



**Belfast City Council**

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Strategic Policy and Resources Committee</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Request for the use of the Council Chamber</b>
<b>Date:</b>	22nd February, 2013
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Officer (Ext 6314)

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	The Council has received a request from a group representing the young people affiliated to each of the five main political parties (SF, SDLP, DUP, UUP & ALL) in Northern Ireland for the use of the Council Chamber for a political debate.
1.2	The Group wishes to hold the debate in March and would invite eight representatives from each of the five main parties, together with eight representatives from the PUP, to take part. That would mean 48 participants with other affiliated members of the parties being present in the public gallery.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	The use of the Council Chamber for events other than the monthly Council meeting requires the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.
2.2	The proposed event has the support of the youth wings of the five main parties. As such it is considered that the request should be supported.

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	Small cost for appropriate hospitality for the event which can be met from within existing budgets.

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b>
	None.

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	The Committee is recommended to approve the use of the Council Chamber for the political debating event in March, together with the provision of appropriate hospitality.

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager March, 2013.	