



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	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>	21 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	This report presents a request for financial assistance from the City of Belfast Youth Orchestra (Appendix 1) 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.
1.2	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>
1.3	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 as Appendix 2.

<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	The Orchestra is seeking a contribution towards the costs of a visit to the East Coast of the USA from the 14-23 July 2015 to celebrate their 60 <sup>th</sup> anniversary which will include performances in New York and Boston.
2.2	The cost of the tour is approximately £180k and the Orchestra expect to receive £105,000 from individual contributions and £50,000 through corporate sponsorship and fund raising activities.

	A contribution of £25,000 has been sought from the Belfast City Council to make up the balance.
2.3	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 £5k towards tours by the City of Belfast Youth Concert Band and the City of Belfast Youth Orchestra have been made.
2.4	As in previous years the Committee has discretion as to whether to support this request. If assistance is agreed the Youth orchestra will be required to acknowledge the support from the council in publicity material etc.

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>As the event relates to the financial year 2015/16, any decision to award funding would have to be made by the Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. The Committee may wish to recommend to the Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee a contribution to the tour. The CBYO has requested a contribution of £25,000, a sum of £5,000 has been sum provided towards previous tours by the Council.</p>

<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 whether a recommendation should be made to the Shadow Strategic Policy Committee that the Council makes a contribution of £25,000 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 Deputy Chief Executive will submit a report to the Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the 28 November 2014.

<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 – Criteria for the assessment of requests for financial assistance. Appendix 2 – Request for Funding