

Document Pack

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



10th March, 2015

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room (Room G05), City Hall on Friday, 13th March, 2015 at 10.00 am, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

SUZANNE WYLIE

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. **Routine Matters**
 - (a) Apologies
 - (b) Minutes
 - (c) Declarations of Interest
2. **Democratic Services and Governance**
 - (a) Requests for the use of the City Hall and the provision of Hospitality (Pages 3 - 8)
3. **Finance/Value-for-Money**
 - (a) Minutes of Meeting of Audit Panel of 10th March 2015 (To Follow)

4. **Human Resources**

- (a) Standing Order 55 – Employment of Relatives and engagement of agency workers (Pages 9 - 10)

5. **Good Relations and Equality**

- (a) Minutes of Meeting of Good Relations Partnership of 9th February 2015 (Pages 11 - 14)
- (b) Minutes of Meeting of Good Relations Partnership of 9th March 2015 (To Follow)

6. **Cross-Cutting Issues**

- (a) Motion re: Northern Ireland Driving Licences (Pages 15 - 20)

To: The Chairman and Members of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Requests for the use of the City Hall and the provision of Hospitality
Date:	Friday, 13th March, 2015
Reporting Officer:	Mr. Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (Ext. 6314)

1.	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members will recall that the Committee, at its meeting on 26th September, 2003, agreed to the criteria which would be used to assess requests from external organisations for the use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality. Subsequently the Committee at its meeting on 7th August, 2009, further amended the criteria so as to incorporate the new Key Themes as identified in the Council's Corporate Plan.
2.	Key Issues
2.1	The revised criteria have been applied to each of the requests contained within the appendix and recommendations have been made to the Committee on this basis.
3.	Resource Implications
3.1	Provision has been made in the revenue estimates for hospitality.
4.	Equality Implications
4.1	N/A
5.	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is asked to approve the recommendations as set out in the Appendix.
6.	Decision Tracking
Officer responsible – Kate McCafferty	
7.	Key to Abbreviations
Not applicable.	
8.	Documents Attached
Appendix 1 – Schedule of Applications	

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Organisation/ Body	Event/Date - Number of Delegates/Guests	Request	Comments	Recommendation
International Planned Parenthood Federation	IPPF Annual Conference Reception 25th June, 2015 Approximately 120 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception	Delegates will be staying in accommodation in Belfast and the meeting will take place within the city. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of wine and soft drinks Approximate cost £500
Queen's University Belfast	British Association for American Studies and the Irish Association for American Studies 7th April, 2016 Approximately 300 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception	Delegates will be staying in accommodation in Belfast and the meeting will take place within the city. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of wine and soft drinks Approximate cost £500
Primary Science Teaching Trust	PSTT International Conference 2016 9th June, 2016 Approximately 300 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception	Delegates will be staying in accommodation in Belfast and the meeting will take place within the city. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of wine and soft drinks Approximate cost £500
36th (Ulster) Division Memorial Association Arts and Cultural Society	Battle of the Somme Centenary Dinner 10th June, 2016 Approximately 350 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception	This event will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme and acknowledge the contribution and achievements of the 36th (Ulster) Division. This application was endorsed by the Diversity Group at its meeting on 3rd March. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership, Strong, Fair and Together' and 'Better support for people and communities'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of wine and soft drinks Approximate cost £500
Ni4Kids Limited	Ni4Kids Family Awards 29th June, 2015	The use of the City Hall and provision of hospitality in	This event will recognise the individuals and companies who constantly strive to	The use of the City Hall and provision of hospitality in the form of tea/coffee

