



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Special Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Attendance of the Lord Mayor and Officer at the 2011 World Police and Fire Games in New York
<b>Date:</b>	27 June 2011
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Tim Husbands, Head of City Events and Venues, ext 1400
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Gerry Copeland, City Events Manager, ext 3412

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>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.</p> <p>Members will be aware, that the World Police and Fire Games (WPFG) 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 up to approximately 15,000 law-enforcement officers and fire-fighters from around the world who will compete in a wide variety of sporting events. Plus there will be up to 10,000 friends and family accompanying the athletes.</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to request that Members approve the attendance of the Lord Mayor and one officer to attend a variety of events connected to the 2011 New York WPFG event (please see attached letter from Chair of WPFG 2013 Ltd in Appendix 1).</p>

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	<p><u>Background to Belfast World Police and Fire Games in 2013</u></p> <p>In September 2007 and October 2010 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 in the summer of 2013. The Council's commitment of £400,000 is part of a £8 million events budget with the bulk of the funding coming from the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure. The games are the third largest multi-sport event in the world and takes place biannually. It is expected that the 2013 Games will attract in excess of 15,000 competitors, which will generate many thousands of bed nights for Belfast and a substantial level of economic activity for the City. 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. The last WPFG which took place in Vancouver in 2009 generated an economic benefit to the city of CAN\$84m.</p> <p>Belfast was successful in winning a bid to host the WPFG in 2007. The City Council's input to the successful bid was led by the then Lord Mayor, Councillor Pat McCarthy, supported by Councillors Stoker and McCann.</p> <p>Since the last presentation to Council, in October 2010, £6m has been secured from DCAL and a special purpose limited company has been set-up. The WPFG limited company currently has Council representation via Councillor McCarthy and Alderman Humphrey on the Board of the limited company.</p>
2.2	<p><u>Attendance at the New York World Police and Fire Games 2011</u></p> <p>Traditionally the next host city, to the current Games, would attend in respect to a number of ceremonial and promotional events. To this mind Members are being asked to endorse the attendance of the Lord Mayor, Councillor Niall O'Donnghaile, at a series of events from the 26 August to 4 September 2011 (plus two travel days). These would include the opening ceremony of the 2011 New York Games; the closing ceremony of the 2011 event and a special memorial service to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the US 9/11tragedy.</p> <p>It would be suggested that one officer would attend these events in an observer capacity in regard to the ceremonies workstream which the Council's City Events Unit is leading on, in preparation for the Belfast 2013 event. This would allow the officer to: liaise with the New York Games organisers and the WPFG Federation Board and view first hand the operation of the event organisational requirements for the Games.</p>

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	<p><u>Hotel and Flight Costs</u></p> <p>Room costs per night would be £139.00, which would result in circa £3,900.00 over a 14 day period. Return flights would be £650.00 each. Therefore, the total cost of the trip without Council subsistence would be circa £5,192.00.</p>

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
	As with all major civic events, public events like this have the potential to bring together people from a wide range of backgrounds and therefore promote good relations in the city.

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	Members are requested to approve the attendance of the Lord Mayor and one Officer at the 2011 New York World Police and Fire Games.

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	To provide an update report to Members on progress of planning and preparations for the 2013 Games in the Autumn of 2011 and feedback from the 2011 WPFG event in New York.  Timeline: Autumn 2011 <span style="float: right;">Reporting Officer: Tim Husbands</span>

<b>7</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 - letter from Chair of WPFG 2013 Ltd

<b>8</b>	<b>Abbreviations</b>
	WPFG – World Police and Fire Games



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1 Seymour Street  
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BT27 4SX  
Patron: Dame Mary Peters  
[www.2013wpfg.com](http://www.2013wpfg.com)

16 June 2011

Dear Lord Mayor,

**Ref: 2011 World Police & Fire Games New York**

As may know the 2011 World Police & Fire Games are being hosted in New York between 26<sup>th</sup> August and 4<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

The 2011 Games will provide an excellent opportunity to promote the 2013 World Police and Fire Games which will be hosted in Belfast between 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> August. Representatives of the 2013 WPFPG Planning Team will be attending the New York Games to promote Belfast 2013 and to learn from the experience in hosting the event.

Whilst in New York there will be a number of opportunities to promote the Belfast Games including:

- Meeting potential teams for the 2013 Games at Belfast's promotional stand
- Attendance at the New York Opening Ceremony
- Northern Ireland 2013 Promotion Night at the New York Athletic Club
- Host city hand-over event as part of the New York Closing Ceremony

On behalf of the Board of 2013 World Police and Fire Games Ltd I would like to take this opportunity to invite you as Belfast's First Citizen to attend the New York event in order to promote the Belfast Games in 2013.

During the Closing Ceremony the World Police & Fire Games Flag will be presented to the Northern Ireland Prison Service, Police Service of Northern Ireland and Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service. This will symbolise the handing over of the Games to Belfast.

When in New York you will hopefully have the opportunity to witness some of the sporting events and experience the size and scale of the Games.

A brief itinerary of the programme of events in New York is attached for your information. More detailed information will be provided in relation to the activities when it becomes available from New York.

**DUNCAN McCAUSLAND**  
Chairman  
2013 World Police & Fire Games Ltd