



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Development and Outreach Initiative 2010–11
<b>Date:</b>	14 April 2010
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459

### Relevant Background Information

Belfast City Council's Development and Outreach Initiative was set up to build capacity and boost cultural activity in communities with weak culture and arts infrastructure.

Project beneficiaries must either have a disability or reside within one or more Belfast wards included in the 50 per cent most deprived wards in the Multiple Deprivation wards and ranks in Northern Ireland (Noble Multiple Deprivation Measure 2005) and the 50 per cent most deprived Output Areas based on economic deprivation (Output Area Level Measure 2005).

This report provides the Development Committee with recommendations on applications made to the Development and Outreach Initiative 2010–11. The deadline for organisations to submit applications to the Development and Outreach Initiative for the 2010–11 was noon on Friday 5 March. A copy of the guidance notes and application form is provided at Appendix 1.

#### Principles of the Reporting Process

Organisations submitted an application and supporting documentation, such as financial statements and policy documents. Officers undertook a lengthy assessment of all applications, scoring them against the set criteria. These criteria reflect the themes of the Integrated Cultural Strategy.

A summary of applicant information and Officer assessments (Appendix 4) has been compiled by Officers in order to:

- highlight the main strengths and weaknesses in the application;
- ensure optimum transparency as to how decisions on applications have been reached; and
- familiarise Members with the various arts and heritage programmes in which the Council invests.

Members are requested to use these assessments in tandem with the scores provided in Appendix 3. Appendix 2 shows the targeted wards from which project beneficiaries will be drawn. Grant histories for applicants are included at Appendix 5.

It is recommended that no funding should be released until a formal partners meeting attended by an Officer has been held. This will ensure the partnerships are working effectively and that the beneficiaries' needs are adequately addressed.

In addition, successful applicants will be asked to supply evidence of insurance and a re-profiled budget reflecting the Council's actual award.

#### Level of Applications

The total amount of funding available under Development and Outreach in 2010–11 is £166,500. Twenty applications were received, requesting funding totalling £342,392.55. This is approximately 2.1 times the available level of funding.

The standard of applications received this year has been very high, and only applications scoring over 60 per cent have been recommended for funding.

#### Rationale for funding decisions

Officers have considered project budgets and the rationale for awarding funding is based on the following factors:

- Strength of the proposed programme as assessed against agreed funding criteria.
- Value for money. A reduction in the amount recommended has been suggested where costs are considered high or inflated.
- Viability of the proposed programme within the funding offered.

### **Key Issues**

Members should note that the income and expenditure is presented in this report as a summary of the information submitted, and some budgets submitted contain minor discrepancies. As agreed previously by the Development (Arts) Sub-Committee, Officers have not returned to applicants to request clarification. However, this has been taken into account in the recommendations.

The minimum amount recommended is £7,820, and the maximum amount is £17,030.

Belfast City Council funding represents approximately 61 per cent of the collective income of the funded projects and 3 per cent of the applicants' annual turnovers.

Thirteen out of the twenty applications scored over 60 per cent and have been recommended for funding.

Three applications scored below 60 per cent and are not recommended to receive funding.

Four applications were deemed ineligible.

### **Resource Implications**

#### Financial

Funding for Development and Outreach has been agreed in the 2010–11 budget for the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit.

#### Human Resources

This will be covered within the work programme of the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit.

**Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee notes the contents of this report and agree the recommendations for Development and Outreach funding as set down at Appendix 3.

**Decision Tracking**

Further to agreement and ratification, organisations will be informed whether they have been awarded funding by letter.

Timeframe: May 2010

Reporting Officer: Kerrie Sweeney

**Documents Attached**

Appendix 1 - Application Form and Guidance Notes for the Development and Outreach Initiative

Appendix 2 - Targeted Super Output Areas

Appendix 3 - Scores and Recommendations for Development and Outreach 2010–11

Appendix 4 - Summary of Applications and Assessments

Appendix 5 - Grant Histories