**Belfast City Council**

| Report to: | Parks and Leisure Committee |
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| **Subject:** | Belfast Festival at Queen's – event update |
| **Date:** | 16 September 2010 |
| **Reporting Officer:** | Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure |
| **Contact Officer:** | Caroline Wilson, Policy and Business Development Manager |

## Background

Members may recall at their April 2010 Committee meeting, they approved the use of Shankill Leisure Centre for the Belfast Festival at Queen's staging of internationally acclaimed play *Black Watch.* The National Theatre of Scotland's large-scale production has won awards across the world and it is a prestigious event for Belfast to host as part of the 2010 festival.

The Committee had granted support in-kind from the Council by offering a significant discount on the market value of hiring the space.

## Key Issues

Prior to signing a contract with the Council, the Belfast Festival at Queen's and the National Theatre of Scotland further examined the logistics of bringing the *Black Watch* play to the Shankill Leisure Centre.

Disappointingly, despite concerted effort by the Director and other officers, the National Theatre of Scotland has finalised their choice of location as the Girls' Model School. Belfast Festival at Queen's regrets that it has not been possible on this occasion to use Shankill Leisure Centre but hopes to continue its partnership work with the Council in future years.

The Festival production of Cahoots *Leon and the Place Between* in Botanic Gardens is still proceeding in partnership with the Council.

## Resource Implications

Financial
Loss of income £7,500 – the discounted rate agreed by Committee. However, some of this will be off-set by normal public bookings in the Main Hall.

Human Resources
None

Asset and Other Implications
None

**Recommendations**

Members are asked to note the report.

**Decision Tracking**

A closure report on the Botanic Gardens Cahoots event will be presented to Committee by February 2011.

**Key to Abbreviations**

None.

**Documents Attached**

None.