	Approximately 250 attending	the form of tea/coffee and biscuits	<p>improve the lives of families with young children. Among the awards presented will be: Family Visitor Attraction of the Year; Primary School Teacher of the Year; Family Support Organisation of the Year; and Family Event of the Year. The individual family member award categories are an opportunity to recognise outstanding achievements in overcoming adversity and dedication by individuals to their families.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City leadership, strong, fair and together' and 'Better support for people and communities' and in addition would contribute to the Council's thematic area of Children and Young People.</p>	<p>and biscuits</p> <p>Approximate cost £625</p>
British Institute of Cleaning Science	<p>Northern Ireland Cleaner of the Year 2013</p> <p>14th September, 2015</p> <p>Approximately 50 attending</p>	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits	<p>This event seeks to acknowledge the vital role of cleaners across various industries in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The event will also aim to recognise those individuals who have been nominated within their respective industries for undertaking their duties to a high standard.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership, Strong, Fair and Together' and 'Better support for people and communities'.</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits</p> <p>Approximate cost £125</p>
The Fostering Network, Northern Ireland	<p>Fostering Achievement Awards</p> <p>19th September, 2015</p> <p>Approximately 200 attending</p>	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits	<p>This event will recognise the achievements of young people in foster care in Belfast. It will provide the opportunity to celebrate and encourage some of the most vulnerable young people in our society.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits</p> <p>Approximately cost £500</p>

			Council's Key Theme of 'City leadership, strong, fair and together' and 'Better support for people and communities' and in addition would contribute to the Council's thematic area of Children and Young People.	
Safeguarding Board NI and Parenting NI	Launch of "The More You Know, The More You See" 21st April, 2015 Approximately 120 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits	This event will provide the opportunity to launch the Northern Ireland showing of "Chelsea's Choice" a hard-hitting forty minute theatre production which has proven highly successful in raising awareness amongst young people of the issues surrounding child sexual exploitation. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City leadership, strong, fair and together' and 'Better support for people and communities' and in addition would contribute to the Council's thematic area of Children and Young People.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits Approximate cost £300
Community Places and Ulster University	Launch of: Community Participation in Planning Erasmus+ Partnership Project 23rd April, 2015 Approximately 60 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits	This event will provide the opportunity to explore how people and communities can participate in the planning and delivery of public services and in the development of both community and local development planning This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership, Strong, Fair and Together' and 'Better support for people and communities'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits Approximate cost £150
Jigsaw Community Counselling Centre	Launch of "The heART Room" 8th May, 2015 Approximately 60 people attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits	This event will launch "The heART Room" a project funded by Children in Need which provides free art therapy to children and young people whilst providing a safe and confidential environment for the expression of their concerns. This event would contribute to the	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits Approximate cost £150

			<p>Council's Key Theme of 'City leadership, strong, fair and together' and 'Better support for people and communities' and in addition would contribute to the Council's thematic area of Children and Young People.</p>	
<p>Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Industry</p>	<p>The Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Industry Annual Lunch</p> <p>18th June, 2015</p> <p>Approximately 400 attending</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall.</p>	<p>The Annual Lunch aims to provide a networking opportunity in order to encourage investment and business development opportunities for Belfast and beyond. The event, which will include representatives from both Local and Central Government, also seeks to facilitate discussion on economic and social regeneration.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together' and 'Better opportunities for success across the city'.</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall.</p>



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Standing Order 55 – Employment of Relatives and engagement of agency workers
Date:	13 March 2015
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources, ext 6083
Contact Officer:	Jill Minne, Director of Organisational Development, ext 3220
Relevant Background Information	
<p>In accordance with the authority delegated to the Director of Finance and Resources by the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee on 27 June 2005, the Director has authority to authorise the appointment of employees to the Council. These appointments are subsequently reported to Members of Committee for notation. At Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 21 February 2014 it was agreed to extend the Council's Standing Order (SO)55 reporting to include the engagement of agency resources from October 2014 on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>Standing Order 55 reports will therefore set :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • permanent appointments recruited by public advertisement or local government trawls and related to a Council officer; • temporary appointments recruited by public advertisement and related to a Council officer; and • agency workers engaged to cover posts on the Council's agreed staffing establishment structure and related to a Council officer. <p>Permanent and temporary appointments will be reported on a monthly basis and agency workers reported on a quarterly basis.</p>	

Table 1: Permanent appointees

There are no permanent appointees to be reported in this period.

Table 2: Temporary appointees

Name of new employee	Post appointed to / Department	Relationship to existing officer	Name of existing officer	Post title of existing officer and Department in which they work
Johnathan Davidson	Cleansing Operative / H&ES	Son	Paul Davidson	Assistant Manager / H&ES

Table 3: Agency resources

There are no agency resources to be reported in this period.

