



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Use of the City Hall and civic hospitality for the World Police and Fire Games in 2013.
Date:	Friday, 20 January, 2012
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (ext 6314)
Contact Officer:	Gareth Quinn, Senior Democratic Services Officer (ext 6316)

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	In August 2013, Belfast will be the host city for the World Police & Fire Games (WPFG). The Games are the third largest multisport event in the world behind the Olympics and the World Masters Games. To put the Games in context they are more than twice the size of the Commonwealth Games, which are scheduled for Glasgow in 2014. Competition to host the Games is always intense and in 2007 when the Games were awarded to Belfast the city resisted competition from ten other cities.
1.2	The WPFG are the “Olympics” for police, fire, prisons, border security, customs and coast guard services. The Games comprise of 65 sports, these include all the traditional competitions such as football, rugby, hockey, athletics, tennis, boxing etc and some such as the ultimate fire fighter, which are specifically designed to test the skill and endurance of professional fire fighters. At each Games the Host City is permitted to introduce 2 new sports to the programme, Belfast has proposed to the WPFG Federation Gaelic football and 20-20 Cricket.
1.3	Over 100 countries from around the world have competed in the Games, the largest teams coming from North America and Europe. In 2013 Belfast will welcome around 10,000 competitors plus an additional 15,000 friends and family for the 2 week event. The influx of such a huge number of athletes and their families will bring significant commercial opportunities (average daily spends for the last three Games was over \$200 US).

2	Key Issues
2.1	WPFG Federation Directors organise and fund a ‘Host Appreciation Dinner’ as a ‘thank you’ to the host city, their officials and Games organisers. The dinner is normally held in a prestigious venue which reflects the culture and history of the Host City. In addition to the Host City representatives, the Games Federation also invites the Organising Committees from future host cities - Fairfax, Virginia in 2015, Montreal 2017 and the successful bidding city for 2019 (this appointment will take place during the Belfast Games).

2.2	The Committee is recommended to grant the use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a wine and soft drinks reception up to a value of £500 (in accordance with Council policy) for this event which will take place during the games from 1 to 10 August, 2013.
2.3	Furthermore, when considering the above background information, it is apparent that a lot of hard work has gone into securing and planning for the delivery of the games, not least by the original Board which saw the potential for Belfast and was instrumental in compiling the bid which resulted in Belfast being chosen as the host city for the 2012 games.
2.4	The Board included representatives from Belfast City Council, the Department for Culture Arts and Leisure, the Fire and Rescue Service, the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Prison Service.
2.5	In order to acknowledge the important role played by members of the initial Board who were responsible for the submission of the bid the Council is asked to consider the hosting of a lunch in the City Hall. The lunch would be for approximately 20 people and would include the Lord Mayor, the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Committee and members of the original Board of the WPFG.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	The drinks reception for the 'Host Appreciation Dinner' will cost £500.
3.2	The lunch to acknowledge the role played by the original Board of the WPFG will cost £600.
3.3	Provision has been made in the revenue estimates for hospitality such as that outlined above.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	As with all major civic events, public events like this have the potential to bring together people from a wide range of backgrounds and therefore promote good relations in the city.

5	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is recommended to grant the use of the City Hall for the 'host city' dinner as part of staging of the WPFG 2013 event and to provide hospitality in the form of a wine and soft drinks reception up to a value of £500.
5.2	The Committee is also recommended to agree to host a lunch in February 2012 to acknowledge the role played by the original Board of the WPFG in securing Belfast as the host city for the 2013 WPFG.

6	Decision Tracking
Gareth Quinn, Senior Democratic Services Officer February 2012	