



Subject:	Overview of Council Support for Festivals and Events
Date:	12 April 2017
Reporting Officer:	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
Contact Officer:	Lisa Toland, Head of Economic Initiatives and International Development

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"/>
Some time 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 or Summary of main Issues
1.1	At the February 2017 meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, the City Events Programme for 2017/18 was approved. This sets out the key events to be organised and delivered by the Council's City Events Unit. These include the Titanic Maritime Festival, Halloween and St Patrick's Day.
1.2	At that meeting, Members asked for additional details on other events and festivals supported to include events and festivals supported and delivered by the Council as well as those supported financially by the Council but delivered by others. Members also asked for performance indicators against the range of support provided by the Council.

1.3	The purpose of this report is to present an overview of events and festivals supported through the various Council funding streams and to set out the outcomes from this investment across the different funding streams.															
2.0	Recommendations															
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note the details of Council support for festivals and events through the range of funding streams set out in section 3 of the report. 															
3.0	Main report															
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Members may be aware that the Council supports a range of cultural, sporting and activity-based events through a number of grant programmes and funding streams. An overview of the grant schemes, as well as the available annual budgets is set out below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="240 1016 1453 1957"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="240 1016 620 1137">Programme/funding stream</th> <th data-bbox="628 1016 999 1137">Aim/purpose</th> <th data-bbox="1007 1016 1453 1137">Overall budget allocation 2016/17</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="240 1137 620 1373">Core Multi-annual funding</td> <td data-bbox="628 1137 999 1373">Core multi-annual funding supports the core activities of arts and heritage organisations who deliver on the four themes of the Council's Cultural Framework</td> <td data-bbox="1007 1137 1453 1373">£1,450,592 (of which £424,000 was core funding to festival organisations)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="240 1373 620 1675">Community Festivals Fund</td> <td data-bbox="628 1373 999 1675">Joint funded by BCC and DC, this fund recognises the role that festivals can play in increasing social cohesion, celebrating cultural identity and strengthening community relations. The focus is on community-level events</td> <td data-bbox="1007 1373 1453 1675">£167,031 (of which 50% is provided by DfC)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="240 1675 620 1957">Parks Events Grants</td> <td data-bbox="628 1675 999 1957">This grant scheme aims to encourage more people to get involved in our parks and create a sense of ownership</td> <td data-bbox="1007 1675 1453 1957">£98,121</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="240 1957 620 1973">Sports Events Grants</td> <td data-bbox="628 1957 999 1973">Aimed at attracting major</td> <td data-bbox="1007 1957 1453 1973">£90,849</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Programme/funding stream	Aim/purpose	Overall budget allocation 2016/17	Core Multi-annual funding	Core multi-annual funding supports the core activities of arts and heritage organisations who deliver on the four themes of the Council's Cultural Framework	£1,450,592 (of which £424,000 was core funding to festival organisations)	Community Festivals Fund	Joint funded by BCC and DC, this fund recognises the role that festivals can play in increasing social cohesion, celebrating cultural identity and strengthening community relations. The focus is on community-level events	£167,031 (of which 50% is provided by DfC)	Parks Events Grants	This grant scheme aims to encourage more people to get involved in our parks and create a sense of ownership	£98,121	Sports Events Grants	Aimed at attracting major	£90,849
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		sporting events and assisting organisations with the delivery of these. Also aimed at increasing the number of events in the City's sporting calendar	
	Arts and Heritage Project Grant	Aims to support one-off arts and heritage projects that are new and that align with the Council's Cultural Framework	£36,178 to festivals and events-related activity; overall allocation was £160,000
	Active Belfast Grants	Support for events to raise awareness of the benefits of remaining active	£24,785
	Family friendly grants	Support for events to encourage participation by families	£15,337
	Festival of Learning events	Promoting events to encourage lifelong learning	£26,933
	Bonfire Grants	Supporting events to increase capacity or raise awareness in relation to issues of cultural expression	£52,835
	City Events (organised directly by Council)	Provide a year-round programme of city events to attract residents and visitors and to generate economic impact for the city	£917,000
	PCSP Grants	Support for activities to prevent, reduce or address ASB	£4,713
	Good Relations Grants	Supporting positive relationships within communities to address issues of sectarianism and racism	£45,900 towards events - overall allocation was £286,278
	Summer Intervention Fund	Supporting interventions to divert young people from involvement in conflict at times of heightened tension	£16,200 towards events: overall allocation £75,335
3.2	<p>The breadth of activity taking place under these various funding mechanisms is significant. Each of the funding programmes has a set of agreed criteria against which applications are assessed. Likewise, the impact measurements for each of the funds will vary, depending on</p>		

	<p>the objective of the particular funding programme. For example, while the City Events Programme run directly by the Council will measure economic impact in terms of visitor spend and bed nights, some of the smaller scale events will measure participant number (volunteers etc) as well as audience numbers. It is also important to note that, in most cases, the Council is only making a contribution to the overall costs of an event, as opposed to fully funding the event.</p>
3.3	<p>A breakdown of the various events and festivals funding programmes including the measurements used to assess their impact is attached as Appendix 1. Note – these figures are for the 2016/17 financial year. Some of the highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council-managed City Events programme generated in excess of £8million in additional economic activity for Belfast, attracting almost 330,000 visitors. - 15 festivals and events supported through Core Multi-Annual Funding (CMAF) for the period 2016-2020. Members should note that this funding provides core costs to the organisation to support their development work, rather than directly funding the festival activity. The cumulative total of this investment is £424,000 annually. - 33 festivals and events funded through the Community Festivals Fund in 2016/17. A total of £167,031 allocated. These events attracted a combined audience figure of almost half a million people (482,541) and almost 50,000 participants (46,140).
3.4	<p>Members will be aware that a strategic review of City festivals and events is currently underway. The purpose of this review is to consider how the Council, working closely with partners such as Tourism Northern Ireland, Arts Council for Northern Ireland and the Department for Communities can invest in a programme of events and festivals that can support the Belfast Agenda – which each of these organisations has also signed up to.</p>
3.5	<p>In parallel, a review of Council investment in grant activities is also under way. This review will consider – among other issues – how grant funding can contribute to supporting a vibrant programme of events in the city centre and in local communities. The review will also cover issues such as streamlining of processes and measures to ensure consistency around grant management.</p>
3.6	<p>While this latter review may bring about some changes in the focus of funding to support event activity, it is important to note that a number of the grant schemes are match-funded by other partners. As such, there is limited flexibility for the Council to make any significant changes to these grant funds without prior consent of the other partners. Given that many of these are</p>

<p>3.7</p>	<p>regional programmes, the ability to set local criteria is limited.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The funding allocations for each of the grant streams are approved annually by the relevant Committee. The fund administration is managed by the Central Grants Unit.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>All of the grant schemes are screened for equality issues. A number of the grant schemes focus directly on improving good relations.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p>Appendix 1 – Overview of Council support for festivals and events in 16/17 financial year</p>