



Subject:	Belfast Mela 2020. Partnerships in Parks and Open Spaces.
Date:	3 December 2019
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director, City and Neighbourhood Services Department Ryan Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager, South Belfast.

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	<p>This report outlines a proposal from ArtsEkta to deliver an outdoor event, Belfast Mela, a multicultural festival for approximately 20,000 people, in Botanic Gardens.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A proposal has been received to extend the event to cover a 2 day period on the 29 and 30 August, 2020, from 12 noon – 6.00pm and will require the closure of all or a substantial proportion of the facility. The lower part of Botanic Gardens will remain open throughout the event dates.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve this proposal from ArtsEkta to deliver an outdoor event, Called Belfast Mela, in Botanic Gardens subject to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - that the appropriate legal agreements including bond arrangements are prepared to the satisfaction of the City Solicitor; - the Event Organisers are required to meet all statutory requirements and responsibilities including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, Food Safety and entertainment licensing. - the timely payment of the bond as required in the legal agreements - Event Organisers shall consult with public bodies and local communities as necessary. - The preparation of an event management plan which will be subject to the organisers liaising with Council officers and meeting all statutory, legal and Health and safety requirements; - Organisers will also be required to reinstate all Council property to its original condition after use. Organisers will be reminded that the current ground conditions and location of this event may have to change due to adverse weather conditions which shall cover all aspects of management including health and safety, access and will comply with the current events policy;
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>Background</p> <p>Over the past number of years, the Council has established a successful partnership with the organisers of Belfast Mela. This type of event is well-received by audiences and significantly add to the attractiveness of the Council's parks and open spaces. The partnership has delivered a diverse range of events which have had wide appeal for local communities, as well as attracting significant numbers of tourists and visitors to Council assets. This year the Council has received a request from the Director of ArtsEkta to use Botanic Gardens for the Belfast Mela on 29 and 30 August 2020.</p>
3.2	<p>In previous years the Council has provided financial support through a number of different funding streams, including the Core Multi-Annual programme, Community Festival Fund and City and Neighbourhood Services. Each funding strand was managed via separate funding contracts and monitored independently. In an effort to streamline the management of our funding contribution and our impact monitoring, future funding (from 2020) contributions to</p>

	<p>the Mela will be awarded within the context of the Cultural Strategy and will facilitated through the Councils Economic Development unit.</p>
3.3	<p>The event will require the closure of all or a substantial proportion of the facility, and will result in restricted access to the general public. The proposed timescale from set up to take down of the event is from 23 August to 1 September 2020 inclusive in Botanic Gardens.</p>
3.4	<p>ArtsEkta has requested permission to collect an entrance fee in the region of £5 per adult / child and access will be restricted to ticket holders only;</p>
3.5	<p>ArtsEkta will be undertake consultation with other local stakeholders such as Queens University, Lyric Theatre, local residents groups and the Friends of Botanic Gardens.</p>
3.6	<p>Financial & Resource Implications</p> <p><u>Finance</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>There are no additional Human Resources other than officer time.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>Council officers will liaise with organisers in relation to the potential environmental impact of these events, and ensure that the legal agreements appropriately reflect the level of risk to</p>
3.9	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>It is anticipated that this type of event will deliver a positive impact for equality and good relations. It is not anticipated that it has any rural needs implications.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None