



Belfast City Council

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| Report to: | Parks and Leisure Committee |
| Subject: | Enchanted Garden Belfast Festival |
| Date: | 14 April 2011 |
| Reporting Officer: | Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure |
| Contact Officer: | Emer Boyle, Policy and Business Development Manager |

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| 1.0 | Relevant Background Information |
| 1.1 | The Committee is asked to note that the council has received a request from Graeme Farrow, Director of Belfast Festival at Queens, for the use of Botanic Gardens for an Enchanted Evening Garden event from Wednesday 26 October until Saturday 29 October 2011. Each Enchanted Evening will begin at 7.00pm and end shortly before 10.00pm. The letter of request is attached as Appendix 1. |

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| 2.0 | Key Issues |
| 2.1 | The Enchanted Evening Garden event will complement the council celebrations taking place over the Halloween weekend. The event has been described as a unique artistic event incorporating both local and international artists, transforming the Botanic Gardens into a magical garden providing a spectacular experience for both young and old alike. |
| 2.2 | <u>Enchanted Garden Event</u> The theme for the 2011 event is still under development in conjunction with local practitioners involved in family based theatre production and the request outlines that it “..will feature aerial artists, ground based characters portraying the overall story, static displays and suspended illuminations throughout the park. The overall effect will be a spectacular experience for adult and child alike.” |
| 2.3 | The current request is for council assistance of £25,000 to cover the cost of installing and maintaining both the outdoor lighting supply and the additional lights that are required to illuminate the park sufficiently. |
| 2.4 | Last years’ request for this event was slightly different (more detail was |

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| | provided and less cost associated) and the relevant detail is outlined below (extract from minutes): Botanic Gardens reinstatement costs in the region of £2,000 Lighting installation in the region of £14,500. This will be covered by existing revenue budgets. |
| 2.6 | Given that information around the planned event is still under development more detailed discussions will be required with the Belfast Festival in order to determine the exact nature of the event and the breakdown of any financial commitment required and to satisfy the council that all health and safety, licensing and other legal obligations would be borne by the applicant and provided to the council's satisfaction. |

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| 3.0 | Resource Implications |
| 3.1 | In addition to officer time and support and ground re-instatement costs, this request is for £25,000 support. |

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| 4.0 | Equality and Good Relations Implications |
| 4.1 | None at this stage. |

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| 5.0 | Recommendations |
| 5.1 | It is recommended that Members agree in principle to the inclusion of an 'Enchanted Gardens' event as part of the 2011 Belfast Festival at Queens subject to officers engaging in discussion with the festival organisers on the extent and nature of the event and the extent of the financial and operational implications for the council and that a further report be brought to the committee's June meeting to enable final decisions to be made regarding this proposal. |

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| 6.0 | Decision Tracking |
| | Responsible officer: Principal Parks and Cemeteries Services Manager. Further report to be submitted to June committee. |

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| 7.0 | Key to Abbreviations |
| | None. |

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| 8.0 | Documents Attached |
| | Appendix 1: Copy of the request from Belfast Festival at Queens |