



Subject:	Extended Cultural Programme
Date:	18th February, 2022
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor / Director of Legal & Civic Services
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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
1.1	The purpose of this report is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Update Members following a discussion at Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum, after which officers were asked to formulate a proposed programme of events to be organised by Council in partnership with local organisations to celebrate the city's cultural heritage.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Approve outline programme of events to be organised by Council over Spring-Summer 2022 and agree to receive a future report outlining allocation of funding to delivery partners.- Consider allocation of £200,000 as outlined at 3.7 to support the proposed programme of activity.

3.0	Main report
	<p data-bbox="236 174 408 203">Background</p> <p data-bbox="161 221 1453 454">3.1 Members of the Committee will be aware that a number of Council's strategies in line with the Belfast Agenda, support increasing the cultural vibrancy of the city and promoting cultural expression. In recognition of the diversity of the city's cultural heritage and as part of an ongoing programme of enhancing support for participation in the cultural life of the city, an extended programme of activities is proposed for Spring – Summer 2022.</p> <p data-bbox="161 521 1453 808">3.2 This will build on the recent success of 2 Royal Avenue that has demonstrated both a demand and need for such a facility including the number of community culture and arts organisations that have requested use of the building. This has included a breadth of activities such as music gigs, artisan markets, workshops, exhibitions and tea dances attracting a range of audiences. To date the model for delivery has been a combination of events programmed directly by Council as well as support for partnership organisations.</p> <p data-bbox="161 875 1453 1261">3.3 Given the success of this programme and to complement the activities planned for summer 2022, it is proposed that an extended programme would be delivered to include:</p> <ul data-bbox="284 976 1390 1261" style="list-style-type: none"> - Cultural engagement programmes with community participants - Cultural showcases open to the wider public - Cultural connections programme including events focussed on fusion and shared heritage - Celebration of the city's recent designation as a UNESCO City of Music through increasing opportunities to promote the city's music heritage. <p data-bbox="161 1328 1453 1514">3.4 The venue at 2 Royal Avenue is an ideal location for these activities and benefits from levels of footfall and in turn this programme can support summertime animation of the city centre. However, there will also be an opportunity to deliver community-based programmes of engagement activities.</p> <p data-bbox="161 1581 1453 1814">3.5 Similar to the existing programming model, whilst elements of the programme will be delivered directly by Council it is also envisaged that this opportunity should be opened up to partner organisations. Criteria will be developed by officers in the Culture Development Team working with colleagues in Good Relations. The outcome of this process will be presented to a future meeting of Committee for consideration and approval.</p> <p data-bbox="161 1881 1453 2018">3.6 <u>Equality & Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> All events will take equality and good relations implications into account and will be reflected in any agreements issued to partner organisations.</p>

3.7	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> The cost of delivering the programme of events is £200,000 to be allocated as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Traditional Irish groups and activities - £100,000- BAME groups and activities - £50,000- LGBTQ+ groups and activities - £50,000
4.0	Documents Attached
	None