



Subject:	Belfast Christmas Market set up
Date:	23 September 2016
Reporting Officer:	Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
Contact Officer:	Donal Durkan, Director of Development

Is this report restricted?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide Members with additional detail on the request from Marketplace Europe (MPE) to start the pre-build of the Belfast Christmas Market on the East Lawn of City Hall grounds on 7 November 2016.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Note and approve the pre-build of Belfast Christmas Market chalets on the East Lawn of City Hall from 7 November.• Approve the screening off of the East Lawn to cover the works in advance of the 13 November Remembrance Sunday service, in line with the design proposals presented at the meeting. Panels will be used for this partition.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> Members will be aware that Belfast City Council has hosted Christmas Markets in the grounds of the City Hall since 2004. The market is now synonymous with the start of Christmas and, in recent years, its opening has been timed to coincide with the Christmas lights switch-on.

3.2	At the August 2016 meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, Members were informed of a request from MPE to start a section of the pre-build on the East Lawn prior to the Remembrance Sunday Commemoration Service.
3.3	The reason for this request is that the Market will expand to the area in front of City Hall for the first time this year. The operator will erect a number of new “chalet”-type units along the perimeter railings. They have also invested in new chalets for some of the internal layout. The additional build requirements mean that their set-up time will be extended.
3.4	MPE have requested access to the site on Monday 7 November to start the pre-build work, focusing on the construction of the chalets on the East Lawn. Work would continue until 11 November and, at this point, the East Lawn would be screened off with panels. The work would be carried out with minimum levels of disruption and no work would be carried out during the observance of armistice day on 11 November or during the cross-laying ceremony on 7 November morning. There will be a security presence on-site at all times during the pre-build.
3.5	They have offered to screen off the area by erecting a 10ft high panel, this work will take place on Thursday 10 November. The panel would be dressed with an appropriate design. City Hall officials have confirmed that this proposal for early access does not present any significant facilities management challenges for them.
	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.6	No costs to Belfast City Council. The costs for the screens will be covered by MPE.
	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p>
3.7	No specific equality or good relations implications.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
4.1	None