



Subject:	Opportunities Rock Event
Date:	23rd August, 2019
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor / Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Stella Gilmartin, Equality and Diversity Officer

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	The purpose of this report is to request approval to host an internal event at the City Hall, in partnership with the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and the Education Authority, to promote pathways for people with learning disabilities.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to approve the internal hosting of the 'Opportunities Rock' event at the City Hall on 14 th May, 2020.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Background</u> The Belfast Health and Social Care Trust contacted the Equality and Diversity Unit, requesting a partnership with Belfast City Council and the Education Authority NI to host an one day "Opportunities Rock' event to showcase the range of day time opportunities for

	<p>young people and adults with learning disabilities that are offered by community, voluntary and charitable organisations, Belfast City Council, Government Departments etc. across the City.</p>
3.2	<p>The purpose of the event is to welcome people with learning disabilities into the city to claim ownership of it as citizens of Belfast whilst providing them, their parents/carers, teaching staff, other organisations etc., with information on the wide range of life opportunities available that are relevant in the lives of all citizens of the city.</p>
3.3	<p>The "Opportunities Rock" event will cover the following themes; citizenship, equality, inclusiveness, to encourage people with learning disabilities to reclaim their rightful place in their city. This fits directly with the outcomes within the Belfast Agenda and the draft Disability Action Plan.</p>
3.4	<p>The event would take place in the Great Hall and 30 exhibition stands would be set up and facilitated by these organisations representing further education, training, employment, recreation, social, leisure, sports, transport and the everyday aspects of every citizen's life.</p>
3.5	<p>This Opportunities Rock event would provide an opportunity to inform people with learning disabilities, their parents/carers and visitors to the event of what opportunities are available cross the City and how they can be accessed. This would be a celebration of the joint commitment that the organisations, Belfast City Council and Government Departments are making to promote inclusion and to uphold the rights of people with learning disabilities to be treated as equal citizens in their city.</p>
3.6	<p>The format of the event would be likely to include an official address by the Lord Mayor, the CEO of the Belfast Health & Social Trust and the CEO of the Education Authority. This is a "drop-in" event and for those attending will be invited to browse the exhibitions at their leisure. The Trust anticipate that attendances at the event will fluctuate throughout the day.</p>
	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.7	<p>There are no financial implications to the Council. The Belfast Health & Social Care Trust will cover the costs of running this event.</p> <p><u>Equality, good relations or rural needs implications</u></p>
3.8	<p>None associated with this report. An inclusive events plan will be completed to ensure the event is accessible and inclusive.</p>

4.0	Documents Attached
	None