



<b>Subject:</b>	Request for use of City Hall grounds for various events in 2025
<b>Date:</b>	24 January 2025
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nora Largey, City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Aisling Milliken, Functions and Exhibition Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>									
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
<p><b>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</b></p> <p>Insert number <input type="checkbox"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Information relating to any individual</li> <li>2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual</li> <li>3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)</li> <li>4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter</li> <li>5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained</li> <li>6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction</li> <li>7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</li> </ol>									
<p><b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b></p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>								

<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	<p>To consider requests from various clients for the use of City Hall grounds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Epic Journey to The Open 2025 – 29 April 2025</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action Cancer Breast Foot Forward Walk – 6 June 2025</li> <li>• Pride Picnic – 19 July 2025</li> <li>• Féile Rock’s Pride Concert – 26 July 2025</li> <li>• Belfast One Film Screening – 2 and 3 August 2025</li> <li>• Belfast Mela Carnival Parade Party – 16 August 2025</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Authorise the use of City Hall grounds on dates noted above.</li> <li>2. Authorise the events to take place on the basis of submission of an event management plan and risk assessment to ensure delivery of a safe public events.</li> </ol>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<u>Background Information</u>
3.1	<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>
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.2	<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>
	<u>The Proposed events</u>
3.3	<p>The proposed events would take place on the front lawns only 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>The event would be free to enter. In each case, the organisers would be providing all stewarding/marshalling staff &amp; 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><b><u>Epic Journey to The Open 2025 – 29 April 2025</u></b>  Hosted by Tourism NI this outdoor interactive community event, running from 11.00am to 2.00pm, will mark the start of a four stop journey towards The Open.</p>

A display of large letters spelling out 'The Open' will allow for photos with local schools, organisations, dignitaries, and sportspeople. An interactive golf section with artificial grass and gazebo enables individuals to partake in hitting a golf ball into a washing machine and the famous Claret jug will be on display for viewing and photo opportunities. The event is free and access managed.

3.6 **6 June 2025 - Action Cancer Breast Foot Forward walk**

The Breast Foot Forward walk has taken place at City Hall since 2014. It is Action Cancer's flagship fundraising event and raises circa £60,000 each year. City Hall is the starting point for the event with entertainment and warm up activities before 800 participants take part in 5k or 10k walk around Belfast returning to City Hall as the end point. An annual event in City Hall calendar and delivered without incident.

3.7 **19 July 2025 Belfast Pride Family Fun Day**

This event would take place on the front lawns would include a radio roadshow, various performers on a stage, food stalls and children's attractions. The event would last from 12noon to 5.00pm although access would be required earlier and later in the day for set ups and strip downs. The event would be free to attend and the organisers estimate up to 5,000 people would be in attendance. Previous event in recent years were very popular and delivered without incident.

3.8 **26 July 2025 Féile Rock's Pride Concert**

The annual "City Hall Rocks Back" event is organised by Feile an Phobail featuring local young and emerging bands from all sections of the community and the type of music played includes Rock, Blues, Heavy Metal, Rap Ska and Reggae. The organisers require use of the grounds between 8.00am and 7.30pm for stage and sound set ups and strip downs. The event itself takes place between 1.00pm and 5.00pm. Depending on the weather the event could attract up 2,000 people. The profile of those attending includes family and followers of the bands, plus local and overseas visitors in the city for the day. plan etc. Previous events have taken place in the grounds without incident.

3.9 **2 and 3 August 2025 Belfast One Cinema Screenings**

This event aims to encourage people to experience the city centre shops and hospitality while they are in town. Organisers will be offering attendees information about potential offers provided our business members. Belfast One plan to show 4 films per day. Films early in the day will be aimed at young children and families and later films at a slightly older audience. All films will be rated appropriately. The event will be ticketed, and access managed. There will be a big screen and audio equipment and additional entertainment by

	<p>way of face painting and film props. Previous events in 2022 and 2023 were very popular and delivered without incident. 2024 event was affected by impromptu rallies on the cobbled area and this element will be reviewed for 2025 event planning.</p> <p><b><u>16 August 2025 Belfast Mela Carnival Parade Party</u></b></p>
3.10	<p>In 2022, ArtsEkta launched a new event as part of the festival titled ‘<b>Mela Carnival</b>, a spectacular opening to the festival and begin a series of 50 events across a full week which will culminate in the traditional event at Botanic Gardens. The past 3 year events were very successful and wish to host the event again this year.</p> <p>A 800-participant carnival parade will begin at Writers Square, proceed onto Royal Avenue into Donegal Place and end at City Hall grounds. ArtsEkta request the use of the City Hall grounds for a free to access carnival party and celebration event for the participants, family/friends and wider audiences with stage entertainment, performers, food traders and carnival floats.</p> <p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p>
3.11	<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>
3.12	<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> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.13	<p>There are no direct good relations, equality or rural needs implications arising from this report.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None