend the contracted Interreg Manager post to December 2008 and the administrator's post to the same date.

Resource Implications

Financial

1. £2000 towards the establishment of the Irish Sea Platform Partnership and development of an Interreg IVB funding bid.

Human

1. Direct input by EU Manager and Officer as well as the Head of Economic Initiatives into the development of the Irish Sea Platform.
2. Attendance of one officer in the Berlin and Turin exchange visits in EYID.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members

1. Irish Regions

- Endorse the council's involvement in the Irish Sea Region Partnership

- Agree to the engagement in an Interreg IVB new funding proposal subject to further agreement of match funding required
- Agree to the contribution of £2000 as a first annual subscription to the IRSP and development of the Interreg IVB proposal
- Agree to sign the Irish Sea Region Partnership Declaration of intent and to the attendance of the Chair of Deputy or nominee at this event

2. European Year of Intercultural Dialogue

- Agree to the attendance of the Chair (or his nominee), an officer and a youth representative on the Belfast Ambassadors exchange visit to Berlin in May 2008 and to host the inward visit from Turin at a later date.

3. Interreg contracts

Agree to extend the Interreg Manager and part-time Administrator post contracts to December 2008.

Key to Abbreviations

DFP – Department of Finance and Personnel
DOE – Department of the Environment
ISP – Irish Sea Platform
EYID – European Year of Intercultural Dialogue.”

In answer to Members' questions, the Director indicated that, should the waste management project referred to in the Irish Sea Regeneration section of the report come to fruition, the associated costs would be met by the Health and Environmental Services Committee. By signing the declaration of intent, the only expenditure the Council was committing itself to was the £2,000 which would go towards the costs of establishing the Irish Sea Platform Partnership and developing an Interreg IVB funding bid.

During discussion on the European Union Year of Intercultural Dialogue, the Chairman (Councillor M. Browne) suggested that it would be more beneficial if he were to nominate a Youth Champion to participate in the visit to Berlin on his behalf.

Following discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations contained within the foregoing report and concurred with the Chairman's suggestion that he nominate in his place a Youth Champion to participate in the visit to Berlin.

Cathedral Quarter Cultural Enhancement

The Committee considered the undernoted report regarding the Black Box performance space:

“Relevant Background Information

The Cathedral Quarter continues to be developed as Belfast's historic heart and a major cultural centre. The development of a new city centre arts centre (the MAC - Metropolitan Arts Centre) within the Cathedral Quarter will address the need for a city centre performance and gallery space and will provide a focus for cultural activity in the area, although it is not envisaged that it will be completed until 2011.

In the interim the Black Box performance space fulfils the need for a city centre performance venue in the Cathedral Quarter and as a temporary performance space to address in Belfast the need for a mid-scale performance venue. It provides a home for the many festivals and other cultural events within the City.

The Black Box Performance space in the Cathedral Quarter was created by Belfast City Council as part of the Celebrate Belfast programme in 2006. This was made possible through a grant obtained by Belfast City Council under the Urban Cultural Programme. The Department of Culture Arts and Leisure and Laganside Corporation also contributed to the project. In 2007/8 Black Box secured Annual Funding for Culture and Arts from Belfast City Council of £13,000.

The Black Box was envisaged as filling the gap in the physical cultural infrastructure pending the completion of major capital developments, and as such has had a strong commitment from DSD, DCAL and ACNI. The need for a temporary venue is now more valid than ever with the current refurbishment programme of the Ulster Hall, the temporary closure for the rebuild of the Lyric Theatre, the pending closure of the Crescent Arts Centre and for a short period the Old Museum Arts Centre.

Key Issues

Belfast City Council has coordinated a group of key statutory stakeholders involving the Departments for Social Development and Culture, Arts and Leisure and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland to address the continued need for venue provision in the Cathedral Quarter. There were concerns that the level of public sector investment has fallen below the level required to support the continued operation of a venue in the area.

The Black Box business plan which was approved prior to its development, was based on an annual public sector financial support of at least £60,000. It was felt that this was an achievable level of support from public sector finances. This is a very low percentage of public sector funding and underlines the high level of earned income amounting to 75% of turn over. An independent review of the finances and management has taken place and this indicates that, while there is room for raising additional revenue and developing sponsorship opportunities, there is a need for continued public sector support of £70,000 per annum to secure the organisation.

With this in mind the statutory partners have proposed a funding plan to provide £150,000 of support over a 3 year period. In meeting this commitment DSD have already made an exceptional grant of £50,000 to support Black Box in the 2007/08 financial year.

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI) are currently considering a 2 year funding package to award £25,000 in each of the 2008/09 and 2009/10 years. They have made this conditional of match funding from Belfast City Council. BCC would therefore need to commit £25,000 in 2008/09 and £25,000 in 2009/10 to ensure that this funding is secured.

In the 2008/09 year Black Box have requested financial assistance of £40,000 from Belfast City Council's Annual Funding Scheme. Given the proposition presented by the other major stakeholders and a concern that recurrent funding is not the most appropriate way of funding the organisation for a temporary period of operation, it is recommended that support for the venue is achieved by rejecting the Annual Funding application from Black Box and instead, recommending that a two year funding package is awarded to Black Box for enhancing the cultural infrastructure of the Cathedral Quarter.

It should be noted that should this proposal not be accepted as the way forward on the issue that it will be necessary to consider the Black Box application for Annual Funding for Culture and Arts.

