



Subject:	Approval of Markets Licence		
Date:	11 February 2026		
Reporting Officer:	Keith Forster, Director of Economic Development		
Contact Officer:	Clodagh Cassin, Markets Development Manager		
Restricted Reports			
Is this report restricted?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?			
After Committee Decision		<input type="checkbox"/>	
After Council Decision		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Some time in the future		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Never		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Call-in			
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues		
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the granting of a market licence for markets to take place at Belfast Castle.		
2.0	Recommendations		
2.1	Members are asked to approve the granting of a licence to The Artisan Market to hold markets on multiple dates over the coming year at Belfast Castle.		
3.0	Main Report		
3.1	Belfast City Council has exclusive rights to hold markets in Belfast. Anyone wishing to operate a market or car boot sale within Belfast must apply to the council for permission to do so.		

3.2	The Markets Unit has received an application from Artisan Markets NI to hold a number of markets in Belfast Castle over the period April to November 2026. Around eight markets are scheduled, each involving around 40 stalls for shopping, crafts and food will take part in this market. Visitors will be able to purchase goods on the day.
3.3	The organisers have been successfully running artisan craft markets in various locations since 2014 and currently operate regular markets in Portballintrae, Greyabbey, Killyleagh and Greenisland. As makers themselves, they are passionate about promoting and encouraging appreciation of the wide variety, originality and incredibly high quality of goods created by artists, creators and producers in Northern Ireland.
3.4	Their proposal is to run markets on eight dates, from 11.00 am until 4.00 pm, through 2026. Indicative dates are: 19 April, 21 June, 19 July, 2, 8 and 9 August (to coincide with the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann), 13 September and 28 November, with a selection of around 36 stalls at each market. In line with the 10 September 2025 Committee approval on this, it will require “multiple markets” licence, at a cost of £1,250 to the event organisers.
3.5	In addition to their own mutli-event insurance, each of their vendors will be required to hold Public & Product Liability Insurance with cover of at least £5million. All vendors are also required to provide proof of compliance with other regulations, for example Food Safety, General Product Safety Regulations, Cosmetic Certification, CE Toy Safety.
4.0	Finance & Resource Implications
	The licence will be granted and managed by the Markets Team. The income generated for the council from the licence will be £1,250. Separate venue hire fees will be payable to Belfast Castle.
5.0	Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment
	No specific equality or good relations implications – the market will be open to visitors from all areas.
6.0	Appendices
	None.