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**Democratic Services Section
Legal and Civic Services Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**

23rd May, 2023

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

In addition to those matters previously notified to you, the following item will also be considered at the meeting to be held at 9.30 am on Friday, 24th May, 2024.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

8. Operational Issues

- (h) Use of City Hall Grounds - OrangeFest - 12 July 2024 (Pages 1 - 2)

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Subject:	Request for use of City Hall grounds – July 2024
Date:	20th May 2024
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Aisling Milliken, Functions and Exhibition Manager

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"/>

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To consider request from Orange Fest for the use of City Hall grounds on 12th July 2024, together with a request to hold a short commemorative ceremony at the Cenotaph on the morning of the main parade.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is requested to authorise the use of City Hall grounds and the Cenotaph on 12 th July 2024.

3.0	Main report
3.1.	<p><u>Background Information</u></p> <p>Members will be aware that requests for the use of City Hall are normally dealt with under the authority delegated by the Committee to the Director of Legal and Civic Services using criteria agreed for this purpose. Occasionally however, it is necessary to place such requests directly before the Committee, and the request set out below falls into this category.</p>
3.2	<p><u>The Proposed event – Orange Fest</u></p> <p>The proposed event ‘Orange Fest’ would take place on the front west lawn only and areas such as the East Lawn, the Titanic Garden and Cenotaph will remain open to the public. Access to the City Hall building will not be affected. It would involve a number of stalls in City Hall grounds. The organisers’ estimate of attendance is 3,000 to 5,000 people.</p>
3.3	<p>The event would be free to enter. The organiser would provide stewarding/marshalling staff & first aiders and would comply with the Council’s standard conditions for hire etc.</p>
3.4	<p>Members will also be aware that for many years the Orange Order have used the Cenotaph for a short commemorative ceremony on the morning of the main parade, following which participants re-join the main parade. A similar request has been received for this year and Committee are asked to consider this request.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None. Costs will be met within existing budgets.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no direct good relations, equality or rural needs implications arising from this report.</p>
4.0	<p><u>Appendices</u></p> <p>None</p>