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| Subject: | Update on bid for Fleadh Cheoil |
| Date: | 6 th December 2023 |
| Reporting Officer: | John Greer, Director of Economic Development |
| Contact Officer: | Kerry Mc Mullan, Tourism and Events Development Manager |

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
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
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation, or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

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| 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 No

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| 1.0 | Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 | The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on ongoing Fleadh Cheoil bid work and seek approval for the necessary budgets as documented within. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.0 | Recommendation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.1 | Members are asked to: Note the contents of report and provide the necessary approvals. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.0 | Main Report | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.1 | <p>Fleadh Update</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to update Members on the ongoing Fleadh bid work and request associated budget.</p> <p>In recent weeks, Officers have developed an updated edition of the Fleadh Cheoil bid book and this will accompany our Expression of Interest for the 2025 event, which must be with the Fleadh Executive Office in Dublin by 15th December 2023.</p> <p>This updated iteration has been consolidated by feedback received on our previous submissions - it now includes an English version with Irish language headings, a separate full Irish language version and additional content inserted on Accessibility and Sustainability (as per previous bid submission feedback from Comhaltas).</p> <p>At CG&R on 14th June 2023, Committee noted the update on the bid for the Fleadh Cheoil, gave necessary approval for Officers to continue with the bid process for future years, approved the budget for 2023-24 associated with the bid process (including attendance of a delegation at each event including attendance by Lord Mayor at the Fleadh Cheoil in Mullingar in August) and noted the costs associated with bid activity for 2024-25 and 2025-26.</p> <p>Since then, the 2024 / 2025 calendar of Fleadh related events has become available and is set out as below:</p> <p>The table also illustrates which events the Lord Mayor and other Council Officials may need to attend.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Comhaltas HQ Christmas Dinner 2023</td> <td>Dublin</td> <td>Saturday 9 December 23</td> <td>Lord Mayor, Chief Executive, Director</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ulster Convention</td> <td>Dun Uladh Centre, Omagh</td> <td>Sunday 18 February 24</td> <td>Director, Senior Manager</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GB Convention</td> <td>London</td> <td>Friday 1 – Sunday 3 March 24</td> <td>Senior Manager</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HQ Comhaltas Congress</td> <td>Sligo</td> <td>4 – 5 May</td> <td>Director</td> </tr> <tr> <td>US Convention</td> <td>Buffalo, New York</td> <td>4 – 7 April 2024</td> <td>Director</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Ireland Fleadh</td> <td>Wexford</td> <td>4 – 12 August 2024</td> <td>Lord Mayor, Chief Executive, Director, Senior Manager and various Officers (tbc)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Comhaltas HQ Christmas Dinner 2024</td> <td>Dublin</td> <td><i>Possibly Saturday 7 December 24 (tbc)</i></td> <td>Lord Mayor, Director and various Officers (tbc)</td> </tr> </table> | | | Comhaltas HQ Christmas Dinner 2023 | Dublin | Saturday 9 December 23 | Lord Mayor, Chief Executive, Director | Ulster Convention | Dun Uladh Centre, Omagh | Sunday 18 February 24 | Director, Senior Manager | GB Convention | London | Friday 1 – Sunday 3 March 24 | Senior Manager | HQ Comhaltas Congress | Sligo | 4 – 5 May | Director | US Convention | Buffalo, New York | 4 – 7 April 2024 | Director | All Ireland Fleadh | Wexford | 4 – 12 August 2024 | Lord Mayor, Chief Executive, Director, Senior Manager and various Officers (tbc) | Comhaltas HQ Christmas Dinner 2024 | Dublin | <i>Possibly Saturday 7 December 24 (tbc)</i> | Lord Mayor, Director and various Officers (tbc) |
| Comhaltas HQ Christmas Dinner 2023 | Dublin | Saturday 9 December 23 | Lord Mayor, Chief Executive, Director | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ulster Convention | Dun Uladh Centre, Omagh | Sunday 18 February 24 | Director, Senior Manager | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GB Convention | London | Friday 1 – Sunday 3 March 24 | Senior Manager | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| HQ Comhaltas Congress | Sligo | 4 – 5 May | Director | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| US Convention | Buffalo, New York | 4 – 7 April 2024 | Director | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| All Ireland Fleadh | Wexford | 4 – 12 August 2024 | Lord Mayor, Chief Executive, Director, Senior Manager and various Officers (tbc) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | <p>Officers are now seeking permission to send the Lord Mayor and appropriate Officers to these events as detailed. Attendance is important to demonstrate the ongoing commitment from Belfast City Council and Ards CCE to securing Fleadh Cheoil.</p> <p>In particular, it is critical that approval is provided promptly to allow travel arrangements be booked as soon as possible for the US Convention in Buffalo, New York in early April 2024 (which is within the first week of the new financial year). This would ensure optimum value for money in the booking process and to allow for synergy between the travel plans of BCC delegation and that of Ards CCE. For the appropriate Director detailed as above, costs are expected to be circa £2,500 for attendance at the US Convention.</p> <p>The in-year Events Development Budget (£40,000) has to-date covered the costs of the Ards Letter of Offer in-year, and other Fleadh bid book work to date including translation, design and print costs. In addition, members agreed to provide a Eurovision event in Belfast in May from this budget line. While some budget remains (circa £7,000), a full Fleadh Executive visit is also planned for Belfast within the first financial quarter of 2024, which needs to be accounted for in budget profiling.</p> <p>Members are therefore asked to agree additional budget to accommodate the arrangements for the US Convention in - year to a value of £2,500.</p> <p>3.2 <u>Ards CCE</u></p> <p>Members will be aware that under the conditions of the current in-year Funding Agreement with Ards CCE, the branch are responsible for making their own travel and accommodation arrangements. This includes for the US Convention at the beginning of April 2024. Officers are working with Finance and Legal to ensure the early release of appropriate funds from the 2024 /2025 financial year are processed to enable flights and accommodation bookings to proceed (circa £22k).</p> <p>3.3 <u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Members are asked to note the new financial implications detailed within this report.</p> <p>3.4 <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are currently no Equality or Good Relations implications.</p> |
| 4.0 | Appendices - Documents Attached |
| | N/A N/A |