After the opening of the MAC it should be assumed that Black Box will not receive further funding from ACNI or Belfast City Council. Current forecasts from OMAC indicate that the new MAC is due to open in 2011, although the potential to seek an earlier completion date is being explored.

If Members approve the proposal as outlined, this funding would raise £50,000 of the required £70,000 public sector funding. It is hoped that further financial assistance may be possible through other grant sources including the Laganside Events Grants programme now administered by DSD.

Resource Implications

Financial

£50,000 paid in equal instalments over the 2008/09 and 2009/10 financial years. This represents an increase in funding of only £12,000 per annum from 2008/09 Annual Funding, and can be achieved from within existing budgets.

Human Resources

This will be absorbed within the work programme of the Culture and Arts Unit

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members decline the application submitted by Black Box through the Annual funding for Culture and Arts programme and instead offer a two year funding package of £50,000 comprising £25,000 in each of the 2008/09 and 2009/10 financial years.

Key to Abbreviations

- BCC** – Belfast City Council
- ACNI** – Arts Council of Northern Ireland
- MAC** – Metropolitan Arts Centre
- DCAL** – Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure
- DSD** – Department for Social Development”

During discussion in the matter, several Members expressed concern that to agree to provide financial assistance outside of the normal funding arrangement could set a precedent. Other Members expressed the view that, since it was unlikely that the construction of the Metropolitan Arts Centre would be completed by 2011, the Council would be likely to receive requests to provide further assistance in future years.

In response, the Director indicated that the request for the Council to assist Black Box had emanated from discussions between the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and the Departments for Culture, Arts and Leisure and Social Development due to the current financial situation which the Black Box performance space was facing, together with the fact that the Ulster Hall, the Lyric Theatre, the Crescent Arts Centre and the Old Museum Arts Centre were either closed temporarily or due to close. Therefore, the situation was unique and outside of the normal funding arrangements. She pointed out that, since the Council was providing less funding than normal to the Lyric Theatre whilst the facility was being rebuilt, the proposed financial assistance to the Black Box performance space could be met from within the arts budget.

In answer to further questions, the Director informed the Committee that the Arts Council of Northern Ireland had agreed to provide funding to Black Box for a two year period only. In addition, the Department for Social Development had provided a one-off grant to support the organisation and had indicated that it would not provide further assistance. However, the Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure was of the view that there were issues regarding the likely completion date for the Metropolitan Arts Centre and had expressed a willingness to ensure that the Black Box performance space remained open until the Arts Centre became operational.

Following further discussion, the Committee rejected the application for Annual Funding submitted by Black Box but agreed to offer a two year funding package comprising £25,000 in each of the 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 financial years to the organisation. The Committee agreed further not to provide any further financial assistance to Black Box in those or any future years.

Multi-Annual and Annual Funding for Culture and the Arts

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“Relevant Background Information

Annual Funding for the Arts was established by Council to assist arts and heritage organisations by providing financial support on an annual basis. Multi-Annual Funding was established by Council to introduce a degree of longer term sustainability to some of the city’s flagship arts organisations.

This report provides the Development Committee with recommendations on applications made to Annual Funding for Culture and the Arts 2008/9 and Multi-Annual for Culture and the Arts 2008/2011. The closing date for applications under both schemes was Friday 14 December 2007. Assessments of applications received for Multi-Annual and Annual Funding in the next financial year 2008/09 can be found in Appendix D and E which are available on Modern.gov.

Multi-Annual Funding for Culture and Arts

At the Development Committee meeting of 14 November 2007, Members agreed the selection of 14 Multi-Annual Funding clients. Multi-Annual Funding incorporates a three year funding term, and an anticipated minimum annual funding level of £30,000.

These 14 successful clients were then invited to submit an application by the deadline of 12 noon on Friday 14 December 2007. The total now requested by the 14 Multi-Annual Funding clients, for year one 2008/9 of their three year funding agreement, is £805,705.

Annual Funding for Culture and Arts

The 2008/9 deadline for applications was also 12 noon on 14 December 2007. A total of 64 applications were received, compared to 54 (excluding those organisations who are now multi annually funded) in 2007/8.

The applications received requested a total of £996,585.08. In 2004/5, the total requested by organisations (excluding those organisations who are now multi-annually funded), is £1,415,287.00

Criteria for Multi-Annual and Annual Funding for Culture and Arts 2005/6

The Culture and Arts Eligibility Criteria, approved by Members at the Development (Arts) Sub-Committee of 20 September 2004, were devised in order to assist the Council to work in partnership with arts and heritage organisations in achieving its objectives. They reflect the themes of the Development Department and the Integrated Cultural Strategy.

Level of Applications

Requests for grants this year has far outstripped available resources. Taken together, the total request for multi annual and annual grants for the coming year equates to £2,167,220.16. This is the equivalent of two and a quarter times the total projected budget of £960,000.

With few exceptions, the level of applications has been strong and Annual Funding applicants have put considerable effort into demonstrating how they meet the criteria.

As expected and without exception, the multi-annually funded organisations submitted excellent applications each with dynamic plans for the next three years.

Members are requested to note that income and expenditure is presented in this report as a summary of the information submitted. As agreed previously by the Development (Arts) Sub Committee, officers have not returned to applicants to request any additional details in relation to their applications. This includes clarification of budgets in some cases the budgets presented contain discrepancies.

Principles of the Reporting Process

Organisations submit a lengthy application including supporting documentation such as strategic and business plans, annual reports, financial statements, policy documents and procedure. Officers undertake a lengthy assessment of all applications, scoring them against each of the criteria identified for the scheme.

