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| <b>Title of Report:</b><br><br><b>Castledeurg Young Loyalists Event</b> | <b>Officer Presenting: Director of Health &amp; Community</b><br><br><b>Author: Head of Community Development and Leisure</b> |
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## **1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations**

- 1.1 To update on Members' direction as follows: "that this Council undertakes an investigation into the sectarian singing and comments emanating from the Castledeurg Young Loyalist (CYL) organised concert on 9 July in Albert Street carpark, Castledeurg and brings back a report; furthermore, Council contacts CYL to have the loyalist flags and bunting removed" (C367/21).

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 Castledeurg Young Loyalists were awarded Good Relations Grant Aid (£4,000) and Alternatives to Bonfires (£1,000) funding to hold an event 'Castledeurg Fusion' in Albert Street Car Park, Castledeurg 9-12 July 2021, as part of the Good Relations Action Plan 2021-22, funded by The Executive Office under the District Council Good Relations Programme.
- 2.2 This event has taken place in the Car Park each year since 2018 with funding from Good Relations and the Peace IV Good Relations Engagement Project.
- 2.3 Castledeurg Young Loyalists (the organisers) complied fully with all terms and conditions regarding Council Grant Aid, liaising with Good Relations, Business and Culture, including SAG, where necessary.

## **3 Key Issues**

- 3.1 The organisers are aware that an individual, under the influence of alcohol, made sectarian comments following a performance by one of several acts on the night of 9<sup>th</sup> July. This was dealt with promptly by the Organisers.

- 3.2 The organisers contacted the Good Relations Officer following the event to explain this unfortunate incident and to distance themselves from any remarks made. They also explained that the bunting present, on the lamp posts surrounding the car park, had been erected prior to the event by individuals unknown. This was to mark the Centenary of Northern Ireland in the month of April and therefore was not connected to the 'Castleberg Fusion' event 9-12 July for which Council funding was awarded.
- 3.3 Whilst this incident was unfortunate, it could not be determined to be a fault of the Organisers. The incident was dealt with promptly as far as was possible and the organisers offered both an explanation and apology to the public and to Council as the funder.
- 3.4 The organisers voluntarily made contact with Council and with local representatives who had been made aware of the incident. As there was no breach of the Terms and Conditions of Council Good Relations Grant Aid Letter of Offer it is proposed that Council do not withhold funding.

#### **4 Implications**

##### **Equality, Rural Needs, Climate Change and Data Protection**

- 4.1 None.

##### **Financial, Legal, HR, Improvement and Other**

- 4.2 None.

#### **5 Recommendations**

- 5.1 That Members note the update and approve that Grant Aid payments are made to Castleberg Young Loyalists in line with the terms and conditions of their Letter of Offer within the Good Relations Grant Aid Programmes.

#### **Background Papers**

Appendix 1: Funding breakdown

C367/21