



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Consultation: Ulster-Scots Agency - Funding for Music and Dance Tuition Services to Communities
Date:	6 December 2010
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1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	We have been asked to respond to the Ulster-Scots Agency's proposed review of grant programmes operated under its Financial Assistance Scheme. This review aims to refine processes to reduce the complexity of their current system and to improve transparency in decision making while minimising the administrative burden on organisations in receipt of grant. Affordability and value for money are also important in the current climate of reduced funding.
1.2	The provision of Musical and Dance tuition in communities is the first element of the Ulster-Scots Agency's Financial Assistance Scheme to be reviewed. Their new funding arrangements will take account of this consultation from 2012.
1.3	There are specific questions for the consultation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Question 1: What sort of help should we offer new groups?- Question 2: What steps should we take to help established groups?- Question 3: How do you think the programme should be split between music and dance?- Question 4: Is tuition needed in other musical or dance disciplines or in other areas of Ulster-Scots cultural activity?- Question 5: Do you think tutors are best placed to organise tuition classes?- Question 6: How far would students travel to take part in tuition classes?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Question 7: Do you agree that funding should be targeted at a smaller number of quality projects? - Question 8: How would you choose projects for support? - Question 9: Do you agree that a proportion of the budget should be ring-fenced for new groups or disciplines under-represented across the programme? If so, what proportion? - Question 10: What might the Ulster-Scots elements of the programme include? - Question 11: Are your organisation's member groups likely to work in partnership to deliver tuition? - Question 12: Do you agree with the proposed changes to the payment process? Are there other improvements that you would suggest for 2012? - Question 13: Are there other issues that we should consider to improve tuition services in communities?
1.4	The Full proposal is available online: http://www.ulsterscotsagency.com/news/article/44/review-of-financial-assistance-scheme-for-music-and-dance-tuition-in-2012/ , and a summary attached as Appendix 2.
1.5	Members are asked to note the return date for consultation responses has been extended to the 14 December 2010 rather than the earlier date specified in the online report.

2	Key Issues
2.1	A suggested response to the consultation is attached to this paper.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	There are no additional resource implications.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	Although this is not a Council policy, the Council has a duty to promote equality of opportunity and good relations. There may be implications from the funding review as the organisation's activities primarily affect a particular part of the community. Advice has been sought from the Equality Unit who have suggested we say 'Council is fully committed to the promotion of Ulster-Scots as an expression of cultural heritage and identity, as Ulster-Scots is recognised under Part II of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages'.

5	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is asked to :
5.2	1. Approve the suggested response; or 2. To suggest additional comments or changes that they feel need to be made.

6	Decision Tracking
There is no decision tracking attached to this report.	

8	Documents Attached
Appendix 1: Ulster Scots Draft Consultation response Appendix 2: Summary of Consultation Document	