



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Interim Revision of Support for Sport Criteria
Date:	21 February 2008
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Relevant Background Information

The 'Support for Sport' Scheme has funded clubs and organisations for the past six years. The scheme has four main elements:

- Development Grants, Large Development Grants, and Hospitality funding; allocated by the Sports Development Unit (Parks and Leisure Committee).
- Events Funding is the responsibility of the Sports Events Unit, formerly with Community and Recreation, but now within the Development Department.

The Events Fund, which totals £85k, is allocated in three tranches to events being organised in Belfast. Set assessment criteria were initially agreed at the Client Services Committee in October 2001. Up until Summer 2006, a member/officer working group met regularly to discuss applications received and assessed against the criteria.

Key Issues

Previous Criteria

Relevant minutes relating to the previous criteria are attached at **Appendix A**. When an application was scored against this criteria, the weighting for the criteria were as follows:

Media Coverage (25%),
Joint Marketing (20%),
Spectator numbers (20%),
Economic Benefits (10%),
Bednights (10%)
Development Plan (15%)

Revised Criteria

The changes to the existing criteria are outlined in **Appendix B** but in summary, the key changes are:

1. Less weighting on spectator numbers and additional weighting on event/sport development

2. Clearer guidelines on assessing applications.
3. The creation of ratios which provide a clear link between the application assessment score, and the level of support given by Belfast City Council.

Outcomes

1. Increased weighting on Event / Sports Development. This will benefit events where there is a strong ethos of Sports Development.
2. A linkage between the assessment score and the funding allocation. An event scoring 80% will be treated differently to an event scoring 45%.
3. Support for new events as well as rewarding established events which have secured non-public sector funding e.g. private sector support or ticket income

A copy of the proposed final assessment sheet is contained in **Appendix C** for Members reference.

Resource Implications

Financial

£85,000 has previously been agreed by Committee.

Members are asked to note this is an interim review of criteria. The rationale for such a position is that the Department is currently reviewing all grants administered by it with a view to streamlining the process under an updated Capital City Strategy.

Recommendations

Members are asked to approve the recommendations on the proposed revised Support For Sport Events interim criteria.

Documents Attached

- Appendix A** Relevant minutes on the existing criteria
- Appendix B** Revised criteria brief explanation
- Appendix C** Full assessment sheet