



Belfast City Council

Report to: Development Committee

Subject: World Police and Fire Games 2013

Date: 15 September 2010

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Relevant Background Information

In September 2007 the Council agreed to be one of the key stakeholders for the World Police and Fire Games (WPFG), which will be staged in Belfast and Northern Ireland in the summer of 2013. The Council's commitment of £400,000 is part of a £7 million events budget which is subject to a full robust business plan from the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure being approved by the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP). The games are the third largest multi-sport event in the world and takes place biennially. It is expected that the 2013 Games will attract in excess of 10,000 competitors, which will generate many thousands of bed nights for Belfast and a substantial level of economic activity for the City.

The World Police and Fire Games (WPFG) is a bi-annual multi-sports tournament promoted by the World Police and Fire Games Federation. In recent years, the Games has attracted circa 10,000 – 14,000 competitors, from over 71 countries, competing in 65 sports over a 10 day period. Those eligible to compete are serving and retired sworn offices of the state including:

- Police, Fire and Prison Officers;
- Customs and Excise Staff; and
- Coastguard Services.

The Games are awarded on a 'franchise basis' following a competitive process, which in 2007 Belfast won the rights to host it in 2013.

The previous host cities are as follows:-

Year	Host City	Country	Sporting Entries
1985	San Jose	USA	5,934
1987	San Diego	USA	6,358
1989	Vancouver	Canada	5,847
1991	Memphis	USA	5,685
1993	Colorado	USA	7,718
1995	Melbourne	Australia	9,744
1997	Calgary	Canada	12,689
1999	Stockholm	Sweden	9,888

2001	Indianapolis	USA	12,301
2003	Barcelona	Spain	14,146
2005	Quebec City	Canada	12,132
2007	Adelaide	Australia	10,957
2009	Vancouver	Canada	14,173

The World Police and Fire Games (WPFG) became international when in 1989 they took place in Vancouver, Canada. Ten years after first being presented, the World Police and Fire Games (WPFG) left North America for Melbourne, Australia. In 1999, the Games moved to Europe, to Stockholm, Sweden. In 2003, the second European Games were held in Barcelona hitting the sporting entry record, prior to last year's Vancouver Games of 14,146 sport entries.

Key Issues

Belfast was successful in winning a bid to host the WPFG in 2013. The bid was led by the Royal Ulster Constabulary Athletic Association (RUCAA) and Belfast City Council and was fully supported by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS), Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) and the Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL).

Progress has been made since then, through the auspices of the nominated Stakeholder Group, (which includes the groups as stated above plus representatives from both NITB and Sport NI) in the organisation of the Games through the establishment of various workstreams. In addition, the formal adoption of the Business Case for the Games is currently with both the Northern Ireland Executive, and DFP, for consideration and final approval.

Members are asked to note the Council's contribution of £400,000 is subject to this business case being approved.

In this context it is proposed to invite representatives from the World Police and Fire Games Stakeholder Group, including the services, to present a current status report to the Development Committee in terms of both its organisation and governance arrangements.

Resource Implications

£400,000 has been committed by the Council to the Games, subject to a full robust Business Plan for the event being approved by the NI Executive and DFP.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee agrees to a Special Meeting in October to receive a presentation from the Stakeholder Group of the WPFG 2013 on the current status of the Games organisation, and related governance arrangements.

Key to Abbreviations

WPFG – World Police and Fire Games
DCAL – Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure
DFP – Department of Finance and Personnel

Decision Tracking

Further to agreement, a Special meeting will be arranged for Committee to receive a presentation from the Stakeholder Group of the WPF 2013

Time line: October 2010

Reporting Officer: Tim Husbands