



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Community Festivals Fund Amendments to Guidance Notes and Application Form
<b>Date:</b>	11 August 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 has accepted the commission from the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) to administer the Community Festivals Fund in the Belfast area. At the Development Committee in August 2008, Members agreed to delegate the authority to award grants under this fund to the Director of Development. In October 2008 Members agreed that the Fund be delivered on a quarterly basis.

In January 2010 DCAL announced that £79,000 was to be awarded to the Council, which is an increase of just over 2 per cent on last year's award. At the Development Committee in January 2010, it was agreed to match fund this award, bringing the amount available in the Community Festivals Fund to £158,000. Of this, 10 per cent is ring-fenced for administrative costs.

Three out of four rounds of funding have been delivered to date, representing an investment of £106,650 in twenty-seven community festivals. Applications to the fourth round of funding, for festivals taking place between 1 January and 31 March 2011, will open on 20 September 2010, with the closing date on 22 October. The total amount of funding available in this round is £35,550.

### Key Issues

Of the forty-eight applications received this year, 56 per cent were awarded funding; 29 per cent were not awarded funding; and 15 per cent were deemed ineligible.

Communication with both successful and unsuccessful applicants has indicated that the current guidance notes and application form lack clarity and may cause confusion, leading to potentially worthy festivals receiving a low score or being deemed ineligible.

The revised guidance notes also address commonly asked questions about the fund.

A copy of the current guidance notes and application form has been included at Appendix 1. An amended version of the guidance notes and application form has been included at Appendix 2, with substantive changes highlighted.

#### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee approves the amendments to the Community Festivals Fund guidance notes and application form

#### **Decision Tracking**

The amended guidance notes and application form will be published on the Council's website

Timeframe: September 2010

Reporting Officer: Kerrie Sweeney

#### **Key Abbreviations**

DCAL – Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

#### **Documents Attached**

Appendix 1 - Current application form and guidance notes

Appendix 2 - Amended application form and guidance notes