



Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Community Festivals Fund
Date:	14 January 2013
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officers:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives and International Development, ext 3459

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Belfast City Council accepted the commission from the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) to administer the Community Festivals Fund in the Belfast area. The fund is 50 per cent funded through DCAL and 50 per cent through Council revenue. At the Development Committee in August 2008, Members agreed to delegate the authority to award grants under this fund to the Director of Development.
1.2	The Community Festivals Fund invites applications from arts, heritage and community organisations that are planning a community festival in Belfast. The primary aim of the fund is to increase the capacity of festival providers, and it also supports the cost of festival programming. The maximum grant available for each festival is £10,000.
1.3	DCAL offered BCC match funding of £75,300 for the Community Festivals Fund in 2013/14. This has supported 33 local festivals taking place across the city. It is projected that these festivals will engage up to 12,000 participants and reach an audience of approximately 500,000. There is no money left in the Community Festivals Fund budget for 2013/14.

2	Key Issues
2.1	DCAL's contribution to the Community Festivals Fund 2014/15 is subject to the outcome of the central government budget consultation. They have indicated that they will offer us match funding in the region of £72,000 for 2014/15. This allocation is worked out in context of population size and areas of deprivation. Confirmation of their subvention is expected by March 2013.

2.2	Applications to Community Festivals Fund 2014/15 are currently open and the fund will close on 8 January 2014. No funding for festivals in 2014/15 will be approved prior to confirmation of an offer from DCAL and ratification of the 2014/15 budget estimates.
2.3	Match funding of up to £74,500 is included in the BCC Development Department's budget estimates for 2014/15. The Community Festivals Fund will be administered by the Central Grants Unit and the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	Match funding is included in the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit's draft budget estimates for 2014/15.
3.2	Human Resources will be covered within the work programmes of the Central Grants Unit and 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 accept match funding from DCAL to administer CFF for 2014/15.

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

7	Key to Abbreviations
DCAL - Department of Culture Arts and Leisure BCC – Belfast City Council CFF – Community Festivals Fund	