

Public Document Pack

**Democratic Services Section
Chief Executive's Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**



**Belfast
City Council**

6th September, 2017

MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE - REPORT TO FOLLOW

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Tuesday, 12th September, 2017 at 4.30 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

SUZANNE WYLIE

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

7. Operational Issues

- (e) Request for use of Cathedral Gardens (Pages 1 - 2)

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Subject:	Request for The Use of Cathedral Gardens
Date:	12 th September 2017
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department
Contact Officer:	Rose Crozier Assistant Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department Brian McKinley, Events Officer Jackie Turkington, Community Parks Outreach 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The Committee is asked to note that the Council has received a request from Rally for Choice for the use of Cathedral Gardens.
1.2	Rally for Choice proposes to hold an event at Cathedral Gardens from 1pm to 5pm on Saturday 14 October 2017. This event will require the closure of all or a substantial proportion of the site and will involve speeches by the Rally for Choice organisation.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider if it wishes to support the use of Cathedral Gardens on 14 October 2017 to hold a Rally for Choice event.

	<p>If permission is granted the event on 14 October 2017 will be subject to the completion of the appropriate Event Management Plans and satisfactory terms being agreed by the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and on the condition that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the Event Organiser meets all statutory requirements including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety and licensing responsibilities. ▪ the Event Organiser shall consult with adjoining public bodies, the local community and the PSNI as necessary.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rally for Choice is an organisation based in Northern Ireland which campaigns for free, safe and legal abortion. • A small stage will be erected in Cathedral Gardens and a sound system will be in operation for the speeches. The event will include a samba band performance and face painting. • Organisers are expecting between 500 and 800 people to attend the rally, but limited information has been provided on crowd control measures. • The event may require the closure of the park. • The event may be deemed controversial. • PSNI have been made aware of the event and it is envisaged that a temporary street closure may be necessary.
	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.2	No implications have been identified.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u>
3.3	A decision to support this request may be observed by some to show tacit support for pro-choice organisations.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None