A summary of this information has been compiled by Officers in order to:-

- Highlight the main strengths and weaknesses in the application,
- ensure optimum transparency as to how decisions on their applications have been reached, and
- familiarise Members with the nature and variety of arts and heritage programmes in which the Council invests

The comments in the summary of assessments aim to outline for Members areas where applicants performed particularly well against specific criteria or where there were weaknesses in the application. The comments relate to both the strengths of the proposed programme and the evidence supplied within the application. It should be noted that where there is limited information supplied to address a specific area of the criteria this is highlighted as a weakness.

Grant Histories

For ease of reference full grant histories for Culture and Arts funding programmes for the last 4 years are provided at Appendix F which is available on Modern.gov.

Minimum Grant

The minimum Annual Funding grant offered is £3,000.

Rationale for Funding Decisions

The following rationale for awarding funding is based on the following factors, previously agreed by the Development (Arts) Sub-committee:

- Previous levels of funding
- Strength of the proposed programme as assessed against agreed funding criteria
- Impact of the project including anticipated audiences/participants, impact in the Belfast area, range and scope of the proposed programme.
- Level of Council funding when compared to the overall costs of the programme
- Viability of the proposed programme within the funding offered

Key Issues

Multi-Annual Funding

Members will note from the scores tables that overall scores against the Culture and Arts Criteria were very high, particularly amongst Multi-Annual Funding clients. This shows extremely strong potential for development of the cultural product and for developing the city-wide regenerative impacts of the arts.

The total level of funding recommended for 14 Multi Annual Funding is £612,000 (63.7% of overall funding). Details of rationale for funding allocations are as follows and individual awards are provided in Appendix D which is available on Modern.gov.

The recommendations to the Multi-Annual Funding clients are for the first year of a three year funding scheme and for all but one organisation (see below) incorporate an 4% uplift or the amount requested which ever is greater (rounded to the nearest £250). It is recommended that the three year funding agreement for Multi-Annual funding includes a yearly increase in the level of funding in the further two years by a minimum of 3%.

The Lyric Theatre scored slightly lower than other Multi Annual organisations. This is in part due to the closure of the existing Lyric theatre in advance of the major capital project. There was considerably less detail provided on the programme during the off-site period. This off site period has a significant impact on the proposed recurrent programme including reduced programme costs, reduced employment and reduced anticipated audiences. They are also likely to tour beyond Belfast which weakens the impact of the programme within the City. A high contingency was also included within the budget. This does not allow officers to see a specific breakdown of costs towards aspects of the programme. A clearly broken down budget which includes a breakdown of the contingency figure will be requested as a condition of funding, however, in the light of the comments above we have recommended that the offer is reduced from previous years. The revised offer takes account of half of the proposed contingency and would therefore be £36,500.

The Lyric Theatre is subject to a one year review. It is therefore suggested that the grant offer is reviewed at this stage.

The organisations who have only recently achieved Multi Annual Funding are recommended to receive £30,000 which reflects an uplift of considerably more than 4% in all cases.

It should be noted that Belfast City Council funding, as a proportion of overall programme costs for Multi-Annual Funding clients, is low. Belfast City Council funding represents 4.2% of the collective turnover for MAF Organisations. This equates to a direct return for investment of 1:24. It is felt that this underlines the value for money that these flagship organisations represent and supports the impact of increased investment in these organisations.

Annual Funding

The total level of funding recommended for Annual Funding is £348,000 (36.3% of overall funding). Details of individual awards are provided in Appendix E which is available on Modern.gov. The rationale for funding decisions is outlined below. Organisations who have previously received Annual Funding were awarded grants based on previous funding levels.

Organisations Scoring - Over 80%

Only one AF organisation scored over 80%. Queen's Film Theatre have received a lower level of funding over last few years to reflect difficulties with structure and temporary relocation. It is therefore recommended that they are awarded an increase of £2k to recognise the strong programme and position.

Organisations Scoring - 70% - 80%

Most of the organisations scoring between 70 and 80% are recommended a 4% increase in funding (rounded to nearest £250). More substantial increases are recommended to recognise substantial growth and increased impact of the programmes for several organisations. The rationale for these increases is as follows:

Youth Action have strengthened and expanded their arts programme considerably and have become a major part of the arts infrastructure in Belfast due to their relocation to a new building in central location which includes a purpose built performance venue.

Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival has been a rapidly expanding festival with the new Out to Lunch Festival in January and increasing audience figures and a reputation for excellent and innovative events.

Cahoots Northern Ireland have an expanded programme of performances and increased Belfast focus and are currently on a comparatively low level of funding

Cultúrlann McAdam O Fiaich have a strengthened and expanded arts programme and have a growing role in the arts infrastructure for the City.

In the case of Dance Resource Base and Dance United the awards have been rounded upwards to allow a minimal increase to be awarded.

Organisations Scoring - 65-70 %

Recommended 3% rounded to nearest £250. Ormeau Baths Gallery were awarded an increased level of funding to reflect their revised structure and enhanced programme, their funding had been previously reduced during transitional arrangements while their management was under the Arts Council NI and during the transitional governance arrangements.

Organisations Scoring - 60-65%

These organisations are recommended no increase on 07/08 figures.

East Belfast Art Collective submitted a very borderline application and while there are strengths to the programme it was felt that the award needs to acknowledge the weaknesses in strategic planning and outreach activities. They therefore were recommended a reduced award of £5,000.

