

Development Committee

Wednesday, 11th February, 2009

MEETING OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor M. Browne (Chairman); and
Councillors Attwood, Campbell, Convery, Crozier,
Cunningham, Ekin, Humphrey, Lavery, C. Maskey,
P. Maskey, McCarthy, McCausland, Mhic Giolla Mhín,
Rodgers and Stoker.

In attendance: Ms. M. T. McGivern, Director of Development;
Ms. S. McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives;
Mr. T. Husbands, Managing Director of the
Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Halls; and
Miss L. Hillick, Committee Administrator.

Apology

An apology for inability to attend was reported from Councillor Kyle.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 14th January were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 2nd February.

Expression of Condolences

The Chairman (Councillor M. Browne) advised the Committee of the recent death of the father of the Committee Administrator, Mr. N. Malcolm. The Committee agreed that a letter of condolence expressing its sympathies be forwarded to Mr. Malcolm and his family circle.

Belfast Tourism Development Analysis

The Members were advised that, following the success of the Renewing Communities Initiative, the Council, in partnership with the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, had commissioned TTC International to carry out a Belfast Tourism Analysis in order to identify gaps in the provision of and opportunities for community tourism throughout the City. Accordingly, Elected Representatives had been consulted and had provided input to the Analysis which was now available in draft form.

The Director reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 12th November, 2008, it had agreed to receive a presentation from representatives of TTC International in relation to the Belfast Tourism Analysis and it was reported that Messrs. I. Henderson and K. Swail were in attendance and they were admitted to the meeting and welcomed by the Chairman.

Mr. Henderson referred to the objectives of the Tourism Analysis which included:

- (i) to review tourism in non-traditional tourist areas of the City;
- (ii) to make recommendations for community tourism development;
- (iii) to facilitate the spread of tourism throughout the City; and
- (iv) to learn from those Cities throughout the United Kingdom which had developed non-traditional tourism areas.

Mr. Henderson referred to current activities in relation to the development of tourism within the City and pointed out that five workshops had been undertaken which had aimed to define the local product. A strategic approach had been adopted which had identified that major capital projects would need to be provided in order to attract visitors to community-based facilities and to act as linkages to City centre products. The Analysis had identified also the need for accommodation within fringe areas of the City. He outlined for the information of the Members the strategic objectives for the North, South, East and West areas of the City, together with the Shankill Road area, and pointed out that the overall strategic objective was to ensure that the basic tourism infrastructure, facilities and services achieved the highest quality standards across all communities. The Analysis had set out also principles which should be adopted by the Council, the Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau and Partnership Boards. In addition, it had been identified that the Council and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board should take the project forward and establish close linkages with the Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau.

After discussion, the Chairman thanked Messrs. Henderson and Swail for their informative presentation and they retired from the meeting.

After further discussion, the Committee agreed that copies of the Belfast Tourism Development Analysis be circulated to all Members of the Committee and that briefings be offered to the Party Groupings on the Council. In addition, the Committee agreed that a report in relation to the matter be submitted for its consideration at a future meeting.

Tourism Unit Update

Conference Subvention

The Committee agreed, under the terms of the Council's Subvention Policy, that £1,000 be allocated to assist with the costs of the Frank Pantridge's Legacy Symposium to be held within the City during the period from 10th till 12th June.

Association of Town Centre Management Awards

The Director advised the Committee that the Council's Cultural Tourism Visitor Plan and the Evening Economy Project had been shortlisted in separate categories for the Association of Town Centre Management Awards. This was the first time that the Council's tourism projects had been shortlisted for such awards, which provided an excellent opportunity to profile and showcase work which had been undertaken in these areas.

She reported that the Awards were being held at the Park Plaza Riverbank Hotel, London on 26th March and she recommended that the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman (or their nominees) and one Officer be authorised to attend the event. The total cost, including accommodation, subsistence and economy flights, would be approximately £1,140.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

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 funding for Culture and the Arts 2008/2011. The closing date for applications under both schemes was Friday 19 December 2008.

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. At the Development Committee of 14 May 2008 Members agreed that a maximum of two new clients be admitted to the Multi-Annual Funding scheme.

