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| Subject: | Request for the Use of the Council Chamber and Reception Room |
| Date: | 23 rd June, 2017 |
| Reporting Officer: | Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager |
| Contact Officer: | Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager |

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| Restricted Reports | |
| Is this report restricted? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted? | |
| After Committee Decision | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| After Council Decision | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Some time in the future | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Never | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| Call-in | |
| Is the decision eligible for Call-in? | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| 1.0 | Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues |
| 1.1 | To consider a request from the Royal Institute of British Architects for the use of the Council Chamber and the Reception Room for its Annual Meeting in March, 2018. |
| 2.0 | Recommendations |
| 2.1 | The Committee is recommended to <ul style="list-style-type: none">• approve the application by RIBA for the use of the Council Chamber and Reception Room in March, 2018 for its Annual General Meeting. |

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| 3.0 | Main report |
| | <p data-bbox="272 226 421 255"><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p data-bbox="165 327 1469 757">3.1 A request has been received from the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) for the use of the Council Chamber in March, 2018 for its Annual General Meeting, which is held in different locations throughout the UK on an annual basis. In addition to the Council Chamber, RIBA have requested the use of the Reception Room for lunch for the delegates. If the Committee is minded to approve the application, then here would be a charge applied for the use of the Reception Room in the amount of £115 for a daytime small-scale event and the Facilities Management Section have confirmed that the use of the Reception Room for this purpose would meet the criteria for the use of the City Hall agreed by the Committee earlier this year.</p> <p data-bbox="165 831 1469 1010">3.2 Members will be aware that Committee approval is required for the use of the Council Chamber by an outside body. Although such approval is rarely sought, the Committee has recently approved such use both for the Queen’s University Students Union and the Belfast Youth Forum.</p> <p data-bbox="165 1084 1469 1211">3.3 The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) is a professional body for architects primarily in the United Kingdom, but also internationally, founded for the advancement of architecture. It currently has 44,000 members.</p> <p data-bbox="165 1285 1469 1615">3.4 RIBA is governed by a Council which consists of 60 members. Most of the Council members are from the UK but it also includes representatives from around the world. The Council holds its meetings in London but each year the Council seeks to hold one meeting in a different UK city. Last year the RIBA Council visited Edinburgh as part of a strategy to build stronger links with the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland. In 2018 it proposes to visit Belfast for the first time, building on its successful relationship with the Royal Society of Ulster Architects (RSUA).</p> <p data-bbox="165 1688 1469 1816">3.5 The RSUA is the professional body for architects in Northern Ireland and has an alliance with RIBA. RSUA is assisting RIBA with its preparations for the RIBA Council meeting being held in Belfast in 2018.</p> <p data-bbox="165 1890 1469 1973">3.6 RSUA believe that bringing the RIBA Council meeting to Belfast can help to:</p> <ul data-bbox="325 1939 1107 1973" style="list-style-type: none"> • Put a spotlight on Belfast as a place open for investment |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight the importance of good architecture to Belfast’s economic growth and the wellbeing of its citizens • Provide a platform to highlight to a UK and international audience the capability of Belfast’s architects and wider construction sector <p>3.7 The RIBA Council meeting in Belfast will not be a conference or seminar. <i>It will be a working Council meeting</i> and the issues for discussion/resolution will have a bearing on architecture across the UK and beyond. The requirements of the meeting are quite unique and align very well with the facilities that the Council Chamber can provide.</p> <p>3.8 Hosting the Council meeting in the chamber would demonstrate a very strong civic welcome to RIBA and substantially add to the occasion. The venue itself would help raise the profile of the Council meeting to the wider audience.</p> <p>3.9 Wider benefits from the RIBA Council meeting include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Power of a global brand talking positively about Belfast and Belfast City Council from both a tourism and investment perspective - RIBA Council members will be booked in with Belfast hotels and restaurants. The Council meeting will be held on a Friday to encourage Council members to stay on for the weekend. - Bringing many people to Belfast who have never been before and who may well not have chosen to visit Belfast without this meeting. <p>3.10 RSUA has plans to further deepen its engagement with Belfast City Council and to seek opportunities for partnership working.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>3.11 There will be no cost to the Council in approving the application and the hire charge to be applied will cover the overheads.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>3.12 None associated with this report.</p> |
| 4.0 | Appendices – Documents Attached |
| | None |