



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Special Development Committee
Subject:	World Police and Firefighter Games 2013
Date:	26 th October 2010
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Introduction

In the last ten years, Belfast has built a strong reputation for hosting major events, the visit of the Tall Ships in August 2009 being the latest, and perhaps most successful major event to be hosted by the City.

Other notable major events include the World Irish Dancing Championships, the World Amateur Boxing Championships, the U19 European football Championships, the Special Olympics Ireland Games, the Women's World Open Squash Championships and the U-19 Rugby World Cup.

A considerable factor in the success of all these events has been the support of Belfast City Council and the ability of the Council to manage and operate key partnerships to deliver these major events.

As members are aware, the World Police and Firefighter Games (WPRG) are coming to Belfast in 2013. The Police Service of Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and Northern Ireland Prison Service will host approximately 10,000 law-enforcement officers and fire-fighters from around the world who will compete in a wide variety of sporting events.

Relevant Background Information

World Police and Fire Games 2013

In September 2007 the Council agreed to be one of the key stakeholders for the World Police and Firefighter 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 Firefighter Games (WPFG) is a bi-annual multi-sports tournament promoted by the WPFG 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 officers 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 WPFG became international when in 1989 they took place in Vancouver, Canada. Ten years after first being presented, the 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

The 2013 WPFG, which will be held mainly in Belfast, will generate many thousands of bednights and economic benefits. The last WPFG which took place in Vancouver in 2009, generated an economic benefit to the city of c\$84m.

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).

Belfast City Council had representation on the Bid team, when the WPFG were secured in 2007, through that year's Lord Mayor, Councillor Pat McCarthy, supported by Councillors Stoker and McCann.

In the interim period with DCAL taking the lead, further study has been undertaken into how to successfully deliver the 2013 Games. To this end, a strategic business plan has been developed and was recently approved by the Northern Ireland Executive, which has committed £6m, in principle, subject to final approval by DFP to the delivery of the Games. The Council through the Development Committee, in September 2007, gave provisional approval to support fund the event to the level of £400,000, subject to the approval of the associated Games business case.

A Key stakeholder Group was established by DCAL in November 2008, in order to take forward the organisation of the event at an operational level, with the PSNI, NI Fire Brigade, NI Prison Service, Sports Council NI, Belfast City Council, NITB and Dept. of Culture, Arts and Leisure all being represented at officer level. The Director of Development initially sat on this group, supported by the Head of City Events and Venues, and City Events staff as appropriate, in order to take the project up to the formal stage of forming a Special Purpose Vehicle Company (SPV) to deliver the Games.

Key Issues

Governance & Partners

Planning of the games is now underway and recent communication from the WPFG Federation highlights their satisfaction that Belfast 2013 is on course.

A 'Stakeholder Group', formed and chaired by the Permanent Secretary of DCAL, has provided direction to the numerous working groups currently co-ordinating the different aspects of the event delivery. However, this is merely an interim position. These groups cover the areas of Genealogy and Tourism, Accommodation, Ceremonies, Sports, Operations, PR and Marketing, Finance, Security, Sponsorship, Legacy and Volunteers.

In relation to the necessary governance arrangements to deliver the Games, it is intended that DCAL will establish a SPV before the end of 2010, which will have the responsibility for securing the necessary finance and overseeing the delivery of the event. This SPV would operate in a similar nature to Belfast Tall Ships 2009 Ltd and the other initiatives listed above. The Membership of the Board would be made up from the stakeholders, with DCAL indicating a preference that Belfast City provide appropriate nominations to this Board given the Council's previous experience of event delivery.

The presentation will cover in more detail the nature of the proposed structure, related governance issues, and financial overview of the Games.

Resources

It has also been agreed at Policy & Resources Committee to facilitate office space for the WPFG Management team within the Cecil Ward Building to allow them to work in partnership with the City Events Team. This additional space would be financed by the SPV and would provide an income for BCC for the period which the staff will be in situ.

Financial Information

At a special meeting of the Development Committee held in August 2007, members agreed to support the WPFG 2013 to a maximum of £400,000 subject to the approval of the Games business plan by DFP.

Recommendation / Decision Required

Members are asked to:

- Approve funding of £400k towards the **World Police and Firefighter Games 2013**, subject to the DFP approval of the event business plan.
- Consider nominations for the Board of the Special Purpose Vehicle Company
- Approve the role of officers from within the City Events and Venues team in the delivery of the Games

Relevant Papers Attached

Copy of presentation will be distributed at Committee

Decision Tracking

Officers will monitor funding and evaluate outcomes of the events and bring post-project details as part of the Department's annual review. These outcomes will be presented to Members as part of the Department's key performance indicators.

Documents Attached

N/A

Abbreviations

WPFG – World Police and Firefighter Games

NITB – Northern Ireland Tourist Board

DETI – Dept of Enterprise and Investment

DCAL – Dept of Culture, Arts and Leisure

PSNI – Police Service of Northern Ireland

DFP – Department of Finance and Personnel

SPV – Special Purpose Vehicle Company