The two successful clients were then invited to submit an application by the deadline of 12 noon on Friday 19 December 2008. The total now requested by the 16 Multi-Annual Funding clients for the year 2009/10 is £690,360.

Annual Funding for Culture and Arts

The 2009/10 deadline for applications was also 12 noon on 19 December 2008. A total of 53 applications were received, compared to 64 (excluding those organisations who are now multi annually funded) in 2008/9.

The applications received requested a total of £733,489. In 2007/8, the total requested by organisations (excluding those organisations who are now multi-annually funded), was £1,124,300.53.

Criteria for Multi-Annual and Annual Funding for Culture and Arts 2009/10

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 £1,423,849.00. This is the equivalent to 144% of the total projected budget of £989,000.

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 two 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 minor 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.

Minimum Grant

The minimum Annual Funding grant offered is £2,500.

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 16 Multi Annual Funding is £690,360 (69.8% of overall funding).

The recommendations to the new Multi-Annual Funding clients are for the first year of a two year funding scheme.

The organisations who have only recently achieved Multi Annual Funding are recommended to receive £30,000 which reflects an uplift of considerably more than 50% in both cases.

Belfast City Council funding represents 4.6% of the collective turnover for MAF Organisations. This equates to a direct return for investment of 1:22. 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 £298,640 (30.1% of overall funding).

Resource Implications

Financial

This is included in the draft revenue estimates for 2009-2010 of the Culture and Arts Unit.

Human Resources

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

Recommendations

Members are asked to agree recommendations in:

Appendix 1 - Scores and Recommendations for Multi Annual Funding

Appendix 2 - Scores and recommendations for Annual Funding”

Accordingly, the Committee adopted the Director's recommendation to award the funding set out below:

APPENDIX 1

**Scores and Recommendations
for Multi-Annual Funding**

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Amount Requested for 2009/10</u>	<u>Total Score</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Feile An Phobail	£30,000.00	86.6	£30,000.00
Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival	£30,000.00	86.0	£30,000.00

APPENDIX 2

**Scores and Recommendations
for Annual Funding**

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Amount Requested for 2009/10</u>	<u>Total Score</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Andersonstown Traditional & Contemporary Music School	£12,000	60.4	£3,750
Arts & Disability Forum	£10,000	60.8	£3,250
Arts Care	£15,000	63.8	£3,000
ArtsEkta	£30,000	65.6	£5,250
Belfast Film Festival	£30,000	68.0	£27,795
Belfast Philharmonic Society	£28,758	60.4	£3,000
Belfast Print Workshop	£10,000	63.0	£6,250
Bruiser Theatre Company	£4,500	67.8	£8,160
C21 Theatre Company	£21,840	54.2	£0
Cahoots NI	£12,000	72.2	£4,635
Catalyst Arts	£9,900	61.0	£3,000
Community Arts Forum	£25,000	69.2	£20,400
Creative Exchange	£5,000	60.4	£2,500
Creative Writers' Network	£8,000	59.0	£0
Culturlann McAdam O Fiaich	£30,000	67.2	£8,160
Dance Resource Base	£6,000	52.4	£0
Dance United NI	£10,660	69.6	£3,315
Digital Arts Studios	£10,404	58.2	£0
East Belfast Arts Collective	£18,000	61.4	£5,000
Educational Shakespeare Co Ltd	£5,000	57.4	£0
Festival of Fools	£13,940	68.4	£10,455
Flax Arts Studios	£7,000	58.8	£0

