



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Parks Events Small Grant Scheme
Date:	14 October 2010
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Robert Scott, Conservation and Promotion Manager

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to:

1. update the Committee on success of the Parks Events Small Grants scheme in 2010; and
2. seek approval to continue with the scheme in 2011.

Relevant Background Information

The Committee is reminded that the Parks Event Small Grant scheme has been operating successfully since 2006. Its original purpose was to encourage community based groups and organisations to organise and hold events in parks and thus increase use of the parks and instil a sense of ownership within the community.

Each year since a short report has been brought to Committee to set out the main headlines from the previous year and to seek authority to advertise the scheme for a further year.

The Members will recall that the groups recommended for support under the scheme are presented to Committee in February of each year for approval. Predetermined criteria is used, a copy of this is attached as Appendix 1.

Current context

The scheme continues to be popular with community groups, churches, friends groups and other organisations. During 2010, a fund of £60,000 had been allocated for the scheme. A maximum grant of £2250 was available per group.

- A total of 32 applications were received
- 26 groups were funded
- 42 events were held
- 23 different parks were used
- Approximately 38,000 people attended these events

Key Issues

The key issue for the Committee is whether it wishes the scheme to continue for a further year. The Committee has four options

- Option 1 Continue to offer the scheme in line with 2010;
- Option 2 Reduce the level of budget allocation to £50,000
- Option 3 Increase the level of budget to £70,000; and
- Option 4 Cease to offer the scheme

It is proposed that the Committee adopt Option 1.

Resource ImplicationsFinancial

A total of £60,000 has been requested for inclusion the draft estimates for 2011/12 to cover this scheme.

Human Resources

Running the scheme mainly involves staff from the Conservation and Promotion Unit and Business Support. Park Managers and Outreach Officers are responsible for liaising with groups on site.

Asset and Other Implications

Having groups organising their own events in parks helps to increase use of parks and encourage a sense of ownership of them.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee endorse Option 1 as outlined above.

Decision Tracking

Responsible officer – Robert Scott, Conservation and Promotion Manager
Closing date of scheme – Wednesday 26 January 2011
February 2011 – a further report will be brought to committee for approval of the grants awarded.

Key to Abbreviations

None.

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 – Predetermined Criteria