



**Report to:** Development Committee  
**Subject:** 2013-14 Events Programme  
**Date:** 5 February 2013  
**Reporting Officer:** John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470  
**Contact Officer:** Gerry Copeland, City Events Manager, ext 3412

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	<p><u>Purpose of the Report</u></p> <p>The purpose of this report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Seek approval from Members to deliver the Council's 2013-2014 programme of events. The overall budget for this programme was agreed at the Development Committee on the 15 January 2013. The total cost of the programme is £1,500,171.</li><li>- There will be additional one off projects during 2013-2014 which will be financed from reserves. A budget of £400k has been set aside for the World Police &amp; Fire Games and £225k for the All-Ireland Irish Dancing Championship.</li><li>- Update Members on feedback to host the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association's (Northern Ireland Branch) 2013 Champion of Champions Pipe Band event.</li></ul>
1.2	<p>Over the last ten plus years the Council has delivered a series of high profile public events that are free to access by both citizens and visitors to the city. An update on the 2012-13 outputs will be presented on completion of the St. Patrick's Day Festival.</p> <p>The draft outline programme (for 2013-2014) is indicated in Appendix 1. The year round schedule, subject to Council approval, would run from Easter 2013 through to the Christmas Lights Switch-on in mid-November and finish with St Patrick's Day event in 2014.</p>

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	<p><u>City Events Unit's Budget for 2013-2014</u></p> <p>The total overall budget of the annual events programme (approved by Council) is £1,500,171 plus a £400,000 contribution to the World Police and Fire Games (agreed by Council on the 18 September 2007) and a £225,000 fee for the staging and hosting of the 2013 All-Ireland Irish Dancing Championships (agreed by Committee on the 13 August 2008) from the Council's planned reserves for large-scale events. The budget would also cover the Council's Support for Sport Grant scheme, activities connected to the City Hall Big Screen and bidding and survey work on events.</p>

2.2	The programme includes fourteen events that run from the Belfast 400 programme during Easter 2013 through to the Council's St Patrick's Day activities in March 2014. In addition to the annual programme the Council has extensive input to the delivery and management of the World Police and Fire Opening and Closing events and the Games Village for the project. The overall events programme would be expected to attract over 200,000 people and bring significant economic activity to the city.
2.3	On the 16 October 2012 the Committee agreed to bid for the RSPBA Champion of Champions event in 2013. Unfortunately the Council was not successful in securing this event. However, discussions with the RSPBA have indicated that there is an opportunity to host another championship in 2014, 2015 and 2016. The annual cost to Council would be circa £140,000 and would include a £40,000 fee to the RSPBA. It is estimated 120 bands would attend this event and bring in additional economic activity to the city. However, this event has not been fully defined by RSPBA and Officers would suggest that a future report be brought back to Members on receipt of more information.

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	<u>Financial</u> The financial implications are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2013-2014 Events Programme - £1,500,171 (agreed by Council as part of the Department's estimates).</li> <li>- There will be additional one off projects during 2013-2014 which will be financed from specified reserves. A budget of £400k has been set aside for the World Police &amp; Fire Games and £225k for the All-Ireland Irish Dancing Championship.</li> </ul>
3.2	<u>Personnel</u> None at the current moment, but additional workloads may have issues on the City Events Unit to deliver in the coming year.

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

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	The Development Committee are requested to approve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2013-2014 Events Programme.</li> <li>- That a future report is brought to Committee on a possible Piping event in 2014-2016.</li> </ul>

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	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.  Timeline: March 2014 <span style="float: right;">Reporting Officer: Gerry Copeland</span>

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	RSPBA – Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association

**Appendix 1 - Draft 2013/14 Events Programme subject to Committee approval**

	<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Proposed Date(s)</b>
1.	<b>Belfast 400</b>	Belfast City Hall	Saturday 30 March- Tuesday 2 April
2.	<b>Belfast City Marathon</b>	Citywide	Monday 6 May
3.	<b>Lord Mayors Concert</b>	City Hall	Saturday 18 May
4.	<b>Belfast Titanic Maritime Festival</b>	Queens Quay Titanic Slipways	Saturday 25 - Monday 27 May
5.	<b>World Police and Fire Games – Opening Ceremony</b>	Titanic Quarter	Thursday 1 August 2013
6.	<b>World Police and Fire Games – Athlete Village</b>	Custom House Square	1-10 August 2013
7.	<b>World Police and Fire Games – Closing Ceremony</b>	Titanic Slipways	Saturday 10 August 2013
8.	<b>Autumn Fair</b>	Botanic Gardens	Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 Sept
9.	<b>Belfast City Half Marathon</b>	Citywide	Sunday 22 September
10.	<b>Halloween</b>	TBC	Sat 26 or Sun 27 Oct
11.	<b>All Ireland Irish Dancing Championships</b>	Belfast Waterfront	23 October – 1 November
12.	<b>Christmas Lights Switch-On</b>	City Hall	Saturday 16 November
13.	<b>St Patrick’s Day</b>	City Centre and Custom House Square	Monday 17 March 2014