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Amount Requested for 2009/10</u>	<u>Total Score</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Golden Thread Gallery	£28,500	69.8	£7,395
Green Shoot Productions	£15,000	63.0	£2,785
Kabosh Theatre	£14,900	67.4	£13,515
Kids in Control	£15,000	66.0	£13,005
Maiden Voyage Dance Company	£5,750	63.8	£3,500
Moving on Music	£20,000	68.2	£18,105
Music Theatre 4 Uth	£20,258	67.0	£3,060
Naughton Gallery at Queen's	£6,000	58.6	£0
New Lodge Arts Forum	£5,000	64.8	£3,000
Northern Ireland Music Industry Commission	£12,500	60.8	35,500
Open Arts	£12,000	58.0	£0
Open House Traditional Arts Festival	£10,400	74.4	£9,785
Ormeau Baths Gallery	£30,000	66.6	£16,320
Partisan Productions	£12,320	58.8	£0
Play Resource Warehouse	£4,000	61.6	£3,250
Prime Cut Productions	£14,000	72.4	£11,330
Queen Street Studios	£19,250	63.0	£5,250
Queen's Film Theatre	£14,000	75.0	£11,845
Ransom Productions	£12,000	58.6	£0
Rawlife Theatre Company	£6,000	52.8	£0
Replay Productions	£12,900	68.0	£11,220
Spanner In The Works Theatre Company	£6,000	56.6	£0
Source/Photo Works North	£5,000	60.6	£3,060
Streetwise Community Circus Workshops	£10,775	67.0	£5,610
Studio ON, The Nerve Centre	£22,500	0.0	£0
Summer Madness (NI) Ltd	£8,000	0.0	£0
Tinderbox Theatre Company	£20,934	71.2	£16,737
Ulster Youth Choir	£7,000	57.4	£0
Ulster Youth Orchestra	£5,000	57.8	£0
Wheelworks	£10,500	69.6	£8,415
YouthAction Northern Ireland	£25,000	72.0	£8,240
Total Requested	£733,489.00		£298,847

European Union Unit

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“Relevant Background Information

Members will be aware that the EU Unit brings regular progress reports to Members. The purpose of this report is to advise members of progress with respect to:

1. Interreg IVA funding
2. Eurocities membership
3. EU consultation by OFMDFM
4. Porto Youth Paper

Key Issues

1. Interreg IVA funding

Members will recall the report at the Development Committee meeting of 14 January 2009 highlighting seven projects successfully securing 100% funding for the Comet area through Interreg IVA funding.

Members were presented with a list of the seven projects, however the list had a wrongly named project funded through the tourism strand of Interreg. The successful project was not in fact ‘Cultural Connections’ as stated in the appendix but actually is the ‘Cultural Tourism Network’ led by An Droichead along with partners including;

Oideas Gael
Forbairt Feirste
Ulster Scots Agency
Killybegs Tourism College
Sabhal Mor Ostaig
Canan (Isle of Skye)

The project is currently under economic appraisal but is expected to receive £601,190 over three years.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the amended Interreg IVA funded projects for the Comet region.

2. Eurocities Membership

Members will be aware that Belfast City Council has been an active member of the Eurocities network since the late 1990s. The Council through the European Unit is increasingly active in the network and involved in a range of activities as follows:

Economic Development Forum

- Member of the working group on Creative Clusters and partner in Lyon led research into successful clustering
- Member of the working group on EU Day of the Entrepreneur and held Belfast EU Day of the Entrepreneur on 19 November 2008 attended by 103 Belfast businesses.
- Member of the Eurocities Migrant working group feeding in the findings of the Open Cities project led by Belfast

Social Affairs Forum

- Member of the Social Inclusion working group and participating in forthcoming bid for activity for the 2010 EU Year of Anti Poverty and Social Inclusion
- Participating in the EU Commission policy work on how member states liaise with cities in the development of their national action plans on social inclusion and anti poverty.
- Project participation in the INTI – Cities project through the Good Relations unit looked at benchmarking good governance in relation to the integration of migrants.
- Participates in the Working Groups: Health and Well Being, Urban Security and Social Inclusion

Environment Forum

- Chair of the Clean Cities working group
- Hosted the waste management working group in 2008
- Member of the Noise Pollution, Air Quality, Climate Change, Environment, Green Areas and Health working groups
- Signatory to the Eurocities declaration on Climate Change

Culture Forum

- Participates in a transnational project with 22 other cities to celebrate 2008 as European Year of Intercultural Dialogue. The Belfast report on the visit to Berlin was deemed by the European Commission as best practice. The project's final conference is being held next month in Amsterdam
- Engaged in the Working Group: Culture and Young People

Additional Activity

As well as attending the various thematic Fora and engaging in policy debates and project development, Belfast City Council also attends the Annual General Meeting. This year on 26-29 November the meeting was held in the Hague. The Council led in three workshops on the themes of economic migration, supporting independent retail and murals. The murals removal project won a special project recognition at the annual Eurocities awards.

