



Subject:	Application to provide outdoor musical entertainment beyond 11.00 pm at City Hall
Date:	20 May 2026
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning & Building Control, ext. 2300
Contact Officer:	Stephen Hipkins, Building Control Manager, Ext. 2435

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

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	<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 No

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To consider a request from Belfast City Council to permit the planned entertainment to run beyond 11.00 pm on up to 5 nights during the Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann events at the City Hall, running from Sunday 2 nd August to Sunday 9 th August 2026.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>Taking into account the information presented and any representations received you are required to consider the request to extend the hours of entertainment and, subject to all technical requirements being met, either:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree that entertainment should be permitted to take place beyond the standard hours of licence to 1.00 am on all five nights of the Fleadh; or 2. Agree that only on specified nights will entertainment be permitted to take place beyond the standard hours of licence to 1.00am and that the other requested nights be permitted to take place to an earlier specified extended hour; or 3. Refuse to extend hours on any night requested.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>City Hall has a 7-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence which has been used to hold events in the past. The Licence is held by the Ms Joanne Murray, Civic Services Manager, Belfast City Council.</p> <p>A Site Location Map is attached as Appendix 1.</p> <p>The days and standard hours during which entertainment may be provided both outdoors and in a marquee are Monday to Sunday from 11.30 am to 11.00 pm.</p> <p>In addition, the following Special Conditions are attached to both the Marquee and Outdoor Entertainments Licences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum numbers will be agreed at the discretion of the Building Control Service and will vary depending upon individual concert set up proposals. • Prior to any event taking place the promoters are required to demonstrate evidence of early consultation and have in place a robust system of dealing with any complaints, which has been agreed in advance with the Council. • Any requests to provide entertainment later than 11.00 pm must be considered by the Licensing Committee and therefore must be made at least 3 months in advance of the proposed event. • Should an application to provide entertainment beyond 11.00 pm be granted and the Council then receive a significant number of complaints regarding noise or the complaint is of such significant impact, authority is granted to the Director of Planning and Building Control, in consultation with the City Solicitor, to reduce the finishing time for any subsequent nights of the event, in which case the promoter will be required to make contingency arrangements.

3.5	Therefore, this request to provide entertainment later than 11pm must be considered by the Licensing Committee.
3.6	As this is not an application to vary the terms of the Outdoor licence, but a request for Council's permission to extend the hours under an existing Licence Condition, there is no requirement for public advertisement in this case.
3.7	The event organiser has indicated that outdoor music events are scheduled for the following nights, Sunday 2 nd , Thursday 6 th , Friday 7 th , Saturday 8 th and Sunday 9 th August 2026. The request is to provide entertainment to 1am on these five nights.
3.8	<u>Rationale for extended hours:</u> A rationale for extended hours beyond 11pm has been provided by the event organiser and is attached as Appendix 2.
3.9	A representative of the event organiser has been invited to attend your meeting.
3.10	<u>PSNI:</u> The Police have been contacted by the Service in relation to the event, however, a response has not yet been received. We will update Committee at your meeting.
3.11	Should Members be minded to approve the extended hours requested, this should be subject to a satisfactory response from the PSNI on the matter.
3.12	<u>Health, safety and welfare issues:</u> Officers have engaged with the event organisers and colleagues in the Fleadh events team in relation to the events and will participate in pre-event meetings.
3.13	An Event Management Plan for the Fleadh has been received and is being evaluated by the Service and shared with other colleagues.
3.14	<u>Noise issues:</u> A significant consideration for Environmental Protection Unit (EPU) will be the proposal to provide outdoor entertainment after 11.00 pm. Members are reminded that the
3.15	Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 gives councils additional powers in relation to entertainment noise after 11.00 pm.
3.16	The noise mitigation strategy will be discussed at the pre-event meetings.
3.17	The event organisers will be required to engage with an acoustic consultant and requested to document a noise mitigation strategy for each night of entertainment. The purpose of the strategy will be to demonstrate that noise from the event will not cause unreasonable disturbance to commercial and residential premises. Once received by the Service this strategy will be provided to EPU for appraisal.
3.18	The organisers will also be required to produce a suitable residents pre-notification letter containing a nominated event organiser contact that that residents may refer concerns or make complaints to. The extent of the letter's distribution, which will take place prior to the event will be agreed with the event organiser by the Service in consultation with EPU officers.
3.19	The event organisers will be reminded of the standard licence condition that receipt of significant complaints may lead to further late nights being curtailed. However, it can be impracticable during the festival to curtail further nights at short notice, and as complaints are not all received on the nights that are the subject of the complaint a full picture does not emerge until all complaints are collated, by which time the events can be concluded.

4.0	<p>Financial and Resource Implications None. Officers will carry out inspections before and during the events which will be catered for within existing Service budgets.</p>
5.0	<p>Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment There are no issues associated with this report.</p>
6.0	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 1 – Site Location Map • Appendix 2 – Applicant’s rationale for extended hours