



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	End of year report on the Rolling Programme cultural grants scheme
Date:	3 April 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	The purpose of the Rolling Programme is to assist arts or heritage organisations to avail of opportunities which arise during the year, including those that present themselves after the closing date for Annual or Multi-annual Funding applications.
1.2	The following areas are prioritised for funding under the Rolling Programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– one-off opportunities to bring outstanding cultural product to Belfast.– one-off opportunities to mark or celebrate, through arts or heritage projects, culturally significant events.– assisting organisations to develop national and international partnerships, and to profile Belfast’s cultural product nationally and internationally.– bursaries to enable arts and heritage organisations to develop their organisation and/or staff. small-scale explorative or feasibility studies to assist in the development of innovative and creative arts or heritage-based projects
1.3	Grants awarded through the scheme range from £250 to £3,000.
1.4	At the Development Committee of Wednesday 9 April 2008 Members agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Development to award grants under the Rolling Programme. An amount of £29,290 was been included within the revenue estimates of the Tourism, Culture and Arts unit for the Rolling Programme 2011–12. The scheme has been particularly successful this year, attracting a wide range of good quality applications. In view of this, following a special report in October 2011, the Director of Development agreed to a re-alignment of funds to make an additional £20,000 available, giving a total of £49,290 for grants over the year. This allowed the scheme to remain open for applications until the end of the accounting period and the impact of this is detailed below.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The Programme has had a budget of £49,290 and £49,258 has been awarded to date.
2.2	A total of 48 applications were received for funding, of which 15, or 31%, were unsuccessful. Common reasons for the rejection of an application were ineligibility or failure to address the main criteria.
2.3	The mean average award amount for the 2011-12 programme was £1,492 with grants ranging between £500 to £3,000.
2.4	The projects benefited a wide range of ages, though two specifically targeted children.
2.5	The location of organisation's focus showed seven city-wide, three east, eight north, seven in the south and three in the west.
2.6	A full list of applications and those funded is given in Appendix 2

3	Resource Implications
3.1	Given the success of the scheme in 2011-2012 an amount of £50,000 is sought for distribution in 2012-2013. Assessment and monitoring will carried out within existing staffing allocations.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	Equality and Good Relations are key marking criteria for the rolling Programme.

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are requested to agree that the Rolling Programme grant scheme for 2012-13 be opened and that the amount of £50,000 be made available for award as grants.
5.2	Members are also requested to agree to delegate authority to the Director of Development for agreeing the award of grants, based on scored reports marked and moderated by officers.

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

7	Documents Attached
Appendix 1 - Guidance Notes and Application Form Appendix 2 - List of applications and those funded	