Potential new activity

The European Unit is currently exploring opportunities for the Council's IT department (ISB) through the Eurocities Knowledge Society Forum by way of identifying relevant policy, project and funding potential.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the level of the Council's activity in the Eurocities project network and to approve the annual council subscription fee for membership of the network at a maximum cost of €15,820

Resource Implications

1. €15,820 for the annual subscription fee for Eurocities membership
3. **OFMDFM Proposal for a Committee/Sub Committee on Europe**

Belfast City Council through the Chief Executive's Office was invited by the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister to respond to a consultation exercise in relation to the potential establishment of a Committee/Sub-Committee on Europe within the NI Assembly.

The proposed terms of reference for such a Committee are as follows;

- To review the Northern Ireland Assembly's role in relation to European issues and to make recommendations to improve scrutiny of EU policy and enhance engagement with EU issues
- To consider the Northern Ireland Executive's strategic approach to European issues, including in particular the Executive's response to the work of the Barroso Taskforce
- To consider European policy issues which fall within the remit of the OFMDFM

The Council through the European Unit made a quick response to the consultation due to the tight deadline related to the exercise.

Following submission of the response document the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Development Committee along with the European Manager and Director of Development have been asked to present oral evidence of the Council's views on the issue on 18 February 2009 at 2.00pm. Both the Director and European Manager have also been invited to meet the two Junior Ministers on 9 February 2009 to provide them with an overview of the European work and priorities of Council and potential future collaboration with OFMDFM.

Recommendation:

Members are asked to approve the Council's response to the OFMDFM consultation on establishing an EU Committee/Sub-Committee within the NI Assembly and approve the attendance of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of Development, Director and European Manager or their nominees to give oral evidence at the NI Assembly on 18 February 2009.

4. Porto Youth Project

Belfast City Council was approached by the project lead, The City of Porto's Youth and Education Department, to engage in a transnational project regarding 'Youth Policies in the Local Administration – Strategic Intervention Areas & Mechanisms for Young People's Participation at the Local Level' in the summer of 2008.

This initiative has been successful in obtaining European funding through the Youth in Action Programme and will facilitate partner organisations in France, Spain, Germany, the United Kingdom, Turkey, Bulgaria, Greece, Poland, Latvia, Finland, Norway and Romania to investigate how policies can be devised which are inclusive of young people and how resulting services can target them more effectively.

A conference will be held in Porto in April 2009 (exact date to be finalised) at which one elected member and one officer are entitled to attend. The funding will subsidise 70% of travel costs.

Recommendations:

Members are requested to approve the attendance of one Elected Member i.e. the Chairman or Deputy Chairman or one of the Political Parties' nominated Youth Champions and one appropriate officer from within Community Services.

Resource Implications:

30% of travel and subsistence costs (approximately £663) in relation to attendance at the Porto Youth Conference are included in the Community Services budget.

Key to Abbreviations

OFMDFM - Office of the First and Deputy First Minister"

The Director pointed out that the organisers of the Porto Youth Conference had extended the invitation to include three young people and had offered to subsidise travel costs by approximately £150 per person. After discussion, the Committee:

- (i) noted the amended Interreg IVA funded projects for the Comet region;
- (ii) noted the level of the Council's activity in relation to the Eurocities Project network and approved the payment of the annual membership subscription fee in the sum of €15,820 to the organisation;
- (iii) granted retrospective approval for the submission of the Council's response, a copy of which was available on modern.gov, to the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister's consultation in relation to the establishment of a European Union Committee/Sub-Committee within the Northern Ireland Assembly;
- (iv) approved the attendance of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, together with the Director and the European Manager (or their nominees) at the Northern Ireland Assembly on 18th February in order to present oral evidence in respect of the Council's views; and

- (v) approved, at a total cost to the Council of approximately £900, the attendance of the Chairman (or his nominee), one officer from the Community Services Unit and three young people from the Council's Youth Parliament at the Porto Youth Conference.

