

To: EDUCATION COMMITTEE		Subject: REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – SHOTTS HIGHLAND GAMES ASSOCIATION – 2017 GAMES
From: Head of Education Skills, Lifelong Learning & Youth Employment		
Date: 11 JANUARY 2017	Ref: LMcM/BP/EW	

**1 Introduction**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Education Committee with the details of a request for financial assistance from the Shotts Highland Games Association and to seek approval to award a payment of £5,000 to support the staging of the 2017 Shotts Highland Games.

**2 Background**

**2.1 Shotts Highland Games**

The Shotts Highland Games is a well-established event in North Lanarkshire. The event attracts competitors from all over Scotland and further afield to participate in the following aspects of the event: -

- pipe band competitions (Glasgow & West Scotland Branch Championships and the Shotts Open Competition);
- highland dancing competitions (National & Strathclyde level);
- athletics programme for primary school children; and
- highland games traditional heavy events.

**3 Considerations**

**3.1 2017 Shotts Highland Games - Programme**

It is anticipated that the 2017 Games will see over 40 bands participate in the Grade 1, Grade 2, Grade 3, Grade 4, juvenile and novice sections, along with the drum major competitions. Committee is asked to note that these competitions are structured particularly to encourage young bands to take part.

The National and Strathclyde Highland Dancing competitions have in previous years attracted hundreds of young people to perform traditional Scottish dances including: highland fling, the sword dance Seann Trubhais and Strathspey.

The event also includes a full programme of track and field events aimed at primary school children in North Lanarkshire. Shotts Highland Games is one of only a few games where the traditional heavy events of Scots hammer, putting the shot and the caber are a feature.

The Shotts Highland Games Association estimate that the total cost of staging the pipe band competitions at the games on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2017 will be £7,500 and they have asked the council to consider a contribution towards this cost.

### **3 Corporate Considerations**

#### **3.1 Financial Implications**

An award towards the cost of staging the Shotts Highland Games pipe band competitions can be accommodated within the grant awards programme.

### **4 Recommendations**

The Education Committee is asked to approve a payment of £5,000 to Shotts Highland Games Association to support the staging of the pipe band competition (Glasgow and West of Scotland Branch Championships and the Shotts Open Competition) at the 2017 Highland Games.



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