



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Parks &amp; Leisure Grants – Central Grants Unit and request for delegated authority</b>
<b>Date:</b>	14 November 2013
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks & Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Claire Moraghan, Sports Development Officer Agnes McNulty, Open Spaces and Active Living Manager

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	At the Committee's meeting on 12 September 2013 members agreed to authorise the transfer of the administrative responsibility <i>for the Small and Large Development Grants</i> to the Central Grants Unit (CGU).
1.2	Members will recall at its meeting on 10 October 2013, they agreed to continue to fund the Parks Events Small Grants Scheme subject to a further report being brought to Committee in February 2014. The report will seek approval of the grants and delegated authority for the Director to approve funding applications to the scheme in 2014 if required.
1.3	In addition to the delegated authority for Parks' grants, the Director of Parks and Leisure has delegated authority for Support for Sport Hospitality, Small and Individual Grants to a maximum of £3,000. The annual Large Grants (£5,000) are presented to Committee for approval in September.
1.4	Members will be aware of the robust scoring process agreed in the allocation of Large Grants as presented during approval at September 2013 Committee.

<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	Within the Council's many funding streams, there is often overlap of grant applications and members have in the past raised concerns over double

	funding for some groups. The establishment of the CGU will seek to reduce these instances and provide a robust equitable funding process.
2.2	The Parks Events Small Grants Scheme which is managed by the Open Spaces & Active Living Unit would benefit from inclusion in the bi-annual Central Grants call for applications.
2.3	CGU will undertake advertising and promotion, eligibility checks, and assessment panels. The assessment and recommendation of all Support for Sport and Parks Events Small Grants will remain with the Director.
2.4	The CGU process is time bound enabling the rollout of the first tranche of successful applications by 1 April 2014.
2.5	The Large Grants will be the only fund without delegated authority and the current practice of presenting them to Committee will delay the award to successful applicants by one month.

<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<p><b><u>Financial</u></b> The existing budget for the Parks Events Small Grants Scheme will remain unchanged and continue to be managed by the Open Spaces &amp; Active Living Unit.</p> <p><b><u>Human Resources</u></b> None</p> <p><b><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></b> Not Applicable.</p>

<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality Implications</b>
	There are no equality or good relations implications at this stage. Equality and good relations implications will continue to be monitored in a centralised approach and regular updates will be sent to the Equality and Diversity Officer.

<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	It is recommended that the Committee approves the transfer of administrative responsibility for the Parks Events Small Grants to the Central Grants Unit (CGU) and permit the Director delegated authority to award Large Support for Sport grants up to a maximum of £5,000.

<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	None

<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	CGU – Central Grants Unit.