



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Business in the Community Event
Date:	14 June 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Catherine Christy, Principal HR Organisational Development Officer

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The purpose of this report is to seek approval to facilitate a request from Business in the Community for the council to sponsor an event being organised for “Pro Bono” week in November 2012.</p> <p>Business in the Community (BITC) has requested that the council partner an event being organised to support the community /voluntary sector as part of Pro Bono week which will run from 5 -9 November 2012.</p> <p>National Pro Bono Week comprises events across the UK celebrating the range and impact of pro bono activity undertaken by solicitors, barristers and legal executives</p> <p>Business in the Community promotes this week as part of its Pro Help programme. It currently has over 100 professional firms and businesses all committed to providing pro bono support to the voluntary and community sector in N Ireland. The aim of the event is to target community groups who operate as a social enterprise and who would value and benefit from the opportunity to present their services/products to representatives from business. It will also be an opportunity for business to identify how they can support these groups and organisations as part of their corporate responsibility commitment.</p>

2	Key Issues
	<p>BITC is keen to provide this event free of charge to community groups and have requested that the council sponsor the event by providing a venue. BITC have confirmed that a large space will be required to accommodate the speed-networking style event. It aims to invite around</p>

	<p>15 community groups and have around 80 representatives from business attending. The manager of Olympia Leisure Centre has confirmed that the venue would be available and able to accommodate the event on 8 November 2012. The venue would be required from around 8.30am to 12.30pm.</p> <p>BITC have also requested that the council provides lunch for the representatives of the community groups, around 40 people, at a cost of approximately £250.</p> <p>Sponsorship of this event through the provision of a suitable council venue and/or lunch would demonstrate the councils own corporate responsibility as well as its civic leadership in setting an example to other businesses. It is also an opportunity to act on the commitments set out in the Investment Programme.</p>
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3	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> The projected loss of revenue to the council if the event was to be facilitated would be £412 approximately depending on timings and the provision of lunch would cost approximately £250.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There are no HR implications</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> None</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
	There are no equality implications.

5	Recommendations
	<p>Members are asked to agree that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main Hall at Olympia Leisure Centre is made available free of charge to Business in the Community and • a sandwich lunch for 40 community representatives is provided

6	Decision Tracking
	Corporate HR will link in with BITC regarding this event

7	Key to Abbreviations
	BITC Business in the community

8	Documents Attached
	None