



Subject:	Request for use of City Hall grounds – Belfast Photo Festival Photographic Exhibition
Date:	22 nd March 2019
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, Director of Legal & Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Peter McKay, Facilities Manager

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
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 Legal & Civic Services, 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 from 1 st to the 23 rd June 2019. 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	<p>The Committee is asked to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approve this request to hold the exhibition in the City Hall grounds between the 1st and 23rd June 2019
3.0	Main report
	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>3.1 The key issues in respect of this report are whether or not the Committee wishes to grant permission for the exhibition to take place over a 3 week period in the City Hall grounds.</p> <p>3.2 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 2018 the exhibition looked at music & photography and ‘the camera’s role in capturing individuality within the music industry and the industry’s influence on the formation of identity’.</p> <p>3.3 For the 2019 exhibition the theme is “Truth” reflects on the question if the camera never lies. History is full of icons, stars which reflect the spirit of time in form, media, content, cementing the time in history. After 2001, the medium of photography lost authenticity when it became digital, which allows for an every changeable structure.</p> <p>3.4 You can now trust the pictures less than before, reality can also be constructed. This photography exhibition will show images of meticulous scale models recreating iconic photographs in history such as 9/11; Concorde, first steps on the moon, Titanic, Pearl Harbour.</p> <p>3.5 Good Relations have reviewed the exhibition images and confirmed that although the exhibition includes a range of images, some of which relate to sensitive events such as the 9/11 Twin Towers attack. These images may challenge the perceptions of the audience but Good Relations cannot see any negative good relations implications that should stop the exhibition being hosted at City Hall.</p>

<p>3.6</p> <p>3.7</p>	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no direct resource implications in terms of staff time or additional costs associated with this request</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>Good Relations has been consulted in respect of this application and has read and viewed the exhibition content. Although some of the content relates to sensitive events such as the 9/11 Twin Towers attack and may challenge the perceptions of the audience they cannot see any negative good relations implications that should stop the exhibition being allowed in the City Hall grounds</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None</p>