



Subject:	Motion – New Year Event
Date:	22 November 2019
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services 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"/>
Sometime 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/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider a motion on a New Year Event, which was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 4 th November.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider the motion and if the proposal is agreed a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed will be brought back.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	At the Council meeting on 4 th November, the following motion was proposed by Councillor Pankhurst and seconded by Councillor Verner: <i>“This Council notes the huge success of our Hallowe’en Monster Mash event.</i>

	<p><i>As a regional capital city, the Council agrees to hold on an annual basis a similar event to celebrate the New Year. The event will appeal to all our citizens and visitors, enhancing the appeal of Belfast as a welcoming and diverse city."</i></p>
3.2	<p>In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred without debate to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Background Information</u> The last New Year's Eve event, staged by the Council, was in 2008, at the City Hall.</p>
3.4	<p>Post the 2008 concert, the event was presented to Council as part of the Council's planned events programme for the 2009 year.</p>
3.5	<p>However, the New Year's Eve concert was removed from the 2009 schedule, with Member's citing a fall in public demand, the high cost of staging such an event and the economic climate at the time.</p>
3.6	<p>If Members were to agree to stage a similar event as per 2008, and based on today's costs, it is estimated that it would cost £300,000 and, in regard to planning, it would be recommended that a twelve month lead-in period would be required.</p>
3.7	<p>This timeline and figure would be the similar if the Council were to agree to replicating the Halloween Monster Mash.</p>
3.8	<p>Finally, it would also be recommended that the event could only develop, and establish and embed itself within the city's cultural and social offering, if it were to be staged on an annual basis. Therefore, if Members were to approve a New Year's Eve event it could result in an annual cost to Council of circa £300,000, plus additional costs attached to BCC staffing at the event.</p>
3.9	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> Indicative costs are set out in the body of the report. There is no budget for the proposed event.</p>
3.10	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices - Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None</p>