



Subject:	Draft City Events Unit Programme of Events 2017/18
Date:	8 February 2017
Reporting Officer:	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
Contact Officer:	Gerry Copeland, City Events Manager

Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval for the Programme of Events that will be delivered and supported by the Council's City Events Unit in 2017/18 and to make Members aware of the range of events that will take place in the forthcoming financial year.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: - Approve the draft City Events Unit Programme of Events for 2017/18 (Appendix 1).
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>2017/18 Events & Festivals Programme</u> Over the last decade and half, the Council's City Events Unit has delivered a series of high profile public events that are free to access by both citizens and visitors to the city. In 2016/17 it is estimated that these events generated £8,032,439 additional economic activity and 329,216 visitors attended the events programme.
3.2	The draft programme of events being delivered or supported by our City Events Unit in 2017/18 is outlined in Appendix 1 and includes a range of events throughout the year; beginning with: the Lord Mayor's Day, at the end of April, through to the Christmas Lights Switch-On in November and finishing with the City's St Patrick's Day event in 2018.

3.3	<p>The programme also includes a number of specific 2017 events that were previously approved by Council, including: the 2017 World Ice Hockey Championships at the SSE Arena (agreed by Council in April 2016 at a cost of £50,000); the World 24 Hour Endurance Race Championships, to be staged at Victoria Park (agreed by Council in December 2015 at a maximum underwriting cost of £10,000); the Royal Scottish Pipe Bands Association's UK National Piping Championships at Stormont Estate (agreed by Council in January 2015 at a cost of £180,000); UEFA Under-19 Women's Euro Championships, across various venues (agreed by Council in April 2016 at a cost of £50,000) and the 2017 Women's Rugby World Cup Championships, to be staged between Dublin and Belfast (agreed by Council in April 2016 at a cost of £100,000).</p>
3.4	<p>In addition to this there is also a significant grants programme for cultural and sporting events across the city. The draft 2017/18 programme will create additional revenue for the City via participant and attendee expenditure, but also profile the city to domestic, national and international audiences.</p>
3.5	<p>The cost of the draft programme is £1,242,682 and this amount is contained within the existing Departmental revenue estimates that were agreed at the City Growth & Regeneration Committee on 11 January 2017 and subsequently at Strategic Policy & Resources Committee on 20 January 2017. Therefore, this report is presented to Members to allow for planning of the 2017/18 Programme.</p>
3.6	<p>Members should note that a strategic review of Events and Festivals is underway in conjunction with key partners and stakeholders across the city. This strategic review will align to the key ambitions included within The Belfast Agenda as well as the draft Programme for Government.</p>
3.7	<p>A proposal, outlining the details to be included within a strategic review will be brought to Committee for consideration in March.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> Subject to agreement of the City rate, resources for both the draft programme of events and strategic review will be met through existing revenue estimates.</p>
3.9	<p><u>Equality & Good Relations Implications</u> The proposed programme of events are open to all and as such have the potential to promote good relations & equality by bringing together people from a wide range of backgrounds.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – City Events Unit: Events Programme 2017/18

