



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Strategic Policy &amp; Resources Committee</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Request for use of City Hall grounds by Disability Pride for a disability event</b>
<b>Date:</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> November 2012
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects, Ext: 6217
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	George Wright, Head of Facilities Management Ext: 5206

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	A request has been received from Disability Pride to hold a large scale disability related event, which will involve the setting up of staging and marquees in the grounds of the City Hall.
1.2	Members will be aware that the Committee has delegated authority for routine type requests for the use of the City Hall grounds to the Director of Property & Projects on the basis of an agreed set of criteria. However it was recognised that there would still be occasions when the nature, scale and/or scope of the request means that it is appropriate to place the matter directly before the Committee. This request from Disability Pride below falls into this category and the direction of the Committee is therefore sought.
1.3	<p>Disability Pride was formed in Chicago in 2003. Each year the organisation arranges a parade through the city to celebrate the lives of people with a wide range of disabilities. It also highlight ways of increasing accessibility for those living with a disability.</p> <p>Every year since its inception Disability Pride has asked a new city in the USA and Canada to join the network of those participating in the parade. For the first time, two European cities Madrid and Berlin were asked to join the network and held parades and post parade events earlier this year.</p> <p>Disability Pride has recognised the work of Trip-Ability.com a Northern Ireland based web company who they consider to be progressive on disability issues. Trip-Ability.com is dedicated to sharing experiences of travel, entertainment and products with the disabled community around the world. Michael Holden and Nigel Millen from the</p>

	<p>company were asked to host the first Disability Pride event in the UK and Ireland and they in turn have chosen Belfast city.</p>
1.4	<p>The provisional date for the parade is 20<sup>th</sup> September 2014. The parade will leave Custom House Square at 11am and make its way through High Street and Royal Avenue before finishing at the City Hall for a major event.</p> <p>The parade will consist of disabled people, carers, advocates and health care professionals.</p> <p>In the City Hall grounds an entertainment concert area will be set up on one of the grass areas with a retail and food village on the other. There will be a wide range of exhibits, family attractions and entertainment to keep everyone in the carnival spirit.</p>
1.5	<p>Disability Pride is a non profit organisation and the event is not a commercial venture. It will be delivered by the organisers in partnership with suitable disability related sponsors. Retailers will pay a nominal pitch fee for a space to offset the event costs for the day.</p> <p>Entrance to the event will be free and strictly controlled collection points for designated charities under the Disability Pride branding will be in place to allow members of the public to make donations.</p>

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	<p>The event will take place in the City Hall grounds between 12noon and 5pm on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2014. Due to the stage and marquee builds the grounds will be partially closed to the public the day before and after the event.</p>
2.2	<p>In addition to the staging and marquees, set ups will include the provision of ramps, toilets, food booths etc. There will also be a complete range of accessible toilets, a wheelchair MOT station for small maintenance and servicing, a fully accessible range of play park equipment and a doggy station for assistance dogs.</p>
2.3	<p>The main focus of the event will be around the stage area where a wide range of live music, comedic and radio entertainment will take place. The marquee will be occupied by retailers offering a wide range of goods for people with disabilities in addition to confectionery and toys. The marquee will also have space for a number of advice agencies.</p> <p>Outside the marquees there will also be space for larger disability goods retailers including Motability Cars. A food court will also be available to allow people to purchase a range of hot and cold foods and beverages.</p>
2.4	<p>It is anticipated up to 1,000 people will take part in the parade with a further 2,500 people visiting the City Hall grounds during the afternoon period.</p>
2.5	<p>If given authority to hold the event the organisers will implement a full Marketing &amp; PR campaign which will also include thanking Belfast City Council in providing the venue.</p>

2.6	The organisers are also considering hosting an event with a distinguished speaker the evening before or on the evening of the event and would also like to get use of a room within the City Hall.
2.7	The organisers of the event will be contacting the PSNI and the Parades Commission to seek the necessary permissions for holding the pre-event parade from Custom House Square.
2.8	The event will be planned and arranged by Grenville PR & Event Management. They have wide experience and have previously delivered a number of events in co-operation with Belfast City Council including the Sport Ni Activ8 Roadshow for the Belfast City Marathon.  A robust and detailed event management plan will be in place including the provision of risk assessments and health and safety, crisis and continuity plans etc.

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	The organisers will be providing all of their own marquees, stage builds and other infrastructures. The organisers have asked for the use of the electricity supply in the grounds and will cover the cost of power set ups and electricity usage. No other staffing or other resources will be required from BCC.
3.2	Full Public Liability insurance will also be provided prior to the event

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Screening</b>
4.1	The Screening form will be sent to the Equality and Diversity Officer in due course.  The event although focusing on members of the public with a wide range of disabilities is also open to the general public.

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	The Committee is asked to consider the request from Disability Pride to use the City Hall grounds on the 20 <sup>th</sup> September 2014 and to have use of one of the City Hall rooms either during or prior to the event.

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
Not applicable	

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
None	

<b>8</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
City Hall Concert & Retail Village Map	

