



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Request for Funding – City of Belfast Youth Orchestra 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour
<b>Date:</b>	28 November 2014
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Mark McBride, Head of Finance and Performance

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on the 21 November 2014, considered a request for financial assistance from the City of Belfast Youth Orchestra towards the cost of a tour to the East Coast of the USA from 14-23 July 2015 to celebrate their 60 <sup>th</sup> anniversary.
2.2	Under Section 37 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, the council has discretion to consider exceptional requests for financial assistance. A small, special expenditure budget (Grants and Subscriptions) within the Finance and Resources Department makes provision for such requests providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The council has the statutory authority to make such payments</li><li>• Assistance is not available from the remit of another Committee</li></ul>
2.3	The criteria for assessing requests for assistance which would fall within the council's special expenditure budget were approved by the Policy and Resources Committee on the 18 June 2004 and are included in the Appendix 1.

<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	As the event will be take place in 2015/16 any funding allocation will require the approval of the Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.
2.2	The Strategic Policy and Resources noted that on previous occasions the Committee accepted there was benefit to be gained from assisting annual overseas tours undertaken by the students from the Belfast School of Music and

	contributions of £5,000 towards tours by the City of Belfast Youth Concert Band and the City of Belfast Youth Orchestra have been made.
2.3	The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed that a recommendation should be made to the Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the Council makes a contribution of £5,000 towards the City of Belfast Youth Orchestra tour of the East Coast of America in 2015/16 to celebrate its 60 <sup>th</sup> anniversary.

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<u>Financial</u>
3.1	As the event relates to the financial year 2015/16, any decision to award funding requires the approval of the Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.
3.2	The City of Belfast Youth Orchestra had requested a contribution of £25,000 from the Council, however the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee recommended a contribution of £5,000 as had been made in previous years.

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b>
4.1	There are no equality implications associated with this decision.

<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	That Committee considers the recommendation of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the Council makes a contribution of £5,000 towards the City of Belfast Youth Orchestra tour of the East Coast of America in 2015/16 to celebrate its 60 <sup>th</sup> anniversary.

<b>6.0</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	If a contribution is agreed by the Committee, the Director of Finance and Resources will make the necessary payment in 2015/16.

<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 – Report to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the 21 November 2014.