Organisations Not Funded In 2007/08

The following organisations who did not receive Annual Funding in 2007/08 were recommended grants of £3k.

Artscare
Belfast Philharmonic Society
Catalyst Arts
Educational Shakespeare Company
Music Theatre 4 Youth
Naughton Gallery
New Lodge Arts Forum
Partisan
Photoworks North/Source
Ulster Architectural Heritage Society
Ulster Youth Choir

Resource Implications

Financial

A provisional budget of £960,000 was agreed by Development Committee of October 2007.

Human Resources

This will be covered within the work programme of the culture and Arts Unit.

Recommendations

Members are asked to agree recommendations in relation to:

(i) Scores and Recommendations for Multi-Annual Funding;
and

(ii) Scores and Recommendations for Annual Funding

Key to Abbreviations

AF – Annual Funding
MAF – Multi-Annual Funding”

In answer to a question from a Member regarding why certain arts organisations whose events were attended by many thousands of people were not receiving multi-Annual funding, the Director indicated that, from next year, such organisations would be able to apply for Multi-Annual Funding and that a report in that regard would be presented to a future meeting of the Committee.

After further discussion, the Committee adopted the officers’ recommendations to award the funding set out below:

Scores and Recommendations for Multi-Annual Funding

Applicant	Total Score	Amount Requested for 2008/9	Recommendation
Beat Initiative	90.8	£45,000.00	£33,000.00
Belfast Community Circus School	89.2	£40,000.00	£33,000.00
Belfast Exposed	89.8	£36,000.00	£30,000.00
Belfast Festival at Queens	87.8	£100,000.00	£66,250.00
Cinemagic	93	£30,000.00	£30,000.00
Crescent Arts Centre	87.2	£40,000.00	£33,000.00
Grand Opera House	89.6	£37,378.00	£33,000.00
Linenhall Library	86	£41,220.00	£41,250.00
Lyric Theatre	74.6	£45,000.00	£36,500.00
New Belfast Community Arts Initiative	92	£32,857.00	£32,750.00
Northern Vision	88	£30,000.00	£30,000.00
Old Museum Arts Centre	86.6	£54,000.00	£39,750.00
Ulster Orchestra	92.6	£225,000.00	£143,500.00
Young at Art	89.6	£49,250.00	£30,000.00
Total		£805,705.00	£612,000.00

Scores and Recommendations for Annual Funding

Applicant	Total Score	Amount Requested	Recommendation
An Droichead Cultural Centre	59.2	£29,615.00	£0.00
Andersonstown Traditional & Contemporary Music School	66.6	£11,700.00	£3,750.00
Arts & Disability Forum	63	£8,000.00	£3,250.00
Arts Care	68.2	£15,000.00	£3,000.00
ArtsEkta	68.6	£30,000.00	£5,250.00
Bbeyond	54.4	£11,491.00	£0.00
Belfast Film Festival	68.8	£30,000.00	£27,250.00
Belfast Music Society	57.8	£2,000.00	£0.00
Belfast Philharmonic Society	61.2	£13,471.00	£3,000.00
Belfast Print Workshop	70.8	£10,000.00	£6,250.00
Beyond Skin	58.6	£18,000.00	£0.00
Black Box Trust (The)	65.6	£40,000.00	N/A
Bruiser Theatre Company	68.2	£10,000.00	£8,000.00
C21 Theatre Company	54.2	£26,237.00	£0.00
Cahoots Northern Ireland	70.2	£11,500.00	£4,500.00
Catalyst Arts	60.6	£10,000.00	£3,000.00
Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival	74.6	£25,000.00	£16,000.00
Community Arts Forum	68.8	£22,815.00	£20,000.00
Creative Media Partnership @ Community Visual Images	58.6	£30,000.00	£0.00
Creative Writers' Network	72.2	£29,143.08	£4,000.00
Culturlann McAdam O Fiaich	67.8	£30,000.00	£8,000.00
Dance Resource Base	65.4	£5,000.00	£4,250.00
Dance United Northern Ireland	67	£5,000.00	£3,250.00
East Belfast Arts Collective	60	£17,000.00	£5,000.00
Educational Shakespeare Co Ltd	77	£26,500.00	£3,000.00
Feile an Phobail	68.8	£28,000.00	£16,500.00
Festival of Fools	65.8	£16,000.00	£10,250.00
Flax Arts Studios	59.4	£16,270.00	£0.00

