



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Development & Outreach Initiative 2009-2010
Date:	10 December 2008
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Relevant Background Information

To request approval from Development Committee to deliver the Development and Outreach Initiative in 2009/10 and to provide a review to members of the scheme 2002-2009.

Belfast City Council's Development and Outreach Initiative grants are intended to build capacity and boost cultural activity in communities with weak cultural and arts infrastructure in areas of multiple deprivation. The Initiative is designed to extend participation and access to culture and arts activity to those most marginalised within Belfast's communities. Project beneficiaries must either have a disability focus or reside within one or more of the designated Super Output Areas in Belfast included in the 50% most deprived areas, according to the NISRA Multiple Deprivation Measure in Northern Ireland.

The Development and Outreach Initiative was piloted by Belfast City Council in 2002 in order to extend artistic and cultural activities into areas of the city with limited cultural infrastructure. The scheme was piloted in 2002, revised and agreed by the Arts Sub-Committee on the 6 August 2003 and reopened in 2004/05 with revised criteria and procedures. On 2 of November 2005 the Arts Sub-Committee approved revised criteria to include a targeted disability focus for the Initiative. The revised criteria and aims & objectives of the Development and Outreach Initiative are outlined in the guidance notes in **Appendix A** application form and guidance notes.

The scheme is open to collaborative partnerships of community organisations and arts/heritage organisations. There must be a lead applicant, working in partnership with a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 5 other organisations. In addition there must be at least one community and one arts partner. £10,000 has been 'ring-fenced' for projects with young people. The minimum Development and Outreach grant is £2,000 and the maximum is £20,000. The average of the grants recommended in 2008-09 was £12,500.

13 projects were funded in 2008/9, for which there was a budget of £160,000, a 3% increase on the previous years' allocation. £10,000 is ring-fenced for projects which

promote creative expression and increased opportunities in Art/Heritage among young people. Applications were received for 28 grants (this is an increase of 7 on the previous year) for funds totalling £ 446,350.67. This represented almost three times the available level of funding. 13 projects were funded in 2008/9.

Key Issues

Development and Outreach Initiative 09/10

It is proposed to open the Development and Outreach 2009/2010 on the Friday 9 January 2009 for projects commencing May 2009 - April 2010. This will be formally advertised in Belfast telegraph, Irish news and Newsletter and e-bulletins for relevant local networks (eg. Community Arts Forum). Closing date for submission of proposals will be 12 noon on Friday 13 February 2009.

Funding information sessions will be held from the 19 – 23 January 2009, which are considered necessary, as the Information session that took place in November were mainly attended by prospective clients wishing to apply to annual funding. The information sessions will take place in Shankill, North, South, East and West Belfast in local community/arts centres (venues to be confirmed).

Members are requested to note that projects funded by the 2008/2009 Development and Outreach Initiative may run into financial year 2009 / 2010.

A report on the impacts and outcomes of the Development & Outreach Initiative from 2002- 2008/09 is provided in **Appendix B** and is intended

Members are requested to authorise the delivery of Development and Outreach Initiative for 2009/2010.

Resource Implications

A provisional budget of £170,000 has been allocated in the revenue estimates for the Development and Outreach Initiative in the 2008/09 financial year. This represents an uplift of 3% of the budget allocated to Development and Outreach Initiative in 2008/09

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members:-

1. Approve the delivery of the Development & Outreach Initiative
2. Authorise in principle expenditure to deliver the Development & Outreach Initiative
3. Note report on the impacts and outcomes of the Development & Outreach Initiative from 2002 – 2008/09.

Documents Attached

Appendix A: Application form and Guidance notes for the Development and Outreach Initiative

Appendix B: Report on Impacts and Outcomes for the Development & Outreach Initiative 2002-09