



Subject:	Request for use of City Hall Grounds for Various Events in 2024 – Belfast24 and Belfast City Marathon 5K
Date:	15th December 2023
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim 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"/>
Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Information relating to any individual2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime	
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime 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/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider requests for the use of City Hall grounds in 2024 for:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Amal – part of the Belfast24 programme • Belfast Marathon Christmas 10k
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. authorise the use of City Hall grounds on dates noted below; and 2. agree that the events take place on the basis of submission of an event management plan and risk assessment to ensure delivery of a safe public events.
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 requests set out below falls into this category.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Several requests have been received for events over the spring and summer period and this report seeks to update members on larger events using City Hall grounds, due to the larger scale of activities involved it is deemed necessary to seek Committee approval.</p>
3.3	<p><u>The Proposed Events</u></p> <p>The proposed events would take place on the front lawns only or cobbled area and areas such as the Titanic Garden and Cenotaph will remain open to the public. Access to the City Hall building will not be affected.</p>
3.4	<p>In each case, the organisers would be providing all stewarding/marshalling staff & first aiders and would of course have to comply with the usual conditions including indemnities for damage and submission of a formal event-management plan.</p>
3.5	<p><u>17th – 19th May 2024 – Little Amal</u></p> <p>This project is part of Belfast 2024 and ArtsEkta has been commissioned by the Council to produce Little Amal. Little Amal is the 12-foot puppet of a 10 year old Syrian refugee child at the heart of The Walk. She has become a global symbol of human rights, especially those of refugees. Between 17th to 26th May, Amal is journeying across Ireland, starting in Belfast and ending in Dublin in one of the largest free public festivals ever created on the island. This event will be similar in scale to Mela Carnival, Lord Mayor’s Day events previously held in City Hall grounds. The creative programme proposed for the city centre is currently in</p>

	<p>design stage and organisers will engage with City Hall functions team for planning and delivery.</p> <p><u>16 November 2024 Belfast City Marathon</u></p>
3.6	<p>A request has been received from Belfast City Marathon to use the cobbled area for a 4th event to their annual calendar of events. The intended distance is 5k and would be open to all ages, genders and abilities who could walk, jog, or run. All participants will be encouraged to fundraise for the official charity, Cancer Focus NI. The event will take place on Sunday 16th November at 9 am, starting and finishing on Donegall Square North, outside the City Hall. The route will be 1 loop and will showcase Belfast City Centre to all participants and their families.</p>
3.7	<p>Over 1,000 people are expected to register including children, teenagers, adults, and the elderly. There will be three prizes for the top males and females, but all will be invited to come in fancy dress with special prizes for best dressed. Initial meetings with City Events and Markets team have confirmed this 5k event, on the day after the market opens and the Christmas Lights Switch On event, will not affect their event plans or delivery and both teams are happy for this 5k to take place subject to members approval.</p> <p>Previous marathon events have all taken place outside City Hall on the cobbled area without incident and the organisers engaging with various stakeholders for planning and delivery.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There would be no costs for the council as the various organisers would bear any/all stewarding and equipment costs etc themselves. The utilities costs on the day are of a very minor nature and the normal event support in the form of electrical and water provision in the grounds will be provided.</p> <p>There are no concerns from an asset management point of view, although the organisers would be required to provide the usual insurances, indemnities, and obligations.</p>
3.9	<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	Documents Attached
	None