



Subject:	Update on Social Value Levy collected from large promoter events
Date:	Thursday 2nd May, 2024
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director, City & Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Operational Director, City & Neighbourhood Services

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual.
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained.
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction.
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes No

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues										
1.1	The Committee are reminded that a paper was presented to members in March 2019 seeking endorsement that Council, in addition to the hire charge for the use of the lands, would also collect a social value fee from promoters that stage large scale commercial events in our Parks and Open spaces.										
1.2	It was agreed that promoters and others who wish to run commercial events (ie events for which they are charging an admission and keeping the profits) in the Council's Parks shall only be permitted to hold their event on the basis that they agree to pay a levy on their licence fee from the Council. It was agreed that the levy shall be used by the Council for the purposes of funding socially focused projects in the area local to the concert venue. As an example, this could be the upgrade or provision of local park amenities, such as trim trails or dog enclosures, community fun day events or community led activity or projects.										
1.3	This paper provides members with an update on the monies accrued to date and makes a recommendation to members as to how this funding could be utilised in accordance with the original committee decision.										
2.0	Recommendation										
2.1	Members are asked to note the amount of social levy fee collected by Council since March 2019 as detailed in the table at Section 2.3 below.										
2.2	It is recommended that members agree at the relevant area working groups, the projects that should benefit from investment using this social value fund.										
2.3	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Location of Events</th> <th>Social Levy collected to date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Ormeau Park</td> <td>£46,152</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Boucher Road PF</td> <td>£35,842</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Botanic Gardens</td> <td>£10,136</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Budget</td> <td>£92,130</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Location of Events	Social Levy collected to date	Ormeau Park	£46,152	Boucher Road PF	£35,842	Botanic Gardens	£10,136	Total Budget	£92,130
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3.0	Main Report										
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u>										
3.2	Since Covid, the city has hosted a wide range of events and concerts as the music and festival industry has recovered from the impact of lockdown. Promoters continue to attract worldwide artists to the city meaning there is ongoing opportunity for communities to benefit from the social value fund.										
3.3	The Belfast Agenda sets out our joint city vision and long-term ambitions and outcomes for Belfast's future, as well as outlining our priorities for action every four years. The development of a 'Transformational Places' approach across the city offers a real opportunity to make a sustained impact on the city and these events have the potential to support this and support local businesses at a key time as we continue to recover from the Pandemic.										

3.4	However, despite the economic and social benefit to the city and further afield, residents and businesses local to the concert venues continue to struggle with the disruption to their daily lives before, during and after the events have taken place.
3.5	The impact and disruption are a priority for Council and so in addition to the ongoing work on the ground with residents and stakeholders Council back in 2019 did introduce a social value levy on top of the hire fee to be paid by promoters. Covid obviously interpreted the delivery of concerts and events in the city for a period of time and Council officers have since been faced with many different suggestions and opinions from community and residents during the ongoing work on how the social pot of money should be distributed and invested.
3.6	Officers, with the support of local Councillors, continue to address the issues and present mitigations and solutions to promoters for action. It is also realised that immediate investment via the social value levy would go some way to helping local communities realise some benefit from the concerts and events.
3.7	Councillors working with local community organisations, resident groups and businesses are best placed to bring ideas for consideration to the local area working groups and liaise back with Council officers regarding decision making and support with project delivery. Council officers can support members with project proposals by providing specialised knowledge and costings where required.
3.8	The social value fund has accrued over a 5-year period with the exception of 2020 where no events took place due to Covid. The current total is £92,130.00. In 2023 the levy collected was £29,953.00. Botanic generated £2,342, Boucher £9,915.00 and Ormeau £16,396.00. Once the current fund has been allocated in full it is suggested that this allocation process takes place bi-annually to allow the social value fund to grow again where the monies can have a financial impact on community projects.
3.9	Members are also reminded that the prior decision in March 2019 was that the money should fund projects in the area local to the concert venue and therefore the area working groups may want to consider appropriate boundaries for spend.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.10	The social value levy pot of money is currently £92,130.00 to be invested within the local area of the three event venues.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.11	There are no known implications associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	None