Applicant	Total Score	Amount Requested	Recommendation
Fortwilliam Musical Society	50.8	£9,900.00	£0.00
Francis McPeake	49.6	£26,000.00	£0.00
Golden Thread Gallery	65	£16,000.00	£7,250.00
Green Shoot Productions	51.8	£19,000.00	£0.00
Indian Community Centre	53.4	£22,000.00	£0.00
Kabosh Theatre	67.6	£13,769.00	£13,250.00
Kids in Control	64.8	£20,000.00	£12,750.00
Lagan Boat Co/ Lagan Legacy	58.4	£2,000.00	£0.00
Maiden Voyage Dance Company	68.8	£5,270.00	£3,500.00
Moving on Music	67.2	£26,000.00	£17,750.00
Music Theatre 4 Uth	71.8	£3,000.00	£3,000.00
Naughton Gallery at Queen's	62.2	£6,000.00	£3,000.00
New Lodge Arts Forum	63.8	£11,661.00	£3,000.00
New Lyric Operatic Company	52	£6,410.00	£0.00
Nomadic Charitable Trust	0	£30,000.00	£0.00
Northern Ireland Music Industry Commission	62	£10,800.00	£5,500.00
Open House Festival	74	£12,800.00	£9,500.00
Ormeau Baths Gallery	66.4	£25,000.00	£16,000.00
Paragon Studios	59.8	£4,700.00	£0.00
Partisan Productions	67	£13,718.00	£3,000.00
Photo Works North /Source	66.8	£6,500.00	£3,000.00
Play Resource Warehouse	67.4	£6,000.00	£3,250.00
Prime Cut Productions	78.8	£17,000.00	£11,000.00
Queen Street Studios	67.2	£21,265.00	£5,250.00
Queen's Film Theatre	84.6	£20,000.00	£11,500.00
Ransom Productions	60.2	£7,500.00	£4,000.00
Rawlife Theatre Company	57.6	£14,050.00	£0.00
Replay Productions	72	£20,000.00	£11,000.00
Sonorities Festival of Contemporary Music	58.6	£7,000.00	£0.00
Streetwise Community Circus Workshops	67.4	£10,500.00	£5,500.00
Teachers of Singing in Ireland (TOSinI)	47.8	£10,000.00	£0.00

Applicant	Total Score	Amount Requested	Recommendation
Tinderbox Theatre Company	72	£20,000.00	£16,250.00
Ulster Architectural Heritage Society	63.6	£30,000.00	£3,000.00
Ulster Youth Choir	62.4	£5,000.00	£3,000.00
Ulster Youth Orchestra	55.8	£15,000.00	£0.00
Wheelworks	72.4	£10,000.00	£8,250.00
Youth Action Northern Ireland	78	£20,000.00	£8,000.00
Total		£306,833.00	£348,000.00

Tourism Development Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“Relevant Background Information

Street Trading

Members will be aware that since the 2001 Street Trading Act came into force, BCC has sought to eradicate illegal street trading to ensure the public's health and safety, but has also sought to enhance the experience of shopping in the city centre and the standing of licensed street traders. BCC has identified high quality independent retailing as a crucial asset to the competitive success of Belfast. To complement and build on the significant contribution of our existing markets, BCC is now investigating opportunities for high quality 'street trading' in the city centre. It is envisaged that this will bring colour, vibrancy and increased footfall levels to designated parts of Belfast's retail centre. On Friday 20 July 2007 Belfast City Council launched a Statutory Consultation Period on its proposals to designate the streets. Responses will be considered at the Licensing Committee Meeting in April 2008.

Attached as Appendix 1 is a draft response from the Development Committee to the designation of the following Street Trading Pitches:

Street or part thereof to be considered:

- Cotton Court (Waring Street)
- Hill Street – All
- Commercial Court – All
- Writers' Square
- Donegall Quay – part thereof beside Lagan Lookout building for six pitches;
- Lanyon Place – part thereof under the covered walkway for six pitches.

Sister Cities International Conference 2009

Belfast has been successful in securing the Sister Cities International annual conference at the Waterfront Hall 27 July – 1 August 2009. This is the first time the event has been held outside of the United States and has the potential to make a contribution of at least £2.5million to the local economy. Delegates will mostly come from the USA with large groups also expected from Africa, China, Japan and Europe.

The bid has been supported by the Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau, Tourism Ireland, the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, the Northern Ireland Bureau in Washington DC, Armagh and Down Tourism Consortium, other Councils and the Regional Tourism Consortiums in Northern Ireland. An organising committee has been set up to manage the conference in Belfast which includes Belfast City Council, Armagh and Down Tourism, North Down Borough Council, Belfast Visitor & Convention Bureau, Northern Ireland Tourist Board, US Consulate and Tourism Ireland.

Northern Ireland is required to host a reception on Friday 18 July 2008 at the International Sister Cities conference in Kansas City, Missouri, USA. This is the largest opportunity to market the Belfast Sister Cities International Conference 2009. Tourism Ireland has agreed to fund a substantial part of the budget and local Councils have been asked to assist. Belfast City Council has been asked to contribute a sum of £5,000. The event will also provide an opportunity to have promotional stands and literature to promote Belfast as a tourism destination. Details of the Kansas conference can be found at www.sister-cities.org

Belfast Tourism Monitor 2007

Members will be aware that the Belfast Tourism Monitor is an integrated monitoring and evaluation project carried out by Millward Brown Ulster, aimed at measuring the volume and value of tourism in Belfast on an annual basis. The importance of the data collated through the Tourism Monitor cannot be underestimated in terms of highlighting the economic impact and importance of tourism to the City's economy.

Millward Brown Ulster has informed the Tourism Development Unit that a final report in relation to the statistical data of the 2007 Tourism Monitor will be completed at the end of February 2008. A summary of the findings of the Belfast Tourism Monitor will be produced in a Facts and Figures booklet similar to previous years, for distribution to the tourism industry, arts and cultural sector, government agencies and further education establishments.

72 Hours in Belfast

Under the Cultural Tourism Strategy 'Developing Belfast's Opportunity' and accompanying Action Plan, the Tourism Development Unit has developed a number of cultural products which are designed to make specific areas of culture, heritage and leisure more easily accessible to visitors and leave them with a unique and positive experience. Supported by coordinated information and marketing, the new products have played a crucial role in developing cultural tourism. The '72 Hours in Belfast Cultural Guide' is the one-stop shop to experience the unique character of Belfast. It lists magnificent visitor attractions, award-winning restaurants, a range of superb hotels, tours, bars and clubs, shops, world-class theatres, galleries, live music and fabulous festivals throughout the year.

