



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Development and Outreach Funding
Date:	22 May 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	Belfast City Council's Development and Outreach Initiative was set up to build capacity and boost cultural activity in communities with weak culture and arts infrastructure.
1.2	Project beneficiaries must either have a disability or reside within one or more Belfast wards included in the 50 per cent most deprived wards in the Multiple Deprivation wards and ranks in Northern Ireland (Noble Multiple Deprivation Measure 2005) and the 50 per cent most deprived Output Areas based on economic deprivation (Output Area Level Measure 2005).
1.3	This report provides the Development Committee with recommendations on applications made to the Development and Outreach Initiative 2012–13. The deadline for organisations to submit applications to the Development and Outreach initiative for the 2012–13 period was noon on Monday 5 March 2012. A copy of the guidance notes and application form is provided at appendix 1.
1.4	The Council launched a campaign to advertise and promote the scheme, with ads placed in local newspapers and information posted on relevant websites and circulated through the Festivals Forum membership and community centres. Eight city-wide information sessions were held in conjunction with Community Arts Partnership; almost eighty people attended these.
1.5	<u>Principles of the Reporting Process</u> Organisations submitted an application and supporting documentation, such as partner forms, financial statements and policy documents. Officers undertook thorough assessments of the applications received, using the set criteria which reflect the themes of the 2007 Integrated Cultural Strategy. The assessments were then fully reviewed within the context of a wider panel.

1.6	<p>A summary of applicant information and assessments (appendix 4) has been compiled by officers in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – highlight the main strengths and weaknesses in the application; – ensure optimum transparency as to how decisions on applications have been reached; and – familiarise Members with various arts and heritage programmes in which the Council invests.
1.7	<p>Members are requested to use these assessments in tandem with the scores provided in Appendix 3. Appendix 2 shows the targeted wards from which project beneficiaries will be drawn. Grant histories for applicants are included at Appendix 5.</p>
1.8	<p>It is recommended that no funding should be released until a formal partners meeting attended by an Officer has been held. This will ensure the partnerships are working effectively and that the beneficiary's needs are adequately addressed.</p>
1.9	<p>In addition, successful applicants will be asked to supply evidence of insurance and a re-profiled budget reflecting the Council's actual award.</p>
1.10	<p><u>Level of Applications</u> The total amount of funding available under Development and Outreach in 2012–13 is £165,000. Twenty-four applications were received, requesting funding totalling £443,057.57. This is approximately 2.7 times the available level of funding.</p>
1.12	<p>The standard of applications received this year has been very high, and only applications scoring over 63 per cent have been recommended for funding.</p>
1.13	<p><u>Rationale for funding decisions</u> Officers have considered project budgets and the rationale for awarding funding is based on the following factors:</p>
1.14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Strength of the proposed programme as assessed against agreed funding criteria. – Value for money. A reduction in the amount recommended has been suggested where costs are considered high or inflated. – Viability of the proposed programme within the funding offered.

2	Key Issues
2.1	<p>Members should note that the income and expenditure is presented in this report as a summary of the information submitted, and some budgets submitted contain minor discrepancies. As agreed previously by the Development (Arts) Sub-Committee, Officers have not returned to applicants to request clarification of budgets. However, this has been taken into account in the recommendations.</p>
2.2	<p>The minimum amount recommended is £12,025 and the maximum amount recommended is £15,000.</p>
2.3	<p>12 out of the 24 applications scored over 63 per cent and have been recommended for funding.</p>
2.4	<p>8 applications scored below 63 per cent and are not recommended for funding.</p>

2.5	4 applications were deemed ineligible.
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3	Resource Implications
3.1	<u>Financial</u> Funding for Development and Outreach has been agreed in the 2012–13 budgets for the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit.
3.2	<u>Human Resources</u> This will be covered within the work programme of the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	We will share information with Good Relations in terms of the impact of the projects.

5	Recommendations
5.1	It is recommended that Members note the content of this report and agree the recommendations for Development and Outreach funding as set down at appendix 3.

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

7	Documents Attached
Appendix 1: Application Form and Guidance Notes for the Development and Outreach Initiative	
Appendix 2: Targeted Super Output Areas	
Appendix 3: Scores and recommendations for Development and Outreach 2012–13	
Appendix 4: Summary of applications and assessments	
Appendix 5: Grant histories	

8	Abbreviations
None.	