



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Parks Events Small Grants Scheme</b>
<b>Date:</b>	12 June 2014
<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 14 November 2013, approval was given for the transfer of administrative responsibility for the Parks Events Small Grants Scheme to the Central Grants Unit (CGU) and the Director of Parks &amp; Leisure was permitted under delegated authority to approve funding applications to the Scheme in 2014.</p> <p>The purpose of the report is to inform Members of the decision taken by the Director under delegated authority regarding the applications received in the first tranche for events taking place between 1 April and 30 September 2014</p>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b> <p>The applications were assessed according to the criteria and full details of the applications received and the recommendations for grant awards are presented in Appendix 1. It is recommended that out of the 34 applications received, 31 met the criteria for an award to be made. The three unsuccessful applications were received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Cumann Naomh Eoin CLG - event was to take place before 1 April.</li><li>▪ Upper Springfield Resource Centre - incorrect form was used.</li><li>▪ Sandy Row Residents' Association - event was to take place in an open space which is not owned by the Council.</li></ul> <p>An Independent Assessment Panel chaired by the Open Spaces &amp; Active Living Manager and four other Officers independent from the Open Spaces &amp; Active Living Unit reviewed a sample of the applications (26%), were satisfied with the scoring and application of the criteria for the grants and approved the recommendations for awards.</p>

	<p>Two groups namely Old Stranmillis Residents Association and PLACE have declined their offer of funding under this Scheme.</p> <p>The CGU will continue administration of the grant through notification to unsuccessful applicants, draft and distribution of Letters of Offer, holding workshops for grant awarded applicants, facilitation of payments and monitoring of all awards, including financial verification visits.</p> <p>Due to the lower number of applications received, further applications will be invited in the second tranche which opens on 2 June 2014. A report will be brought back as required to inform Members of the decisions taken by the Director.</p>
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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. In the first tranche, £78,773.80 was allocated with a remaining balance of £21,226.20 for tranche 2.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> The scheme is managed by staff from the Open Spaces &amp; Active Living Unit and the Community Park Managers and Outreach Officers are responsible for liaising with groups.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> The running of community events increases use of the parks and creates a sense of ownership.</p>

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

<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	It is recommended that the Committee note the contents of the report.

<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	All actions will be completed by CGU and the Open Spaces & Active Living Manager.

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

<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1: List of applications and Grants, Tranche 1