Following the success of 72 Hours, we have been unable to cope with demand and unable to maintain literature stock at key outlets including Belfast Welcome Centre and at the Airports. Although the guide is promoted through e-marketing and it is the number one download on Belfast City Council's website, visitors still require hard copies of literature when they are here. Approval is sought for an updated 72 hour guide and reprint of 30,000 copies.

Resource Implications

<u>Sister Cities International Conference 2009</u>	£5,000
<u>Belfast Tourism Monitor</u>	£4,000
<u>72 Hours in Belfast</u>	£21,500

Recommendations

Street Trading

That Members approve the response to the Designation of Street Trading Pitches as detailed in Appendix 1.

Sister Cities International Conference 2009

It is recommended that Members approve funding of £5,000 to enable promotion of the Sister Cities International Conference.

Belfast Tourism Monitor 2007

It is recommended that a presentation on the 2007 findings of the Belfast Tourism Monitor be delivered to the Development Committee and that approval be granted for the production of the Tourism Facts and Figures booklet at a cost of no more than £4,000.

72 Hours in Belfast

It is recommended that the 72 Hours in Belfast Cultural Guide is updated and 30,000 copies reprinted at a cost of no more than £21,500.

Key to Abbreviations

BCC - Belfast City Council
NITB - Northern Ireland Tourist Board
BVCB - Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau"

After discussion, the Committee agreed:

- (i) to provide an amount of £5,000 towards the costs which would be associated with the promotion of the Sister Cities International Conference;
- (ii) to receive at a future meeting a presentation on the findings of the 2007 Belfast Tourism Monitor;
- (iii) that expenditure not to exceed the £4,000 be incurred in connection with the production of a Tourism Facts and Figures Booklet;
- (iv) that the "72 Hours in Belfast" cultural guide be updated and 30,000 copies printed at a cost not to exceed £21,500.

In addition, the Committee agreed that the following comments be submitted as the Committee's response on proposals to designate certain locations within Belfast for street trading purposes:

"The Development Committee recommends the following sites be designated suitable locations for Street Trading under the 2001 Street Trading legislation.

CATHEDRAL QUARTER

Street or part thereof to be considered	Commodity or service in respect of which a proposal has been received	Proposed Days/Hours of Trade
Cotton Court (Waring Street)	Arts, Crafts, Flowers, Books	Sunday 10am-7pm
Hill Street - All	Arts, Crafts, Flowers, Books	Sunday 10am-7pm
Commercial Court - All	Fine Art, Paintings, Photographs, Prints	Sunday 10am-7pm
Writers' Square	Arts, Crafts, Books	Sunday 10am-7pm

Street or part thereof to be considered

Belfast City Council's Cultural Tourism Strategy, 'Developing Belfast's Opportunity', details the aim to develop cultural tourism activity and enhance the quality of the visitor experience in the Cathedral Quarter. The Cathedral Quarter is the oldest and most distinctive area of Belfast. Designated a Conservation Area in 1990, in recent years the Quarter has taken on a pivotal role as the cultural heart of Belfast and is now home to over 50 arts organisations.

High quality Street Trading in the Cotton Court, Hill Street, Commercial Court and Writers' Square would:

- bring colour, vibrancy and generate much-needed footfall
- create awareness of the cultural offering in the Cathedral Quarter
- coordinate links between attractions and cultural organisations
- capture the essence of the Quarter and reflect its distinctiveness
- enhance the quality of the visitor experience
- attract new people to the Cathedral Quarter
- be a crucial asset to the competitive success of Belfast

It is recommended that licences for Cotton Court be restricted to two, to allow for continued programming of outdoor events and performances in this area. It is also recommended that further expansion to Writers' Square should only take place following successful and established Street Trading in Hill Street and Commercial Court.

Commodity or service in respect of which a proposal has been received

It is essential that any Street Trading within Cathedral Quarter reflects its distinctive character i.e. a designated conservation and cultural area. Cultural tourists now expect a unique offering of high quality indigenous products. It is crucial to adhere to this in order to compete with other European cities.

It would be extremely detrimental to the area if stalls selling mass produced products such as tourist souvenirs and memorabilia were to be facilitated and this would seriously compromise its unique character. Businesses surveyed were emphatic that a high quality be maintained.

Therefore it is recommended licenses be strictly confined to the following commodities and that restrictions and conditions be included:

Arts - visual arts of all disciplines such as fine art, print, photography

Crafts – such as jewellery, ceramics, sculpture, pottery, clothing,

Flowers and books.

NB: Products should be original, locally produced and hand-made by professional, indigenous artists and designers.

Any licence should include strict enforcement measures in terms of quality and appropriateness of merchandise and carefully managed in order to ensure a continued and sustained quality presentation. We would also recommend failure to utilise licence on four consecutive Sundays would result in loss of pitch.

Proposed Days / Hours of Trade

The Development Committee strongly recommends that Street Trading be restricted to Sundays only between 10.00am and 7.00pm in order to develop a unique attraction in Belfast. Members will be aware that the Cultural Tourism Strategy, 'Developing Belfast's Opportunity', outlines the need to develop the quality of the visitor experience in Belfast on Sundays and enhance and promote the current product offering. Feedback from our cultural tourism networking contacts has found that virtually all hotels reported a serious problem on Sundays, in particular Sunday mornings. It was pointed out that many guests leave Belfast on Sunday afternoons and that Sunday morning is their last period to enjoy Belfast. Members will also be aware that media coverage surrounding the Lonely Planet announcement in November 2006 commented on the need to develop the Sunday offer.

