



Subject:	James Connolly Heritage Trail Sign
Date:	19th March 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes ☐ No ☒
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	☐
After Council Decision	☐
Sometime in the future	☐
Never	☐

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes ☒ No ☐

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	A request has been received from Redhead Exhibition to install an interpretative interactive sign on a bollard facing the north west lawn at the City Hall. This is part of a cultural heritage project funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and relates to a James Connolly Heritage Trail in Belfast, for which there are 13 proposed locations. The sign will be 300 mm in diameter, not 400 mm as stated in the letter requesting installation which is appended to this report.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to consider the request and indicate if it consents to this installation.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	The sign is part of a heritage trail throughout the City focusing on James Connolly's Belfast 1911-1916. The sign would be the first of 13 located around the City on buildings and areas of historical significance, from City Hall out to Custom House steps, Sailortown, York Street, back to City Centre and then west to Conway Mill finishing at the Connolly family home opposite the City Cemetery on Falls Road. It will be permanently fixed to one of the black iron chain-linked posts on the west side of the main entrance (see appendix 2, not to-scale). The size of the sign is approx.300mm diameter (see draft design at appendix 3).
3.2	The sign is not a commemorative installation. Its aim is to provide a physical trigger point for delivery of an augmented reality (smartphone) app that will deliver dynamic interpretive content. Once triggered using the QR code on the sign, the lawns at City Hall will become a virtual interpretive space. Four panels will 'pop-up' (virtually) on the West lawn, and four on the East lawn. The panels will set the social, economic, political and cultural context of Belfast in 1911 when Connolly arrived to live and work in the City. The City Hall grounds is the ideal location to deliver this type of interpretive content. It is an ideal location for visitors to start the tour around the City, using the app for navigation and interpretation and also a printed map for guidance. The interpretative use of the grounds in this way can be seen as added value to the indoor Visitor Exhibition and outdoor space. The walking tour has a tourism and cultural focus, dovetailing with other new product development initiatives at the James Connolly Visitor Centre.
3.3	Redhead has indicated that the way in which this particular app works is very site-specific in terms of orientating the visitor with panels appearing on the west and east lawns.
3.4	However, given that there are likely to be a number of cultural heritage type projects, some of which will have City Hall as a focus, it will be necessary to consider how these types of installations can be managed in the future. In future it may be possible to have an interactive panel installed at the entrance to the Visitor Exhibition which would allow this type of app to be accessed.
3.5	Financial and Resource Implications There are no financial implications. Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment The proposal will be subject to equality screening subject to your decision.

4.0	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Letter of request from Redhead Exhibition Appendix 2 – Photograph showing proposed location Appendix 3 – Proposed design of sign