Community Services Grant Aid 2009/2010

(Councillors Crozier and Stoker declared an interest in this item in that they were affiliated to organisations which were being recommended for funding and they took no part in the discussions.)

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“Relevant Background Information

Community Services offer a range of grants as set out in the policy 'A Guide to Grant Aid for Community Organisations', which was agreed by Council in January 2004. The grant categories within this Policy are:

- Revenue Grant
- Capacity Building Grant
- Advice Services
- Community Development Project Grant
- Summer Play Schemes
- Community Chest.

Grants might be sub-divided into 2 primary categories:

1. **Small Grant:** This includes Project Grants, Summer Play Schemes and Community Chest awards. These grant schemes are subject to application and are allocated competitively against agreed criterion. The grant programme for 2009/2010 will operate within current procedures in advance of any agreed changes proposed by the Development Department Grant Aid Review.
2. **Large Grant:** This includes Revenue, Capacity Building and Advice Services grants. Pending the outcome of the Departmental Grant Aid Review, in 2007 Committee agreed to extend current funding contracts by one year to 31 March 2009 to all groups currently in receipt of Revenue, Capacity Building and Advice Services grant. In reaching this decision, Committee was mindful of the

pressures this may have on community groups currently not funded under these grant programmes, particularly new groups. Committee instructed staff to monitor and respond proactively where possible, for example, via signposting to other grant resources both internal and external and associated application support. This support has been ongoing.

Furthermore, the Committee agreed to allocate an additional £50,000 to the Revenue Grant budget in order to facilitate a call for applications which would be restricted to newly constituted groups with premises or to groups who had extended their premises since the original grant decision in 2004.

Committee also agreed to extend the current contract for the Play Resource Centre in line with other grant recipients.

As part of the Change Management Plan a review was initiated into the increased number of grant streams now managed by the Department.

This review sought to:

- align grant programmes with the revised Departmental Strategy and impact towards targeted outcomes
- recommend any necessary changes to systems and processes to ensure good corporate governance and consistency across the Department
- maximise ease of access for recipient groups.

The Department hopes to finalise the Departmental Grant Aid Review, and the subsequent consideration of recommendations by Committee, in time to affect all grant support from April 2010. This will include procedural changes and marketing of the programme in the period up to September 2009.

Key Issues

Community Services Large Grants

Given these awards include support for core costs, groups are nervous around their advance planning for overheads, including staff salaries. We do not now have sufficient time to advertise and assess applications for any of the 3 large grant types to allow for Committee decisions in line with the expiration of current grant contracts.

This paper intends to inform the Committee on any risk associated with the further extension of all current contracts for all 3 categories to 31 March 2010. The revenue estimates include sufficient funds to cover all resource implications. The priority risk associated with this proposal is the likelihood of allegations from the sector of an ongoing limited access to BCC community grants. We have therefore assessed risk on each grant category and summarise below:

- Advice & Information

Historical information would suggest a low likelihood of claims of restricted access. Given our consortium approach to grant distribution in this category, any new expression of interest from a generalist advice provider can be signposted to the relevant geographical consortium.

The primary risk with this grant category will continue to be related to appeals for support from 'specialist' advice providers. The DSD policy, which informs our grant allocation and is the source of significant grant leverage, indicates that Local Government advice support should be generalist in focus. The ongoing delay in Central Government's 'Open Doors' pilot initiative has contributed to ongoing confusion in this area, however, Council does not have access to any additional resource to bolster the grant fund. We would therefore suggest that we must continue to focus our support on generalist provision and continue to signpost requests from specialist providers to the relevant Central Government Department.

The new structure for the service will provide us with a dedicated (part-time) officer resource to extend our support to the consortia. Our relationships here continue to be positive and all stakeholders have agreed with the recommendations of our independent review that, in principle, this funding period will allow us to refine target outcomes and systems in order to streamline any future support. We will also keep under review advice services, particularly in the area of debt and redundancy, as there may be a requirement to fund more resources in this area.

- Capacity

Again, historical experience would suggest a low probability of claims of limited access to this grant category. The primary risk with this programme continues to be clarity around strategic focus and related target outcomes and the need for a robust monitoring & evaluation framework. The Voluntary and Community Unit, DSD, are developing a policy document which will set the regional strategy in relation to support for Support Organisations in the sector. This policy, which has been continually delayed, will inform our strategic vision in this area.

