



Belfast City Council

Report to: Development Committee
Subject: World Title Boxing Fight in Belfast
Date: 19th August 2014
Reporting Officer: John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer: Gerry Copeland, City Events Manager, ext 3412

1.0 Relevant Background Information

- 1.1 The Committee will recall that, at its meeting on 17th June, it had agreed to provide funding of £7,500 to support a series of boxing events to mark Carl Frampton's IBF world title fight with Kiko Martinez at the Titanic Slipways on 6th September. The fight is being promoted by Barry McGuigan's 'Cyclone Promotions' organisation.
- 1.2 The Committee agreed also, given the Ulster Hall's long association with boxing, that the holding of the fight would provide an opportunity to showcase the venue by making it available for the purposes of a public weigh-in and tours prior to the bill.

2.0 Key Issues

- 2.1 Since the Committee meeting in June, Cyclone Promotions has agreed to avail of the use of the Ulster Hall for the public weigh-in on Friday 5th September from 12pm – 2 pm. It is anticipated that this event will generate considerable media interest and attract a sizeable audience.
- 2.2 On Wednesday 3rd September, Barry McGuigan has agreed to participate in a pre-fight preview evening in the Ulster Hall. The event will take the form of an interview with McGuigan where he will talk about his boxing career in the 1980s. It is anticipated that many prominent boxers from that era will attend this ticketed event, which would have a nominal fee of £5.00.
- 2.3 On Tuesday 2nd September and Thursday 4th September, there will be two open evenings for local boxing clubs. It is anticipated that young boxers will be given tours of the Ulster Hall, particularly the boxing exhibition in the south corridor. These tours will be conducted by former boxers and the evening will provide an opportunity for a behind-the-scenes look at the iconic venue. Light refreshments will be provided.
- 2.4 Officers did enquire about the IBF world title fight being relayed on the Big Screen, however they have been advised this isn't possible due to pay-for-view rights attached to the event.

3.0	Resource Implications
3.1	The £7,500 budget will be utilised for the events as outlined and there may well be costs associated with providing technical support at the weigh-in on Friday 5th September.

4.0	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	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 promote good relations in the city.

5.0	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is requested to note the contents of the report.

6.0	Decision Tracking
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 as part of the City Events Unit's key performance indicators.	
Timeline: March 2015	Reporting Officer: Gerry Copeland

7	Key to Abbreviations
IBF – International Boxing Federation	