



<b>Subject:</b>	Requests for use of the City Hall and the provision of Hospitality
<b>Date:</b>	24 January 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, City Solicitor / Director of Legal & Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Aisling Milliken, Functions and Exhibition Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
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"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	This paper, together with the attached appendix, contains the recommended approach in respect of each of the requests by external organisations for access to the City Hall function rooms received up to 13 January 2020 which appear to the Function Management Unit to comply with the criteria previously established by the Committee and are recommended for approval.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>approve the recommendations made in respect of applications received up to 13 January 2020 as set out in the attached appendix.</li> </ul>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<u>Background Information</u>
3.1.1	Members will be aware that the Committee, at its meeting of 6th January 2017, agreed to modify the criteria governing access to the City Hall function rooms for external organisations.
3.1.2	The Committee also agreed to the implementation of room-hire charges for some categories of function, and also revised the approach to the provision of civic hospitality for functions on foot of the agreed efficiency programme. Some further modifications to this approach were agreed at the Committee's meetings of 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2017, 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2017, 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2019 and 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2019.
3.2	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.2.1	The existing revised criteria and scale of charges have been applied to the various requests received and the recommendations herein are offered to the Committee on this basis for approval.
3.2.2	The schedule attached at Appendix 1 covers a number of applications for functions, which are scheduled for 2020 and 2021 and are included in order to permit the organisers to commence their event planning and communications activity as early as possible.
3.2.3	The application of the once-in-three-years rule, which limits the use of the City Hall to once in a three-year period, is recommended for the Belfast Media Group's Best of the West Awards 2020. This rule limits functions which could avail of private sector facilities in the city and pay a full commercial rate. This rule was agreed at the meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 20 March 2015 and ratified by Council on 1 April 2015.
3.3	<u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u> The implementation of charging for external functions has commenced, in line with the Committee's decisions in the matter.
3.4	<u>Equality and Good Relations / Rural Needs Implications</u> There are no direct good relations, equality or rural needs implications arising from this report.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 - Schedule of Function requests received up to 13 January 2020.

