



Belfast City Council

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| Report to: | Development Committee |
| Subject: | Community Festivals Fund |
| Date: | 21 October 2014 |
| Reporting Officer: | John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470 |
| Contact Officers: | Brian Johnston, Tourism, Culture, Heritage and Arts Manager ex 3586 |

| 1 | Relevant Background Information |
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| 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 budgets. 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 funding of £72,500 for the Community Festivals Fund in 2014/15. This is a slight reduction from 2013/14, when their offer was £75,300. |
| 1.4 | The current year's funding is supporting a total of 37 local festivals taking place across the city during this current financial year. It is projected that these festivals will engage up to 41,655 participants and reach an audience of approximately 425,060. |
| 1.5 | The fund was heavily oversubscribed and there is no money left in the Community Festivals Fund budget for 2014/15. |

| 2 | Key Issues |
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| 2.1 | DCAL's contribution to the Community Festivals Fund 2015/16 is subject to the outcome of the central government budget consultation. |
| 2.2 | The allocation of grants from DCAL for CFF across NI has in the past been worked out in the context of population size and areas of deprivation. |

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| 2.2 | The expanded Council boundary may increase the level of offer. Confirmation of DCAL's offer is expected by February 2015. |
| 2.3 | The CFF 2015/16 programme is due to open in November for applications. No funding for festivals in 2015/16 will be approved prior to confirmation of an offer from DCAL and ratification of the 2015/16 budget estimates. |
| 2.4 | Match funding will be included in the Development Department's budget estimates for 2015/16. |
| 2.5 | The Community Festivals Fund will be administered by the Central Grants Unit and the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit. |

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| 3 | Resource Implications |
| 3.1 | Match funding will be included in the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit's draft budget estimates for 2015/16. |
| 3.2 | Human Resources will be covered within the work programmes of the Central Grants Unit and the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit. |

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| 4 | Equality and Good Relations Considerations |
| 4.1 | There are no equality and good relations implications attached to this report. |

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| 5 | Recommendations |
| 5.1 | It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report and agree to accept funding from DCAL to administer CFF for 2015/16. |
| 5.2 | Authority is delegated to the Director of Development to award grants under this grant stream. |

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| 6 | Decision Tracking |
| There is no decision tracking attached to this report | |

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