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Subject:	Request for Boucher Road PF for an annual Easter Circus
Date:	Tuesday 04 November 2025
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services.
Contact Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director of Resources, Fleet and Open Spaces and Streetscene

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

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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/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The Committee is asked to note that Council has received two requests for the hire Boucher Road Playing Fields to host Circus events over the Easter period in 2026, 2027 & 2028.
1.2	Members should note that these event organisers are looking for the same dates over the next three years.
1.3	John Courtneys "Circus Vegas" has successfully delivered a circus event at the venue during the Easter break for the past number of years and their request was received by the department first.
1.4	Global Routes Limited has successfully delivered different themed circus events at the venue in November for the past number of years and are now seeking permission to return to the site at Easter time visiting the city twice a year.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to grant authority to John Courtneys "Circus Vegas" for the proposed event on the dates noted; subject to satisfactory terms and conditions of use being agreed via an appropriate legal agreement prepared by the City Solicitor, including managing final booking confirmation dates and flexibility around 'set up' & take down' periods, and booking amendments, subject to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The promoter resolving any operational issues to the Council's satisfaction. - The promoter carrying out appropriate resident & community engagement - The promoter meeting all the statutory requirements of the Planning and Building Control Service including the terms and conditions of the Park's Entertainment Licence.
2.2	The fee for the use of Belfast Parks is detailed in the departmental pricing schedule and is subject to change as part of the annual pricing review.
2.3	Please note that the above recommendations are taken as a pre-policy position in advance of the Council agreeing a more structured framework and policy for 'Events', which is currently being taken forward in conjunction with the Councils Commercial team.
2.4	<p>In the absence of a structured framework and policy for events; the Parks Events and Outreach team process event requests on a first come basis.</p> <p>Events that have sought multiple year approval will be subject to annual review. The Director of Resources, Fleet and Open Spaces & Streetscene is seeking authority under the scheme of delegation; approval to remove the permission for subsequent years based on officer recommendation if necessary.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.2	If agreed, the event organiser will be required in advance of the event to submit an event management plan for approval by the Council and all relevant statutory bodies. This will include an assessment of how the event will impact upon the surrounding area and measures to mitigate these impacts.

3.3	Requests have been received by two event organisers for the same period over the next few years.
3.4	Officers are making a recommendation to members based on the first application received.
3.5	Both organisers have demonstrated due diligence over the past number of years and have a good track record of delivering circus events aimed at families.
3.6	John Courtney's "Circus Vegas" has had residency at Boucher Road over the Easter period for the past number of years and has successfully provided family entertainment during the Easter holidays.
3.7	The circus will occupy the hard standing area only and therefore there is no risk of damage to the grass areas prior to the first concert due to take place in May or June.
3.8	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.9	A site license agreement will be drafted for the event in respect of issues such as damage, health and safety and a bond will be required from organiser to cover the costs of any potential reinstatement works.
3.10	A fee for the use of the site and a further 10% social levy contribution of the overall fee will be collected.
3.11	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no known implications.
4.0	Appendices
4.1	None