This interim 12 month period will facilitate the completion of both DSD regional policy and our own Departmental strategic review. This will address the issue of limited strategic focus. In the interim, officers will revise the current systems to incorporate the agreed FGS McClure Watters procedural recommendations and will include SMART indicators and associated outputs, results and impact targets for recipients. All recipient groups will be monitored against required business plans.

- Revenue

An assessment of risk in this grant category would suggest that a one year extension to current recipient groups will present the most significant likelihood for challenge on the grounds of restricted access. This is based on historical experience and expressions of interests from Councillors and community groups.

This risk however has been significantly limited by our supplementary allocation in December 2007 when the Development Committee agreed a one-off additional allocation to Revenue Grant of £50,000 to allow new applications from groups which had established, or had acquired premises, since the 2003-2004 open call. A total of 10 Revenue Grants were received by the submission date of 1 March 2008 and, after assessment, 4 new grants were recommended for funding to the cumulative amount of £19,927.

Any proposed extension of current contracts should therefore include both the original successful groups and the 4 additional groups agreed in 2008.

- Independent Centres

We currently provide financial support to 6 independently-managed centres via contracts which again expire on the 31 March 2009.

1. Carrickhill Residents Association – Carrick Hill Community Centre
2. Connswater Community and Leisure Ltd – Ballymacarret Recreation Centre
3. Denmark Street Community Association – Denmark Street Community Centre
4. Lower Shankill Group Welfare Committee – Percy Street Community Centre

5. Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group – Shaftesbury Community & Recreation Centre
6. Roden Street Residents Association – Grosvenor Recreation Centre

The same issues apply to this category as to the larger grant awards above. This category is further complicated by ongoing negotiations to transfer responsibility for the recreation-focused Centres to Parks & Leisure and negotiations on new lease arrangements for some of the Centres via Legal Services.

Estimates for 2009/10 include sufficient funds to cover the necessary resources to extend contracts for a further 12 months. All awards will continue to be subject to receipt of business plans and appropriate monitoring returns

Resource Implications

Financial

The financial estimates include all associated costs.

Human Resources

There are no additional staff resource implications resulting from this report

Recommendations

Committee are asked to note the contents of the report and, pending their consideration of the Departmental Grant Aid Review, agree the following:

1. To extend all current contracts for all 3 categories for one further annual period to 31 March 2010. Individual awards will be inflated by 3%
2. To extend the current contract for the Play Resource Centre in line with other grant recipients
3. To extend financial support to the community-managed facilities for one year to 31 March 2010. Individual awards will be inflated by 3%. The award in respect of management of the Ballymacarrett facility is dependant on the outcome of a committee decision to extend the lease on these premises. This award could therefore be pro rata to the lease period.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations contained within the report.

**Council Appointees to Community and
Play Centre Committees**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“Relevant Background Information

The Community Service Section manages 28 Community and Play Centres across the City the operations of which support the development of a Community & Play Centre Committee (CPCC) at each facility. The Constitution of these Committees was agreed by the Community & Leisure Services Sub Committee February 1999. The Constitution allows for appointees of the Council ‘from time to time, as it considers appropriate. At least one of these will be a member of the Community & Leisure Services Sub Committee’ [Section (4)(c) (i)]. Currently 24 Centres operate a Centre Committee.

Appointments to the CCPCs were agreed by the Community & Leisure Services Sub Committee September 2005 and ensured membership of at least one Member of that Committee. However in April 2007 under the Council’s new governance arrangements responsibility for Community Services moved to the Development Committee. Current appointments on a number of CCPCs does not reflect this change in governance and a number of CCPCs are without Development Committee representation i.e. Ardoyne, Divis, Hammer and Highfield.

The Development Committee on 15 October 2008 agreed that, whilst current Councillor representation on CCPCs continue to apply, Development Committee Members be afforded an opportunity to seek nomination to additional CCPCs. This process should ensure that a least one Development Committee Member is nominated to the 4 CCPCs without Development representation. Subsequently, Officers issued correspondence to Development Committee Members with a closing date of 9 January 2009 seeking nominations on this basis.

