



Subject:	Draft City Events Unit Programme of Events 2018/19
Date:	7th February 2018
Reporting Officer:	Donal Durkan, Director of Development, ext 3470
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Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
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 2018/19 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 2018/19 (Appendix 1).

3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>2018/19 Events & Festivals Programme</u></p> <p>Members will be aware that the Council's City Events Unit has delivered a series of high profile public events, which are free to access by both citizens and visitors to the city, over numerous years. In 2017/18, it is estimated that these events generated over £16 million additional economic activity and 317,527 visitors attended the events programme.</p>
3.2	<p>The draft programme of events being delivered or supported by the Council's City Events Unit in 2018/19 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 2019.</p>
3.3	<p>The programme also includes a number of specific 2018 events supported by the Council. These have been previously approved at the City Growth and Regeneration Committee in October 2017 and includes: BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards (4 April, Belfast Waterfront Hall); the BBC Biggest Weekend (25 & 26 May, Titanic Slipways) and the BBC Proms in the Park (8 September, Titanic Slipways). In addition, Committee agreed to support the World Vespa Gathering (14 – 17 June 2018) at its meeting in June 2017 and the Royal Scottish Pipe Bands Association's UK National Piping Championships at Stormont Estate (agreed by Council in January 2015).</p>
3.4	<p>There is also a significant grants programme for cultural and sporting events across the city. The draft 2018/19 programme will create additional revenue for the City via participant and attendee expenditure, but also profile the city to domestic, national and international audiences (see 3.1 for the 2017/18 draft outputs).</p>
3.5	<p>The cost of the draft programme for 2018/19 is £1,227,114 and this amount is contained within the existing Departmental revenue estimates that were agreed at the City Growth & Regeneration Committee on 10 January 2018 and subsequently at Strategic Policy & Resources Committee on 19 January 2018. Therefore, this report is presented to Members to allow for planning of the 2018/19 to be undertaken.</p>
3.6	<p>Members are reminded that the strategic review of Events and Festivals is nearing completion with an outline draft to be presented at the next Committee meeting. This strategic review will align to the key ambitions included within The Belfast Agenda as well as the draft Programme for Government. Therefore, it is anticipated, subject to the Members' approval of the Events and Festivals review, that the 2018/19 Council programme will potentially be the last year of the current programme format.</p>

3.7	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>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>
3.8	<p><u>Equality & Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>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	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Proposed BCC City Events Unit: Events Programme 2018/19</p>