



## Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	World Transplant Games Bid – Belfast 2011
Date:	9 April 2008
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern Director of Development ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Kevin Grant, Events Manager ext. 3508

### Relevant Background Information

The World Transplant Games is the largest organ donation awareness event in the world. The World Transplant Games Federation is made up of 68 member countries, many of whom have their own National Transplant Sports organisations. As members will be aware, Belfast is currently in the midst of the formal bidding process with three other European cities, having been selected as the UK City for the 2011 Games by the Transplant Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The indications are that a UK City would be preferred by the world body, the World Transplant Games Federation.

The Local Organising Committee, chaired by Eamonn McCartan, Chief Executive of Sport NI, had originally allocated approximately £25,000 to resource the bid, based on figures provided by London, Ontario, who bid successfully for the event in 2005. In September 2006, the Community and Recreation Committee agreed to provide £6,000 to the bidding process and agree in principle to host the World Transplant Games in 2011, should the bid be successful. The remaining monies were provided by other stakeholders. Further to the Community and Recreation Committee agreement in principle to support the Games, at the Development Committee meeting held on 20 September 2007, Members agreed to adopt a recommendation to support the World Transplant Games 2011 to the cost of £300,000, should the final bid be successful.

In January 2008, the Development Committee agreed that a further sum of £5,000 be provided towards the costs associated with the Belfast Bid on the understanding that, should the bid be successful, this amount be deducted from the £300,000 which the Committee had agreed to provide towards the costs associated with the hosting of the Games.

Therefore, to date, the Belfast City Council has committed £11,000 towards the overall bidding costs of £45,000.

### **Key Issues**

The final stage of the bidding process will involve a presentation to the World Transplant Games Council at their Inter Games Meeting in Brisbane on Wednesday 4 June 2008. Monies have already been set aside within the remaining bid budget to finance the travel, subsistence and accommodation for one Council representative to participate in the final bid presentation in Brisbane. It is deemed essential that Belfast, as the potential host, is represented on the delegation. Belfast remains in a strong position to capture the Games, and it is important to maintain the high standard it has set throughout the bidding process.

Given the prestige of the process and the need to demonstrate high level support to the panel, the Chairman of the WTG Local Organising Committee (LOC), Eamonn McCartan, has requested that a Belfast City Council Councillor, also attends the final bid presentation in Brisbane. It is advisable that the Member would be accompanied by a Council Officer who could field the detailed questions on operational matters likely to be required. The cost of one person would be covered with an additional £5000 required to cover the second person. One other issue however needs to be addressed by Members before a final decision. In order to be in Brisbane in time for the presentation the Belfast group must leave on Monday 2 June 2008. This means the Member would miss the Annual Council AGM. Given the importance of this meeting, Members may wish to consider the appropriateness of travelling.

### **Resource Implications**

If two participants travel, the cost to the Department is £5000.

### **Recommendations**

Members are requested to decide on the level of Belfast City Council representation at the final bid presentation in Brisbane:

Option 1:

Attendance of the Chairman of the Development Committee supported by a Council Officer from the Events Section with an additional contribution of approximately £5,000 which would be taken from the existing Development Events budget.

Option 2.

To send only a Council Officer from the Events Section due to the date of the Council AGM with no additional financial commitment from Belfast City Council.

### **Key to Abbreviations**

WTG – World Transplant Games