



Subject:	Requests for the use of the City Hall Grounds for Events in 2024
Date:	24th November, 2023
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Aisling Milliken, Functions and Exhibition 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"/>

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To present the following requests from various clients for the use of City Hall grounds in 2024: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Action Cancer Breast Foot Forward Walk – 7th June• Pride Picnic – 20th July• Féile Rocks Pride Concert – 27th July• Belfast One Film Screening – 10th and 11th August• Belfast Mela Carnival Parade Party – 17th August
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is requested to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. authorise the use of the City Hall grounds on the dates listed above; and2. authorise the events to take place on the basis of submission of an event management plan and risk assessment to ensure delivery of a safe public events.

3.0	Main Report
	<p data-bbox="272 210 587 239"><u>Background Information</u></p> <p data-bbox="165 257 1474 443">3.1 Members will be aware that requests for the use of City Hall are normally dealt with under the authority delegated by the Committee to the Director of Legal and Civic Services, using criteria agreed for this purpose. Occasionally however, it is necessary to place such requests directly before the Committee and the requests set out below falls into this category.</p> <p data-bbox="272 510 419 539"><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p data-bbox="165 560 1474 694">3.2 Several requests have been received for events over the spring and summer period and this report seeks to update members on larger events using City Hall grounds, due to the larger scale of activities involved it is deemed necessary to seek Committee approval.</p> <p data-bbox="272 761 560 790"><u>The Proposed Events</u></p> <p data-bbox="165 824 1474 958">3.3 The proposed events would take place on the front lawns only and areas such as the Titanic Garden and Cenotaph will remain open to the public. Access to the City Hall building will not be affected.</p> <p data-bbox="165 1014 1474 1200">3.4 The events would be free to enter. In each case, the organisers would be providing all stewarding/marshalling staff and first aiders and would of course have to comply with the usual conditions including indemnities for damage and submission of a formal event-management plan.</p> <p data-bbox="272 1267 1070 1296"><u>7th June 2024 - Action Cancer Breast Foot Forward Walk</u></p> <p data-bbox="165 1317 1474 1554">3.5 The Breast Foot Forward walk has taken place at the City Hall since 2014. It is Action Cancer's flagship fundraising event and raises circa £60,000 each year. City Hall is the starting point for the event with entertainment and warm up activities before 800 participants take part in 5k or 10k walk around Belfast returning to the City Hall as the end point. An annual event in City Hall calendar and delivered without incident.</p> <p data-bbox="272 1637 1102 1666"><u>10th and 11th August 2024 Belfast One Cinema Screenings</u></p> <p data-bbox="165 1686 1474 2072">3.6 This event aims to encourage people to experience the city centre shops and hospitality while they are in town. Organisers will be offering attendees information about potential offers provided our business members. Belfast One plan to show 4 films per day. Films early in the day will be aimed at young children and families and later films at a slightly older audience. All films will be rated appropriately. The event will be ticketed and access managed. There will be a big screen and audio equipment and additional entertainment by way of face painting and film props. Previous events in 2022 and 2023 were very popular and delivered without incident.</p>

20th July 2024 Belfast Pride Family Fun Day

3.7 This event would take place on the front lawns would include a radio roadshow, various performers on a stage, food stalls and children's attractions. The event would last from 12 noon to 5.00 pm although access would be required earlier and later in the day for set ups and strip downs. The event would be free and the organisers estimate up to 5,000 people would be in attendance. Previous event in 2019, 2022 and 2023 were very popular and delivered without incident.

27 July 2024 Féile Rocks Pride Concert

3.8 A request has been received from Feile an Phobail to use the front lawns for the 'City Hall Rocks Back' event feature local young and emerging bands from all sections of the community and the type of music played includes Rock, Blues, Heavy Metal, Rap Ska and Reggae. The organisers require use of the grounds between 8 am and 7.30 pm for stage and sound set ups and strip downs. The event itself takes place between 1pm and 5pm. Depending on the weather the event could attract up 2,000 people. The profile of those attending includes family and followers of the bands, plus local and overseas visitors in the city for the day. plan etc. Previous events have taken place in the grounds without incident.

17th August 2024 Belfast Mela Carnival Parade Party

3.9 In 2022, ArtsEkta launched a new event as part of the festival titled '**Mela Carnival**, a spectacular opening to the festival and begin a series of 50 events across a full week which will culminate in the traditional event at Botanic Gardens. The 2022 and 2023 events were very successful and wish to host the event again this year.

A 800-participant carnival parade will begin at Writers Square, proceed onto Royal Avenue into Donegal Place and end at City Hall grounds. ArtsEkta request the use of the City Hall grounds for a free to access carnival party and celebration event for the participants, family/friends and wider audiences with stage entertainment, performers, food traders and carnival floats.

Financial and Resource Implications

3.10 There would be no costs for the council as the various organisers would bear any/all stewarding and equipment costs etc themselves. The utilities costs on the day are of a very minor nature and the normal event support in the form of electrical and water provision in the grounds will be provided.

There are no concerns from an asset management point of view, although the organisers would be required to provide the usual insurances, indemnities, and obligations.

3.11	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no direct good relations, equality or rural needs implications arising from this report.
4.0	Documents Attached
	None