



Subject:	Request for use of City Hall grounds for various events in 2026
Date:	23 January 2026
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Christopher Burns, Interim Functions and Exhibition Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input type="checkbox"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime 	
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
<p>After Committee Decision</p> <p>After Council Decision</p> <p>Sometime in the future</p> <p>Never</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	<p>To consider requests from various clients for the use of City Hall grounds;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yom HaShoah Holocaust Memorial Event – 12 April 2026 • Belfast Photo Festival – 1 June 2026 – 30 June 2026

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Cancer Breast Foot Forward Walk – 5 June 2026 • Féile Rock’s Pride Concert – TBC
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Authorise the use of City Hall grounds on the dates noted above. 2. Authorise the events to take place on the basis of submission of an event management plan and risk assessment to ensure delivery of a safe public events.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Background Information</u></p> <p>Members will be aware that requests for the use of City Hall are normally dealt with under the authority delegated by the Committee to the Director of Legal and Civic Services using criteria agreed for this purpose. Occasionally however, it is necessary to place such requests directly before the Committee and the requests set out below falls into this category.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>A number of requests have been received for events over the summer 2026 period and this report seeks to update members on larger events using City Hall grounds, due to the larger scale of activities involved it is deemed necessary to seek Committee approval.</p>
3.3	<p><u>The Proposed events</u></p> <p>The proposed events would take place on the front lawns only and areas such as the Titanic Garden and Cenotaph will remain open to the public. Access to the City Hall building will not be affected.</p>
3.4	<p>The events would be free to enter. In each case the organisers would be providing all stewarding/marshalling staff & first aiders and would of course have to comply with the usual conditions including indemnities for damage and submission of a formal event management plan.</p>
3.5	<p><u>12 April 2026 - “Yom HaShoah” Holocaust Memorial Event</u></p> <p>This event has been successfully accommodated in City Hall grounds 5 times since 2018. The event organised by March of Life UK brings around 200 people together with some speeches and music around the theme of Holocaust Memorial. The event lasts for around 1 hour. The grounds are accessible throughout the event to visitors and previous events have taken place in the grounds without incident.</p>

1 June 2026 – 30 June 2026 – Belfast Photo Festival - Outdoor Exhibition

3.6 The organiser of the Belfast Photo Festival (BPF) has asked to have place a photographic exhibition in the grounds of the City Hall from 1 – 30 June 2026. City Hall has hosted a display by the festival annually since 2014. Exhibition content will be placed across the West allowing the East lawn to remain available for recreational use and for other events to be hosted. The theme for 2026 Photo Festival exhibition is ‘Horizons’ and will invite artists and audiences to consider what lies beyond our present environmental, social, economic, technological and geopolitical boundaries. There will be 6 exhibition framework structures installed on the West Lawn of City Hall grounds on 1 June and dismantled on 30 June 2026. It would be free for members of the public to view daily in line with the opening times of the grounds. Belfast Photo Festival have a dedicated Front of House Team who will be roaming throughout their open-air public exhibitions across the city. They will engage with visitors/ publics to talk about the work, as well as ensure any maintenance, graffiti or other issues arising. Good Relations and Corporate Communications will review the exhibition images included in the proposal but presently no negative good relations implications identified that should stop the exhibition being hosted at City Hall. A copy of the exhibition proposal is included in Appendix 1.

5 June 2026 - “Breast Foot Forward” Charity Walk

3.7 The Breast Foot Forward walk has taken place at City Hall since 2014, it is Action Cancer’s flagship fundraising event and raises circa £60,000 each year. City Hall is the starting point for the event with entertainment and warm up activities before 800 participants take part in 5k or 10k walk around Belfast returning to City Hall as the end point. An annual event in City Hall calendar and delivered without incident.

25 July 2026 – “Féile Rock’s Pride” Concert

3.8 The annual “Féile Rock’s Pride” event is organised by Feile an Phobail featuring local young and emerging bands from all sections of the community and the type of music played includes Rock, Blues, Heavy Metal, Rap Ska and Reggae. The organisers require use of the grounds between 8.00am and 7.30pm for stage and sound set ups and strip downs. The event itself takes place between 2.00pm and 6.00pm. Depending on the weather the event could attract up 2,000 people. The profile of those attending includes family and followers of the bands, plus local and overseas visitors in the city for the day. plan etc. Previous events have taken place in the grounds without incident.

	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.9	There would be no costs for the council as the various organisers would bear any/all stewarding and equipment costs etc themselves. The utilities costs on the day are of a very minor nature and the normal event support in the form of electrical and water provision in the grounds will be provided.
3.10	There are no concerns from an asset management point of view, although the organisers would be required to provide the usual insurances, indemnities, and obligations.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.11	Good Relations will review the exhibition content within Photo Festival request, but it is not envisaged that there will be any direct good relations, equality or rural needs implications arising from this report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Exhibition Proposal Belfast Photo Festival 2026