



Subject:	Seachtain na Gaeilge/Irish Language Week 2023
Date:	17th February, 2023
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Sarah Williams, Governance and Compliance 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"/>
Sometime 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/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee of proposed events in the City Hall to mark Seachtain na Gaeilge in 2023.

2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to note and approve the planned events in the City Hall to mark Seachtain na Gaeilge in 2023.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>Seachtain na Gaeilge/Irish Language Week is marked every year from 1st till 17th March. Prior to COVID-19, the Council marked this by hosting events for schools in the City Hall. COVID-19 necessitated online events and content in 2021 and 2022. These events were always well attended and the feedback from participants was always excellent.</p>
3.2	The Committee will also be aware that the Council's Culture and Tourism team is currently engaged in the development of a programme to celebrate language and develop a series of events to mark Seachtain na Gaeilge, as part of its Extended Cultural Programme which was initially agreed in February 2022 and more recently by the City Growth and Regeneration Committee on 8th February 2023.
3.3	Officers from the Council's Legal and Civic Services Department are responsible for developing the Council's Language Strategy Action Plan, in consultation with other Departments and are supporting the work being undertaken by colleagues in the Culture and Tourism team. As part of that support, it is proposed to hold at least two events in the City Hall to mark Seachtain na Gaeilge. One of these will incorporate the inaugural meeting of the Council's Irish Language Stakeholders Forum. Officers are currently engaging with stakeholders about this event and a precise date will be confirmed in due course.
3.4	<p>The details of other potential events are still being considered but, in line with the Council's Language Strategy Action Plan will be aimed at bringing the Irish language community into the City Hall, particularly school children. Members will recall the recent successful Ulster Scots events which took place in November 2022.</p> <p>The Committee is asked to note the proposed approach.</p>
3.5	Any events will be met through existing budgets as part of the Language Strategy Action Plan.

4.0	Financial and Resource Implications
	This will be covered by existing budgets.
5.0	Equality, Good Relations or Rural Needs Implications
	These events will support the Council's compliance with equality, good relations and rural needs obligations.
6.0	Appendices N/A