



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Parks Events Small Grants Scheme
Date:	16 October 2014
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Agnes McNulty, Open Spaces & Active Living Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
	<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 & 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 second tranche for events taking place between 1 October 2014 and 31 March 2015.</p>

2.	Key Issues
	<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 20 applications received, 13 met the criteria for an award to be made. The one unsuccessful and seven ineligible applications were received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Duncairn Ulster Scots – unsuccessful as event did not score on at least 2 of the evaluation criteria;▪ Belfast Activity Centre – ineligible as the event had an admission charge which is not permitted under the scheme;▪ The Link Community Association – ineligible as the event was to be held outside of park's opening times;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dean Clarke Foundation – ineligible as group did not submit information requested by CGU; ▪ Glor na Mona – ineligible as received the full award in Tranche 1; ▪ HERE NI – ineligible as event was to take place before 1 September 2014; ▪ Inner East Youth – ineligible as group received the full award in Tranche 1. <p>An Independent Assessment Panel chaired by the Waste Manager and four other Officers independent from the Open Spaces & 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>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>
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3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> In Tranche 1 - £83,473.80 was allocated to 31 groups and since that 3 groups withdrew from the scheme and some groups have reprofiled their budgets and will not be spending their full allocation. An accurate figure for expenditure in Tranche 1 will not be available until 100% funding has been allocated and processed.</p> <p>Tranche 2 - £27,288.00, the total budget for 2014/15 is £100,000.00.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> The scheme is managed by staff from the Open Spaces & 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>

4.	Equality Implications
	There are no known equality and good relation implications.

5.	Recommendations
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	It is recommended that the Committee note the contents of the report.
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6.	Decision Tracking
	All actions will be completed by CGU and the Open Spaces & Active Living Manager.
7.	Key to Abbreviations
	CGU – Central Grants Unit

8.	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1: List of Applications and Grants, Tranche 2