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| **Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council**  **To: Leisure & Development Committee** | |
| **Tourism Events Grant Programme** | **Date: 28thJuly 2015** |

**For Decision**

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| **Linkage to Corporate Plan** | |
| **Strategic Priority** | Building Prosperity |
| **Objective** | Secure the area as NI’s premier tourist destination |
| **Lead Officer** | Peter Thompson |
| **Cost:** (If applicable) | £166,265 |

**The purpose of this report is to seek Council’s approval for the additional discretionary grant payment for Tourism Events.**

**Background**

At the Council meeting dated 30th June, a report was taken to Council with recommendations for funding events under the Tourism Events Grants Programme for 2015/2016.

The June report relates to events from 1st July 2015 to 30th April 2016.

The key aims of the programme are to promote the delivery of high quality tourism related events that contribute directly to the Visit Economy.

The criteria set to enable qualification for this fund was developed by the Council's Events & Tourism Team.   The assessment and selection criteria applied has been based on the principles, aims and objectives and the eligibility process as set out in the Council's Grant Funding Policy which was approved by the Causeway Coast and Glens Shadow Council in December 2014.

Within the Report considered on 30th June 2015, titled Tourism Events Grant Programme, the following recommendations were presented by the Head of Service for Tourism and Recreation.

1. To award Tourism Events Small Grants to those that were successful in their application
2. To award Tourism Events Large Grants to those that were successful in their application
3. That a discretionary payment of £500.00 be paid to each unsuccessful applicant in this transitional year with no precedent being set for future years.

The following events were unsuccessful;

* The Ballymoney Drama Festival,
* The Ballymoney Motorcycle Show,
* The NI Ploughing Festival,
* The Charlie Gaile Festival of Darts,
* The County Londonderry Agricultural Show,
* The Portrush Summer Theatre.

In response to Members’ concern for the aforementioned unsuccessful events, Recommendation 3 has been reviewed, to facilitate the transitional process in the first year of the new Council.

**Recommendation.**

That the discretionary payment recommended in the June Council Report to each of the unsuccessful applicants in this transitional year is increased from £500 to £1000, with no precedent being set for future years.