



Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Funding request for Cinemagic Christmas film
Date:	17 June 2014
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext. 3470
Contact Officers:	Brian Johnston, Tourism, Culture & Arts Manager, ext. 3586

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	As Members will recall, in November 2013 Cinemagic applied unsuccessfully for £300,000 funding from the Council's Creative and Cultural Belfast (CCB) Fund towards "The Christmas Star", Belfast's first Christmas feature film.
1.2	Cinemagic educates, motivates and inspires young people through the medium of film, television and digital technologies and runs festivals in Belfast, Dublin, Los Angeles and New York. It is currently in receipt of £20,000 funding per year for three year's through the Council's Core Multiannual Fund.
1.3	Cinemagic has subsequently attracted approximately £300,000 funding for the Christmas film from a range of a range of public and private sector sources, including the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, UTV and BBC. However, there remains a funding gap of up to £200,000.
1.4	Cinemagic has asked that the Council to consider funding part of the shortfall.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The Council's Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit has no budget to support such a request and any Departmental under-spend will not be identified until after September. Regardless, there were 19 unsuccessful applications to the CCB Fund totalling £1,864,977, and funding Cinemagic's shortfall would open the Council up to further requests.
2.2	The CCB Fund is also due to reopen to applications for grants up to the value of £90,000 for projects starting in 2015.
2.3	The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure has indicated that it may consider funding the film. However, they will not be in a position to identify budget under-spend until after the June monitoring round.
2.4	NI Screen has indicated that the film is not a strategic priority.

2.5	Whilst the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit (TCA) has no resource to make available to this project, as Cinemagic is a core-funded client, officers from the TCA Unit will work with Cinemagic to explore alternative sources of funding and provide other in-kind support as the project develops.
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3	Resource Implications
3.1	<u>Financial</u> None
3.2	<u>Human resources</u> This can be accommodated within the TCA Unit's current work plan.
3.3	<u>Assets</u> None

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	None

5	Recommendations
5.1	It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report and consider the request to fund Cinemagic's Christmas film.

6	Decision Tracking
	None

7	Key to Abbreviations
	CCB: Creative and Cultural Belfast TCA: Tourism, Culture and Arts

8	Documents Attached
	None