



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Development and Outreach Initiative
Date:	10 January 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members will be aware that the Council distributes a range of funding to culture and arts organisations. Due to the need for organisations to plan their programmes, the Council endeavours to award funding as early in the financial year as possible. Therefore, the Development and Outreach Programme will reopen in early February and close in March.
1.2	No funding applications will be approved prior to ratification of the 2012–13 budget estimates.
1.3	The Development and Outreach Initiative focuses on skills development and allows meaningful engagement between artists, arts organisations and communities. Within the context of a review of all grant streams in 2012/13 as part of the Integrated Cultural Strategy, we aim to evaluate the impact of this fund, and we will highlight the frequently dramatic positive changes it has made within communities.
1.4	In 2010/11, a total of £255,949.50 was requested and £153,430 was distributed across 12 grants. The average grant was £12,785.83. Audience figures totalled 58,788 and participant numbers 2,127. The cost per head for Belfast City Council's investment was £2.52. The grants helped to support 56 full time jobs, 31 part times jobs, and 270 freelance jobs, as well as 196 volunteer posts. The projects happened within areas of deprivation or with disabled groups and distribution across electoral areas was as follows: 41% took place in Laganbank, 17% in Court, 17% in Castle, 17% in Balmoral, and 8% in Oldpark.
1.5	In 2011/ 12, a total of £394,968.90 was requested and £164,696.30 has been distributed across 14 grants. The average grant is £11,764 in this current year. Distribution across the city is as follows: 33% in North of the city; 18% in

	South; 18% in East; 16% in West; and 15% in Shankill. More statistical information about this year's Development and Outreach Initiative will be presented within the context of the review later in 2012, as many of the projects are still live as the fund runs until April 2012, and final reports are still being received.
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2	Key Issues
2.1	The Development and Outreach Initiative aims to build capacity and boost cultural activity in communities with weak cultural infrastructure. Applications must be made on behalf of consortia of arts, heritage and community organisations. Beneficiaries must be from the top 50 per cent most deprived areas in Belfast (according to the Multiple Deprivation ranks for Northern Ireland) or have a disability.
2.2	The projects may run from May 2012 to May 2013. It is anticipated approximately 13 partnerships will receive support and the maximum level of funding available per project is £20,000.
2.3	We will work in partnership with Community Arts Partnership and our Community Services Team to ensure that genuine community need and demand for projects is identified.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<u>Financial</u> £165,000 has been included in the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit budget estimates for the Development and Outreach Initiative.
3.2	<u>Human</u> This will be covered within the work programme of the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no Equality and Good Relations Considerations attached to this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report and agree to the opening of the Development and Outreach Initiative in February 2012.

6	Decision Tracking
Timeframe:	March 2012
	Reporting Officer: Kerrie Sweeney