



Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Request for Funding for Piping Event
Date:	22 May 2012
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen Director of Development ext 3470
Contact Officers:	Gerry Copeland City Events Manager ext 3412

1 Relevant Background Information	
1.1	The purpose of this report to seek direction from Members in regard to a request for funding for a 'piping' project which is planned for September 2012 (please see Appendix 1 Business Case for 'The Pipes are Calling').
1.2	Officers have received details on the above project. The organisers estimate that their event would attract in excess of 2,000 people, with a percentage out-of-state visitors and attendees. The total cost of the project is £292,875.00. The organisers are now seeking £25,000 funding from the Council to assist with the project.
1.3	Members are asked to note that a similar event (Belfast Tattoo), from an organisation called Ulster Scots Events Limited was presented to Committee in February and it was agreed by Councillors to postpone a decision and to present a joint report on both projects. However, Ulster Scots Events Limited has now informed Officers that they are withdrawing their request and will delay their event until 2013.

2 Key Issues	
2.1	<u>The Pipes are Calling</u> This event would be managed and delivered by Co-operation Ireland. Co-operation Ireland's mission is: 'to underpin political agreement on the island of Ireland by building positive relationships at community level, both within Northern Ireland and between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, through the promotion of mutual understanding and co-operation'.

	<p>This is achieved by ‘working with groups from all religious and cultural communities to build vibrant societies based on the principles of respect for diversity and peace and reconciliation’.</p>														
2.2	<p><u>The Event</u></p> <p>This event is being presented as a possible annual project and in 2012 it would take place in September at the Odyssey Arena. In addition the event would be timed to tie in with celebrations to mark the one hundredth anniversary of the signing of the Ulster Covenant.</p>														
2.3	<p>The organisers of ‘The Pipes are Calling’ state that the events are designed to create and showcase a range of music and song inclusive of both the main traditions in Belfast alongside music and song from a diverse range of cultural backgrounds. The organisers state that their event has the potential to grow year on year, to become a major event in the social and entertainment calendar of Belfast.</p>														
2.4	<p><u>Funding for Co-operation Ireland and ‘The Pipes are Calling’</u></p> <p>This organisation is seeking funding assistance from the Council of £25,000.</p>														
2.5	<p><u>Key Council Finance Issue</u></p> <p>Members are asked to note that although the project has merit the submission cannot be met from the Council’s current City Events Unit budget as this is allocated for the 2012/13 period.</p> <p>As stated the total cost of the event is £292,875. Income streams that have yet to be secured are:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Ticket Sales</td> <td>53,543</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Corporate/In-kind Sponsorship</td> <td>20,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Belfast City Council</td> <td>25,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ulster – Scots Agency</td> <td>4,332</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DETI</td> <td>95,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DCAL</td> <td>95,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>292,875</td> </tr> </table>	Ticket Sales	53,543	Corporate/In-kind Sponsorship	20,000	Belfast City Council	25,000	Ulster – Scots Agency	4,332	DETI	95,000	DCAL	95,000	Total	292,875
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2.6	<p><u>Funding Routes available within Council</u></p> <p>Under normal timelines and circumstances the most appropriate route for the submission would have been via the Development Department’s Tourism, Culture and Arts funding streams, which are now all closed for the period 2012/13, with the exception of the Rolling Programme (capped at £3,000). Neither are there funds within the Council’s Good Relations Unit available that would be suitable to this proposal.</p>														

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>BCC are being asked to contribute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ‘The Pipes are Calling’ - £25,000 for Co-operation Ireland.
3.2	<p>Members are reminded this finance does not exist in the current budgets of the Department. In light of this, if Members agree, additional finances would need to be allocated to the project. To date Co-operation Ireland have not confirmed that any other funders have made a commitment to the project.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>

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

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to provide guidance on the submission in regard to the request for funding.

6	Decision Tracking
If approved, Officers will monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the project and provide post-project details as part of the Department's annual review. These outcomes will be presented to Members as part of the City Events Unit key performance indicators.	

7 | Key to Abbreviations

8 | Documents Attached