



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Parks Events Small Grants Scheme</b>
<b>Date:</b>	10 October 2013
<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>The Committee is reminded that the Parks Events Small Grants 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 their usage and instil a sense of ownership within the community.</p> <p>The purpose of the report is to set out the main headlines from the previous year, to seek authority to advertise the scheme for a further year and to grant delegated authority to the Director to approve funding applications to the Scheme.</p>

<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<p>Members will recall that a report outlining the groups recommended for support under the Scheme is presented to Committee in February of each year for approval.</p> <p>During 2013, a fund of £100,000 had been allocated for the Scheme and a maximum grant of £3,000 was available per group. The Scheme continues to be popular with community groups, churches, Friends' groups and other organisations and in 2013 the following was achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ a total of 44 applications were received</li><li>▪ 36 groups were funded</li><li>▪ 50 events were to be held</li><li>▪ 26 different sites were to be used.</li></ul>

A breakdown of the sites where the events were to be held is included in the table below.

<b>Area</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>No. of Events</b>
North	North Queen Street Playground, Cliftonville Playing Fields, Marrowbone Playing Fields, Ligoniel Park, Cave Hill Country Park, Shankill Graveyard, Alexandra Park, Glencairn Park, Clarendon Playing Fields, John Hewitt Playground, Cathedral Gardens, Grove Playing Fields, Michelle Baird Playground	20
S/West	Northlink Playing Fields, Half Moon Lake, Sir Thomas & Lady Dixon Park, Falls Park, Sharman Road Open Space, Musgrave Park, Springhill Millennium Park, Woodlands Playing Fields	12
East	Victoria Park, Ormeau Park, Botanic Gardens, Belmont Park, Rev. Robert Bradford Memorial Park	18

It is proposed that the Department continues to manage the Scheme for a further year at the existing level of £100,000. The criteria used for assessing applications to the Scheme is attached in Appendix 1. 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.

Officers will continue to encourage a wide range of applicants and help increase participation in the staging of events in parks and open spaces.

<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<p><u>Financial</u> £100,000 has been included in the draft estimates for 14/15 to cover this scheme.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> The management of the scheme mainly involves staff from the Open Spaces &amp; Active Living Unit and Business Support. The Community Park Managers and Outreach Officers are responsible for liaising with groups on site.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> The running of community events increases use of the parks and encourages a sense of ownership.</p>

<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications</b>
	There are no known equality and good relation implications.

<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	<p>It is recommended that Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ approve the managing of the Parks Events Small Grants Scheme for the 2014 period</li> <li>▪ grant delegated authority to the Director to approve funding applications to the Scheme.</li> </ul>

<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	<p>Responsible Officer - Open Spaces &amp; Active Living Manager, closing date of scheme: 7 January 2014.  Further report to be brought to Committee in February 2014 for approval of the grants to be awarded.</p>

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

<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1: Criteria for the Parks Events Small Grants Scheme 2014