Resource Implications

Financial

Provision for this post exists within the revenue budget of the relevant department.

Human Resources

This appointment has been made on the basis of merit in accordance with the Council's Recruitment and Selection Procedures.

Asset and Other Implications

There are no other implications.

Recommendations

Committee is asked to note the appointment as authorised by the Director of Finance and Resources in accordance with Standing Order 55.

GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP**MONDAY, 9th FEBRUARY, 2015****MEETING OF THE GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP**

Members present: Councillor Hendron (Chairman); and
Councillors Attwood and Mac Giolla Mhín.

External Members: Mr. S. Brennan, Voluntary/Community Sector;
Ms. A. Chada, Voluntary/Community Sector;
Mr. K. Gibson, Church of Ireland;
Mrs. M. Marken, Catholic Church;
Mr. B. McGivern, Belfast City Centre Management;
Mr. P. Scott, Catholic Church; and
Mr. U. Tok, Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Toland, Lead Operations Officer/Head of
Environmental Health;
Ms. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager;
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer; and
Ms. L. Francey, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillor Reynolds, Ms. O. Barron, Mrs. J. Hawthorne, Dr. C. Hughes and Mr. P. Mackel.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 12th January were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Traveller Voices for Change - Presentation

The Partnership was reminded that, at its meeting on 12th January, it had agreed to receive from the Traveller and Gypsy Network N.I. a presentation in relation to the Traveller Voices for Change report. Accordingly, Mr. M. Donahue, on behalf of the Network, was welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman.

Mr. Donahue informed the Partnership that a report entitled "Traveller Voices for Change" had been based on the results of a mapping exercise which had taken place in April and May 2014. The views of Irish Travellers living in Northern Ireland had been sought on the extent of their integration into society and of the difficulties that they faced. The questions within the survey were based on employment, education, social inclusion and active citizenship issues. He highlighted that the most important 'priorities for change' among the respondents were:

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- improved access to education and better educational outcomes;
- a higher standard of accommodation and improved conditions on sites;
- an end to racism and discrimination; and
- better access to employment opportunities, particularly for young people.

During discussion, he explained that one of the key difficulties faced by the travelling community in Northern Ireland was the level of intolerance that they faced in leisure centres and bars. He stated that this was largely due to the fact that young travellers go out in large groups and that, often, large groups could be seen as intimidating to non-travellers working in these environments. A Member suggested that the Partnership should hear from the travelling community on an annual basis, as often problems like this were only brought to the attention of the Council when it was too late. A further Member pointed out that he was aware of workshops which had taken place in local schools across West Belfast in order to explain and dispel myths on the travelling community's culture and that they had been very successful in tackling intolerance.

The Partnership thanked Mr. Donahue for his presentation and he left the meeting.

Noted.

Interfaces Celebration Event

The Good Relations Manager reminded the Members that the Council had been responsible for the delivery of a PEACE III-funded programme addressing interface regeneration and that it had been completed on 31st October, 2014. Approximately £250,455 had been spent on delivering a mix of environmental schemes and artworks to nine interface sites across Belfast.

At its meeting in January, the Partnership had been informed that a celebration event would be held to acknowledge the work of the statutory and community partners in driving interface regeneration. The event would take place on Monday, 23rd March, 2015, and a budget of up to £1,000 would be required to deliver the event. The invitation list would include representation from the six IFI-PeaceWalls Programme-funded groups, representatives from the Department of Justice, the NI Housing Executive, the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister and community representatives who had participated in the delivery of the Interfaces Programme. The Lord Mayor, Chief Executive and Members would also be invited to attend.

The Partnership granted approval for the request for up to £1,000 to deliver the event and noted that it would be organised and delivered by Good Relations staff and hosted by Alderman Ekin and Councillor Kyle.