Key Issues

Expressions of interest have been received from Members as follows:-

- Cllr D. Dodds – Duncairn
- Cllr C. Maskey – North Queen Street

In addition, a number of Members also responded to indicate that they wish to maintain their current membership of CCPCs.

Members should note that no nominations have been received to date in relation to Ardoyne, Divis and Highfield which are without Development Committee representation and Hammer, which is without any Councillor representation. The constitution of the CCPCs requires that if Councillor representation occurs then at least one representative be a Member of the Development Committee.

Resource Implications

Expenditure in relation to appointments will be met within approved budgets

Recommendation

It is recommended that:-

1. Members approve the nomination of Cllr D. Dodds to Duncairn and Cllr C. Maskey to North Queen Street CCPCs.
2. Members nominate appointments to Ardoyne, Divis and Highfield as required by the CCPCs constitution.
3. In respect of Hammer CCPC that Members either:
 - Make an appointment to the Hammer CCPC
 - Agree that the option of a Council appointment to Hammer CCPC is not enacted

Abbreviations

CPCC Community and Play Centre Committee”

After discussion, the Committee:

- (i) approved the nomination of Councillor D. Dodds to Duncairn and Councillor C. Maskey to the North Queen Street Community Centre Committees;
- (ii) approved the nomination of Councillor Lavery to the Ardoyne Community Centre Committee;
- (iii) approved the nomination of Councillor Kyle to Dee Street Community Centre and Avoniel Play Centre Committees;
- (iv) approved the nomination of Councillor Campbell to the Dee Street Community Centre Committee;

- (v) approved the nomination of Councillor Stoker to the Hammer Community Centre Committee; and
- (vi) authorised the Community Development Manager to write to Elected Representatives of the relevant local areas requesting expressions of interest in relation to the membership of the Divis and Highfield Community Centre Committees.

**North Queen Street Community Centre –
Holy Family Boxing Club**

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of this matter in order to enable further information to be obtained.

**Extension to Mechanical and Electrical Maintenance
Contract at Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Halls**

The Director reported that, following public advertisement, the tender for the mechanical and electrical maintenance services to the Waterfront Hall had been awarded in January, 2004 for a three-year period, with an option to extend for a further two years, to G. S. Hall. She pointed out that the contract provided for a planned and preventative maintenance service which was supported by reactive call-out maintenance at an additional charge. Accordingly, the five-year contract term was due to expire during March, 2009.

The Director advised the Committee that the Ulster Hall was scheduled to reopen during March 2009 and that consultation had been ongoing with the Council's Facilities Management Section to establish first year service agreements with individual system suppliers and it had been proposed that the longer-term mechanical and electrical maintenance to the Ulster Hall be included within a joint Waterfront and Ulster Halls contract, which would allow for consistency of services in terms of management and standards across the two buildings. She reported that, in conjunction with the Facilities Management Section, work was being undertaken currently to amend the contract specification in order to align the service requirements of the two venues. However, due to the estimated value of the contract at approximately £220,000, procurement guidelines would require any such contract to be advertised through the European Journal. This would take approximately six months to complete and, following advice from the Council's Procurement Manager, it was recommended that the current mechanical and electrical maintenance contract with G. S. Hall be extended for an initial period of six months, with the potential to further extend on a monthly basis thereafter for a maximum period of one year.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed that the mechanical and electrical maintenance of the Ulster Hall be considered jointly as part of a Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall service agreement and that the current contract for the Waterfront Hall be extended from 1st April, 2009 for an initial period of six months, with the option to extend on a monthly basis thereafter for a maximum period of one year.

Estates Management - Markets

The Committee noted the contents of a report in relation to the Markets Footfall and Economic Impact Figures 2008, which had been conducted on behalf of the Development Department's Markets Unit at the 2008 Christmas Continental Market and St. George's and Smithfield Markets by Millward Brown Ulster.

