



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources
Subject:	Announcement of Olympic Torch Run
Date:	15 April, 2011
Reporting Officer:	Peter McNaney, Ext 6002
Contact Officer:	Gerry Copeland, Ext 3412

Relevant Background Information	
	<p>A major announcement is to take place on 18 May, 2011 with regard to the selected route for the torch relays in relation to the 2012 London Olympics. The event will involve high profile celebrities and will take place at locations throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. It is expected there will be live broadcast coverage of the announcement on national breakfast radio and television programmes. It is proposed that this will be followed by regional events beginning at 11.30am which will then continue on until lunchtime and hopefully will attract live regional broadcast coverage on lunchtime news programmes.</p>

Key Issues	
	<p>The location of the main Northern Ireland event is still under consideration and the grounds of Belfast City Hall have been suggested as a possible venue. By the time the decision is taken it is likely to be too late to get council approval in a timely way to enable it to be organised. The committee is asked to provide delegated authority to the Chief Executive in order to ensure the event can proceed if the City Hall has chosen.</p> <p>The announcement would provide Belfast with national coverage across the UK and promote the City Council's involvement in the Olympics and other major initiatives in 2012.</p> <p>Members should be aware that Officers were only communicated details of the City Hall option on the 12 April 2011. Hence, the very late request and the need for delegated authority.</p>

Resource Implications	
	<p>The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games will book the celebrities and be responsible for transporting them to the event.</p> <p>Department of Culture Arts and Leisure has indicated that it will provide the budget to deliver the event.</p> <p>There will be no direct financial cost to Council, although the Council's Corporate Communications and City Events Unit would be required to have input and management of the event, if it were to be staged at City Hall.</p>

Equality Implications	
	None

Recommendations	
	Members are asked to give the Chief Executive delegated authority to approve the staging of an event to announce the route of the Olympics Torch Relay if Belfast City Hall grounds is chosen as a possible location for the announcement.

Decision Tracking	
	Members will be updated on the Torch Relay information at a future Committee once the London Olympic organisers provide details to Council.

Key to Abbreviations	
	None

Documents Attached	
	None