



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Development and Outreach Initiative 2009/2010
Date:	20 April 2009
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Relevant Background Information

Belfast City Council's Development and Outreach grants are intended to build capacity and boost cultural activity in communities with weak cultural and arts infrastructure. The initiative is designed to extend participation and access to culture and arts activity for those most marginalised in society. Project beneficiaries must either have a disability focus or reside within one or more represented Super Output Areas in Belfast included in the 50% most deprived areas, according to the NISRA Multiple Deprivation Measure in Northern Ireland. The deadline for organisations to submit applications to the Development and Outreach scheme for the 2009/10 financial year was noon on Friday 13 February. The guidelines, application form, and criteria for eligibility and assessment are as previously agreed for the scheme and are provided in Appendix 1.

Principles of the Reporting Process

Summaries have been compiled by officers from the applications submitted to provide an overview of the programmes detailed in the applications. This is a synopsis of information received. Applications are checked to ensure that they fulfil the eligibility criteria for the scheme. Assessments are then carried out to establish how well the proposals perform against the agreed assessment criteria for the scheme. A review is presented to indicate only the areas where the applicant 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.

A background of each application, and officer assessments, can be viewed in Appendix 5. Members are requested to use the assessments in tandem with the scores provided in Appendix 4. Grant histories for applicants are also provided for information, at Appendix 3. Appendix 2 to this introduction shows target areas from which applicant's state that beneficiaries will be drawn. It is recommended that all offers are made conditional, subject to satisfactory proof that the beneficiaries to be targeted will be drawn from the stated target wards along with clarification about how this will be done.

Level of Applications

Total budget available for The Development and Outreach initiative in 2009/10 is £165,000. £10,000 is ring-fenced for projects which promote creative expression and

increased opportunities in Art/Heritage among young people. Applications have been received for 23 grants for funds totalling £388,712. This is approximately 2.3 times the available level of funding.

Members should note that it has been agreed that Officers do not approach organisations for further details relating to their proposal or for clarification of any areas of the application after the submission deadline.

Key Issues

The standard of applications received under the scheme this year has been exceptionally high. Due to the high standard of applications, it is only possible to recommend funding to applications scoring over 60%.

There were a number of applications with an imbalance in their budget. Of those recommended for funding this was reflected in the amount awarded. In the case of two organisations where income outweighed expenditure, further clarification will be requested.

The minimum amount recommended is £5,100 and the maximum amount recommended is £15,000 which corresponds closely to the level of grants awarded in 2008/09. Information is outlined in Appendix 4.

On average Belfast City Council funding represents approximately 50% of the collective budgets for projects funded through the Development & Outreach Initiative.

Fifteen out of the twenty three applications scored over 60% and have been recommended for funding.

Eight organisations scored below 60% and are not recommended to receive funding.

Rationale for funding decisions

Officers have considered budgets on an individual basis and have recommended funding in relation to:

- Strength of the proposed programme as assessed against agreed funding criteria.
- Value for money of the project. Reduction of the amount recommended has been suggested where costs are considered high, over budgeted or where some of the participants are not within the target areas or groupings.
- Viability of the proposed programme within the funding offered.

Resource Implications

A budget of £165,000 has been allocated in the revenue estimates for the Development and Outreach Initiative in the 2009/10 financial year.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members of the Development Committee agree the grants as recommended in Appendix 4 for the Development and Outreach Initiative 2009/10.
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Documents Attached

Appendix 1: Application form and Guidance notes for the Development and Outreach Initiative
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Appendix 2: Targeted Super Output areas from which applicants state that beneficiaries will be drawn

Appendix 3: Grant Histories

Appendix 4: Table of recommended grants (Development and Outreach 09/10)

Appendix 5: Summary of applications and assessments
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