



Subject:	Request for long term loan of Strand Cinema Key
Date:	22 May 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 									
<p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 20%;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Never	<input type="checkbox"/>								

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	Members may be aware that occasionally requests are received from outside bodies to

<p>1.2</p> <p>1.3</p> <p>1.4</p>	<p>borrow an individual piece of art or an artefact item from the City Hall Art and Artefact Collection. Most requests are relatively straightforward and are for short periods, dealt with by the relevant officers, and items are loaned subject to the proper loan agreement and insurance arrangements being in place.</p> <p>However, a request has recently been received for a longer-term loan from Mimi Turtle, Chief Executive of The Strand Arts Centre for the loan of the Strand Cinema opening commemorative key and presentation box.</p> <p>This key is not on general display in the City Hall and is currently in storage. The key is not believed to be of significant financial value but of course is of interest from a social historical perspective and is one of a number presented to Lord Mayors during the picture house boom of the 1920s and 30s in the collection.</p> <p>The Strand Arts Centre have confirmed they will have a museum grade cabinet in place for the display of historic artefacts and so the items display would be both appropriate and secure.</p>
<p>2.0</p>	<p>Recommendations</p>
<p>2.1</p>	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the request as outlined above by the Strand Arts Centre
<p>3.0</p>	<p>Main report</p>
<p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p>	<p><u>Background Information</u></p> <p>Members will be aware that the restoration of the Strand is one of the Council's major capital projects due to complete this year. The renovated Strand will reopen in Autumn 2026, and will feature a new heritage exhibition in the heart of the building, celebrating N.Ireland and Belfast's picture house past.</p> <p>Sir Crawford McCullagh, then Lord Mayor of Belfast, attended the original opening of the Strand in December 1935 and was presented with a commemorative key at the opening, which is currently owned by Belfast City Council. The Strand Arts Centre management have requested if it might be possible for the restored venue to receive the key and accompanying presentation case on a long-term loan for display in their new heritage exhibition. The Arts Centre have confirmed they have a museum grade cabinet so would be able to store and display the items securely.</p> <p>The Arts Centre believe the items would be a fascinating display for their visitors and would help tell the story of the Strand's and wider Belfast's picture house past. They also feel it would be a great opportunity to stress the ongoing links between the Council and the Strand given that BCC are leading the delivery of the capital works and have been a key funder through the Belfast Investment Fund.</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p>

3.5	<p>The key issue is whether the Committee is minded to approve this request to loan the key and presentation box to the Strand Arts Centre.</p> <p>The loan period would be long term in nature. The appropriate legal agreement once agreed and in place it is suggested would then be subject to renewal every 3 years similar to loans of this nature that the Council has previously agreed to for other organisations. The loan agreement would specify any applicable transport, acknowledgement, conservation, display or insurance obligations by the Arts Centre.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>In terms of the loan there would be no costs for the Council as the Strand Arts Centre will bear all of the costs outlined in 3.2 and 3.5 ensuring the items are always appropriately insured. There are no concerns from an asset management point of view.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None.