Good Relations Diversity Awareness Event

The Good Relations Manager advised the Partnership that, following a meeting between the Lord Mayor and Ms. A. Chada, from Partnership, the Lord Mayor had asked the Good Relations Unit to organise an event to look at Diversity Awareness. The

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Lord Mayor was keen that staff within the Council should promote cultural inclusion and incorporate diversity into their everyday roles.

As a result of that meeting, an event had been organised for Friday, 13th February, to be led by the Lord Mayor, which would look at Diversity and inclusion in relation to the role of the Council in the City. The event would be open to staff in the Council and would be delivered over lunch time, from 12.30p.m.

Noted.

Good Relations Action Plan 2015/16

The Good Relations Manager reminded the Members that, each year, the Council submitted an annual Action Plan to the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister (OFMdFM) in order to draw down funding for the Good Relations work of the Council. The Action Plan would be 75% funded by OFMdFM, while the remaining 25% would be included in the Council's 2015/16 budget. She explained that correspondence had been received advising that the Action Plan must be submitted by 27th February in order to be scored and assessed. She explained that the Good Relations Unit had updated the audit which had been carried out in January and February 2014, in order to incorporate any issues which had been identified in those areas which would come into the Belfast boundary from April, 2015.

The Partnership agreed to recommend to the Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it approves the Good Relations Action Plan 2015/2016 for submission to OFMdFM. The Partnership also noted that the Action Plan submission would be subject to alteration and amendment during the assessing and scoring process which would be undertaken by OFMdFM and that the Partnership would be notified of any changes in the final approved Action Plan at a later date.

Evaluation of Summer Camps/Schools

The Good Relations Manger provided the Partnership with an update on the development of a Summer Camps/Schools pilot programme as laid out in the OFMdFM's "Together: Building a United Community" Strategy. It was initially thought that 100 camps would run across Northern Ireland throughout the summer months of 2015, with a focus on sport and developmental activities.

As considered by the Partnership at its meeting in August, an independent evaluation of a range of projects had been commissioned by the Council on behalf of OFMdFM and had been undertaken by Wallace Consulting. The objective of the work was to map the various approaches to summer schools or camps across the different providers and to inform the design of the programme from 2015. She explained that a draft report of the Summer Camps evaluation had now been received from the consultants and that the most relevant chapters had been circulated to the Partnership to note. She outlined that the report advocated that the camps should:

- involve a wide mix of participants across Northern Ireland;
- target resources where they were most needed;

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- involve both urban and rural areas;
- look at different age groups; and
- give consideration to camps not being free of charge.

The report emphasised that pre and post engagement sessions would be crucial to the success of the camps as they would encourage positive, long-term relationships between the children. It also identified a range of potential delivery mechanisms, one of which was District Councils.

During discussion, some members expressed concern at the short-timescale between planning and delivering these camps. The Good Relations Manager confirmed that she would be meeting with representatives from the OFMdFM on 13th February and that she would report any further update on the timetable for the camps to the Partnership at the next meeting.

The Partnership noted the draft evaluation report of the Summer Camps/Schools Programme and the contents of the chapters as provided. It noted also that the report will be forwarded to OFMdFM for further consideration and action, and that it would be advised of the outcome in due course.

Date of Meeting

The Partnership noted that its next meeting would take place on Monday, 9th March.

Chairman



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Motion – Northern Ireland Driving Licences
Date:	13th March, 2014
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager, ext. 6314

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members will recall that the Council, at its meeting on 2nd February, passed the following motion, which had been moved by Alderman R. Patterson and seconded by Alderman Kingston:
1.2	<p>“This Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. expresses concern at the way in which the decision was taken by SDLP Environment Ministers to exclude Northern Ireland from the reforms currently taking effect in relation to the appearance of the Union flag on UK driving licences; 2. believes that such a decision is likely to harm community relations and cause hurt and offence to those citizens who would like to see such changes apply to their own driving licence; 3. calls upon the Minister to reverse his position and allow the changes to be implemented here; 4. believes that if the Minister is unwilling to embrace such change he should, as an absolute minimum, introduce an ‘opt out’ scheme, whereby those who do not want to have the flag appear on their licence can choose not to have it and everyone else can; and 5. recognises that failure to implement such a scheme would be unfair to those citizens who want the Union Flag to appear on their driving licence.”

