



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Parks Events Small Grants Scheme
<b>Date:</b>	9 February 2012
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Agnes McNulty, Open Spaces & Active Living Manager

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
	<p>Members are reminded that at its meeting on 13 October 2011, approval was given to support the grant scheme for groups wishing to stage events in parks during the summer of 2012. It was agreed by committee, subject to approval through the estimates process for the 2012/13 revenue budget, to increase the fund from £60,000 to £100,000 and that the maximum grant per group would be £2,250. Committee also agreed that officers would examine the criteria and structure of the grant award process and report back with recommendation for approval.</p> <p>Information on the grant scheme was advertised accordingly and the closing date for entries set at 12 January 2012. The criteria used for assessing applications to the parks event grant scheme are attached as Appendix 1.</p>

<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<p>The grants scheme has been reviewed by officers and the key changes are outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The applications to date were assessed according to the current criteria. It is recommended that of the 19 applications, 18 met the criteria for an award to be made. Full details of the applications received and the recommendations for grant awards are presented in Appendix 2.</li><li>• A Community Parks Outreach Manager will contact the club that was not successful in receiving an award to help them identify other options for their proposed event.</li><li>• Due to the low number of applications received it is proposed that the scheme is changed from the current annual call for funding applications to a monthly assessment running from February to</li></ul>

	<p>September. This would operate in a similar way to the Support for Sport scheme with a monthly report to committee outlining the applications and awards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The criteria have been modified slightly to put more emphasis on community involvement in our parks and open spaces and to recognise alignment to other council schemes such as Summer Intervention schemes. The revised criteria are attached at Appendix 3.</li> <li>• The application process has been modified to allow groups more flexibility in finalising their event expenditure plan as circumstances undoubtedly change in the period from application to the event taking place.</li> <li>• It is proposed that Community Parks Outreach Managers in each area play a more significant role in working with clubs and groups to avail of the fund. Information on the scheme will also be advertised and the Community Parks Outreach Managers will work to ensure that communities across the city are aware of this funding opportunity and are encouraged to apply.</li> <li>• Successful groups will receive 50% of the grant funding before the event takes place subject to the return of a signed 'letter of offer' and the remaining balance will be paid on the successful completion of the event and submission of the correct supporting documentation. This will assist groups who have limited funds to stage events as previously groups received the grant funding after the successful completion of the event on the production of the correct documentation.</li> <li>• Officers will continue to review the scheme and any further recommendations to improve the scheme will be brought back to the October 2012 committee for consideration and approval.</li> </ul>
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<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<p><u>Financial</u> £100,000 was allocated in the revenue estimates to cover this scheme.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There are no additional human resource implications.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> The running of community events increases use of the parks creating a sense of ownership and contributing to health and well being.</p>

<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications</b>
	None.

<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	<p>It is recommended that the Committee agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that the groups listed in Appendix 2 are awarded grants accordingly to organise events in parks during 2012</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that the scheme is changed to work in a similar way to the Support for Sport scheme with a monthly report to committee from February to September.</li> <li>• to the modified criteria outlined at Appendix 3.</li> </ul>
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<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	All actions will be completed by the Open Spaces and Active Living Manager by October 2012

<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	N/A

<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1: Current criteria for parks events small grants scheme Appendix 2: List of applications and proposed grants. Appendix 3: Proposed new criteria for parks and small grants scheme