



<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	World Pipe Band Championships Bid
<b>Date:</b>	14 September 2011
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Gerry Copeland, City Events Manager, ext 3412

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	At the end of July 2010 and 2011 Belfast City Council hosted, in conjunction with the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, the European Pipe Band Championships. The venue for these events was NICSSA sports grounds in Stormont Estate. The staging of the championships is part of a three year programme, with final year scheduled for 2012. Other key partners in the planning and delivery of these events were: NICSSA; DFP Stormont Estates, and NITB. On average the events attracted 120 bands and 47 drum majors from across the United Kingdom, Ireland and North America. The events also attracted audiences of approximately 10,000 each year.
1.2	Belfast has now been invited to bid for the World Pipe Band Championships to be held in July 2013, 2014 and 2015. This event annually involves about 230 bands, and attracts over 40,000 spectators. While the event is usually a one day event, the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association is keen to trial a two day project in 2013. Belfast has previously, unsuccessfully, bid for the World Championships, with Committee approval, back in 2008.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	<u>Location</u> The event would require a space capable of catering for an audience of in excess of 40,000 people. Currently Mallusk Playing Fields, Ormeau Park and NICSSA are the only city venues capable of holding the scale of the event.

2.2	<p><u>Economic impact</u> This is estimated at £10 million based on data from Glasgow City Council in 2010.</p>
2.3	<p><u>Bed nights</u> Again these are difficult to quantify but it would be estimated that the event would fill all current bed spaces in the city.</p>

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	<p><u>Cost to stage the event</u> The bid for the event would have two cost elements. The first is the RSPBA fee; this must be paid directly to the organisation. It is estimated that in order to be successful that the RSPBA fee would be an estimated £120,000 per year. The second element of the cost would be for logistical and site requirements that the event would require, which are now required over a two day event period. This is estimated at £280,000 per year. Therefore in total, annual cost would be £400,000, or £1.2 m over a three year period.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Belfast City Council Contribution</u> It is suggested that Belfast City Council contribution would be £200,000 per year. Other sources of public funds would need to be sought to meet the remaining cost. These organisations would include the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure, NITB and the Ulster Scots Agency.</p> <p>Members are asked to note that a cheque, payable to the RSPBA, of £1,500 must accompany the bid documentation, and that this a non-refundable administration charge. This money would be used by the RSPBA to undertake a site visit.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Financial</u> Members are been asked to agree to a commitment of £200,000 per year from 2013 to 2015 (total over 3 years).</p> <p>The Council would also be required to pay a non refundable £1,500 administration fee to the RSPBA on submission of the bid.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Human Resources</u> No additional resources.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> Use of Council property at Mallusk and or Ormeau Park.</p>

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
4.1	<p>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.</p>

