



Subject:	Request for use of City Hall grounds for Belfast TradFest 2025
Date:	23 May 2025
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Aisling Milliken, Functions and Exhibition Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To consider request from TradFest for 5 day use of City Hall grounds between 28th July and 1 st August 2025.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is requested to approve the use of City Hall grounds between 28th July and 1st August 2025 for TradFest subject to the submission of an event management plan, risk assessment and the appointment of an event controller to ensure delivery of a safe public events.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Background Information</u></p> <p>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 request set out below falls into this category.</p> <p><u>The Proposed event – TradFest</u></p>
3.2	Belfast TradFest, described as “the pinnacle of world-class traditional music concerts, fiery pub sessions & Ireland’s fastest growing summer school of traditional music, is set to celebrate its 7th edition across Belfast UNESCO City of Music” from Sunday 27th July – Sunday 3rd August 2025.
3.3	TradFest is a registered charity and Belfast City Council funds the festival through it’s Cultural Multi-Annual funding, and organisers plan to use Belfast City Council branding for the site, if available.
3.4	As part of the festival, TradFest wish to host a 5-day family-friendly outdoor music stage on the grounds of Belfast City Hall from Monday 28th July to Friday 1st August, running daily from 1pm to 5pm. This vibrant stage will showcase the finest up-and-coming traditional music talent from Belfast and beyond. The event would take place from 1pm to 5pm each day and would be free to enter. There would be no catering, trading or sale of alcohol.
3.5	The proposed event would take place on the front west lawn only and areas such as the East Lawn, the Titanic Garden and Cenotaph will remain open to the public. Access to the City Hall building will not be affected. The organiser would provide an Event Management Plan, risk assessment, insurance, stewarding/marshalling staff & first aiders and would comply with the Council’s standard conditions for hire etc.
3.6	Sound levels from the outdoor stage would be monitored mindful of event proximity to the committee rooms, party rooms and Chief Executive’s offices.

	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.7	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 event 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.
3.8	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.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.9	There are no direct good relations, equality or rural needs implications arising from this report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None