



<b>Subject:</b>	Request from New Irish Arts
<b>Date:</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2018
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, City Solicitor
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Sandra Robinson, Lord Mayor's Principal Officer

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to advise the committee of a request from New Irish Arts to partner with the Council in bringing the final performance of " <i>Greater Love</i> " to the City Hall to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War 1.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approve the request from New Irish Arts to bring the final performance of "<i>Greater Love</i>" to the City Hall to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War 1 and to cover associated costs as outlined through existing budgets.</li></ul>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>New Irish Arts is a Christian organisation that produces high-quality events in concert halls, churches and community venues. Their Christmas choir and orchestra concerts have sold out the Waterfront for several years. They produce regular broadcasts for BBC and RTE, as well as albums that are sold around the world. New Irish Arts have approximately 500 local musicians and singers and are about to enter their 25<sup>th</sup> year.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Greater Love Project</u></p> <p>During the last 4 years, New Irish have been running an event called “<i>Greater Love</i>” - a production of music, stories and images from World War One. The script is designed to recognise the human face of those affected by the war, telling the stories of individuals from across Ireland who made a positive difference, bringing hope and showing simple acts of love and friendship in the middle of the gruesome conflict. The music is performed by a small choir and orchestra, with soloists, and contains wartime favourites as well as more contemplative performed music.</p>
3.3	<p>The inaugural event took place in Parliament Buildings in May 2014 to an invited audience. The following day New Irish received 16 expressions of interest for it to be performed in other community venues. Since then the production has been presented 13 times across Northern Ireland.</p>
3.4	<p>New Irish Arts is an apolitical organisation. Great care was taken when scripting “<i>Greater Love</i>” to ensure that the contribution to the war made by both sides of our community was properly recognised. There are positive stories about reconciliation and the suspension of traditional unionist/nationalist divisions. Already the production has been equally well received in a Ballymena Presbyterian Church and in Clonard Monastery, Belfast.</p>
3.5	<p>As New Irish approaches the end of 4 years of touring this event, they are very keen to explore the possibility of working in partnership with the Council to bring the final performance of “<i>Greater Love</i>” to City Hall, in the run up to the anniversary of the Armistice. It seems particularly appropriate to consider this request given that the centenary of the ending of WW1 will take place in November 2018 and this event would</p>

<p>3.6</p> <p>3.7</p> <p>3.8</p> <p>3.9</p>	<p>provide an opportunity to reflect on the Great War in a subtle way and very much from a humanitarian perspective.</p> <p>The request for support for such an event would be in keeping with the events planned for the commemoration of the centenary of the end of World War 1 through the Decade Of Centenaries Programme and would adhere to the principles agreed by Council.</p> <p>It is envisaged that the cost of producing this event in the Great Hall would be in the region of £4,000. This finance would cover the logistics required to deliver the production in terms of additional staging, lighting and sound and to allow for tea/coffee/biscuits post performance to allow guests to mingle and talk about the issues raised in the event in an informal way.</p> <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>The amount of £4,000 can be covered through existing budgets. The group has indicated that no charges will be made for performance fees which demonstrates a significant investment.</p> <p><b><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></b></p> <p>The Decade of Centenaries Programme has been screened as part of the Council's Good Relations Action Plan which aims to promote good relations within the city.</p>
<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>None</p>