NB The Tourism Development Unit would support and complement Sunday Street Trading activity by:

- co-ordinating the hospitality sector (eg coffee shops and restaurants) to open during the proposed hours
- encouraging cultural organisations to programme regular indoor and outdoor events
- galleries to open on Sunday afternoons
- encouraging new Sunday walking tours
- market and promote the package in partnership with the Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau

The Development Committee further recommends the following sites be designated suitable locations for Street Trading. Sale of a high standard of beverages and confectionary would be useful public amenity.

It is recommended that restriction are applied and that trading should be in keeping with iconic buildings, public viewing platforms and public art in the area eg: 'Tourist Gifts' should be defined in any licence and not include mass produced or imported products.

Street or part thereof to be considered	Commodity or service in respect of which a proposal has been received	Proposed Days/Hours of Trade
Donegall Quay – part thereof beside Lagan lookout building for six pitches.	Hot & Cold Beverages, Confectionery, Tourist Gifts	Seasonal
Lanyon Place – part thereof under the covered walkway for six pitches.	Hot & Cold Beverages, Confectionery, Tourist Gifts	Seasonal”

Cultural Economy Conference

The Committee was advised that a request for financial support had been received from the organisers of a cultural economy conference, entitled “Locality and Language”, due to be held in Belfast on 8th May, which was Europe Day.

The Conference, which was being organised under the auspices of the Gaeltacht Quarter Steering Committee, would focus on exchanging best practice regarding methods of maximising the contribution which minority languages made to economic development. It was expected to attract up to five hundred delegates from across Europe and would involve plenary and workshop sessions. In addition, there would be exhibition space where the Council would be providing information regarding its work on economic development and European issues.

The Head of Economic Initiatives pointed out that at least two hundred of the Conference delegates would be from overseas and that each would stay for a minimum of two nights in Belfast. In addition to this economic benefit, the event would provide the Council with an opportunity to enhance its profile in the areas of tourism and economic development and its support for the development of the Gaeltacht Quarter.

She reported that the Conference organisers had requested that the Council provide financial assistance not exceeding £2,000 towards the costs of an evening reception for those delegates who would be attending the Conference.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to allocate a maximum of £2,000 towards the event.

Christmas Lights Switch-on

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of a report regarding the Christmas Lights Switch-on.

St. George's Market - Trader Vehicle Parking

The Director reminded the Committee that, since the refurbished St. George's Market had re-opened in 1999, discussions had been held on a regular basis with the Roads Service, the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the traders regarding car parking issues at the Market. During the intervening years, various short-term solutions to enable the traders to park their vehicles had been put in place. The most recent location for this temporary car park had been on Plot No. 2, Lanyon Place. However, this had become unavailable on 4th February when building work on the site had commenced.

She reported that, in order to facilitate traders, arrangements had been made to enable them to park their vehicles on Fridays at a vacant site on the northern fringe of the Gasworks and on Saturdays to use the Council staff car park at Raphael Street. She pointed out that the cost to the Council of providing security cover at the sites was estimated at £170 per week. She reported further that the Roads Service intended to provide extra parking bays in Oxford Street, East Bridge Street and Verner Street in the near future.

Noted.

Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People's Draft Corporate Plan - Consultation

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“Relevant Background Information

The Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People's role is defined in the legislation setting up the Office – The Commissioner for Children and Young People (Northern Ireland) Order 2003. The Commissioner's principal aim is described in the legislation as 'to safeguard and promote the rights and best interests of children and young persons'. The Commissioner has to report to the Assembly and Parliament about his work and how the budget is spent. The Commissioner has three main responsibilities:

Promoting children's rights: The Commissioner is guided by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Complaints and legal action: The Commissioner can deal with individual complaints from children and young people, or their parents/guardians about any government service that impacts on those under 18, and those with a disability, and those leaving care, up to the age of 21.

Research and inquiries: The Commissioner wants the Office to base all its work on helping children and young people on thorough research.

The Commissioner aims to be more focused on strategic work that will help children and young people which is the purpose of this draft corporate plan that sets out the vision for the years 2008 -2011.

Key Issues

The draft corporate plan identifies five main priority and action areas:

- 1) **Play and leisure** which is about children and young people having places to go and things to do:
 - Safe places
 - Affordable activity
 - Accessible activity
 - Age

- 2) **Having your say** which is about children and young people having a say about important decisions in their lives:
 - More of a say for children and young people
 - Being heard and making a difference
 - Marginalised voices sought and heard
 - Making policy a reality

- 3) **Wellbeing and mental health protection** which is about the service children and young people receive to help their physical, emotional and mental health:
 - Getting the right mental health services
 - Improving wellbeing
 - Acceptance and understanding
 - Social inclusion

- 4) **Equal treatment** is about making sure that children and young people are treated fairly:
 - Discrimination
 - Equal access to appropriate services
 - Stereotyping
 - And Government keeping its promises

5) **Protection** is about making sure that children and young people are protected from risks:

- Child abuse
- Road safety
- Community safety
- Bullying

The proposed Council Response indicates that Belfast City Council in general welcomes the proposal, but some specific comments are expressed.

Recommendations

Members are asked to approve the content of the attached consultation response.”

