



Subject:	Ad Hoc Request for Funding - Belfast Youth Cup
Date	20th August, 2021
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Finance and Resources
Contact Officer:	Ryan Black, Director Neighbourhood Services

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"/>
Sometime 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/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To bring to Members attention an ad hoc request for funding from Playing for the Future CIC in relation to the Belfast Youth Cup.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Members of the Committee are asked to recommend that, in accordance with the Council decision of 4 th May 2021, the Chief Executive exercise her delegated authority to consider the ad hoc request for finance.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Director of Finance and Resources has received a request from Playing for the Future CIC in relation to the Belfast Youth Cup. The organisation exists to bring people together to create opportunities for local children and celebrate diversity and provide "Playing for the Future Academy" in Lurgan and Belfast.

3.2	The Belfast Youth Cup was set up to help promote opportunities for local children to experience playing in an International Youth Tournament on their doorstep and showcase Belfast to a wider audience. Established in 2019 as a pilot programme which evolved into something much bigger than originally planned. The plan was to have 8 teams and we ended up with 24 from all over NI and ROI, plus Leeds United, Sheffield United, Hibernian FC (Scotland). 2020 was shaping up to have teams from NI, ROI along with professional clubs from England, Scotland, Denmark and South America. With 2020 being cancelled due to Covid the tournament suffered a huge hangover this year with 30% of revenues through team registrations being lost due to a knock on effect.
3.3	This year there are 120 teams from all over Ireland attending the event from Co. Kerry, Dublin, Tipperary, Mayo and Galway. Over 500 bed nights have been created with 45% staying in Belfast City Centre itself. There is a partnership agreement with Holiday Inn Belfast, which are fully booked throughout the duration of the tournament.
3.4	Playing for the Future CIC believes that the tournament showcases all that is good about the city of Belfast. The games are played at Seaview, Ulidia and UUJ. The budget for the tournament has been provided and shows expenditure of £43,794 and income of £14,550 with a net loss of £29,244. The request states, "If we are to lose money in 2021, the knock-on effect for 2022 will see us make major cutbacks including reducing the number of teams, to 24, as increased number of teams = increased costs. We also wouldn't be able to attract the likes of Leeds United, West Ham United, Sheffield United, Hibernian FC (who have all committed to 2022). In 2022, we are planning to utilise the facilities throughout Belfast to expand the tournament from 120 to 220 teams."
3.5	The tournament is organised primarily at the pitches at University of Ulster with games played and Seaview and two days of matches at Belfast City Council's Ulidia Playing Fields. The hire cost for Ulidia for two days at concession rate amounts to £544.
	Financial and Resource Implications
3.6	The amount of funding required has not been specified. If Members are minded to provide financial support, for example, by covering the £544 hire charges at Belfast City Council's synthetic surface pitch at Ulidia Playing Fields or making a contribution to support an element of the tournament deficit, then the cost will be charged to the Covid-19 reserve.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications
3.7	None
4.0	Documents Attached
	None