Belfast City Council Transport Policy Review

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

"Relevant Background Information"

Atkins Consultants were appointed in August 2008 to review and update the current Belfast City Council Transport Policy. The requirement for the Council to have an up to date and valid Transport Policy arises from a number of operational and strategic considerations. There is an increasing need to be fully informed of current best practice in transport policy in order to both consistently participate in proposed consultations such as the Regional Transportation Strategy review and to influence strategic transport initiatives planned for the City. There is also increasing recognition that the Council must continue to address and manage the transportation implications of existing operational activity across the organisation.

The first phase of the review was completed in December 2008 and a report of the findings submitted to Committee in December. The Consultants concluded from their initial work that the current vision and objectives of the Transport Policy remained broadly valid but would benefit from being updated and more effectively aligned with the Council's emerging approach and objectives within the Corporate Plan.

Key Issues

Following the first phase of the review of the strategic transportation aspects of the Policy, the following vision has been proposed for the revised Policy.

Vision:

'To support and promote the development of a modern, safe, accessible and integrated transportation system to enhance the connectivity for Belfast and its wider regions, which benefits the environment; supports sustainable development; and enhances the quality of life of all those who live, work, visit and do business in the City'

This vision provides the basis for the new more refined strategic objectives which have been drafted which take into consideration the changed context for the Policy; the existing corporate objectives and the aspirations for the future development of transportation within the City. The proposed new strategic objectives are outlined below alongside their associated corporate themes. It should be noted that for the purposes of the transportation policy the additional theme in relation to the City centre has been added in recognition of the pivotal role the centre has for transportation infrastructure, services and interchange.

Key Themes: City Leadership

Proposed Strategic Objective 1 includes:

‘To provide a strong civic leadership role for the promotion of a modern, safe, accessible and integrated transportation system for the City of Belfast and its wider regions’

Key Theme: Regeneration Growth and Prosperity

Proposed Strategic Objective 2 includes

‘To support the sustainable economic development of Belfast to ensure the future prosperity of Belfast City and its wider regions and to facilitate the continued development of its economic and physical regeneration through achievement of economic, tourism, leisure, good relations, environmental, educational and health objectives for the City’

Key theme: Environmental Responsibility

Proposed Strategic Objective 3 includes:

‘To secure the long term viability of Belfast City and its environment by seeking to ensure that all transportation arising from the wider proposals take into account, and mitigate against, their adverse impact on the environmental and the quality of life of local neighbourhoods’

Key Theme: People and Place

Proposed Strategic Objective 4 includes:

‘To support local people and communities by ensuring a community plan approach that integrates transportation to enhance connectivity for local neighbourhoods by making them safer, healthier and more inclusive’.

Key Theme: Value for money customer focused services

Proposed Strategic Objective 5 includes:

‘To seek to ensure that Belfast City Council services and facilities are accessible by sustainable modes of travel, such as walking, cycling and public transport’

Key Theme: An organisation fit to lead and serve

Proposed Strategic Objective 6 includes:

‘To promote the positive effects of sustainable travel and to lead by example by implementing sustainable travel initiatives within its own organisation’.

Key Theme: Belfast City Centre

Proposed Strategic Objective 7 includes:

‘To support the sustainable economic development of Belfast City Centre, as a key Regional asset – to seek to provide an urban environment that supports a more dynamic and competitive centre and to improve its presentation and environmental quality as befits a first class European city.’

It is suggested that the Committee consider and if appropriate agree the revised vision and strategic objectives outlined above as the basis for the continuing work on the detailed transportation policy development.

Atkins are currently developing the suite of more detailed potential actions or specific transportation policies or proposals in consultation with the Cross Departmental Steering Group. These more detailed elements will be developed in accordance with the strategic objectives for the inclusion within the revised Transport Policy. This ongoing work will also seek to clarify the potential resource implications arising from the potential revisions to the policy. A final draft of the revised Transport Policy with any associated resource implications should be completed by the end of February 2009 for further Committee consideration.

Resource Implications

There are no direct resource implications arising from this report although the review will consider the issue of potential future resource implications in respect of the Transport Policy implementation, review and monitoring.

Recommendations

Members are requested to:

- 1. Endorse the revised transportation vision and proposed strategic objectives; and**
- 2. Agree to receive a presentation by the consultants on the final draft revised Transport Policy.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations contained within the report.

Chairman