After discussion, the Committee agreed that the following comments be submitted as the Council's official response to the consultation regarding the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People's Draft Corporate Plan, subject to it being amended to include a reference to the reluctance displayed by certain Occupational Health Services within Health Trusts to provide soft play facilities for those families whose disabled children were unable to use the facilities available at local Parks and Playgrounds:

“1. Introduction

1.1 Belfast City Council welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the consultation of the NICCY draft corporate plan. As a key priority the council has identified the need to improve services for children and young people.

1.2 In addition to our response to this document we have distributed voting cards amongst the members of our Youth Forum and play centre after school clubs to enable the children and young people who use our services to give their comments.

1.3 The council recognises that all areas identified within the corporate plan are essential to the overall well being and development of children and young people.

Considering the specific areas of the draft plan we would suggest the following:

2. Play & Leisure

2.1 Accessible play is crucial in enabling all children and young people access to play and leisure facilities close to where they live. This must be appropriate to their needs, including children and young people up to the age of 18.

- 2.2 Play must not only be accessible in terms of walking distance but be part of the community planning process. There can still be the perception that children should be seen but not heard and play areas (if any are provided) are built on the peripheral of the community. This not only isolates children but also poses safety issues. When play areas are in the heart of the community adults can keep an eye on what is happening thereby creating a feeling of belonging to the community and a safe place to live. The facilities should also be accessible not only in location but affordability and provide a range of activities to challenge different age groups.
- 2.3 The council feels that NICCY draft The main priority though which has not been mentioned in your options is to ensure that the NI Play Policy is not only published but becomes a reality. It is essential that the document leads to actions that will enable children and young people the right to 'engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child' as enshrined by Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
3. Having Your Say
- 3.1 Consultation with children and young people is gradually being undertaken. However feedback is often not provided as to how their input has been incorporated or the reasons it has not been possible. All consultations need to be meaningful and undertaken for the right reasons.
- 3.2 To ensure that the voices of children and young people have the most impact we must prioritise the need to make policy a reality through ensuring that government and public bodies are involved and listen to children and young people when making laws and policies about them. Only then we will embed the culture of involving children and young people in the decision making process in our society.
- 3.3 Mechanisms need to be developed to enable government to listen to different needs of children and young people. This needs to include organised structures, possibly including the establishment of a NI Youth Assembly. Additionally, the council feels that all local government authorities should have a shadow youth council. Technology can be utilised to help reach children and young people who are marginalised and hard to reach, for example SMS text, e-mail and the internet.

4. Wellbeing and Mental health

- 4.1** Mental health is an increasingly major issue for children and young people who face a dearth of play facilities and trained professionals. The age of children committing suicide is getting younger. There has also been an increase in the numbers of children and young people self-harming and committing suicide.
- 4.2** NICCY needs to ensure services are provided for all children and young people who require support from the health service and this must include prevention programmes aimed at the overall well being of children and young people.
- 4.3** There is still the belief within our society that children and young people are not susceptible to conditions such as depression and that their illness is just part of growing up. Again there must be recognition and resources dedicated to supporting our children and young people.
- 4.4** The council advocates that the first priority NICCY needs to concentrate on is improving the well being of children and young people through ensuring that they have the opportunity to develop, be supported and acquire the skills to help them grow as people and cope when times are difficult.

5. Protection

- 5.1** Community safety is central to this area, as it enables children and young people to live, play and grow in a safe community. This includes a range of issues from children being safe when they cross roads, to preventing threats such as bullying, others harming them, adult abuse and not as commonly recognised - peer abuse.
- 5.2** Community safety must address these issues through providing programmes aimed at preventative work that seeks to develop children and young people as individuals and as part of the community.
- 5.3** Community safety must not be seen as 'policing' the neighbourhoods, for example tackling anti-social behaviour through measures such as ASBOs. We must look more at the causes of anti-social behaviour and look at programmes that can positively support children and young people.

6. **Equal Treatment**

61. **Children have the right to be protected and to be encouraged to develop. This must be done in an atmosphere where they do not face discrimination or stereotyping and have equal access to appropriate services.”**

Summer Schemes

The Director reminded the Committee that the Council supported a range of community-based Summer Play Schemes which offered a wide range of social, recreational and educational activities for young persons between the ages of five and fourteen. She explained that Summer Schemes in directly-managed Community Centres were funded through the Revenue Budget. In addition, grant assistance was made available to those organisations in the voluntary and community sector which met the relevant criteria. She informed the Members that the Policy and the associated criteria had been agreed by the former Community and Leisure Services Sub-Committee at its meetings on 31st March, 2003 and 5th April, 2005.

The Director stated that an amount of £97,850 was available within the Revenue Estimates for seasonal play schemes. In addition, an amount of £175,050 had been included in the estimates in respect of grant-aid to be provided to Community Groups operating Summer Schemes. Grants in this regard would be based on previously agreed criteria and would be at set amounts of either £1,000, £1,800 or £3,000.

In response to a Member's question regarding the Access Northern Ireland legislation, the Community Services Manager indicated that staff within the Section were examining the impact which the legislation would have on the proposed Summer Scheme. She pointed out that the Council had in place a robust Child Protection Policy which was similar to the Access Northern Ireland legislation.

After further discussion, the Committee agreed that a range of Summer Schemes would operate in directly-managed Community Centres and granted authority for grants not exceeding the amounts set out above be awarded to qualifying Community Groups on the understanding that the total amount of money available in this regard would not exceed £175,050.

Chairman