



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Request for use of City Hall grounds – West Belfast Festival</b>
<b>Date:</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> June 2010
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	George Wright – Head of Facilities Management (Ext. 6232/5206)
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Gerry Millar – Director of Property & Projects

### Relevant Background Information

A request has been received from the organisers of the West Belfast Festival in respect of the use of the City Hall grounds for a young people's music event on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2010**. Members will be aware that the West Belfast Festival is financially assisted by grant from the Council's Good Relations unit.

The intention is to engage with the numerous young people who already typically congregate in the City Hall grounds in the summer months, and to provide facilities to present and promote music relevant to and suggested by the young people themselves. It is the view of the organisers that the target group of young people would normally have little or no interaction with West Belfast either geographically or culturally, and that this event would essentially be an outreach activity to a group not otherwise catered for by the traditional Festival activities.

The event would run from around 1pm to 5pm and is likely to attract several hundred spectators. The event would be promoted as a 'no alcohol' event, and the organisers intend to engage in significant outreach activities with the target group beforehand in this respect. The organisers will also be operating the event in liaison with both Belfast City Centre Management and the PSNI if approval to proceed is granted by the Committee.

In terms of the logistics of the event the organisers will be providing their own stage truck and will require a single phase electricity supply. No access to the City Hall main building is required. The organisers have confirmed that all equipment and personnel would be clear of the grounds by 6pm at the latest, and they have given the required assurances in terms of the provision of security cover and indemnity insurance. The young people would be using the grounds in any event so it is not anticipated that there would be any significant additional damage to lawns etc., and there are no events in the main building which would be adversely affected by the noise (although this could potentially be an issue for local traders, and the organisers have given assurances that this would be monitored and managed as necessary).

**Key Issues**

The key issue is whether or not the Committee regards this event as being appropriate for the City Hall grounds. Any approval granted would be conditional upon the organisers meeting the usual specific requirements attached to such requests.

**Resource Implications**

There are no significant resource implications as the organisers will be providing all necessary sound equipment and security/stewarding cover, and will not require access into the main building.

**Decision(s) required**

The Committee is requested to consider whether or not to permit the use of the City Hall grounds by the West Belfast Festival for the purposes set out above.

**Decision Tracking**

n/a

**Key to Abbreviations**

n/a

**Documents Attached**

n/a