



Subject:	2026 European City of Sport application proposal
Date:	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November 2024
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Noel Munnis, Partnership Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</b>	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Information relating to any individual</li><li>2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual</li><li>3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)</li><li>4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter</li><li>5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained</li><li>6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction</li><li>7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</li></ol>	
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
<b>After Committee Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>After Council Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Sometime in the future</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Never</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
	To members with a proposal that Belfast City Council should submit an application nominating Belfast to be designated European City of Sport 2026.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1  2.2	<p>Members are requested to consider:</p> <p>The information provider below and approval for officers to pursue the application.</p> <p>Approval for a 'letter of intent' to be submitted before the end of 2024 in advance of a formal bid submission in 2025.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>Officers have identified an opportunity for Belfast to submit a bid through 'ACES Europe' to be designated as European City of Sport for 2026.</p> <p>"ACES is a non-profit association based in Brussels which assigns every year the recognitions of World Capital, European Capital, Region, City, Island, Community and Town of Sport."</p> <p>The bid process requires the provision of a 'letter of intent' which confirms the Councils intention to submit a formal application. The letter of intent is submitted through the Office of the Lord Mayor and is normally lodged two years before the anticipated year of designation. In this case, a letter of intent would be required before the end of 2024.</p> <p>The formal bid would be prepared and submitted during 2025 in time for the awards to be confirmed in the Autumn of 2025. The designated European City of Sport year would run from January to December 2026.</p> <p>Overall cost of the process would be circa £30,000 which includes bid and evaluation costs and 'in year' designation/branding rights. Any 'in year' costs would only be incurred if the bid is successful. Approximately 50% of the total would be required for the bid and evaluation process.</p> <p>Being designated as European City of Sport would provide an opportunity to showcase the excellent sports and leisure facilities/services provided by Belfast City Council along with the rich sporting heritage of the city. A year long programme of activities and branding opportunities would form the basis of the formal bid.</p> <p>The detailed bid would be presented for approval before the final bid is submitted to ACES Europe in the Autumn of 2025.</p>

3.2	<p><u>Outcomes and proposals</u></p> <p>Members are requested to consider:</p> <p>The information provider above and approval for officers to pursue the application.</p> <p>Approval for a 'letter of intent' to be submitted before the end of 2024 in advance of a formal bid submission in 2025.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Summary</u></p> <p>Members are requested to consider and record receipt of the information provided above and at Appendix 1. CNS officers will be in attendance to respond to any queries raised by members.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Communications &amp; Public Relations</u></p> <p>None</p>
3.5	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The proposed bid submission would cost circa £30,000. It is proposed that funding would be provided on a 50/50 bases shared between BCC and GLL. BCC funding would be covered within existing City and Neighbourhood Services budgets. No additional BCC funding will be required.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
4.0	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>None</p>