STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE



Belfast City Council

Subject:	Requests for Use of the City Hall and the Provision of Hospitality
Date:	24th September, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Aisling Milliken, Functions and Exhibition Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes No X
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 X No

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	This report, 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 10th September, which appear to the Function Management Unit to
	comply with the criteria previously established by the Committee and are recommended for
	approval.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to approve the recommendations made in respect of applications
	received up to 10th September 2021, as set out in the attached appendix.

3.0	Main Report
	Background Information
3.1	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.
3.2	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 by the Committee on 24 th March 2017, 23 rd June 2017, 23 rd June 2019 and 25 th October 2019.
3.3	Key Issues 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.
3.4	The schedule attached covers four applications for functions, scheduled for 2021 and 2022 however approval is linked to City Hall recovery and functions will be planned in due course in line with NI Executive guidance.
3.5	<u>COVID implications</u> In managing and delivering future functions, liaison with and guidance for organisers will be provided by officers to ensure compliance with any relevant social distancing guidelines at the time of their function. Committee approval for their function to take place in City Hall is recommended on the basis of their compliance to this caveat and what is permissible and feasible in City Hall function rooms.
3.6	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> The implementation of charging for external functions has commenced, in line with the Committee's decisions in the matter.
3.7	Equality and Good Relations / Rural Needs Implications There are no direct good relations, equality or rural needs implications arising from this report.
4.0	Document Attached
	Schedule of Function requests received up to 10th September, 2021.