



Subject:	Request for use of City Hall grounds – Belfast Photo Festival Photographic Exhibition
Date:	23 rd March 2018
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects
Contact Officer:	George Wright, Head of Facilities Management

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"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	Members will be aware requests for the use of the City Hall grounds are normally dealt with under the authority delegated by the Committee to the Director of Property & Projects, using criteria agreed for this purpose. Occasionally however, it is necessary to place such requests directly before the Committee, and the request set out below falls into this category.
1.2	A request has recently been received from the organiser of the Belfast Photo Festival (BPF) to have a photographic exhibition in the grounds of the City Hall between the 1 st and the 24 th June 2018. The BPF is the visual arts festival of Northern Ireland and one of the leading photography festivals in the UK. Launched in 2011 the festival attracts 85,000 visitors across 24 city centre venues and is one of the city's major art events.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is recommended to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approve the request to hold the exhibition in the City Hall grounds between the 1st and 24th June 2018

3.0	Main report
3.1	Each year the city wide festival includes the grounds of Belfast City Hall as a primary location for both photographic exhibitions and other events. Previous exhibits have included the DeLorean Print Project in 2015 which proved to be very successful and brought a real spectacle to the City Hall lawns. In 2017 the exhibition looked at sexuality and the ‘ways in which the camera is used to construct and deconstruct gender binaries’.
3.2	The theme of the Photo Festival for 2018 is around Music & Photography and ‘the camera’s role in capturing individuality within the music industry and the industry’s influence on the formation of identity’.
3.3	Over three years’ photographer James Mollison photographed fans outside different concerts. He was fascinated by the ‘different tribes’ that attend them, and how people emulate celebrity to form their identity. As he photographed, he began to see how the concerts became events for people to come together with surrogate ‘families’ and provide a chance to relive their youth or try to be part of a scene that happened before they were born.
3.4	The exhibition photographs will be positioned on a number of weather proof self-supporting stands located in various parts of the front lawns
3.5	<p><u>Finance & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>In terms of the main exhibition there would be no costs for the council as the organisers would bear all the transport, build and strip down costs. The organisers would also provide public liability insurance.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p>
3.6	The Equality Unit has been consulted in respect of this application and has read and viewed the exhibition content. Although there are two photographs which depict people wearing t-shirts/dresses displaying a national flag they are regarded as being within the context of the overall theme of the exhibition and thus appropriate for display.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None