



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Council
Date:	13 March 2014
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Cormac McCann, Leisure Development Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>Council has received a request from the Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Council (NICGC) for financial support for the 20th Commonwealth Games which are due to take place in Glasgow, Scotland from 23rd July to 3rd August 2014.</p> <p>Over seventy nations, with 6,500 athletes and officials, are participating in 17 sports with an integrated programme for a range of para-athletes. This makes the event second only to the Olympic Games in importance.</p> <p>Northern Ireland has taken part in every occurrence of the Commonwealth Games except 1950 and Northern Ireland's success is well known, finishing 14th in the medal table in India 2010. Four of the medallists were from Belfast.</p> <p>The Commonwealth Games provides the only opportunity for Northern Ireland athletes to compete at the international level in a multi-sport event.</p> <p>Previously the Client Services committees, of December 2001 and March 2005, provided £20,000 to the Manchester 2002 team and £25,000 to the Melbourne 2006 team.</p> <p>The Parks and Leisure committee of March 2010 approved £25,000 to the Delhi 2010 team. This was a significant contribution to the overall cost of £173,000 and contributed to the effective preparation and delivery of the largest medal haul in 20 years.</p>

2.	Key Issues
	<p>The Commonwealth Games Council is a voluntary organisation and the Council's financial contribution would help ensure that all Northern Ireland athletes have the opportunity to compete at the highest level.</p> <p>Should the committee be minded to make a contribution to the Commonwealth Games Council, it would be made under Section 37 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. This permits the Council to make any payment for any purpose which in its opinion is in the interest of and will bring direct benefit to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the council; b) the district or any part of the district; or c) the inhabitants of its district or any part of its district. <p>Supporting the NICGC would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'People, Communities and Neighbourhoods' and 'Economy'. The Commonwealth Games are a high profile event and allow the Parks and Leisure Department to further develop and strengthen its role in promoting physical activity and support health and wellbeing objectives.</p> <p>Given the reduction in the Departments budget as part of the rates setting process over the 2014/15 year, it is proposed to make a contribution of £5,000 which is a reduction from previous years.</p>

3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> The proposed £5,000 can be accommodated within the 2013/14 Section 115 budget.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There are no human resource implications.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> None.</p>

4.	Equality Implications
	There are no equality implications arising from this report.

5.	Recommendations
	The Committee is asked to agree to make a contribution of £5,000 to the Commonwealth Games Council and resolve that the expenditure be

	approved under Section 37 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 it being the opinion of the Committee that the expenditure would bring direct benefits to the council and the inhabitants of the district and that the direct benefits would be commensurate with the payments made.
--	--

6.	Decision Tracking
	Responsible Officer: Leisure Development Manager. Actions to be completed by April 2014

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	NICGC – Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Council.

8.	Documents Attached
	None.