2	Key Issues
2.1	A letter was forwarded subsequently to the Environment Minister, Mr. Mark H. Durkan MLA informing him of the Council's decision. A response was received on 18th February, a copy of which is attached.
2.2	The Minister points out that Great Britain and Northern Ireland Driving Licences are issued by separate and independent licensing authorities and that there is no UK licensing authority. In Northern Ireland, that function was transferred, under the Northern Ireland Act 1988, to the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Department of the Environment has responsibility under the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 for a range of matters relating to the licensing of drivers, including the form of driving licence.
2.3	The Minister then refers to correspondence which had, in 2012, been forwarded by the Department for Transport Minister, Mike Penning MP, to the then Environment Minister, Alex Attwood MLA, advising him of the Government's intention to display the Union Flag only on driving licences issued in Great Britain. Minister Penning had proposed, given the sensitivities around symbols, that the DVLA continue to print under contract Northern Ireland driving licences without any change to their existing design and had sought the Environment Minister's views in that regard.
2.4	Minister Durkan points out further that DoE officials had, subsequently, engaged with the DVLA to determine if it would be possible to offer applicants from Northern Ireland the option of either including or excluding the Union Flag from their licence. It had confirmed that the costs of making the required changes to the existing system to cater for Northern Ireland applicants would render that suggestion prohibitive.
2.5	The Minister concludes by stating that the Department of the Environment had received no further correspondence on the matter until the receipt on 23 rd December, 2014, of a letter from the current Department for Transport Minister, John Hayes MP, confirming that driving licences for Great Britain would continue to display the Union Flag and be excluded from those licences printed by the DVLA for Northern Ireland drivers.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	To be determined.

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	None

5	Recommendation
5.1	The Committee is requested to consider the attached response and take such action thereon which may be determined.

6	Decision Tracking
Democratic Services Section will follow up on any decision taken.	

7	Document attached
Response from Minister Durkan MLA	

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Suzanne Wylie
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Your reference:

Our reference: COR/1001/2015

18 February 2015

Dear Suzanne

I refer to your letter of 6 February 2015 regarding the Motion passed at the Belfast City Council meeting on 2 February 2015 in relation to the Union flag on Northern Ireland Driving Licences.

You may be aware that a similar motion was debated on the floor of the Northern Ireland Assembly on 27 January 2015. During this debate, I clarified that Great Britain and Northern Ireland driving licences are issued by separate and independent licensing authorities and that there is no UK licensing authority. Driver licensing is a transferred matter under the Northern Ireland Act 1988 and, under the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981, my Department has responsibility for a broad range of matters relating to the licensing of vehicle drivers, including the form of the driving licence.

In 2012, when the UK Government announced its intention to include the Union flag on Great Britain driving licences, Department for Transport (DfT) Minister, Mike Penning, wrote to my predecessor to advise him of this intention. Minister Penning's letter noted that driver licensing is a devolved matter but that the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) of DfT prints Northern Ireland driving licences under contract. Minister Penning [recognised the particular sensitivities around symbols here and proposed](#) that DVLA would continue to print Northern Ireland driving licences without change to the existing design. He asked for a view on this.

Further to this correspondence, officials in my Department engaged with DVLA to ascertain whether it would be possible to provide individuals with an option to choose whether to include or exclude the flag. DVLA however indicated that this would not be possible, as the costs involved in making the system and associated changes required to offer such a choice were prohibitive.

The response to DfT confirmed agreement to Minister Penning's proposal. This took account of the sensitivities identified in the Good Friday Agreement about the use of symbols and emblems here.

My Department received no further correspondence in respect of the UK Government's plans for GB driving licences until a letter from DfT Minister John Hayes dated 23 December 2014, indicating that the plans for GB licences would be announced over the Christmas period, and that Northern Ireland driving licences would continue to be printed by DVLA without the Union flag.

I hope this provides you with some clarity around the events leading up to the announcement by Great Britain to amend their licences.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Durkan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a long, sweeping underline.

MARK H DURKAN MLA
Minister of the Environment